



OFFICE *of the* BISHOP

February 18, 2021

Dear High School Parents and Youth Leaders,

Our Loving Savior Jesus deeply desires to engage our young people and draw them to personal friendship! The recent Directory for Catechesis reminds us, “The Lord Jesus, who ‘sanctified the stage of youth by the very fact that He lived it’, in meeting with young people over the course of His public ministry, showed them the Father’s kindness, questioned them, and invited them to a life of fullness.” The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), to be held this November 18-20, 2021, in Indianapolis, offers just such an opportunity for encounter with the Lord.

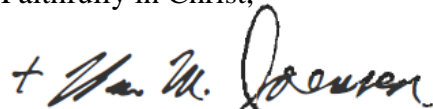
During my time at NCYC in 2019 with our Des Moines diocesan group, I witnessed how it was a profoundly transformative moment in the lives of our young people. Now we once again look to experience our parish, diocesan, and larger Church family in a year dedicated to the patronage of St. Joseph AND of the Holy Family--Joseph’s got our back!

We are conscious that this November will surely continue to be impacted by the effects of COVID-19, so there are special grounds for caution and prayerful parish discernment in your deliberation whether to participate in NCYC this year. Yet please know that we are proceeding with prudence, great hope, and passion for this pivotal experience of the young Church.

In my homily during our Diocesan NCYC Mass in 2019, I reminded our young people that they were not in Vegas, and therefore “what happens in Indy, doesn’t stay in Indy.” In other words, their encounter with Christ must be brought back to shine forth in our parishes and through our Diocese. I pray that God will anoint all participants and those who accompany them with abundant graces during this year’s edition of NCYC.

The enclosed materials will get your parish started in discernment and equip you for the coming process of preparation. For questions or more information, please do not hesitate to contact Justin White (jwhite@dmdiocese.org) and/or Jessica Hernandez (jhernandez@dmdiocese.org).

Faithfully in Christ,



Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

Enclosures