



**Diocese of Wilmington  
Pilgrimage to the National Catholic Youth Conference**

**Depart: November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Return: November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium**

**2019 Group Leader Informational Packet**

NCYC is held biennially and gathers more than 22,000 Catholic teens, parish youth ministry coordinators, bishops, pastors, parents, school campus ministers, and adult chaperones, coaches, scout leaders, and Diocesan leaders.

**NCYC is a Pilgrimage of Faith**

What is a Pilgrimage?

A Pilgrimage is a personal invitation from God, comprised of his offer and dependent on the acceptance of the pilgrim. A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a holy, sacred place undertaken with religious motives to usher the pilgrim into the presence of God. It always requires leaving one's own environment and daily routine and setting out with a particular spiritual purpose. To go on a pilgrimage is to search for God.

The prayerful and meditational spirit of the journey is an excellent preparation to encounter God in everyday living long after the pilgrimage is completed. In this environment, the grace of God is present in a special way that allows the person to experience conversion and a change of heart.

**The conference is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.** (NFCYM) and offers a three-day experience for young people to encounter Christ, experience church, and be empowered for discipleship. NCYC offers opportunities for prayer, service, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and recreation. NCYC began in 1983 as a regional conference, with sessions held on the East and West Coasts. NCYC was merged into a National Conference in 1991.

**The National Youth Conference will be held November 21<sup>st</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>** in Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium and Indiana Convention Center. Pilgrims from the Diocese of Wilmington riding the bus will leave the morning of Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and return Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Why attend NCYC?** Youth and their adult chaperones attend NCYC because they want to:

- Gather together with other Catholic youth on a national level
- Learn more about themselves and their relationship to God, and the Catholic Church
- Celebrate their Catholic faith
- Meet thousands of other Catholic youth
- Share beliefs and experiences
- Recognize their role in the life of the Catholic Church

**Who can attend NCYC?** NCYC is open to all high school aged youth and their adult chaperones. Youth attendees must be in high school at the time of NCYC (November 2019). When promoting NCYC, don't forget to include this year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, as they will be in the 9<sup>th</sup> grades in November 2019.

This is not a conference for college age or young adults.

**Chaperones** Adult chaperones must be 21 years of age or older. There must be at least 2 adults for every 10 youth and one adult per additional 10 youth. Be sure to think about male and female chaperones in proportion to the gender make-up of the group.

Please be careful in selecting adults who will assist you for this event. All pilgrims will have long days and must have a lot of patience and genuine faith to get through the event. We want our adults to be positive role models. While all adults are helpful in keeping the teens safe, the adults who attend the trip are also responsible to help teens grow deeper in their faith. As a Faith Mentor, your chaperones will be able to assist the youth participants in selecting workshops, getting the most out of an experience, and discussing the ways that God is working in their lives during NCYC and beyond.

All adults must be in compliance with the Diocese of Wilmington Safe Environment Policy. That is all adults must have a cleared criminal background check, a signed volunteer covenant form, and have a signed form acknowledging they have reviewed

the Diocesan Standards for Ethical and Behavioral Norms. Please remember there are no exceptions to this rule.

**Will participants miss any school days?** Yes. NCYC participants will miss three days of school. NFCYM has provided a letter that students can bring to school officials to explain the great value in attending NCYC. NCYC is considered an excused absence for religious purposes. The letter will be forwarded to group leaders as soon as it is available. Students are encouraged to bring any assignments with them for the time they are on the bus.

**Who organizes NCYC at the parish level?** Since participants must register through their parish but under the Diocese of Wilmington delegation, each parish must have an adult contact person who will be the single point of contact between the parish and the Catholic Youth Ministry Office.

In most cases the contact person is a parish coordinator of Youth Ministry or High School Campus Minister, the DRE, or whoever works with high school students in the parish.

**The contact person will lead the NCYC organizing effort in the parish.** This includes forming a local parish/school planning team, promoting NCYC, recruiting parish/school youth, fundraising, and collecting forms and fees and sending them to the CYM office. Adult leaders at parishes/schools will be responsible for organizing, promoting and managing your own group.

**The contact person is a vital communication link between the parish/school participants and the CYM office.**

In the event that a high school student wants to attend NCYC, and there is not a person in the parish to take care of NCYC, please call the CYM office to make arrangements to include them with another parish/school.

**The cost of NCYC for 2019 for the Diocese of Wilmington:**

	<b><u>With Transportation</u></b>	<b><u>Without Transportation</u></b>
4 people in a room	<b>\$765.00</b>	<b>\$565.00</b>
Students must stay 4 in a room. If necessary, teens will be placed in rooms with teens from other parishes. Adults are welcome to stay 4 in a room. Please let the CYM office know if you would like to room with other adults.		
2 Adults in a room	<b>\$955.00</b>	<b>\$755.00</b>
Adults are welcome to stay with adults from other parishes. Please let us know if you would like to share a room with another adult so we can give this information out.		
1 Adult in a room	<b>\$1,325.00</b>	<b>\$1,125.00</b>

**What does this cost include?**

- Registration Fee for NCYC
- Hotel for **4** nights
  - This is a change from previous years; instead of driving through the night Wednesday and arriving at the conference on Thursday morning, we will drive through the day Wednesday, **sleep at the hotel Wednesday night**, and begin the conference Thursday.
- Bus transportation (if applicable)
  - **\*\*If you are not planning on riding the bus, you are responsible for your own transportation to the hotel (flights, shuttle, parking, etc.), and please plan on checking in with the group Wednesday afternoon/evening.\*\***
- Some meals
  - All breakfasts and lunches in Indianapolis
  - One large group dinner
  - Pizza at the end of each day (snack at hotel)
- T-shirts
- Traders

**What additional cost is each group responsible for?**

- Food (lunch/dinner) on the bus Wednesday and Sunday
- Dinner on Thursday and Saturday
- Souvenirs and vendor purchases at the conference
- Transportation (**if not riding the bus**, see above)

**Suggested Payment Schedule (per person)**

Please make every effort to ensure payments are sent in to the CYM office on time, since the CYM office is responsible for sending in the registration fee and deposit for the hotel, bus and food.

	Quad w/Bus	Double w/bus	Single w/bus	Quad w/o bus	Double w/o bus	Single w/o bus
May 15	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
June 15	\$123	\$161	\$235	\$83	\$121	\$195
July 15	\$123	\$161	\$235	\$83	\$121	\$195
Aug. 15	\$123	\$161	\$235	\$83	\$121	\$195
Sept. 15	\$123	\$161	\$235	\$83	\$121	\$195
Oct. 10	\$123	\$161	\$235	\$83	\$121	\$195

Please feel free to make payments early.

Group leaders are responsible for collecting payments from each of the pilgrims from their parish. Group leaders need to keep track of individual payment from their parish. One check per group should be sent to the CYM office monthly. An invoice will be sent to each group leader at the end of September for the final balance due on October 10, 2019.

Please make checks payable to: CYM Office  
1626 North Union Street  
Wilmington DE 19806  
Attention: Jen Watson

**Scholarships**

There are scholarships for eligible students. The number of scholarships is limited. Information about the scholarship process will be released by NFCYM, and the CYM office will notify you once the information is available.



## **Hotel**

Our hotel is the Holiday Inn Express City Centre in downtown Indianapolis. We are blessed to be in walking distance to the Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium.

## **Bus Transportation**

The bus company we are using is Jor-Lin Tours out of Milford DE. This is a coach bus equipped with WiFi and a lavatory. There will be two pickup stops on Wednesday morning:

- 1<sup>st</sup> stop: St. John's Catholic Church, Milford, DE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stop: St. Margaret of Scotland, Newark, DE

## **Meals**

**Wednesday:** Please pack snacks/drinks, a bag lunch, and plan on purchasing dinner on the way. The CYM office will provide some light snacks and water.

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday** all breakfasts and lunches will be provided. We will have one large group dinner together on Friday night, and pizza will be ordered for an evening snack each night at the hotel. Please plan on providing your own dinner for your group on Thursday and Saturday night.

- Breakfast is served at the hotel.
- Boxed lunches will be picked up by each person at the Convention Center. Lunches can be taken to workshops.

**Sunday** breakfast will be provided at the hotel. Plan on purchasing lunch on the road, and light snacks and water bottles will be provided in the late afternoon/evening.

## **Forms for Youth – Due May 15, 2019**

- NFCYM/NCYC General Release for Youth
- Youth Code of Conduct
- Form A – Annual Consent and Release
- Form C - Prescription Medication and Inventory

## **Forms for Adults – Due May 15, 2019**

- NFCYM/NCYC General Release for Adults
- Adult Code of Conduct
- Form A – Annual Consent and Release
- Initial non-refundable deposit of \$150.00

### **Other:**

- Initial non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 due May 15, 2019 (see payment plan)
- Scholarship Deadline will be posted as soon as the information is available

## **Excel Form for Group Leaders**

Group leaders must complete one excel spreadsheet per group (found online at <https://www.cdowcym.org/events/detail/NCYC-Blessed-Broken-Given>) and email it to Jen Watson by May 15, 2019.

See separate page for additional group planning suggestions

**Please know the CYM office is here to help you in any way that you need. Please call or email the CYM office with any questions or concerns.**

Check out the NCYC official site for promo video and webinars and additional information about NCYC: <http://www.ncyc.info/>

Dan Pin, CYM Associate Director

Jen Watson, CYM Support Staff