



NFCYM
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors

FROM: Christina Lamas, Executive Director

RE: Student Attendance at the **National Catholic Youth Conference, November 16-18, 2017**

This year's National Catholic Youth Conference will be held in Indianapolis from November 16-18. Our theme is *Called/Llamados* and our programming will focus on helping young people identify and respond to how God is calling them to serve: at home, at school, in church, and in society. We at the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM) realize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. I am writing to request student participation in the conference be counted as an excused absence due to the nature of the program.

NCYC is the premiere national gathering of Catholic high school age youth in the United States. More than 20,000 youth and their chaperones from around the country will meet for three days of educational sessions, catechesis, prayer, and service. NCYC is a unique opportunity for young people to join together to strengthen their Catholic identity, to meet other young people striving to live out positive values, to learn ways to cope with influences that conflict with what they know to be right, and to find that they are strong enough to be countercultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

Without support from administrators like you, many students will find themselves unable to attend as they and their families are committed to school and its related activities. If NCYC was an experience that would regularly take students from their classrooms, playing fields, and practices, I would not ask you consider excusing their absence. However, NCYC happens only once every two years. I hope you will agree that it is a positive thing for students to take a few days to deepen their understanding of another facet of their being. I believe that the experience will add to their development as well-rounded members of the broader community.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit our website, www.ncyc.info. In addition, please feel free to contact your local Catholic diocesan youth ministry director or our office in Washington, D.C. for more details.

Your cooperation in enabling your students to attend is greatly appreciated.

Supporting those who accompany young people

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