**Memo**

**To: Youth Minsters and DRE’s**

**From: Jerry White**

**Subject: 2019 National Catholic Youth Conference**

**Date: April 17, 2019**

Greetings! I am writing to you in regard to the upcoming 2019 National Youth Conference in Indianapolis. The date for the conference is November 21-23, 2019. The theme for this year’s NCYC is “Blessed, Broken, Given.” What is the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) you may ask? It is a gathering of the young church of over 25,000 Catholic youth and adults from all over the United States - a special three-day event that has something for everyone!

Whether attending the large keynote gatherings in the Lucas Oil Stadium (Dome stadium for the Indianapolis Colts), to listening to relevant presenters in smaller workshop settings, to exploring the huge exhibit hall, to simply sitting in prayer in one of the many adoration rooms, to seeing over 300 priests, bishops, or cardinals process in for the closing mass on Saturday night - this is the biggest gathering of Catholic youth in the United States!

The emcees for this year’s NCYC will be Katie Prejean McGrady and Father Agustino Torres. The keynotes for the large sessions will be: Mark Hart with featured artist King and Country (Thursday Evening); Sister Bethany Madonna (Friday) and Immaculée Ilibagiza (Saturday). And, of course, your favorite speakers, leading many different workshops throughout the event.

**How do I register?**

To register for NCYC, you must go through the diocesan youth office. You must first figure out how much your package is going to cost – housing, transportation, registration fee, meals, and miscellaneous costs.

**Registration Fee**

We will be securing the early bird registration rate of $225 per person for our group ($20 savings). Everyone must pay the NCYC registration fee of $225 per person which is part of the diocesan package.) Please note that chaperones must pay the same registration fee as youth participants. Also, make sure that you follow diocesan policy regarding the correct amount of chaperones for this event.

**Housing**

The diocese has secured the Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown, 110 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 236-1923. The hotel is conveniently located and connected to the Indiana Convention Center, which during the winter is nice. Why did we get this hotel? The NFCYM holds a drawing for dioceses. Each diocese writes down their top ten hotels, and then NFCYM places them in a hotel. We are really lucky to get this hotel. While the cost for the hotel is a little more than the rest – the location is great and breakfast is included! The following is the cost breakdown for the room:

With room cost and taxes, the room rate comes to $216 a night. We are being charged for staying 4 nights. The total for a room is $864 for the 4 nights.

People in a room Cost per person

4 people to a room $216.00

3 people to a room $288.00

2 people to a room $432.00

1 person to a room $864.00

The way the diocesan office works housing is that we go by when you send in your housing list to us. I know sometimes you would like to room your youth with other diocesan youth to save cost. We totally understand this, and we will try to the best of our ability to make this happen. The earlier you get your housing in, the better chance that we can make this happen. However, please note – we cannot guarantee this! You may end up having to pay for a room with three youth instead of four, if we cannot find another youth. **Please make sure to send in your hotel rooming list (attached) as soon as possible but no later than June 4, 2019. Please note that the hotel rooms are a first-come, first-served basis. We are limited on rooms this year and the rooms are configured a little differently. For instance, we have more single bedded rooms with a pullout sofa (sleep 4) than we do of the double bedded rooms with a pullout sofa (sleep 6). As there will still be only one bathroom per room, I would ask you to consider that when assigning your rooming. I would encourage you to keep it at four to a room but we can try to accommodate the six to a room based on availability. Once we run out of rooms in our block, it is possible that your group will be at another hotel and we cannot guarantee where that hotel will be located.**

**Clergy**

Please let us know if you have clergy that will be traveling with your group.

**Transportation**

Besides housing, this is your biggest cost for the trip. You have several options. You can cut cost if you travel by bus, or you can fly. We suggest that if you fly, that you plan to leave no earlier than Wednesday afternoon. The conference ends late Saturday night, so you can leave anytime on Sunday morning. If you are taking more than eight people, then you can contact group reservations at your choice of airlines. (Please note some airlines have stopped taking group reservations.) The good thing about registering with a group airline reservation is that you usually don’t have to pay the entire cost up front. Usually 30-60 days out, you have to pay for the airline tickets. They also allow you to change a person before the final payment without any change fees. You can estimate your flight to be around $400 per person. You need to get your airline tickets early! Remember, if you do fly, you will need ground transportation from the airport to the hotel and back to the airport. There are shuttles (and we will find out the cost during the summer) or you can use a taxi/limo for transportation. I would plan around $20 per person if you are going to use a taxi.

**Meals**

They can be as costly or cheap as you want. First, there are a lot of different food places to choose from. During the summer, some of the food places will send out specials that you can reserve for your group ahead of time. For example, Panera Bread has a great lunch special that includes – drink, sandwich, chips, and cookie for around $10 dollars. All you do is fill out a form before you go and then on the day that you ordered the lunch, you simply go to the place and give them your name and they have it ready for you – no waiting. Again, in the summer, a restaurant list will be put out and you can make arrangements ahead of time to have meals prepared when you want your meals and where you want to go. The important thing is that you prepare ahead of time and you will know your cost. Also, connected to the skywalk is a mall with a lot of fast food restaurants. This year, we are lucky to have breakfast included at the hotel each morning. We have also figured in cost for dinner after mass on Thursday evening so that is another meal that you will not have to consider. I usually plan one good heavy meal around lunch time and something lighter for dinner. I would plan to order pizza in the evening when you get back from the evening session – it is a great way to process and pray with your kids before you go to bed.

**Diocesan Backpack**

The diocese will be getting a backpack for each participant. The cost for this is included in the overall diocesan package.

**The Diocesan Package**

The diocesan package includes your registration fee, hotel fee (4 to a room), meal after mass on Thursday evening and backpack. The total cost for the package is $495 per person. **(This price does not include your transportation and meals.)**

**Forms and Deposit/Final Payment**

Attached is the registration form for NCYC. One should be completed for everyone in your group. The adult and youth waiver forms as well as the excused absence form to give to your Principals/Teachers/Coaches is forthcoming and I will get that out to everyone once it is available. These forms must be turned in with your final payments no later than September 15, 2019 (**NO EXCEPTIONS**!!!).

**1st Deposit and hotel rooming due no later than June 4, 2019 $125 per person**

**Final Payment/Forms due no later than September 15, 2019 $370 per person**

I will be sending more information as it is available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Also, check out the NCYC web page for more information. I hope that your group will be able to join us in this event! Blessings!