

REGISTRATION

All parish or school groups must register through the Office of Youth Ministry at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Interested participants should contact their Pastor, parish Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister, Catholic High School Principal or Catholic High School Campus Minister for additional registration information.

For additional information on this wonderful opportunity, contact Francine Swope in the Youth Ministry Office (814)317-2646 or email at fswope@dioceseaj.org.

More information about NCYC is also available on the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry website at www.ncyc.info. There are promotional videos, the theme song, and lots of great information about NCYC.

During NCYC, scores of young people were asked by *Criterion* staff members to describe the experience of NCYC in one word. Below are their responses; the larger the word, the more often it was used.



THE DIOCESE
OF
ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
OFFICE OF
YOUTH MINISTRY

INVITES YOU
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE FAITH
EXPERIENCE
OF A LIFETIME!



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARK

Some of the best times I have spent with young people have been at the last two National Catholic Youth Conferences.

Seeing teens on fire with their faith is amazing. You won't believe how energizing it is to be with 20,000 young people celebrating their faith.

I want you to join me and the diocesan group in November of 2015 for what I promise will be a life-changing faith experience.

+ Mark J. Bartelak



Bishop Mark as prayer leader for the morning session of NCYC on Friday—NCYC 2013



NCYC is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

NCYC

Here I Am Lord. Aquí Estoy Señor

*November 19-21, 2015
Indianapolis, Indiana*

NCYC 2015 | Here I Am Lord



What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the U.S., with over 20,000 young people, clergy and religious, and adult chaperones attending from all over the country. It is a *pilgrimage of faith*. NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers addressing a wide variety of topics including Catholic spirituality and prayer, social justice issues, sexuality and leadership.

There are also opportunities for reconciliation, daily liturgy, prayer experiences, and other special activities like dances, concerts and a comedy club.

NCYC features a huge interactive thematic park where hundreds of exhibitors, musicians, games, hot meals and learning centers of all types will be available.

When and Where is NCYC?

NCYC 2015, with the theme *Here I Am Lord*, is scheduled for November 19 to November 21, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The diocesan contingent will depart on Nov. 18, 2015.

The conference sessions are held in the downtown Convention Center and the large sessions are held in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Pre-registration is required. Initial registrations are due no later than **February 28th**.

Why Attend NCYC?

NCYC is a pilgrimage that offers high school students and their adult chaperones multiple opportunities to interact and learn more about our Catholic faith.

From general sessions to workshops to occasions to be of service and participate in the sacraments to the chance to dance or play basketball, NCYC attempts to engage the head, heart, and hands of all participants.

It also helps participants learn more about who they are, their place in the church, and the opportunity to celebrate their faith.

It also allows them to meet and interact with thousands of other members of the faith from across the nation. To see there is more to the church than what is their own backyard!

Here are some quotes from students in the diocese who were in attendance at NCYC 2013:

"My second time at NCYC was just as life-changing and amazing as my first. Every single aspect of it is moving; the speakers, meeting people from all around the country, and being in a stadium full of 25,000 other Catholics all living our faith out together. There is truly no way to put it into words!" ~Victoria Scutti 12th grade

"NCYC was honestly an amazing weekend. I wish I was still there. I never thought I could learn as much about my faith and myself while still having so much fun. I am so glad that my Youth Minister talked me into it and helped to make it such a great experience." ~Thomas Brungo 12th grade

"NCYC let me become friends with people from all over the country! Meeting teens from other parts of the country who share the same beliefs as you is really cool. Looking around at 25,000 people who know what you believe and understand you is amazing."

~Mikayla Kieffer 11th grade



Who Can Attend NCYC?

Any high school aged member of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown aged 16 or over and their adult chaperones are invited to attend the pilgrimage to NCYC.



Diocesan Group 2013

Where Will We Stay?

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry has secured hotel blocks throughout Indianapolis near the Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium where NCYC takes place. The diocese has submitted its choice of several hotels that we can stay in while at NCYC. Once we receive information on the hotel we were given, that information will be shared with all registrants. They are chains like, Holiday Inn, Hilton, Sheraton, Wingate, etc.

What is the Cost?

The cost is \$625.00 per person (quad occupancy). It includes Deluxe motorcoach transportation, (leaving from Altoona and Ebensburg) 3 nights in a hotel, continental breakfast at the hotel each morning, sandwiches for lunch (ex. Panera/Subway meals) a pizza party on Thursday, a special luncheon with Bishop Mark on Friday, NCYC conference registration, administrative fees, taxes and tips, tshirts and a diocesan sweatshirt.

A payment plan is offered after the initial \$100 deposit is paid.

Initial Deposit due by Feb. 28.....\$100.00
May 15.....\$175.00
July 15.....\$175.00
September 15.....\$175.00

In 2013, several of our diocesan groups fund-raised and were able to raise money for everyone to go on the pilgrimage (Fundraising ideas available upon request from the Youth Ministry Office.)