



Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, Music Program Directors, and Activity Directors
From: Christina Lamas, Executive Director
Re: Student Participation in the 2025 National Catholic Youth Conference

NFCYM's National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is the premier national gathering of Catholic high school-age youth in the United States. We anticipate 15,000 young people and their chaperones from across the country will meet for three days of educational sessions, catechesis, prayer, and service. NCYC is a unique opportunity for young Catholics to strengthen their faith and identity, meet other young people striving to live out positive values, learn to cope with negative influences, and discover they are strong enough to be counter-cultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming but also life-changing.

This year's NCYC will be held in Indianapolis from November 20–22. Our theme, *I Am / Yo Soy*, will reflect on God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush and explore how the sacraments are the living story of God's love, uniting us with Him through Jesus and the Church. A particular highlight of this year's gathering, **Pope Leo XIV will connect with participants for a two-way live digital encounter on Friday morning**—an extraordinary opportunity for students to engage directly with the leader of the Catholic Church.

At the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM), we understand that NCYC attendance requires students to miss school and extracurricular commitments. If NCYC were a recurring interruption, I would hesitate to request such accommodation. However, because this is a rare and extraordinary experience—one most students will only attend once or twice in their high school years—I respectfully request that their absence be excused and not result in academic or attendance penalties.

Far from being time “away” from education, NCYC contributes meaningfully to students' growth. Participants return with a deeper sense of responsibility, stronger values, and an expanded vision of community. These qualities directly benefit their schools, teams, and extracurricular groups, shaping them into more committed, resilient, and well-rounded young people.

Students cannot participate without the understanding and support of school leaders and coaches. Their families are deeply committed to academics and activities, yet they also recognize the profound impact this gathering can have. By allowing excused absences for NCYC, you are helping form students who will come back more focused, inspired, and ready to contribute even more positively to your community.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://nfcym.org/> and <https://ncyc.us>.