

CORE TEAM SESSION: PREPARING YOUR CHAPERONES FOR NCYC

Begin with prayer: Lord God, who calls us into relationship with the young people of our church, we ask you to make your presence known in our hearts and in our lives. Bless us with an open mind and a source of wisdom to accompany the youth of our parish. We ask that you inspire and guide us during our time together and empower us to build your kingdom through our young people.

Through Jesus Christ, your son, we pray,

Amen

The Blessing and Brokenness of the Youth we Serve

Begin your time with the chaperones by showing this YouTube film about Generation Z: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFaEPe6T_m4

Ask the following questions:

What does this video tell us about some of the positives we might want to focus on with our youth at NCYC? How can we use the strengths of that generation to help them get the greatest impact from the conference?

What does the video tell us about some of the things we will need to be sensitive to while chaperoning this group of young people? How might the experience turn negative for them and what strategies can we employ to positively influence their experience?

What can we give the youth on our pilgrimage and what can we ask them to give in return?

Engage in a conversation about expectations from both sides. Focus on the desire that chaperones become “faith-sharers” which includes:

Prayerful participation in the liturgy

A willingness to attend workshops and share about experiences in discussions with group members

An openness to explore the thematic village and participate in opportunities and experiences with the young people, not just planting themselves in the hallways

A willingness to share positive stories of faith that serve to inspire our young people

A willingness to offer spontaneous prayer

Enthusiasm for presentations and speakers including musical presentations where audience participation is requested

A commitment to being positive...negative chaperones impact young people negatively

A willingness to allow youth to process before sharing. Don't be uncomfortable with quiet space and fill it with answers from adults

An open-minded approach to young people without casting judgment and negatively comparing the adult's generation to the Generation Z ("In my day, we didn't...")

A keen eye for issues such as a youth or chaperon who is struggling, a potential safety hazard or an infective negative attitude

GROUP CHECKLIST: ARE YOU MEASURING UP?

Please evaluate as a group and discuss any concerns:

___ Our group makes all feel valued and welcome

___ We provide our young people with a non-judgmental space to question their faith and beliefs and receive positive answers

___ We provide an opportunity for learning about and experiencing Catholic tradition

___ We are attentive to prayer throughout the pilgrimage

___ We create a trusting community for both youth and volunteers

___ We work to assign responsibility to all core team members and share tasks so that no one feels their time was wasted

___ We serve as mentors to the youth

___ We consider everyone's ideas and input valuable

___ We practice good methods for leading group discussions such as using open-ended questions, understanding personality and learning styles, displaying comfort with silence and pause in the conversation and encouraging participation without embarrassing

___ We have a clear understanding of the mission of the parish and the diocese and we display a positive attitude

___ We operate with patience and problem-solving instead of panic

Our youth will experience many voices at NCYC. These are an opportunity to invite them into a deeper relationship with Christ. As a chaperone, it is likely that God will use you as one of these voices. How will you respond? How will you see the world through their lens and not just their own? How will you help them to discern the next step of their journey following NCYC? How will you show the young people your own trust in the Holy Spirit's presence in this pilgrimage of faith?

We will be centering much of our prayer at NCYC around this scripture from Luke. Close this session by reading this in lectio style. Use the questions at the end.

On the Road to Emmaus

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles¹ from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was ^aa prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and ^chow our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24^dSome of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” 25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 ^kWas it not necessary that ^lthe Christ should suffer these things and enter into ^mhis glory

?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Continue with the following brief introduction: Sharing with one another as we walk along life’s way is what “Accompaniment” is all about. This familiar story invites us to explore what it means to “walk together” with, to accompany, our brothers and sisters. It highlights the importance of sharing our joys and sorrows with those close to us. But it also challenges us to be open to the surprising gifts we may receive from those who are “strangers” to us. Consider the gifts you will share with the young people you accompany and the joy that can be received in accepting their gifts in return.

What are you expecting or anticipating about this journey?

What are your concerns about your call to accompaniment?

How can the rest of the core team be of help to you as fellow travelers on the journey?