



Diocese of Davenport

Office of the Bishop

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors
FROM: Most Reverend Dennis G. Walsh, Bishop of Davenport *DGW*
RE: Attendance at the National Catholic Youth Conference, November 20-23, 2025

Every two years the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, the Catholic Church's national voice and agency for the development of Catholic youth ministry, sponsors the National Catholic Youth Conference in our region. This year's NCYC, with its theme of "I AM", will be held November 20-23, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN. I realize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. I am writing to request that students be allowed 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, typically drawing more than 15,000 youth and their chaperones from across the country. This year there are already over 12,000 planning to gather. It is truly a unique opportunity for young people to gather together to strengthen their Catholic identity. They meet other young people striving to live out their faith, develop positive values, learn ways to cope with the difficult situations and choices they often face, and find that they are strong enough to do so. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

These young people will hear presentations by leading speakers on a wide array of topics including social justice, prayer, appropriate use of technology, servant leadership, racism and cultural diversity, leadership, vocation, the sacraments, and transitioning to college. They will have several opportunities to interact with bishops and other church leaders in breakout and workshop sessions, through daily liturgy and the sacrament of reconciliation, and during guided roundtable discussions. Young people will also be engaged in a variety of service activities making a difference in the lives of the people of Indianapolis. They will grow personally, spiritually, and in their leadership abilities.

We are truly blessed here in the Diocese of Davenport. Some 430 youth and adult leaders from all corners of southeast and south-central Iowa will attend this conference in person. These young people will take their learning back to your schools and positively impact their peers and communities. The young people, their families, their church communities, their school communities and their civic communities all benefit from this experience, making it a win-win for all concerned. Your cooperation in enabling these students to attend is greatly appreciated.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit the NCYC website, www.ncyc.info. In addition, please feel free to contact our local diocesan director of faith formation and catechesis coordinator, Mr. Trevor Pullinger (563-888-4244, pullinger@davenportdiocese.org) for more details.