



DIOCESE OF AUSTIN
OFFICE OF YOUTH and CAMPUS MINISTRY
MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors
FROM: Alison Tate, Diocesan Director of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry
SUBJECT: Student attendance at the Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (January 30 - February 1, 2026)

This year's Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference, *Marvelous Things*, will be held in Waco, TX, January 30 - February 1, 2026. We at the Diocese of Austin 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.

DCYC is a local gathering of Catholic high school age youth in the Diocese of Austin. It draws in excess of 2,600 youth and their chaperons from around the diocese for three days of prayer, catechesis, and educational workshops. It is a unique opportunity for young people to gather together to strengthen their Catholic identity. They meet other young people striving to live out positive values, learn ways to cope with influences that conflict with what they know to be right, and find that they are strong enough to be counter-cultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing. In Waco, young people will hear presentations by speakers on wide array of topics including social justice, prayer, the sacraments, and transitioning to college.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit our website: www.austindiocese.org/dcyc. In addition, please feel free to contact me directly at (512) 949-2465 or alison-tate@austindiocese.org for more details. Your cooperation in enabling your students to attend is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alison Tate
Director of Youth and Campus Ministry
Diocese of Austin