

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

**BEYOND
THE NOW**

DCYC 2027



INFORMATION BOOK

WACO CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 29-31, 2027



DIOCESE
of
AUSTIN

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BEYOND THE NOW

DCYC 2027

[AUSTINDIOCESE.ORG/DCYC](https://austindiocese.org/dcyc)



YOUTH AND CAMPUS MINISTRY INFORMATION

If you have any questions about DCYC, please don't hesitate to contact us!
We look forward to seeing you Jan 29-31, 2027.

6225 E. Hwy. 290
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 949-2400
austindiocese.org/dcyc



ALISON TATE

Director
(512) 949-2465

JENNIFER KODYSZ

Associate Director
(512) 949-2467

TRESSI BREECHER

Administrative Assistant
(512) 949-2464



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who can attend DCYC?

A: DCYC may be attended by teens in the 9TH, 10TH, 11TH or 12TH grades, and the chaperones of those teens. DCYC is not for youth in middle school. Chaperones should not bring infants or non-high school students to DCYC

Q: What time does DCYC start and end?

A: DCYC starts at 7 p.m. on Friday and ends on Sunday at noon.

Q: What time does check-in start?

A: Check-in begins on Friday at 5 p.m. Early check-in option on Thursday by appointment only.

Q: What does registration include?

A: Registration includes a T-shirt, Friday snack, Saturday lunch and dinner, a water bottle and other materials.* DCYC registration does not include transportation or hotel accommodations (this is arranged by the parish youth minister or group leader). *not guaranteed for late registrations

Q: What if I need to change the names of my registered participants?

A: No problem! Just contact the Office of Youth and Campus Ministry by Jan. 19 at (512) 949-2464 and we'll be happy to help.

Q: I am a teen or the parent of a teen, how do I register for DCYC?

A: All student and chaperone registration for DCYC is through the parish youth ministry representative.

Q: When does registration start?

A: Starts: Sept. 1, 2026. Ends: Jan. 4, 2027
Registrations received after this date are subject to higher fee and are not guaranteed registration materials.

Q: What happens at DCYC?

A: DCYC is packed with activities such as sessions with our keynote speakers, musicians, workshops and a special seniors-only workshop with Bishop Garcia. Additionally, groups will also enjoy allotted free-time for group faith-sharing. DCYC also offers many sacramental opportunities such as reconciliation, adoration, daily Mass and Sunday Mass.

Q: Do adults need to attend the conference with the teens? How many chaperones does each parish need?

A: There should be at least one chaperone for every 10 high school participants. A minimum of two adult chaperones is required per parish, regardless of the number of participants. Chaperones for any event involving minors must be at least 21 years of age and include both male and female chaperones for a co-ed group. Please see the Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry for more information.

Q: Will there be vegetarian or gluten-free options for meals?

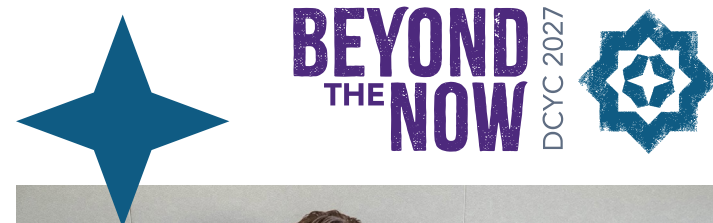
A: No, there will not be a vegetarian or gluten free option for meals. If you need one, your group leader will be responsible for providing it.

Q: What if my parish priest wants to help?

A: Great! We always need help from our diocesan priests at DCYC, especially with reconciliation. Have them contact the Office of Youth and Campus Ministry by calling (512) 949-2464. There is never a registration cost for a priest to attend DCYC with his parish.

Q: What if there are people in my group who have accessibility needs?

A: Please let Tressi Breecher know as soon as possible of any accessibility needs for your group. Tressi can be reached via email at tressi-breecher@austindiocese.org or by phone at (512) 949-2464.



REGISTRATION GUIDE

STEP 3: PAYMENT

Registration is open through Jan. 4, 2027. Late registration will be offered Jan. 5-29, 2027; change requests made after January 19 may be subject to an increased registration fee. T-shirts are not guaranteed for late or updated registrations. Due to limited seating, we cannot accept any group registrations at the door. After Jan. 19, please contact the YCM office at (512) 949-2464 for registration availability.

If you have chosen to pay by check, please make payable to Diocese of Austin and mail it to the address on Page 2 of this booklet, attention to "YCM-DCYC". Personal checks will not be accepted.

A link for credit card payments can be found at the bottom of the registration page. No refunds will be issued for unused registrations.

PRICING

\$95 PER PERSON (including chaperones)

Saturday lunch and dinner are included with the cost of registration.

STEP 1: FIND THE ONLINE REGISTRATION PAGE

The registration page is accessible from the diocesan website (www.austindiocese.org/dcyc).

STEP 2: ENTER PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Please fill out all required fields at the top of the page for your group.

Once you have selected your parish, please enter the individual participants, beginning with the youth minister or lead chaperone. Please note you can only register 20 individuals at a time. Once you have completed the registration for the first 20 participants, you may register your remaining participants in separate transactions. **Please do not use ghost names.**

Please click "submit" to ensure your registration is received. Please note that refunds will not be issued for unused registrations. Changes are welcome at no additional charge until Jan. 19, 2027.

REGISTRATION

Sept. 1, 2026 – Jan. 4, 2027
\$95/person
(including chaperones)

LATE REGISTRATION

Jan. 5-Jan 29, 2027
\$115/person
(including chaperones)

For assistance with registration, please contact Tressi Breecher at (512) 949-2464.



GIAN GAMBOA

MC

Gian Gamboa is a Youth Conference MC, Speaker, and Worship Leader with one mission: to help young people develop a personal relationship with Jesus so they can become everything God created them to be. Having delivered over 1,000 talks nationwide, he brings

high energy and a whole lot of heart to every stage. Gian's dream is for every young person to fall in love with Christ. He loves giant burgers, 90's movies, and lives in Austin with his wife and three kids. Gian is the (self-proclaimed) #1 fan of Taco Bell.

FATHER FRANCISCO RODRÍGUEZ III

Father Francisco Rodríguez III was raised in a Catholic family in Lockhart, but for many years lived what he describes as the life of a prodigal son. In 2003, through a profound St. Paul-like conversion, Father Francisco returned wholeheartedly to the Catholic Church. His own journey through struggle, searching, and redemption has given him a deep understanding of the personal and societal pressures people

face today. On June 6, 2015, Father Francisco was ordained a priest. He first served as parochial vicar at St. William in Round Rock then at St. Albert the Great in Austin. He served as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Temple, as well as St. Matthew Mission in Rogers. Then in 2021, he returned to Round Rock as pastor of St. William, where he continues to serve today.

BEYOND^{THE}NOW

DCYC 2027

CYNTHIA PSENCIK

Cynthia Psencik, a native New Yorker of Dominican heritage, she discovered her calling to ministry nearly 20 years ago. After studying and working in the fashion industry, she was drawn to serve in the Archdiocese of New York, where she worked in the Hispanic Ministry Office and Catechetical Office, led conferences and retreats, and played a key role in the First Encuentro on Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. These experiences ignited her passion for walking with young people in their faith journeys and led her

to earn a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry from Fordham University. She then served as the director of the Office of Youth Ministry for four years before stepping into her current role as the Mentoring Program and Alumnae Director for the GIVEN Institute. Cynthia finds joy in dancing salsa, witnessing God's love, mercy and healing, loving on her nieces and nephews, and sharing life with her husband, Evan, of 10 years. They currently call Austin home.

LAUREN MOORE

MUSIC

Lauren Moore is a vocalist, founder, and chief of projects at Catholic Music Initiative (CMI). Alongside her husband Dave, she has contributed to over a thousand recordings since CMI's founding and has performed internationally in Germany and Austria.

Lauren studied vocal performance at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and the University of Texas at Austin. She has found particular joy in sacred chant, which she arranges and records for CMI's partnership with the Hallow app. She serves

as cantor for the Diocese of Dallas Televised Mass, a ministry that serves the homebound and reaches an average of 260,000 households each week. Lauren was the lead cantor for the National Eucharistic Congress in 2024, but shortly afterward, she was paralyzed from the waist down with Guillain Barré Syndrome. After fighting for her life and learning to walk again, Lauren returned to public ministry last November and continues to recover with great hope and determination. Her music remains a vessel of beauty, healing, and praise.



VERY REVEREND THOMAS J. REITMEYER, JCL

Father Tom Reitmeyer was born in Norfolk, Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Genetics from Texas A&M University, then served seven years with the College Station Police Department. Father Reitmeyer left the police department to work for a local parish as he continued to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Ultimately, he entered

seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in 2015. He earned a Licentiate in Canon Law in 2022. He has served as parochial vicar of St. Albert the Great in Austin and St. Joseph in Killeen and as pastor of St. John Vianney in Round Rock and St. Vincent de Paul in Austin. In 2026, Father Reitmeyer was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin.

ROBERT FEDUCCIA

Robert Feduccia Jr. was the founding director of the Youth Liturgical Leadership Program at Saint Meinrad School of Theology and was also the general manager for Spirit & Song, the contemporary music division of OCP (Oregon Catholic Press). He is a PhD candidate in practical theology with his primary research being teens and Eucharistic spirituality. Robert combines his unique set of experiences as a parish youth

minister, retreat leader, and keynote presenter and is able to express spiritual depth in a way that is relevant to the real concerns people face today, especially those in ministry. Robert is now the president of EQSaints and lives in the Nashville area with his wife, Kathleen, and their four children.

NATALIE GARZA

Natalie Garza is a native Texan who now hangs her hat in Kansas City. As a disciple of Jesus, she seeks to remind young people that life with Christ really is a wonderful adventure. She does this by speaking and leading retreats throughout the country, as well as daily accompanying students in

her high school theology classroom. Natalie holds degrees in theology and catechetics as well as a master's in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. When she is not traveling, her passions include singing, speaking, swimming, and alliteration.

EVAN PSENCIK

Evan Psencik, affectionately known as "Mr. P," has dedicated his entire adult life to guiding young people on their spiritual journeys. With a passion for faith formation, he's worn many hats - youth minister, diocesan director, theology teacher - and now, as principal of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School in Austin, he continues to inspire the

next generation. When he's not in the classroom or leading the school community, you can find him practicing with the sports teams or line dancing with students. Outside of work, Evan and his wife, Cynthia, married 10 years, enjoy running together, traveling to new places and diving into their favorite TV shows.

DAVE MOORE

MUSIC

Dave Moore is a singer-songwriter, producer, and liturgist who wants to help the faithful encounter God more deeply through music. He served as the director of Music and Liturgy for the National Eucharistic Congress and is the founder and president of Catholic Music Initiative (CMI), a non-profit apostolate dedicated to restoring the primacy of praise, theological accuracy, and singability of music in the Mass. CMI's music seeks

to build a bridge between contemporary and traditional expressions of worship, drawing the faithful into fuller participation in the Eucharist. Dave's deepest desire is a unified Church where Christ in the Eucharist holds the pride of place — rightly honored, adored, and worshiped. He resides in Dallas, with his wife, Lauren, and their daughter.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

5:30 p.m.	Check-In Begins
7:00 p.m.	Doors Open
8:00 p.m.	Welcome to DCYC!
9:00 p.m.	Keynote Address
10:05 p.m.	Dismissal



SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

8:00 a.m.	Doors open - Name tag & T-shirt swap - Priests' meeting - DCYC musicians take the stage
8:30 a.m.	Dave Moore Teaches Mass Parts
9:00 a.m.	Morning Mass
10:35 a.m.	Keynote Address
11:35 a.m.	Workshops Round 1
12:35 p.m.	Lunch Break (served near workshop locations) Brazos South Chisholm Hall Lower Level
1:30 p.m.	Praise and Worship
2:20 p.m.	Workshops Round 2
3:20 p.m.	Prayer and Processing with Parish Groups
4:00 p.m.	Free Time
5:00 p.m.	Dinner Round 1
6:00 p.m.	Dinner Round 2
6:50 p.m.	Chisholm Hall Opens
7:00 p.m.	Dave Moore Band Takes the Stage
7:20 p.m.	Evening Session - Keynote Address - Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Announcements and Dismissal
9:30 p.m.	Waco Convention Center Closes for the Evening



This is a preliminary schedule for informational and promotional purposes only and is subject to change. The final schedule will be printed in the programs at DCYC.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

8:00 a.m.	Chisholm Hall Opens
8:20 a.m.	Praise and Worship
9:10 a.m.	Keynote Address
9:45 a.m.	Mass Preparation and Teaching Mass Parts
10:00 a.m.	Mass
12:00 p.m.	Dismissal



SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

THE NECESSITIES

- Personal toiletries
- Comfortable, modest clothes
- Comfortable shoes and clean socks
- Light jacket — it may be a little chilly during the evenings.
- Pajamas
- Bible and rosary
- Appropriate clothes for Sunday Mass
- An open heart and mind!
- Clear bags

OPTIONAL

- A snack to share with your youth ministry friends
- A camera to photograph memories
- A journal for prayer times
- A book of prayers
- Spending money — there will be a number of vendors selling items such as T-shirts, rosaries, prayer books, etc.

NOT RECOMMENDED

- Cell phones may only be used when your youth minister authorizes it or as directed by conference leaders
- Valuable jewelry
- Large bags / non-clear backpacks
- Grumpy attitudes!



PROPERTY NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
AC HOTEL WACO DOWNTOWN	600 Mary Ave. Waco, TX 76706	(254) 457-0562
ALOFT WACO BAYLOR	900 S 11th St, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 870-4644
CAMBRIA HOTEL WACO UNIVERSITY RIVERFRONT	110 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Building A, Waco, TX, 76704	(254) 347-5511
CAMP FIMFO WACO	1000 Chickadee Lane, Waco, Texas 76708	(254) 651-3697
CANDLEWOOD SUITES	2700 S New Rd, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 662-0520
COMFORT SUITES WACO SOUTH (BAYLOR)	2700 LaSalle Ave, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 537-0413
COMFORT SUITES NORTH	810 I-35 North, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 799-7272
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT	101 Washington Ave, Waco, TX 76701	(254) 752-8686
DAYS INN BY WYNDHAM	1504 IH-35 N, Waco, TX 76705	(254) 799-8585
ELEMENT WACO	2200 North Robinson Drive, Waco, Texas 76706	(254) 452-3111
EVEN HOTELS WACO - UNIVERSITY AREA	110 S. MLK Jr. Blvd, Bldg. B, Waco, TX, 76704	(254) 633.3836
HAMPTON INN & SUITES WACO SOUTH	2501 Marketplace Dr, Waco, TX 76711	(254) 662-9500
HILTON GARDEN INN	5800 Legend Lake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712	(254) 633-4233
HILTON WACO UNIVERSITY PARKS	113 S Univ Pks Dr, Waco, TX 76701	(254) 754-8484
HOLIDAY INN EXP. & SUITES WACO SOUTH	5701 Legend Lake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712	(254) 732-1028
HOTEL 1928	701 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas 76701	(254) 342-3911
HOTEL HERRINGBONE	319 S 4th St, Waco, TX 76701	(310) 910-7320
HOME 2 SUITES	2500 Bagby Ave., Waco, TX 76706	(254) 752-4400
HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON	5620 Legendlake Parkway, Waco, TX 76712	(254) 644-4663
HOTEL INDIGO WACO BAYLOR	211 Clay Ave, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 754-7000
HYATT PLACE - SOUTH	5400 Bagby Ave, Waco, TX 76711	(254) 313-0800
LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM WACO	1911 S. 10th St, Waco, TX 76704	(254) 756-2929
PIVOVAR HOTEL	320 S 8th Street, Waco, TX 76701	(254) 224-6271
QUALITY INN AND SUITES	2410 S. New Road, Waco, TX 76711	(254) 296-0550
RESIDENCE INN	501 S. University Parks Dr, Waco, TX 76701	(254) 714-1386
RESIDENCE INN WACO SOUTH	2424 Marketplace Dr, Waco, TX 76711	(254) 294-4586
SLEEP INN & SUITES SOUTH WACO	209 Enterprise Blvd, Hewitt, TX 76643	(254) 420-3200
SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT	115 S Jack Kultgen Expy, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 262-8151
STAYAPT SUITES WACO	2340 Creekview Dr., Waco, TX 76711	(254) 342-2112
SUPER 8 UNIVERSITY	1320 Jack Kultgen Fwy, Waco, TX 76706	(254) 754-1023
TOWNPLACE SUITES WACO SOUTH	5621 Legend Lake Pkwy, Waco, TX 76712	(254) 420-3000
TRU BY HILTON WACO SOUTH	2408 Marketplace Dr, Waco, TX 76711	(254) 294-4888
WOOD SPRINGS SUITES	705 N. IH-35, Waco, TX 76705	(254) 799-4900

DCYC TIPS



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 1** Begin promoting DCYC to your parish
- Sept. 1** Registration opens
- Jan. 4** Early registration closes
- Jan. 4** Scholarship requests close
- Jan. 19** Last date to make changes to registration

DON'T FORGET

- Consent forms for participants (youth & adult) / keep a copy for you and the original for check-in
- EIM verification for all chaperones
- Check your chaperones' EIM status
- Driver Exemption Form
- There will be three online chaperone meetings leading up to DCYC, which will address any questions or concerns regarding the event

TO TURN IN AT DCYC
REGISTRATION TABLE

- EIM Verification Form for chaperones
- Youth and adult consent forms in a simple 3-ring binder
- Digital copies will be accepted. Please contact Tressi Breecher for additional information

OTHER REMINDERS

Parish deadline for registration should be two weeks prior to DCYC registration deadline, in order to submit registrations to the diocese on time.

Refund Policy: No refunds will be issued for canceled or unused registrations. However, you may swap people out (let us know by Jan. 19, otherwise at the door).

Registration is open through Jan. 4, 2027. Late registration commences Jan. 5-29, 2027; change requests received after Jan. 19 may be subject to an increased registration fee. T-shirts are not guaranteed for late registrations or registration changes. Due to limited seating, we cannot accept any group registrations at the door; individual registrations are okay. After Jan. 19, please contact the YCM Office at (512) 949-2464 for registration availability.

AT THE PARISH LEVEL

- Promote DCYC to your teens and their parents early; Dec. 1 is too late
- Use postcards, stickers and fliers sent out by diocesan Youth Ministry Office to promote the event
- Set a deadline for student registration at your parish (Dec. 10 is suggested)
- Consult the Diocese of Austin EIM policies
- Registration includes: T-shirt, entrance to conference, materials, snack, Saturday lunch and dinner, and water bottle. * See Page 5 for pricing. (Friday dinner, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, hotel accommodations, and transportation are the responsibility of the parish leader)



THE BEATITUDES: MATTHEW 5: 1-12

**"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.**

**BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE LAND.**

**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND
THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE SATISFIED.**

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.**

**BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.**

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.**

**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED
FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND
PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF
EVIL AGAINST YOU [FALSELY] BECAUSE OF ME.**

**REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR
REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN."**

