



Archdiocese of Newark  
2023 National Catholic Youth Conference  
Pilgrimage Information

November 16-18th, 2023  
Indianapolis, Indiana

---

**1****REVEAL THE SACRED IN POP CULTURE**

Presenters who relate pop culture to a relevant and relatable spiritual message.

**2****THE POWER OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

Everyone has a unique faith journey; how can you recognize yours if you aren't hearing the stories of other? ENCOUNTER!

**3****THE WITNESS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

Over 22,000 young people and those that care for them worshipping in a stadium together; awe inspiring!

**4****POWER OF VISUAL MEDIA**

Prayer, Keynotes and Activities understand connection with the 'IGEN'eration and allow for meaningful encounters with the Divine.

**5****BALANCE OF CONTEMPORARY & TRADITION**

Adoration, Confession and even monastic chants are woven into the pilgrimage allowing deeper connections with our beautiful faith traditions.

**6****CATECHESIS THROUGH STORY**

Stories of real Catholics, Saints and Communion of Saints, living their faith in a challenging world.

**7****YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP**

Young people take a lead role throughout the conference and model stewardship and mission.

**8****CONVERSION THROUGH PILGRIMAGE**

From planning, to fundraising, to preparation, pilgrimage and back home, those who attend have multiple opportunities to grow as a small Christian community and deepen their faith.

**9****CONFIRMATION CLASS CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

Capstone: A multi-faceted project that serves as a culminating experience. Why not? You've brought them through 2 years of learning...this is lived faith!!

**10****DISTINCTLY CATHOLIC**

Worship, workshops, keynotes, concerts, Bishops, and Priests from around the country, representatives from religious orders...All Catholic!

**A MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY**



## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

---

### What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is an exciting, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for high schoolers who are Catholic and those that walk with them. Catholic young people and their chaperones—youth ministers, campus ministers, parents, catechists, priests, coaches, and scout leaders—come together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith. In addition to opportunities to receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance, NCYC participants attend general and breakout sessions on topics relevant to living as a disciple of Christ in today's world, visit with organizations that provide resources and other support to youth and youth ministry, spend time in personal and communal prayer, and engage in service to others.

NCYC is sponsored by NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry), all registration is handled by one central office. Therefore, the Archdiocese of Newark Office of YM will coordinate the diocesan delegation and serve as travel agent. Once we are in Indy, however, group leaders should think of NCYC as any other parish event for which they are in charge. In Indy, The Office of YM's job is to handle hotel problems, diocesan gatherings, and keep you posted with any info NFCYM wishes to pass along.

### What does NCYC as a pilgrimage experience mean?

Attending NCYC is more than just a trip; it can be a life-changing experience. Teens are part of an enormous community of peers who love Jesus and their Catholic faith and aren't afraid to show it! Teens and youth leaders can together harness the experience and bring it back to their parishes!

NCYC is an unbelievable event that will help your ministry grow as you experience a sense of BIG CHURCH! NCYC is the largest regular gathering of Catholic youth in the country.

### Who attends NCYC?

NCYC is intended for Catholic teenagers in high school (for the 2023/2024 school year), accompanied by chaperones, to experience and encounter Christ, learn more about their Catholic Faith and recognize their role in the life of the Catholic Church. This IS NOT meant to be a conference for College Age or Young Adults.

#### **Chaperones may include:**

Youth Ministers

Priests

Deacons

Religious Men & Women

Campus Ministers

Parish Catechetical Leaders

Parish Leaders

Parents

Catechists





## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

---

### What is the schedule for NCYC?

At the end of this packet is the most updated schedule for the conference .

### Will participants miss any school days?

Yes. NCYC participants will miss at least 2 days of school. Some schools may give excused absences. The NFCYM has provided a letter that students can bring to school officials in the Fall to explain the great value in attending NCYC. Neither the NFCYM nor the Archdiocese of Newark has any control over our schools allowing or disallowing excused absences for NCYC.

### What are the requirements to be an Adult Leaders?

Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older. There should be at least 2 adults for every 10 youth. Be sure to think about both male and female chaperones in proportion to the gender make-up of the group.

All adults must be in compliance with Archdiocese of Newark Safe Environment Policy (i.e. all adults must have a cleared background check and complete the initial safe environment training). All parishes/ schools attending will need to provide proof to the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry are in good standing in the parish in regards to Safe Environment.

### Are there a code of conduct that Teens and Adults must follow?

There are separate codes of conduct for adults and youth. All attendees should review them. Copies of them are at the end of this packet.





## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

---

### Transportation:

The OYYAM will take care of arranging bus transportation to NCYC. From the St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center to the hotel it is roughly 11-12 hours. Buses will depart around 10pm on Wednesday evening November 15th and you will arrive in Indy around 11am to 12noon the next day. Buses will make one stop for breakfast along the way. We have done this in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and in 2019 with no issues.

Parishes can choose to opt not to take the bus and arrange on their own to make airplane reservations. Please not If you do this you are responsible for getting your group from the airport to the hotel. The “transportation fee” part of the total package would be deleted from each individual parish/ school that would choose to do this.

Sunday November 19th buses would depart by 8am to return back to the St. JPII Center – again returning roughly 11-12 hours later around 8pm. One stop would be taken for a late lunch/ early dinner break.

### Hotel:

The Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry will reserve a block of rooms thru the NFCYM.

#### ***How many youths to a room?***

Youth will be housed four to six people in a room in two-bedded rooms with a pull out sleeper, separated by gender. \*\*In 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and again now in 2023 our hotel accommodates up to 6 in a room – helping reduce costs!

#### ***How many adults to a room?***

Adults will be housed two to a room in two-bedded rooms, separated by gender. Married couples may share a room. If an adult wishes to have their own room, an additional fee will be required and is based on space availability. **If you want to place more than 2 adults in a room that can be done also to reduce costs.**

#### ***Will we be staying in hotels by parish/school?***

For the most part, hotel rooms will be assigned by parish/school to make the job of the adult chaperones as easy as possible. Each parish/school will need to provide the OYYAM with rooming lists. In an effort to reduce the over-all cost and to utilize our block of rooms effectively, if a parish/school does not completely fill each room, we may need to assign youth from different parishes/schools to share. If that is the case, the parish/school group leader will be notified first.

#### ***How will we get from our hotel to the conference?***

Our hotel is in walking distance to the stadium and convention center. It will be the responsibility of adult chaperones to accompany their group from the hotel to the conference and back.



## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

---

### What will teens "get" out of NCYC?

Hard to tell. For some, the speakers will be remembered the most. For others, the dynamic closing liturgy or an inspiring Eucharistic Adoration. For others, the chance to celebrate your faith with others from across the country. The "meat" of the conference is in the large gathering sessions and the breakout sessions. A sample of topics covered include: Catholic identity, Catholic social teaching, cultural diversity, family relationships, forgiveness, global issues, leadership, self-esteem, sexuality, spirituality and prayer, and social justice.

### I'm a Parish Group Leader. How will NCYC help my group?

The Archdiocesan delegation will have the feel of a diocesan event, in that your teens will get a chance to meet teens from throughout the Region they might not otherwise meet. There will be opportunities to embrace our diocesan identity—including a Mass only for those from Region 3—New Jersey and Pennsylvania. **But ultimately NCYC is a parish event;** and you will look forward to bringing the experience back home. Each night, parish leaders are urged to gather their groups for "Parish Time," to pray and process together. Some group leaders take their teens out for a parish meal. We don't want you to "lead a group to NCYC." **We want you to lead your ministry on a pilgrimage to NCYC!** That pilgrimage begins long before the trip, and the journey will allow you to use the incredible NCYC experience to give your ongoing ministry a boost.

### What if our parish doesn't have a youth ministry program/are rebuilding our program?

If your parish does not have designated youth ministry leader, the pastor can designate a Virtus trained adult to serve as an NCYC coordinator, such as a parent, DRE, or a catechist. We can help you through the registration process. Some parishes in the past also joined up to go together with both parishes!

If your parish is in a rebuilding phase, bring a group of adults who are interested or who might be interested in serving on a youth ministry team. NCYC is often inspirational to adult leaders because they can also see the young Church active and alive. Not only that, but NCYC is a great opportunity to network with other youth ministry leaders from across the country and meet with people who are providing resources for parish youth ministry. There are usually workshops just for adults. It is also an intentional time to pray for your community's ministry with young people.



## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

### Trading Materials

There is a huge sub culture that takes place at NCYC of trading things. Hats, buttons, shirts—you name it! Once again the Archdiocese will provide each participant with some items to use for trading materials. Parishes can choose to purchase and bring, or even make their own items to trade while at the conference .

### Meal Options

Groups are “on your own” for most meals while at NCYC. Of all NCYC host cities, Indianapolis has proven to be the easiest city to find a place to eat. There are a lot of restaurants within short walking distance from the convention center and well as vendors inside the convention center that provide food. We will help you with some ideas as we get closer.

### Selecting Chaperones

Please be careful in selecting the adults who will assist you for this event. All participants will have long days and must have a lot of patience and genuine faith to get through the event. We want our adults to be positive role models. Please try to find at least one man and one woman to attend with your group. While all adults are helpful in keeping the teens safe, the adults who attend the trip are also responsible to help the teens grow deeper in their faith. As a Faith Mentor, your chaperones will be able to assist the youth participants in selecting workshops, getting the most out of an experience, and discussing the ways that God is working in their lives during NCYC and beyond.

### Any advice on fundraising?

There are a zillion ways to raise funds, but here’s a recommendation that I have that has less to do with HOW you raise money as much as it has to do with WHY you’re raising \$\$ to go to NCYC. You have to avoid the perception in your parish that the teens are taking a “field trip,” or a “vacation!” Instead, be intentional in the way you present your group’s participation in NCYC. Rather than “sending a group of teens to NCYC,” you are “coordinating your parish’s delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference.” Instead of just participants, they become representatives of your parish. See the difference?

In other words, you want your parishioners to take ownership of these teens! Of course that means giving back on the part of the teens! Consider ways in which the teens can share the experience with the parish community (pictures in the back of church, bulletin witnesses, etc.).

See the additional information we put together for fundraising ideas.



## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

---

### 18-20-Year-Old Participant Policy

Remembering that NCYC is for TEENS and not Young Adults or College Students we encourage programs to stay away from bringing 18-20 year old's. HOWEVER if you choose to bring them in a LEADERSHIP capacity please understand they are to be considered neither participants nor chaperones. They are in essence "Chaperone Assistants." They should complete the NFCYM's adult liability form and will be expected to abide by the adult code of conduct., knowing that they are there as role models and not participants. They cannot room with high school students and must be roomed as adults. They are not to deviate from any Archdiocesan rules. They also MUST have completed all Safe Environment requirements of the Archdiocese of Newark.

### Group Leader Responsibilities

Invite Teens and Adults from your parish/ youth ministry program  
Possible hold a meeting to discuss the event—show some videos if you can  
Set your own deadlines for collecting all paperwork, etc. so that you get it in on time!  
Distribute permission slips, data collection forms and code of conducts  
Help plan some fundraisers for your group  
Collect regular payments from your teens and adults going  
Turn in all paperwork and fees to the OYYAM—ON TIME  
Stay on top of all Safe Environment requirements for your group  
Attend the Pre Pilgrimage meeting in early November  
Prepare your group by having a meeting for all participants and parents AFTER the OYYAM meeting in early November  
Chaperone your group at all times from departure on Wednesday til arrival home on Friday  
Work with and be in constant contact with the OYYAM staff during the conference  
Follow up the experience with teens once you arrive home

### Cancellations, Refunds and Changes

While the Archdiocese of Newark Office for Youth Ministry completely understands that we live in a world where one's circumstances can change instantly, it is important that good financial stewardship is practiced. If a pilgrim is no longer able to attend NCYC, the Office of YM will work with the pilgrim's group leader to find someone to take the pilgrim's place. This might come from another parish, or from their own. Ultimately a parish is responsible for the number of spots they are reserving.

Please refer to the Time Line sheet in this packet for more information.



<b>Wednesday, November 15</b>	
9:30 pm	Arrive to St. JP II Center, Kearny
10:00 pm	Depart for Indy
<b>Thursday, November 16</b>	
12:00 pm	Estimated Arrival to Indy & Hotel
1:30 pm -10pm	Convention Center Open
4:00 pm–5:30 pm	Region 3 Liturgy
4pm–4:30pm	Eucharistic Procession
6:30 pm	Stadium Doors Open
7:00pm – 7:45pm	Gathering and Entertainment Featuring for KING & COUNTRY
8:00 pm–10:00 pm	Opening Session
11:30pm	Room Checks by Group Leaders .. all teens in rooms!
11:30pm	Hotel Quiet Time
<b>Friday, November 17</b>	
7:30 am	Stadium Doors Open
7:30 am–9:00 am	Gathering and Entertainment
9:00 am–10:45 am	Prayer and General Session
11:00 am–5:30 pm	Thematic Village Open
	Chapel Open
11:30am -12:45pm	Breakout Session – Round A
12:30 pm–5:30 pm	Reconciliation Available
1:30- 2:45pm	Breakout Session – Round B
3:30pm – 4:45pm	Breakout Session Round C
5:30pm -6:15pm	Daily Mass
6:30 pm	Stadium Doors Open
7:00 pm–8:00 pm	Gathering and Entertainment
8:00 pm–10:00 pm	Prayer and General Session
11:30pm	Room Checks by Group Leaders .. all teens in rooms!
11:30pm	Hotel Quiet Time
<b>Saturday, November 18</b>	
7:30 am	Stadium Doors Open
8:00 am–9:00 am	Gathering and Entertainment
9:00 am–10:45 am	Prayer and General Session
11:00 am–5:30 pm	Thematic Village Open
	Chapel Open
	Reconciliation Available
11:30 am–12:45 am	Breakout Session Round D
1:30 pm–2:45 pm	Breakout Session Round E
3:30pm – 4:45pm	Breakout Session Round F
6:30 pm	Stadium Doors Open
7:00 pm–8:00 pm	Gathering and Preparation for Liturgy
8:00 pm–10:00pm	Closing Mass
11:30pm	Room Checks by Group Leaders .. all teens in rooms!
11:30pm	Hotel Quiet Time
<b>Sunday, November 19</b>	
8:00 am	ESTIMATED Departure from Hotel to NJ
8:00 pm	ESTIMATED Arrival St. JP II Center, Kearny

# Welcome to Holiday Inn Indianapolis Downtown

**515 S West Street, Indianapolis, IN**

The Holiday Inn Indianapolis Downtown is a smoke-free all-suite hotel in Indianapolis and is within walking distance of the Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium. It is the same hotel the Archdiocese of Newark has been at for the NCYC's in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019!





## Pilgrimage Tour Price Breakdown

6 people to a room	\$845.00 per person
5 people to a room	\$865.00 per person
4 people to a room	\$900.00 per person
3 people to a room	\$945.00 per person
2 people to a room	\$1040.00 per person
1 person to a room	\$1325.00 per person

### All Pilgrimage Tour Packages include ...

- Conference Fee
- 3 nights hotel accommodations (Thur, Fri, Sat)
- Motor Coach Transportation
- Trading Materials for the Conference
- Archdiocese of Newark T-shirt
- Region 3 T-shirt





## Archdiocese of Newark Leader Guide 2023

### **June 2, 2023**

- \$200 per person Deposit Due
- Submit Parish / School Registration Cover Form
- Turn Individual Participant Registration Collection Form for ALL Youth & Adults
- Submit Rooming List

### **September 1st, 2023**

- \$200 additional per person due

### **October 2nd, 2023**

- Final bills will be sent to each parish

### **November 1st 2023**

- Final Payments are due into YM Office.

For Questions on NCYC please contact Rich Donovan at  
201-998-0088 x 4150 or via email at [richard.donovan@rcan.org](mailto:richard.donovan@rcan.org)







# NCYC

## FULLY ALIVE

**NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023 // INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

God created mankind in His image;  
in the image of God, he created them

**GENESIS 1:23-27**

**For Questions on NCYC please contact Rich Donovan at  
201-998-0088 x 4150 or via email at [richard.donovan@rcan.org](mailto:richard.donovan@rcan.org)**