



**NFCYM**  
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR  
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors

**FROM:** Christina Lamas, Executive Director

**RE:** Student Attendance at the **National Catholic Youth Conference, November 21-23, 2019**

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is the premiere national gathering of Catholic high school age youth in the United States. More than 20,000 young people and their chaperones from around the country will meet for three days of educational sessions, catechesis, prayer, and service. NCYC is a unique opportunity for young people to strengthen their Catholic faith and identity, to meet other young people striving to live out positive values, to learn ways to cope with influences that conflict with what they know to be right, and to discover that they are strong enough to be countercultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

The 2019 NCYC will be held in Indianapolis November 21-23. We at the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM) realize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. I respectfully request that your students' participation in the conference be counted as an excused absence due to the nature of the program.

Without support from administrators like you, many students will be unable to attend. They and their families are committed to school and its related activities. If NCYC was an experience that would regularly take students from their classrooms, playing fields, and practices, I would not ask you consider excusing their absence. However, NCYC happens only once every two years. I hope you agree there are benefits to students taking a few days to deepen their understanding of another facet of their being. I believe the experience will add to their development as well-rounded members of the broader community.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit our website, [www.ncyc.info](http://www.ncyc.info). In addition, please feel free to contact your local Catholic diocesan youth ministry director or our office in Washington, D.C. for more details.

Your cooperation in enabling your students to attend is greatly appreciated.

**Supporting those who accompany young people**

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