



## Christ Reigns! ~ NCYC 2009 ~ Kansas City, Mo.

*"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)*

Dear Friends:

We're going to Kansas City to discover how "Christ Reigns" at the National Catholic Youth Conference, November 19-21, 2009! NCYC is a biennial celebration of the young Church, bringing together more than 20,000 Catholic youth from across the nation. The three days are packed with incredible speakers, powerful prayer and worship experiences, and countless ways to meet and have fun with other young Catholics. Our diocese brings one of the biggest flocks to every NCYC. We hope you'll join us in 2009!

This memo includes important details about NCYC 2009. I ask that you read it carefully, don't hesitate to contact me with questions, and respond promptly to the **Oct. 16, 2008**, initial registration deadline. *(Unless otherwise noted, all dates in this memo are 2009).*

### What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is so many great things rolled into one... including:

- **Nationally Recognized Speakers** offering keynotes and concurrent sessions covering many topics for Catholic youth and adults. Catholic musician Steve Angrisano again will be the master of ceremonies.
- **Powerful Prayer** and liturgy experiences by and for young people
- **Christian Musicians**, bands and concerts each day and evening
- **Interactive Park** – a festival village where you can get creative, play fun group games, listen to live bands and comedians, eat, buy cool Catholic stuff you won't find *anywhere* else, surf the internet, eat some more, learn more about Catholic colleges and service opportunities, and hang out with 20,000+ of your closest friends.

**Promotional material** is posted at [www.nfcym.org](http://www.nfcym.org). Be sure to check out the promotional video found on the home page.

**NCYC also is a pilgrimage of faith** – Long before we hit the road for Kansas City, parishes are asked to prepare their young people and adults to attend this event by gathering the youth together on a regular basis and leading them in prayer, reflection, service and community building experiences in addition to the fund-raising events the group undertakes.

Before any youth or adult joins this pilgrimage, parish leaders are encouraged to familiarize them with the NCYC Code of Conduct (Copies of the 2007 NCYC Code of Conduct, subject to update, are attached). All youth and adults must abide by these codes. Further, all participants should recognize that pilgrimages often involve hardships (flat tires, poor service at hotels, disappointing meals, etc.) and are encouraged to accept such challenges with patience and charity.

**Dates:** Nov. 19-21, 2009. The schedule, while not published, will be similar to the 2007 schedule.

- The interactive park will open around noon on Nov. 19. We are likely to have a Region IX liturgy, and the opening session begins at 8 p.m. Participants may arrive any time on the 19<sup>th</sup>, though mid-late afternoon is recommended.
- The closing liturgy ends at 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 21.

Please note that the closing liturgy will be Saturday night and there are no Sunday activities. Some groups may choose to do sightseeing Sunday morning. Others may depart after the Saturday night liturgy, but because of NFCYM's arrangement with the hotels, you must pay for the Saturday night stay. Leaving Saturday also puts you back home in the middle of the night, which some families may not appreciate.

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**Travel:** Each parish determines how they travel to Kansas City.

**Busing** is the most practical and more affordable option. In addition, downtown hotel space in Kansas City is limited, increasing the likelihood of our being at a suburban hotel and the need for ground transportation that charter buses provide.

The diocese will again arrange bus transportation. The cost (\$75) for busing is the same as 2007. While the distance is less, gas price increases even out the cost. Driver lodging, parking, empty seat allowance and other factors help determine per-person cost.

Travel time to Kansas City is between 4 and 7 hours, depending on where you are and number of pit stops. Early arrival (and lodging) on Nov. 18 is an option (see below), but at increased costs. As noted above, NCCYC will end with liturgy on Saturday night, with Sunday as a travel day. Parish groups and clusters may determine their departure/arrival times as NCCYC draws nearer.

**Flying** is also an option, though one you arrange on your own. Airlines do offer group rates, only requiring an initial deposit up front. If you want to fly, contact a travel agent soon and explore booking dates, payment schedules, airport options, and schedules. Fliers will need to arrange airport-to-hotel shuttles, and likely will need to arrange for daily transportation from the hotel to NCCYC events.

**Parish groups may drive their own vehicles, but this is discouraged.** The liability, parking costs and hassles, wear-and-tear on chaperones and loss of community time don't make this worth what little you might save.

**Housing:** Use the attached registration form to provide your most accurate numbers to me by **Oct. 16**. The overall lodging puzzle is more challenging this year, so adding rooms at a later date is iffy. We will try to choose a hotel that will accommodate our entire group, or adjacent hotels. Hotel rates vary, but we are estimating \$135 per person for the conference. A few notes about lodging:

- Youth will be housed three or four to a room in two-bedded rooms. Please note that in some cases, youth from different parishes may be asked to share a room (for example, if parish A and parish B each have 6 boys, we might have a room of 4 boys from A, a room of 4 from B, and a room of 2 from A and 2 from B). We always have done this at NCCYC, but this is especially important this year, as bigger turnout is expected and the number of 2-bedded rooms is limited.
- Because of the limited amount of 2-bedded rooms in the overall NCCYC block, NCCYM is asking that we avoid putting just two adults in a two-bedded room. When possible, place 4 adults in a room. Once we get our hotel assignment, we will check on availability of rollaway beds. If necessary, we will accommodate your requests to sleep two to a room, but we would prefer to put those adults in a king room (room with one larger bed). If your adults must have their own beds, we prefer they use king rooms.
- When necessary (and as available), we will offer double rooms (two adults in two beds). A double will cost \$75 more per person. Your adults (or you) must decide if you're willing to pay this extra fee.
- NCCYC asks us to provide a number for single-bedded (king) rooms. These rooms, if available in the hotel we choose, will be available to married couples, individual adults with medical needs, individual priests, and same-gendered chaperones. Rate will be determined later, but we need to know now how many, if any, single rooms your parish anticipates needing.
- As noted above, the hotels require a Saturday night stay for discounted rates. Parish groups wishing to leave KC after Mass on Saturday night must still pay for that evening's lodging.
- Lastly, we can arrange lodging for early arrivals on Nov. 18. Please let me know if your group plans on arriving that night.

*All of these rooming options are addressed on the registration form.*

**Registration:** The attached registration form is due to me by **Oct. 16, 2008**. No deposit will be due at this time. Please provide the most accurate numbers you can. See notes below regarding payment deadlines, transfer of payments, cancellations and changes. We will maintain a waiting list for individuals who wish to get on board after this initial registration. All changes must be processed through the diocese and can't be arranged between parishes. There are three key factors (and costs) involved in NCCYC – registration, lodging and transportation. We can only register people if we have lodging and transportation for them. After hotel blocks and bus plans are arranged, there are no guarantees that we can add rooms or get more/bigger buses.

It is important that you keep me posted on any changes in your group size. If you have a youth cancel, for example, and have another youth *in your parish* to take his/her place, you can handle that yourself. However, if you want to release that spot, let me know *as soon as possible* so that I can replace them from the waiting list (and arrange for an internal transfer of payment for that spot by the parish of the person(s) on the waiting list) OR possibly release rooms back to NCCYC. If I can't release extra rooms, you may be liable for the room deposit if you have youth cancel. (Late fees and transfer fees may apply after Sept. 28, 2009).

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**Total costs:**

<b>Diocesan busing package (youth or adults 4 to room.)</b>	
Registration	\$195
Housing	\$135
Transportation	\$75
Administration Fee	\$10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$415</b>

<b>Parish-arranged transport (youth or adults 4 to room.)</b>	
Registration	\$195
Housing	\$135
Administration fee	\$10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$340</b>
Plus transportation (drive or fly) arranged by the parish	

Add \$70 for adults who would like double rooms, or \$485 for those busing and \$410 for those flying/driving. Our goal is to charge only what is needed to break even. In our current diocesan financial situation, it is important that we don't lose money on NCYC. If any costs can be lowered, they will be. The cost is unlikely to go up.

**Registration/Payments:**

Best Initial Estimate: Due Oct. 16, 2008.

First payment: \$50 due January 7. This number should be within 1-2 of your estimate, and you'll be accountable for this number. If youth cancel and can't be replaced, you (they) may be held accountable for costs.

Second payment: \$175 due July 3

Third payment: \$170 (tentative) due September 4

- **Food:** There will be no NCYC meal plan in K.C.. There will be plenty of food options in and around the convention center and Sprint Center. Some hotels have complimentary breakfasts and others might charge us for a breakfast plan. We will keep you posted on this. Most groups plan on \$20/day for food and snacks.
- **Chaperones:** Again, you will need at least one chaperone for every six youth you are taking. Choose these chaperones with care. Emphasize to them that this is a faith pilgrimage. They are expected to abide by and enforce NCYC and diocesan rules. They should appreciate the responsibility and opportunity that NCYC is, and model patience and kindness to the youth they serve. Chaperones must be 21 years old or older and must have the *Protecting God's Children* training and a background check. Young adults between high school and age 21 must register as adults, but cannot be counted as chaperones.
- **Flier:** I have attached a simple flier, which you can alter as you wish. You'll want to cut/paste change the info to meet your local needs.
- **Promotional video:** We are providing a video courtesy of our friends in Dubuque. The Federation is creating a promotional video that you will be able to download soon at [www.nfcym.org](http://www.nfcym.org)
- **Web sites.** Go to [www.davenportdiocese.net/Youth%20Ministry/index.html](http://www.davenportdiocese.net/Youth%20Ministry/index.html) for diocesan NCYC info. Also please steer your young people to [www.davenportyouth.org](http://www.davenportyouth.org) for NCYC 2009 info and updates.

If you have any questions about any of this, please e-mail me at [finan@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:finan@davenportdiocese.org) or call 641/842-5148. I'm looking forward to celebrating our faith with you and your youth at NCYC 2009!

In Christ's peace,



Pat Finan, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Diocese of Davenport