



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Robert J. McCarty, Executive Director

RE: Student Attendance at the
National Catholic Youth Conference, November 8-10, 2007

This year's National Catholic Youth Conference, *Discover the Way*, will be held in Columbus, Ohio. 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 am writing to request that students be allowed an excused absence due to the nature of the program.

NCYC is the premiere national gathering of Catholic high school age youth in the United States. It draws in excess of 23,000 youth and their chaperones from around the country for three days of prayer, catechesis, service, and educational workshops. It is a unique opportunity for young people to gather together to strengthen their Catholic identity. They meet others who are struggling with similar issues, learn ways to cope with influences that conflict with what they know to be right, and find that they are strong enough to be countercultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

In Columbus, young people will hear presentations by Tony Melendez, Fr. Tony Ricard, and Renee Bondi, who will discuss discovering the person of Jesus as *The Way*, *The Truth*, and *The Life*. They will have several opportunities to interact with bishops and other church leaders as session presenters, through daily liturgy and the sacrament of reconciliation, and during guided roundtable discussions. In addition, daily conference activities include workshops on social justice, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, healthy dating practices, vocations, violence, stress management, making smart media choices, faithful citizenship, and evangelization to name just a few of the more than twenty five topics that will be addressed. Young people will also be engaged in service activities, including the building of a Habitat for Humanity house.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit our website, www.nfcym.org/ncyc. In addition, please feel free to contact your local 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.

Serving Those Who Serve The Young Catholic Church

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