



Discover the Way/Descubre El Camino ~ NCYC 2007

*"Where I am going, you know the Way."
Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going;
how can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life..." (John 14:4-6a)*

Dear Friends:

You're invited to "Discover the Way" at the 2007 National Catholic Youth Conference, next November 8-10 in Columbus, Ohio. 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, and we'll hope you'll join us in 2007.

This memo includes important details about NCYC 2007. I ask that you read it carefully, don't hesitate to contact me with questions, and respond promptly to the **Nov. 7, 2006**, initial registration deadline. *(Unless otherwise noted, all dates in this memo are 2007).*

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 will be the MC, and Father R. Tony Ricard of New Orleans will be the Friday keynoter.
- **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 will be posted soon at www.nfcym.org/ncyc or go to www.ncyccolumbus.org for local info.

NCYC also is a *pilgrimage of faith* – Long before we hit the road for Columbus, 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 2005 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. 8-10, 2007. The schedule, while not published, will be similar to the 2005 schedule.

- The interactive park will open around noon on Nov. 8, with formal programs beginning at 7 p.m.
- The closing liturgy ends at 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Schedule. The 2007 schedule is not yet available, so I am attaching the 2005 NCYC schedule as a reference. The format will be very similar. Please note that the closing liturgy will be Saturday night and there are no Sunday activities. While some groups do sightseeing in the morning, Sunday is primarily a travel day. You may choose to depart after the Saturday night liturgy, but because of NFCYM's arrangement with the hotels, you must pay for the Saturday night stay.

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Travel: Each parish may determine whether they wish to bus or fly to Columbus.

Busing is a practical and more affordable option, especially with the proximity to Columbus. In addition, there are fewer downtown hotels in Columbus than at previous NCYCs, 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 through Tri-State travel. The cost (\$75) for busing is considerably lower than previous years because of the shorter mileage. Driver lodging costs, parking, empty seat allowance and other factors help determine the per-person cost.

Travel time from Davenport to Columbus is approximately 11 hours (including time change and 2-3 pit stops). Early arrival (and lodging) on Nov. 7 is an option (see below), but at increased costs. As noted above, NCYC will end with liturgy on Saturday night, with Sunday as a travel day. Parish groups and clusters may determine their departure/arrival times as NCYC 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. Columbus does not have a mass transit system, so fliers will need to arrange airport-to-hotel shuttles, and likely will need to arrange for daily transportation from the hotel to NCYC events.

Housing: The federation holds a lottery and dioceses choose their hotels in order of the lottery drawing. Use the attached registration form to provide your most accurate numbers. The overall lodging puzzle is more challenging this year, so adding rooms at a later date is very iffy. We will try to choose a hotel that will accommodate our entire group, or nearby hotels. Hotel rates vary, but we are estimating \$130 per person for the conference. A few notes about lodging:

- Youth will be housed four to a room; double rooms (two people in two beds) will not be available for youth, as the hotel blocks are too small to accommodate this.
- As in the past, we will offer double rooms (two people in two beds) for the adults. A double will cost \$225, or \$95 more. Your adults (or you) must decide if you're willing to pay this extra fee.
- NCYC asks us to provide a number for single-bedded rooms. These rooms, if available in the hotel we choose, will be available only to married couples, individual adults with medical needs, and individual priests. The 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 Columbus after Mass on Saturday night must still pay for that evening's lodging.
- Lastly, we can arrange lodging for early arrivals on Nov. 7. Please let me know if your group plans on arriving that evening.

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

Registration: The attached registration form is due to me by **Nov. 7, 2006**. No deposit will be due at this time. However, please consider this a firm commitment and give me the most accurate numbers you can.

There are three key factors (and costs) involved in NCYC – 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.

We will maintain a waiting list for individuals who wish to get “on board” after this initial registration. Adjustments are more possible within our original diocesan number. All changes must be processed through the diocese and can't be arranged between parishes.

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 do 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 OR possibly release rooms back to NCYC. 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, 2007).

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Total costs:

Diocesan busing package (youth or adults 4 to room.)	
Registration	\$180
Housing	\$130
Transportation	\$75
Administration Fee	\$10
Total	\$395

Parish-arranged transport (youth or adults 4 to room.)	
Registration	\$180
Housing	\$130
Administration fee	\$10
Total	\$320
Plus transportation (bus or fly) arranged by the parish	

Add \$95 for adults who would like double rooms, or \$490 for those busing and \$415 for those flying. 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 of these costs can be lowered, they will be. The cost should not go up.

Payments:

First payment: \$50 due January 5

Second payment: \$175 due July 2

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

- **Food:** There will be no food program in Columbus. There will be plenty of food options in and around the convention center and arena venues. Some hotels have complimentary breakfasts and others might provide us with 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. Beyond the logo and the theme, you'll want to cut/paste change the info to meet your local needs.
- **Promotional video:** The Federation is creating a promotional video that you will be able to download at www.nfcym.org
- **Web sites.** Go to www.ncyccolumbus.org for info on Columbus, including links to the main venues. Go to www.davenportdiocese.net/Youth%20Ministry/index.html for diocesan NCYC info. Also please steer your young people to www.davenportyouth.org for NCYC 2007 info and updates.

If you have any questions about any of this, please e-mail me at finan@harenet.net or call 641/842-5148. I'm looking forward to "Discovering the Way" with you and your youth at NCYC 2007!

In Christ's peace,

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