At the Heart of It All

The reality of this experience is that it cannot become a once a year event to fuel the faith. Rather it must be part of a sustained ministry plan - it is simply a variable that plays into the ministry framework that we must form with our ministers.

There are three components that must be addressed and further developed to allow this experience to truly engage young people:

1. Worship
2. Sacramental Lifestyle
3. Receiving and Implementing the Call

It is crucial that young people are part of this encounter as leaders who develop the framework and schedule for the conference.

The conference must work to provide resources that can be implemented in parishes back in their local communities.

This means that part of the conference will provide a practical framework that can be done outside of a conference setting.

Reimagining the Conference
ENGAGING IN PRAYER AND THE PRACTICES OF OUR FAITH

This conference provides us with the opportunity to educate, empower, and for many to introduce them to the power of worship. Worship comes in various forms, and we want to highlight at the conference the mediums of worship that young people can continue to grow in within their lives back home.

We will bring them into a worship encounter that is highlighted by the liturgy and gifts of our Church, reminding them that these acts of worship have a legacy of thousands of years in our faith community.
The three components of worship for this conference setting:

1. **Workshops on Worship:** Presenting to the young people various opportunities of worship based off of gifts, talents, and personality. This includes worship through painting, dancing, singing, writing, mediation - contemplation. There will also be workshops that will be creatively re-imagined to reignite a love for the acts of worship that have supported the Church for years: the rosary, adoration, lectio divina, the practice of praying novenas, etc.

2. **Learning to pray with their youth groups, peers, specifically in small group settings:** This component of learning to pray together with the peers they interact with on a more daily basis, will begin to build the foundation for prayer to continue when they return back to their local communities. If we can be part of the support that lays the building blocks for these youth groups on learning how to pray together, then there is a higher chance for them to continue this in their home parishes.

3. **Learning to pray in large community settings:** This will help them to become more aware of the grace of praying in their larger community settings, while also learning that we all have gifts to bring into these settings of worship. This will build off of the teachings they received in the workshops and keynote sessions. This will also call for them to highlight those gifts in each other and learn how to empower each other back home in their daily settings (specifically in their parishes) to take on the role of worshipper.
Our young people are at a disconnect with the sacramental practices and promises of our Church. This conference can be a crucial point in empowering them and connecting them to the beauty of the sacraments, and the blessings of living out a sacramental lifestyle as a young person in the 21st Century. We will work in truly bringing to light the grace of the liturgy and the transforming way of life that the sacraments open us too.
The three components of maintaining a sacramental lifestyle for this conference setting:

1. **Workshops on the sacraments and why they matter:** We need to work on creating workshops that will highlight the importance of the sacraments in the lives of our young people. Here we have the ability to re-imagine the mediums by which we relay the importance of the sacraments to our young people. The main purpose of each of these sacraments will be to highlight our baptismal promises, the gifts of priest, prophet, and king.

2. **The Mass Explained:** Most young people will immediately admit their disconnection with the mass. It is crucial that we take the time to share the gifts of the mass and truly dive into the reason for why the Mass is the focal point that leads us to the Eucharist. This will be a mass that we do in community that will also explain the reality of heaven on earth among us every Sunday.

3. **The Eucharist:** Everything in the sacraments, everything in our faith points us to the Paschal Mystery. The reality of living a sacramental lifestyle is that we embody the reality that we are living tabernacles. Adoration will be the focal point for this section, but also teaching them (in a main session talk) how to continue living the reality of the Eucharist back in our daily lives.
RECEIVING THE CALL

ANSWERING GOD’S CALL AND IMPLEMENTING IT IN OUR LIVES

THIS IS THE PART OF THE CONFERENCE THAT ALLOWS FOR THAT WHICH IS ABSTRACT TO BECOME PRACTICAL.

THE REALITY OF THIS CONFERENCE MUST BE TO FURTHER SUPPORT THE DAILY LIFE AND ENCOUNTERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BACK IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE LEADERSHIP TEAM MUST WORK IN CREATING & PROVIDING PHYSICAL RESOURCES ALONG WITH NEW MEDIUMS OF DIOCESAN SUPPORT THAT SUPPORT THE FRAMEWORK OF YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES THAT ARE PRESENT.
RECEIVING THE CALL

The three components of receiving the call back in their daily lives:

1. **Workshops supported by main session keynote:** How can we continue to support our young people past this youth rally conference? Here we want to break down the realities that young people are going back to when they return to their homes. Through these workshops we will highlight the main themes that young people struggle with when leaving conference experiences: disconnect from their faith without the "hype" mentality, trying to figure out their relationships now from a religious perspective when they feel like they embody this on their own, and learning how to live in the seasons of faith.

2. **Hands-on resources given to youth ministers and participants:** This is where we as the Diocese truly step into their realities. We need to supply our youth leaders and participants with some hands-on resources that are starting points for them back home. Whether this is already written youth nights, or a post retreat to help young people continue to process these instances of conversions, we must be prepared to give out resources to our community.

3. **Spiritually and Physically Receiving the Call:** This will be a ceremony of sorts that will commission our young people to receive the call of Christ in their lives. This will be a call that we will continue to share with our youth ministers on how to empower and create space for that call to grow in the lives of their young people back in their home communities.

Diocese of Las Cruces
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CONFERENCE?

HOW TO CONTINUE ON-GOING CONVERSIONS IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER THE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

What happens after these conference style encounters? Most of our young people lose the flame that was ignited in them because we have failed in equipping them with the tools, resources, and spiritual connections they need in order to continue their on-going conversions in the real world, where a worship band doesn't wake you up, and a Catholic speaker isn't looming over your shoulder giving you advice on how to live your faith. Conference’s must provide further instances of empowering young people in their local communities, and the Diocese must work in providing regional meet-ups with the youth ministers to keep them updated on how to further their young peoples relationships with Christ. Also, it is part of the teams mission to create a follow-up like retreat for our local communities that continues to develop, unfold, and empower the young people in their parishes. We are not here to provide simply a mountain top experience - we are here to establish, and empower on-going conversions in the lives of young people in our Diocese. At the heart of it all it is the love of Christ that they are called to participate in.