



Diocese of Davenport NCYC 2019 Evaluations Adult – Appendix II



INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES FOR THE QUESTION: “What would you like Faith Formation Leaders in the Diocese to know about the realities of being an adult in the church today? (How can we improve? What are we doing well?)”

1. Need adult catechesis that will attract the fallen away and irregular Catholic. Diocese does well providing seminars & learning events but who do they attract?
2. We all need to listen more to teens, to engage them more. We need to praise the teens more for what they do in the Church (too much negativity). Thank you for giving multiple Mass time options.
3. The students ARE FAITHFUL - we just need to meet them where they are at. I don't think we are making them feel welcome and giving them empowerment to share their faith!
4. I appreciate all the opportunities for faith formation that are available for me. I also appreciate all the support and encouragement the diocese staff have given me as a new parish faith formation coordinator.
5. I strongly believe that there is a hunger in young people for traditional Catholic experiences. The NCYC Latin Mass was packed. I think there is an interest in our own parish.
6. We need more depth in formation/catechesis, both for youth and adults.
7. The adult small groups available at my parish are fantastic and really help me to be engaged in the church and grow in my faith. I think the opportunities to engage those less strong in their faith, or non-Catholic can be improved. We need events or groups to invite them into that are not intimidating or "too Catholic" to just get them in the door and start relationships.
8. Newer isn't always better. Do the sacraments well and all will be better. People want authentic liturgy, not manufactured hocus pocus.
9. Being a young adult, I would like the opportunity to have ministry for us - small groups, etc.
10. Please help bridge the divide between those of us who elect to send our children to public schools and those who send their kids to parish schools - if there is any way. I still feel like my family is on the outside looking in, and we participate a lot.
11. I would love to hear even more catechesis during the Mass/Homily. Also having a diocesan young adult event every couple/few months would be beneficial for us to make connections with others because most parishes do not have many who are active and engaged. I love that the diocese is doing with the youth, especially supporting NCYC! And allowing us to take part in this adventure with them. Overall the diocese is doing well emphasizing small groups to continue faith formation is clearly making an impact.
12. Re-Gathering? Yes, or maybe even as a parish retreat rather than diocese?
13. There is a level of distrust among adults toward the church. Transparency would go a long way.
14. Get our young church more present at Mass more often.
15. Communication.
16. Teens that attend SMMS then moved to public school, when they attended religious ed they were bored and already knew the answer to questions. There should be an advance class or something more for those students because their relationship with God decreased because of it. New books or way of teaching needs to be updated. P.S. I think NCYC sessions DVD should be purchased for the parish so that parents and youth that did not attend could watch them. I know I wished I could go to more sessions.
17. We need to provide more opportunities in a variety of ways - TEC - CLI - CIA - Vision. Don't just look at numbers when offering events. Empowering Collaboration.
18. Very organized. Streamline the mountain of paperwork. Thanks for what you do.
19. I believe we need to do more to engage our youth in Mass. It would be nice to include the more lively engaging music in our parish celebration. I believe young people want the church to reflect more of their culture.
20. Improvements: Allow for the same energy, engagement and involvement during weekly parish Mass, especially through music. There is a strong disconnect with some priests and the youth of our parishes. School = high engagement. Continue to provide opportunities such as NCYC to promote Catholic practices.
21. Get more parents involved. Hard work is often cancelled out by inactive/non-practicing adults. Keep encouraging youth - the Lord will work miracles with those you nurture.
22. Need more retreats and gathering for youth and adults lead by the peers of the diocese.

23. Everyone wants to be included, invited, accepted and appreciated. Times are changing and although I do not believe tradition should change, how we communicate with our youth and adults needs to change. Listening. Engage the heart.
24. Sometimes there are a lot of hoops to jump through to volunteer so you give up and don't. Then because other people don't step up, you get burnt out doing it all. People need smaller time commitments to say yes.
25. It's a very well organized program.
26. In a smaller parish we often times do not have enough volunteers. This can lead to "burn out" on the current adult volunteers. The diocese overall is doing an amazing job!
27. There is very good formations and classes but it's time to live those. It's a challenge to bring that knowledge and try it in your parish sometimes is not well received. We need more visits in small parishes to listen, less events and classes and more companionship. More advertisements for NCYC.
28. How can we improve is by getting together with all of the youth. Some to get the opportunity to learn about faith. Is by putting flyers about getting teenagers to be part of the youth group to learn what they already don't know. Is by having youth groups to those that can go.
29. I think we need to follow up. So many great sessions over so many years. Yet some problems persist. Everything's good.
30. Everything that our church leaders do, do it for a pure desire of heart not just of routine/tradition - to have compassion and passion to teach and serve.
31. Learn about how sound (?) affects every... (?) us about our religion.
32. There are many opportunities in our parish, but trying to balance life while growing in our faith makes things challenging. Having someone that understands that - both parish and diocese levels - are important when planning things and events
33. There is SO much hope in the young church! We need to stop treating young people and youth ministry as "optional" or "added on" of "something extra, if there's time and resources to invest in it." If we don't invest in and empower (not babysit or entertain) young people in the church, then the church will steepen its decline. We need to start by being authentic witnesses ourselves so that we know what is at stake for young people to gain by being an active part of the life of the church.
34. I feel that formation of adults to be able to lead small groups should be a priority. Their faith and their ability to facilitate small group discussion. Teach best practices to develop volunteer teams. Teach techniques/best practices of engaging young people. Asking questions and listening, and how to tell your story.
35. The youth want to learn about their faith. They want to connect with their peers and adults who are on fire with their faith. They hunger for the opportunity to slow down and disconnect. Could we ever consider a monthly NCYC Renewal for these kids to relive and reconnect?
36. We need to seriously evaluate the cost of NCYC.
37. It's changed so rapidly in dealing with parents and people in general. More challenging and demanding with parents and students.
38. Be more inclusive of others who don't participate often.
39. We just need to continue encouraging our youth to attend Mass, CCD, and as many church activities as possible. We need to keep telling our youth that we need them, we LOVE them. They are our future and our PRESENT!
40. Meet the kids where they are in their lives! Don't try to fit them all into the same mold when teaching or relating to them!
41. Convention Center had very few places for (?) to eat. (?) session. Need more food vendors and healthy options.
42. If you are willing to participate the church will find a place for you.
43. Good job organizing. Supportive leaders. Barb & Staff are amazing.
44. Please keep in mind that people are volunteering their time. The meeting w chaperones with Don could have been done in an email.
45. We need help, even if we don't realize it. In addition to "traditional" programs, I'd like to see us go outside the box with programs like Time Management and Making time for Christ, Adult Scavenger Hunt to learn about the different things in the church, etc.
46. It's challenging to connect meaningfully with others due to busy schedules and being uncomfortable with reaching out to others.

47. I think we are doing great! There are lots of opportunities for adults to grow in their faith! You have to make an effort.
48. Let the kids decide what they are too busy for. Let them decide what they want to participate in and don't write them off because of their other activities.
49. People seem to put more priorities on other activities that take away their focus from church.
50. Suggestions: My 3rd time here ('13, '15, '19). Wonderful and meaningful faith building experience. I think it's important to keep in mind with theme, speakers, etc., that not all teenagers have big problems and sometimes I think that is the focus, especially with main sessions. We are all broken, but I feel it's pushed a little too much, where it can make the kids feel like they should have a problem. I thought the same thing in 2015. I'm from the southeast and grew up with many Southern Baptist churches with altar calls. Music, the moment, pressure for people to be saved. That is not the feeling of NCYC on Friday night, but it was a little in the back of my mind of the moment. I would say balance - the broken talk, with a balance of positivity - maybe building on where the person is at.
51. The realities of being an adult in the church today are that faith formation basically stops after confirmation. You must make the effort individually (go to conferences, read books, podcasts, etc.). There aren't opportunities offered through our particular church for adults to learn/refresh their faith. Even a homily that discusses church teachings or traditions sometimes would be helpful.
52. We have to engage and participate and teach our young parish more
53. We need more excitement during Mass for the youth. Music is a great way to connect with them.
54. Wish we could get more parents involved! Doing great things! I just think kids need to see parents involved.
55. Apologetics on some level for living in Pella is needed.
56. Continuing adult formation is needed but it is difficult to get adults to commit one time.
57. We are trying to balancing everything, but sometimes struggle. 8 AM Mass is too early for families with small children. 9 AM would be so much more doable and less exhausting after a long hard work.
58. Increased opportunities for young adults (22-28) to meet and know others who are striving in their faith. Theology on Tap, or similar opportunities, or retreats. Doing a great job of building communities for teens, just continue for post graduates.
59. Trying to get teens to disconnect from electronics to have real discussions. The use of live music that is more recent/relevant, helps get them engaged.
60. Watch the Rich Curran breakout session!!
61. Unsure.
62. Trust the kids and know they are empowered and want to be a part of the "young church."
63. It seems that once parents get their kids through high school often they stop going to church, become more casual. We start losing the middle aged group. Young couples especially don't want to belong to a geriatric church. There are phases in our lives we go through. We can't seem to keep consistency. They bring their kids to reach the milestones/sacraments and stop in between.
64. Need to have basic practical formation for adults so they feel prepared to be the first formation for their family. It must not be what we have always done. It needs to be short and practical.
65. Hire people in Catholic schools who practice the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church publically, especially pro-life and traditional marriage so as not to cause confusion or scandal. Eucharistic adoration is good. (God's will is for our good - He is our loving Father who wants what's best for us.)
66. Have less somber music. More upbeat music. More instruments. Praise God in joyous singing. Some music that if your church doors were open people would hear and walk in to join. I saw this happen at NCYC and Christian Assembly of God conventions...
67. Hopefully as adults we support each other and realize that we are all doing our best and to help one another on our journey. We should encourage each other.
68. I would like the opportunity to attend service projects and/or activities with adults to build community and relationships. I'm not sure how we could get more adults actively engaged but it very important to strengthen our congregation.

69. My faith formation leader offers many opportunities to learn about or discuss my faith. He is always open to conversation and eager to answer questions I may have. However, I feel it is a struggle within my children to feel closeness. I don't think as a Christian family we reach out to others well and strive to know others in our church. It feels like some people go through the motions of going to church on Sunday but nothing more. The same people volunteer all the time.
70. I would love to have more youth centered opportunities like NCYC where kids/teens can grow in Christ in an engaging way that is fun and educational.
71. It's really hard when we struggle to get kids to events. They end up wanting more. But coaches make them "run" because they miss 2 practices. Stupid. So then kids are left hungry but also damaged. Abused! Wanting more but nothing to do it in.
72. Include everyone.
73. Continue to address the issues today and teach us as adults how to handle subjects that are sensitive, i.e., race, relationships, etc.
74. Excellent organization from start to finish!
75. Many things to juggle, need to be very flexible and do things in little chunks.
76. Still too little happening to evangelize adults, or engage merging adults.
77. I feel that the overall experience for all is amazing, given the opportunity to be an adult helping what God does for leaders, priests, chaperones is awesome when everyone everywhere came together.
78. That being a young, single adult in the church can be lonesome as there's not many others who are the same.
79. Listen to our concerns. Provide lots of adult programming. Need increased high school programs/engagement.
80. More adult options (retreats, etc.). More high school engagement. Wildlife/Young Life = great!
81. I am not entirely sure what the diocese is doing to actively support the young church. I am not sure about a cohesive communication plan. I am passionate about our Catholic youth!!!
82. I feel like a better job could have been done promoting NCYC including during Mass announcements. This is an awesome weekend and we need to pull in more youth. Assumption should have promoted it more as well.
83. Based on a breakout session I learned that helping families from marriage prep on to baptism of the birth of children and after baptism to teach how to raise children in the faith, to accompany them, so they and their children learn about Catholic Church traditions and stay engaged through children growing up through adolescence.
84. I love how Michelle really works hard to make all the teens feel loved. She is so good to all of the kids. I think STM does it right.
85. Grateful for the opportunity to attend events such as NCYC and Vision 20/20.
86. Participation is key, not for your neighbor but for each of us. We all have gifts to share. We can all "ask" others to share their "gifts" if we notice it in them.
87. Monthly session in faith formation. Areas where we adults can do more for our youth and parish.
88. Michelle Montgomery is AMAZING youth leader! Keep her as long as possible to guide and motivate our youth and parents. Educate the adults that were baptized as baby Catholics. A teaching Mass a few times a year on a Sunday. I don't think born Catholics know what Catholic is and how it differs from other Christian churches. What we believe and why we do what we do.
89. The young adult/millennial world is difficult and challenging to navigate right now and it would be nice to have more structure/support for YA programs/experiences from the diocese.
90. Do more single, young single, mid age single, old single.
91. I always believe I hold deep within my heart that a family that prays together stays together. It all begins with a good parent foundation. I would like to see more gatherings of parents/marriage days/potlucks maybe once/month. We can gather, have talks, share our feelings, etc.
92. There is a lot of emphasis on youth. As a 40-something year old I feel a bit like the forgotten generation. Parents gave me good Catholic roots but have had challenges growing my faith.
93. Our church seems to be filled with wonderful opportunities to increase our faith. I love my Church!
94. Church doesn't always have to go the planned way. Let it go God's way.
95. I think that we can improve by always remembering to put the youth first and help them grow in the faith by modeling how to truly give your whole self to the Lord.

96. I think that overall the diocese are doing well. I think NCYC is really an experience that should be focused on the youth, which it does, but providing breakout sessions and other things aimed a more adult audience is beneficial to both youth and adults as they continue to grow in their faith.
97. I found the music at the Saturday night Mass to be "self-serving" of the music group. Rather than them singing their music, select music that engages youth and adults together the new music and no so new. Music needs to bring us together NOT divide us. There was not enough participation because the selections and Mass music were not universally known. Put the notes on the screen and not just the words if you truly want us to sing.
98. I think the church leaders need to consider Masses that attract young people. The MUSIC at NCYC (nontraditional hymns, the band the dynamic singing, lights, props. Etc.) should inspire change!
99. I want adults to know that it is OK to not know all the answers. We all need to continue to learn and work on our faith. The journey never ends. To be more welcoming. Our parish has a hard time with that.
100. Focus on family. Provide tips for daily focus on faith.
101. It is hard to be true to our faith in the world - and then even harder to pass it on. NCYC can strengthen the courage to be and live a CATHOLIC LIFE. We gather together - help us stay strong. Build on the talks we heard so it isn't just a one and done. Can our leaders continue to teach based on NCYC?
102. Provide something similar for the people in our diocese (smaller scale) so other can have an opportunity to experience this.
103. Providing an avenue similar to NCYC within parish communities. Teach them in a way that recognizes their reality.
104. We need to listen and act on the needs they have.
105. Involve the youth more. Listen to the youths' wants. Youth these days love the newer-age Christian music and would love to bring it into their weekly Mass.
106. Need more "NCYC" type activities at local level to show our youth that you don't have to wait 2 years.