



Diocese of Davenport NCYC 2019 Evaluations Youth – Appendix II



INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES FOR THE QUESTION: “What would you like Faith Formation Leaders in the Diocese to know about the realities of being a teenager today, in general and in the church? “

1. Some people can be very introverted and will get embarrassed easier and they need to be pushed out there but not too much where they shut down.
2. Sometimes we are really busy and caught up with everything but we need to take time and pray to God.
3. Times are changing. Masses need to be like the ones at NCYC for more young people to come.
4. Sometimes church can feel long but the more you relate and understand what is going on the easier and more interesting to me.
5. We don't know much about Jesus as you do.
6. Mass should be more new and up beat like NCYC. It would make people want to go instead of having to go.
7. That we aren't as motivated to go to church because of being judged.
8. That things are different than they were.
9. That we all go through different things at different times.
10. I would like them to know that we aren't just whiny kids and we do have some real problems.
11. They should know most teens won't start going to church now if they haven't gone as kids.
12. For sure, it would make Mass more relatable.
13. Some people aren't as outgoing as others and may not express their thoughts as much as others.
14. Most kids won't go to Mass outside of NCYC because they feel like their other friends will judge them if they didn't already go to Mass before this.
15. They have to find God on our own instead of being forced into it because it means more and Mass gets boring but if we had better music it would help us stay interested the whole time.
16. Some parts are hard and confusing, and we sometimes lose sight of God.
17. That they don't know everything about teenagers. It is was different now.
18. Lots of stupid feelings causing stupid things.
19. Lines between moral and immoral are blurry for myself.
20. Teens are under a lot of stress and need time to be at peace. In the church they can feel pressure to be perfect.
21. Hard to follow Christ, and choose the right choices.
22. We're really busy and need incentives to go to church. Having other teens brings more in, and sometimes an invitation can bring a bunch of young ins in.
23. That we need youth group.
24. Lots of drama.
25. Making things relatable really helps us connect.
26. It was all very fun but there were some parts that were hard to understand so I lost interest
27. I think the main reason teenagers don't go to Mass is the music. Personally I like it but the more upbeat music would attract a younger audience.
28. We want more upbeat music because it makes it more fun.
29. Church is often boring and is more considered something you have to do instead of get to. Engage teens more.
30. No one goes to Mass because it's really slow and boring. The songs put me to sleep no matter how hard I try to stay awake.
31. How difficult it is to stay faithful in your teenage years.
32. That some kids have different situations at home like their family doesn't care as much about their faith.
33. Giving into temptations are a very big deal and makes them not feel worthy of Christ.
34. Teenagers would rather be doing something other than going to Mass.
35. Make Mass more enjoyable. Better music.
36. That if things are not interesting then we will lose interest.
37. It's hard.
38. How times have changed and so have traditions.

39. My church is very traditional and it can be boring.
40. It's hard to keep following God.
41. You feel more alone even though you have so many ways to talk to people.
42. The young church is bigger than you think it is.
43. We are miserable in school, and need help in knowing how to build our faith and at the same time our grades.
44. In general, it's hard and confusing.
45. It is very difficult to defend my faith to my peers or show everyone around me what I believe in.
46. That it can be confusing to understand sometimes because there's so much to know.
47. The expectation of us today causes a lot of stress on.
48. Everyone has a different story.
49. That it is hard going to church and understanding the readings.
50. Technology is great but you have to be careful using it and the decisions you make.
51. That we all struggle, even if we don't tell you.
52. There is a lot of expectations to grow up and be perfect mature adults.
53. There is a lot of pressure when it comes to faith. You can be heavily judged by others.
54. It is tough and it is really hard to open up about emotions and questions about our faith.
55. Class needs to be more fun.
56. Everything we do is aiming at the attempt to fit in/not be left out whether that is online or in person. And sometimes this fact causes teens to act "out of the norm."
57. It is hard and stressful and this was a great escape from that and a great journey to find God. Also need to appeal more to the youth.
58. That many people don't think it's "important" to believe in God, when he's actually a big part of our lives.
59. It is very hard to stay connected with God in the terrible world we are in.
60. You can't talk at us. You have to accompany and listen.
61. A lot of people are hesitant to go to things like this, but I think they'd enjoy it if they went.
62. A lot of teens don't get the opportunity to feel the power of Christ and get discouraged when they are confused about their faith.
63. I think that we should implement the express Mass which is a daily Mass on Sunday for those with low attention spans.
64. Teens are a fun group that does not like to sit around for long periods of time.
65. How hard it can be for teenagers struggling with depression so they can help these people.
66. It's good to know you have others going through the same struggles as you.
67. General: stress - pressure - anxiety. Church: hard for people to connect in church; not willing to go to Mass; doesn't want to be involved; says they "have to go" instead of "wanting to go"
68. Anxiety. Stress.
69. We are under so much stress and anxiety and NCYC lets us let go of that for now. Teenagers and this generation seem to be more interested in the traditional acts of the church. Attending the Mass in the extraordinary form with many other young people helped me see that.
70. That being a teenager is hard.
71. Sometimes it's hard to get teens to participate and get into church.
72. We're all different and learn different. You need to adapt to different people.
73. We need more guidance to understand our faith. It is very interesting if we really understand how and why our traditions work the way they do.
74. Being a teen can be very stressful and we often can feel overwhelmed during life.
75. Harder than you think.
76. A lot of people are proud about being atheist and look down on people who aren't.
77. Making us feel bad about things we do during lectures isn't cool.
78. That lecturing isn't effective.
79. That it's tougher than it needs to be.
80. Most of us want something to believe in. we just need that motivation.
81. That we should have a tiny say in what activities we should/should not do.
82. It is important to teach teenagers the new lessons of the church.
83. There is a lot of pressure to conform to what's "cool" and at this point faith is not.

84. Most of us are sad and sometimes we want to be. We need people to rant to because it feels good, so I don't want you to solve all my problems but just let us know that God's always there.
85. That we may seem like we get bored but really we enjoy coming together and being one with God giving up our bad thoughts.
86. Bus schedules, and church needs to be more lively.
87. I feel that some of the church leaders have unrealistic expectations for teens. I think they should still preach about certain topics like chastity but realize it is unrealistic that teens will wait, so they should also preach safe sex.
88. We don't like rules.
89. We are influenced a lot by who we surround ourselves with.
90. Some expectations for teens are unrealistic and should be updated because things are different than they used to be.
91. I would have the church be more open and upbeat. NCYC was very upbeat and had good vibes.
92. Being a teenager is hard, the world has expectations of what you should look like and how you should act. It's often that if you don't you are treated differently. With church, it's often looked at that young people don't want to go to church. Where in some places they want to be there and they're not being forced.
93. That social media can destroy people and that it is a huge part of the world today especially for teens. There needs to be better music at church.
94. It is sometimes hard to make good decisions because of the temptations of high school.
95. We require food.
96. I would like them to know that we have a lot going on and that we get overwhelmed.
97. That the teens are as important as them (adults).
98. You can't be as strict. Times have changed. You need to adjust to what we need if you want a young church.
99. We don't like church.
100. Phones and social life are very important.
101. Being a Catholic kid isn't cool and you are viewed as lame, so being Catholic in the community is hard.
102. It is really good and helps you feel like you are always supported by a community.
103. That it is hard to express your faith in large groups of teens.
104. We don't want Mass every week, 1 a month to 1 a quarter would be nice.
105. Being a teen can be hard because you have a lot of difficult choices to make and never know if you'll make the right one.
106. You feel pressure every day to do the wrong thing.
107. That you may feel like you're going through suffering alone, but you're really not. And you're still growing and learning about Christ almost every day.
108. It's hard.
109. It is hard to avoid some temptations.
110. That the traditional ways of the church are not as agreed with by many teens these days, in terms of their viewpoints on certain topics and issues.
111. The traditional ways of the church are not valued by teens. Instead due to these old traditions teens are being pushed away. The Church doesn't have to change, only become more accepting.
112. It's hard for us to pay attention to the word of God.
113. I learned that I can improve in what we want to do in the youth.
114. NCYC 2021 - Let's go
115. I learned a lot of things that didn't know before and I'm happy that I came.
116. They should know that teenagers have the opportunity to go to NCYC to learn about faith.
117. We need more entertaining stuff/youth stuff.
118. Teens have a lot going on in their life and they have a hard time doing multiple things at once.
119. It's hard because you don't know much about church (?) you feel confused and alone. With NCYC I knew that I wasn't the only one. It's easier to learn when there's music, videos, and speakers that are devoted to God and have had the struggle of finding new faith as a teen.
120. We have many success expectations and are always expected to be perfect. We need to have good grades and not tolerate bad ones even though that's hard to do for many. The church helps us feel welcome and helps with our struggles and helps us grow our faith.

121. Talking about topics such as the LGBTQ+ community makes people uncomfortable because not all of us follow the church's views on it. It's hard to stand up for your faith if your religious is imperfect and bias.
122. It's hard to be Catholic outside of church because the atmosphere is just a bit different, especially at school.
123. Life is hard and stressful.
124. That we aren't as bad as people say.
125. That in our church there isn't a lot of teens.
126. By reading the bible more.
127. Nothing too specific except that sometimes we have trouble believing and we generally just need listened to.
128. It's hard being a Catholic teen.
129. I think that after going to NCYC, I feel that I should participate in Mass more.
130. We really appreciate the love and support from our leaders. They offer guidance and inspiration to live out and share our faith.
131. It is not easy to go into church on Sunday for a multitude of reasons.
132. We like sleep.
133. It's stressful and we need more sleep.
134. We are under a lot of stress and we are tired.
135. The stress of school and sports.
136. Stress of school and sports.
137. It may be hard to balance faith because of all the stuff we have going on.
138. Our lives are so jam-packed and stressful sometimes. All we need is a break.
139. Technology has taken over and teens need to learn how to manage their time.
140. It's hard to do something when you know you might be judged.
141. That it is hard to stay firm in your faith due to so many distractions.
142. Most of us have like no time.
143. Being a teen is tough and NCYC definitely helped me come closer to God and meet new people.
144. Teens spend more time online than the hours in a school day. Encourage them not to use them. The disciples didn't have them to keep in touch with each other.
145. Being a teenager in general is tough. We have to balance school, work, homework, and social life. Social life is the worst part of it though. We are meeting new people, making new friends, etc., but not everyone are kind and loving friends. They judge and make themselves superior to others. All of these things create stress over a teen. However, in the church it seems to all go away. The only opinion that matters is God's. A teen, or anyone in general, doesn't have to worry about being judged, (?), school, work, or what others think.
146. I would like them to realize that sometimes we can get distracted by worldly things, especially through social media. It's hard to always put God first in those situations; although sometimes we don't, I ask for them to understand what it is we are going through and sometimes we may just need a little extra help with that.
147. We have very packed schedules so it is hard to worship sometimes, it's not because we don't care.
148. We have a very tight schedule. It would be easier to make it a little more lenient.
149. With various sports and activities it's very hard to act and participate in the church. Once kids get out of high school and into college it can be even harder to continue in our faith.
150. We like it when the message from the Bible is related to real life situations, we can relate to it.
151. Sports make church events hard to attend sometimes.
152. It's stressful because there's a lot of pressure on teens to do everything right and to be good at everything they do.
153. We can't always make it to church.
154. We deal with a lot and it gets very hard. We have a lot of expectations from the world about how we are the generation that is going to change things for the better, but these things could change now because of adults too.
155. It's pretty stressful with school, and extra-curriculars and the pressure to get good grades and perform well in sports.
156. With everything kids are able to do today and the amount of activities we are a part in, it's hard to set aside time for God. There are times where many of us forget to even practice our faith.
157. Sporting conflicts get in the way on Wednesday nights. Sports are always conflicting.
158. Though teen life is tough we should/can make time for Sunday Mass.
159. Most of the time we don't listen so if there were like pumped up music or just the more fun things could do.
160. Young people should attend NCYC and all workshops.

161. Not everything is about social media. It's hard balancing church, or faith, with academics and extracurricular.
162. Young people need to attend NCYC.
163. That it is hard and there are so many different things going on.
164. Teenagers get bored very easily. You need to make things more interesting.
165. That the pressure of open gym on Wednesday while there is also church.
166. Being a teen sucks. You're stressed, overwhelmed, and some are depressed.
167. Teens go through so much. They deal with drama, bullying, and many more things. People need to understand that life is hard for everyone but being a teen sometimes sucks
168. Sporting conflicts (having time to go on Wednesday with school stuff going on)
169. Sports interfere.
170. It's hard being a teen.
171. It's hard.
172. I think that almost all teenagers face a lot of expectations in their lives - get good grades, win the game, make good choices, etc. - that sometimes it is hard to face the expectations of the church, even though they are for our benefit. I feel like some adults find it hard to understand and empathize with that though.
173. It is hard to express your faith because in high school today it's looked at as stupid to believe.
174. How public education can negatively affect people of faith.
175. Feelings.
176. In general I would like them to know that being a teen today comes with a lot of peer pressure surrounding drugs and alcohol. In the church it's good to know that many young people don't know how to read the Bible.
177. Knowing that there are so many people that don't believe in God and how it's crazy how many people were at NCYC.
178. Peers try to challenges in faith. Tech helps/challenges our faith.
179. Our faith is constantly challenged.
180. People challenge our faith often.
181. A lot of people find it stressful trying to keep their image how they want it.
182. High schoolers are not very welcoming of others. Engaging activities are key.
183. I get asked about my religion a lot and I have no idea how to answer them correctly, and evangelizing is really hard.
184. Being a teen is hard.
185. We need some reminders of our faith because social media and school can be distracting and stressful.
186. Since social media impacts many people in many different ways, it can sometimes be hard to connect with some of the ideas adults have about it and its affect in our lives.
187. As a teenager, there are lots of things going on, so it is difficult to stay connected to your faith.
188. That it's hard to remain Catholic in our daily lives.
189. We don't like being talked at. We want to have a conversation. We want to talk and converse about our faith.
190. Our technology use creates connection; we are not a disconnected generation.
191. It's not normal for other teenagers to go to church on Sunday or pray.
192. I think they should know that faith group (if fun, few games) can be really encouraging to get involved in our faith.
193. We get frowned upon for not looking like the perfect figure.
194. It is very helpful to do things with others who share similar values and a religion.
195. It's hard. School is very stressful and pressuring.
196. It's awkward sometimes to talk to others.
197. There's a lot more happening in life today and it goes by much faster. We don't know as much about life and basic stuff. Mental issues are big and not something to be taken lightly.
198. It's easy to go through the motions, but it's more difficult to be a true servant of God.
199. We need the Lord.
200. Phones are distracting.
201. With changing times, sometimes it's hard to know what's right and wrong.
202. Sometimes other kids find it uncool to go to church.
203. I think being a teenager is really hard because there are a lot of distractions and pressure leading us away from the church.
204. Phones are distractions.

205. In general I think that teens find a lot of stress in their lives. I also think it would be helpful to learn how to pray about stress.
206. There is lots of opposition and doubt.
207. Being a Catholic teen is hard because people from other churches are uneducated about us.
208. People misunderstand the Catholic faith.
209. It is hard to find time between school, sports, and activities to put a lot of effort and time into my faith.
210. That we are busy people and the world is changing.
211. We participate more when you sing good Christian songs everyone knows.
212. They are lost...with so many things around, going on they need to reconnect with Christ.
213. The outside world is not very accepting of Catholics, especially in Pella.
214. Relatable teachings are very necessary for us to be able to learn and understand.
215. Everybody is different and needs different forms of help.
216. Teens will engage in personal introspection by themselves, group reflection sessions are not strictly necessary.
217. Some people really love and others don't.
218. (?) of explanations of (?) why we do something helps to understand it better.
219. How much stuff we are expected to do now. A lot of homework, requirements for being on a team, and how it can get stressful.
220. It is sometimes hard for others to accept other religions beside Christianity.
221. In church, it's hard for some people but not me because I have good, caring friends. In general, it can be hard for the same reason.
222. It's difficult to know what is right and true about our faith in the modern world.
223. It's easier for us to be engaged if the content is relatable to us.
224. Kids need God more now than ever.
225. Kids aren't as involved as much in the church but after this they might.
226. Life is stressful and hard. Some people are afraid to reach out. They just keep it to themselves.
227. I want them to know that dating is happening for most of us and they should talk to us about what we should do instead of what not to do.
228. It's sometimes really hard to talk with God because some kids don't know how to.
229. It is hard to find time to reach out and talk with God.
230. It's hard because of stress and peer pressure.
231. Christianity isn't being practiced very much in schools. It's also difficult to spread the word of God when the people who don't come try to tell others that God isn't real.
232. There's a lot more kids who believe then you realize.
233. That it is hard to tell others.
234. We need to get away from our phones so we can interact with our own diocese 'cause so many don't know each other.
235. Trying to feel welcomed in friend circles because harder when everyone started doing drugs and I didn't. In church there is nothing close to NCYC so it's harder entirely to focus in.
236. Talk about what to do when sins are made not just why we shouldn't make them.
237. Everyone's different, and sometimes going through things but you can't even (?).
238. It doesn't matter if you're man or woman, or even a different color. We are all children of God. However, there's times when teenagers feel so lost/depressed/etc., they don't know who they can talk to or what to do. They're scared of feeling unwanted and rejected.
239. We have to have things that relate more to us today, and it's hard for us to connect sometimes. For example: NCYC did an amazing job with music that relates to us, and the speakers helped us feel wanted by God.
240. As a teenager most people don't understand how the Catholic church is and honestly I kind of thought it was super strict and wasn't supposed to be fun. NCYC has totally changed my perspective on the Catholic community.
241. To know how the teenagers life is going.
242. It is really hard, especially with high school. Sometimes it feel like no one likes you, and you want to give up.
243. We're on tech a lot so we can always find something out. Not all of us are going to church as much as we should be.
244. That sometimes in your specific church you feel like you are the only one your age there. But after my experience at NCYC I know that that is definitely not the case.

245. That even though we are getting older and seeing more things we should keep God because he will keep us safe.
246. Teens will be more willing to listen and respond when they can relate to what they are learning. Also, the type of music that is played gets different reactions.
247. Talk more about social problems.
248. It's hard to be 100% involved in church activities, because we are involved in so many other things and homework and different responsibilities to handle as well.
249. Teens want to come to church and youth group but sometimes we don't have time and sometimes we don't feel welcomed by the other teens that attend. Being a teenager comes with a lot of social pressure so a welcoming youth group would be good.
250. I would say, being Catholic there's lots of prayers we have to know. Sometimes it's hard to learn all the prayers. So I wish we could work on these more and learn more about the church in general.
251. I wish we would be taught more prayers.
252. We need to practice more our faith.
253. It's okay not to be perfect.
254. We all make mistakes.
255. The distractions of technology, makes them seem less interested.
256. We like to do more active things and not sit in a room all day.
257. That we aren't 5 and need to have deeper talks to get us to be faithful. There's a lot of bad stuff kids do now and deep talks would be nice.
258. Our teenage lives are very different than when you were a teenager.
259. It's hard and there isn't much time for anything.
260. I think that they should teach more engaging lessons if they don't already.
261. We can all connect very easily through social media.
262. We know what we are doing and don't need (?) all the time.
263. In general all teenagers these days are lazy and don't care for much of anything.
264. Make stuff exciting and attracting to teenagers.
265. I feel that with schoolwork and sports events it is often hard to become involved with the church as other things get in the way.
266. I think we need more modern day songs.
267. Being a teenager has a lot of pressure compared to their peers. This is cause by the pressure to grow up and mature when teens want to enjoy childhood for as long as possible.
268. In today's society, teenagers are busy and it can be hard for them to keep strong to their faith.
269. That a lot of people are too afraid to open up.
270. We are all normal and although we may not be saints our faith is still very strong. We want to help all causes and create a movement to help others.
271. I would like them that it's (???) nowadays.
272. That sometimes it is hard to be Catholic.
273. Some FF groups should modernize certain aspects of the church life. This may mean more modern versions of songs, or group activities that help you bond with others while still growing your faith.
274. Prayer and Mass needs a more modern style to appeal to the young people of the church, and that is what young Catholics need to feel welcome and a part of the church. I believe NCYC did a very good job of that, and that more local parishes around the country need to do this in order to attract young members.
275. It is hard to be faith life. Our schools make being Catholic so unbearable and not fun.
276. No. I think they have a general understanding that will do.
277. Teenager today don't really care about things that don't help them or they only say things mean or something nice because somebody else did it and they are just (?) them.
278. In public schools kids who don't go to church act like it's weird and dumb, when they don't know the truth. In my church there are now very many teenagers who still go.
279. We like to do more things online.
280. Most kids my age don't care to do anything that is Catholic. They don't even want to go to church once a week. Most kids just don't care about their faith.

281. Unless they are open to it they don't care and are only trying to get out of school.
282. We are not good at paying attention and fall asleep if it is too long.
283. To come closer to God.
284. Be fun.
285. I would like to see more tradition in our church.
286. NCYC is the first I have been to church in years. It was a lot to process all at once.
287. The realities of teenagers today is that they're overwhelmed by their busy schedule and get stressed out very easily. Teenagers would participate in church more if the music was modern like at NCYC. It is hard for teens to balance their everyday life and God but it is not impossible if you're determined.
288. It's just not as easy as one might think.
289. I think as a teenager it is hard sometimes to just sit through Mass to grow my faith. NCYC really helped us grow closer to God through music and games which is a good way to keep teens engaged and excited. It was definitely a nice switch-up for a bit and I enjoyed it.
290. Because they pray more just like younger teenager today.
291. I think that some teens think they don't have time for church because of homework/friends or maybe even social media but that isn't a great excuse.
292. That sometimes teen gets confused when religions (?) so they need time and help to think things through.
293. I think they should use the slang teenagers use like lit or ok boomer.
294. Not as many teens want to go to church anymore.
295. It's hard to be open about your faith, with people who will judge you or make fun of religion.
296. Some teenagers go to church because their parents (?) teen not to know their faith better.
297. It's hard to be involved and I feel like our church should do more with the youth, to help them feel involved.
298. That there are a lot more temptations as a teenager, to be some type of persona and not the real you.
299. I feel like the biggest issue is people judging others before they know them.
300. A lot of teenagers/high schoolers find it harder to want to pay attention at Mass.
301. Most are constantly stressed or overwhelmed.
302. Stress levels are unreal.
303. Being a teenager there is sometimes drama, and friends and activities they get in the way of me getting closer to God.
304. We need to get closer to God.
305. That we actually like church.
306. We care more than you assume.
307. We are people who have opinions.
308. More small group time.
309. There is many temptations and (???) many young people to believe un-Christ like.
310. To be nice and fun so we can have fun.
311. We are sometimes closed off to certain church activities because of the stereotypes about going to church.
312. People underestimate us.
313. It's tough.
314. It's hard, lots of peer pressure and tempted by lots of things that make you go away from the church.
315. Peer pressure by friends to do things you don't want to.
316. It's hard to be a teenager. You get stereotyped. Older people like to tell how to really act. Nobody's perfect, but when you're a teen you make more mistakes than any other age.
317. We (?) like don't, but we do.
318. We are stubborn and complain about activities you plan.
319. Reality: they leave people out a lot sometimes a lack of teens at church. Hard for them to truly engage.
320. Being a teen is hard especially today and many people don't always respect our ideas or opinions because we are young.
321. There are a lot of stresses in day to day life and when we do get time to spend with our friends sometimes we want some independence/privacy to talk.
322. A lot of teens suffer in silence so it's important to learn ways to turn to God for help.
323. Other teens don't think that Catholics are Christians.

324. We feel overwhelmed because it is hard to have a job, social life, get good grades and make parents happy.
325. Emotional (?) need to be more openly talked about because people who experience it often don't know.
326. That it's interesting.
327. It is really hard to fully commit to the church and a lot harder than it used to be.
328. It's hard to grasp all of this.
329. Some of the younger ones do God the older ones try too hard.
330. Nothing. I feel like they educated enough.
331. I don't know. It's hard.
332. It can be hard to stay motivated when you are this young.
333. It's hard to keep a great Catholic life while having a social life.
334. A lot of times it's hard to make the right decisions.
335. Mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.)
336. It's hard to be a teenager in today's world.
337. That we are busy with our own life and sometimes we are too busy.
338. Harder to grow into faith.
339. Long lectures don't help kids learn.
340. The power of social media and how we can use it to benefit us and our religion.
341. Teenagers' lives today are always stressful where it's either with school, sports, or fitting in. In the church, we wish to grow in faith but we don't speak up about it.
342. People are often embarrassed/afraid to sing in the Masses.
343. Cell phones suck. I wish social media didn't exist.
344. It is very easy to be influenced in negative ways and pressured by others since social media is such a big part of today.
345. That it is extremely difficult to be Catholic today. We need to accept everyone with open arms in order for our church to grow.
346. It's easy to fall away from faith with all of the pressure and difficulties.
347. Being a teenager stinks, but NCYC really helped me to realize there are seriously so many teens that love my man Jesus and I think even at a Catholic school you feel judged if you act "too Catholic."
348. We need patience, more time.
349. It is easy to get distracted.
350. They are eager to learn more.
351. It's not as easy as they think.
352. It is hard and confusing and we make mistakes.
353. You will get us to pay attention more if you teach us in a way we can relate to (music, stories)
354. We like food.
355. It's hard sometimes to go to God because many feel alone and like God won't help them.
356. We will pay attention more if what is being said is more modern day and not olden day.
357. Social media struggles and school pushes kids way too much.
358. Making worship upbeat and fully energized is the key to teens getting the most out of a celebration of faith.
359. That teenagers need a connection to God that is not condemning.
360. Teenagers today go through a lot emotionally, and they start to doubt things, like their faith.
361. It is very common to have to defend my faith among other teenagers, and they quite often don't want to listen to what I say. It can be really hard.
362. Many of us want to have a strong relationship with God, but are disappointed in the church or their own parish - they don't think they relate to us.
363. Every kid loves to learn about Christ in a "fun" matter.
364. They covered everything.
365. It's hard to accept teachings in the church without a big emotional moment like NCYC.
366. Our society can be so exclusive can ridicule others for having such a strong faith in God, but with NCYC, I was reminded that I should always be proud of my faith and share it with the world. We should all be proud of our differences that God gave us, not embarrassed by them.
367. I think we need a lot more adoration, more holy hours. I live in Iowa City and there is only one church within 45 minutes that has a weekly holy hour. I love adoration and some of my most intimate moments with God have been

- during adoration. I would be more than willing to help start a weekly holy hour. Today we need silence and rest in God through adoration. We need it.
368. It's tough to go to Mass since you were born and just learn the motions but not the reasoning, so experiences like this are really important to truly connect with God.
369. There is a lot more doubt than ever. I know a handful of people that either don't believe or are doubtful, myself included.
370. We get bored easily so when you talk make it interesting.
371. It's stressful and often we don't have a lot of time because of academics and athletics. And honestly a lot of teenagers are struggling even if they don't show it.
372. Being Catholic and full in your faith is almost looked down on, even in a Catholic school. It is hard to stand up for your faith.
373. I feel like it's harder and more challenging because there is a lot of judgement.
374. We actually needed this so we can get more involved with our religion because kids our age I feel don't enjoy Mass that often.
375. That we all truly want God and the church, but it's hard with all the other noise to stay with it.
376. That even though at times it seems like we seem like we are terrible when we want we can be amazing.
377. We are really busy and it gets really hard to fit everything in. Going to NCYC was a break from our daily lives and gave us the opportunity to spend time with 20,000 people who all have something in common.
378. We have lots of things going on but it's still very important to pray even for a little bit.
379. We made mistakes and sometimes not make the best decisions and when we do come and present to to (?)
380. It is hard to get people to go to church and to join youth group because they don't think it is cool.
381. I have no doubt in Christ, but many do. The church is an amazing community, but we should help people accept Christ more.
382. It's very stressful especially with school so to go take a break and to get closer with God and your church is just an amazing experience.
383. It's tough because people always think that there is better stuff to be doing.
384. It's hard to be there for everything, we have so much going on.
385. Teenagers love food and sleeping.
386. How much closer this brings people.
387. I really enjoy these types of things.
388. It is really hard to manage everything in my life.
389. Many have strong faith, but the world today challenges many people.
390. Every teenager has a lot of pressure to make bad decisions.
391. We are busy and like to do stuff with our friends.
392. Sometimes we say things to each other, things that don't sound the nicest or even make sense, but they aren't targeted at leaders at all and it's hard to stop making those jokes when you are with your school friends on a trip just having a fun time.
393. 21st century teenage women dress in tighter clothes and a 21st century teens face adversity against religion and this opportunity is (?)
394. It is hard being a teenager today because there is a lot expected from us and we don't always feel like we can deliver, and school/activities we're involved in are stressful.
395. It's hard for me to share my faith at school because I go to a public school. If I share my faith, I am judged for it and this makes it even more difficult to share it.
396. Yo, it's hard fun (?)
397. Life of a teenager - stressful enough.
398. It gets hard to stay rooted in faith with so much going on in high [school] but we truly try.
399. Life is very stressful in general. Kids forget to make time for God to get rid of that mess.
400. That our lives are super busy and we want to spend our time with God.
401. Going to public school and trying to always be "sharing" Christ with others is almost impossible especially at Iowa City West High.
402. It is hard to always stay close with God and strong in my faith because other things stress me out and I am always busy
403. It's really hard to be Catholic today as a teenager because it gets judged a lot and there are lots of temptations.

404. A lot of us struggle with faith and it really depends on the person, but constant prayer and all that doesn't really help.
405. There are so many conflicts for going to Church. Sometimes we can't always be there because of other events.
406. It is always scary when people question you, as if being Catholic means you automatically know everything about everything in the church, and NCYC has given me some answers.
407. Teens can feel frustrated, even though nothing is wrong, as a reaction to the attitudes around them.
408. With busy schedules it is hard to stay close to God.
409. It's hard believing in God when all your friends think it's not the best thing in the world. But I hope one day they can open their eyes because it's not like miracles happen out of the (?).
410. Two things: 1) There are a lot of clichés that get thrown at you, but what I really want is practical advice and solid teaching. For example, say things like, "Just had it all over to Jesus," is difficult for me to implement and not very helpful. 2) Sometimes it seems there is a ton of pressure coming from the adult faith community to find your vocation (preferably priest or religious life) and to be the fire, hope, future, and "now" church.
411. Us teens are the church and in order to attract the youth, we need to be able to (?) upbeat worship songs as a church and praise God in the most beneficial way for us.
412. Not knowing how many Catholic teens there are.
413. Not realizing how many Catholics there are from everywhere.
414. I want more opportunities to show older people how much we really do care about our faith.
415. Sometimes it's very stressful.
416. Stressful.
417. We are busy. We need to understand something to do it.
418. We need better music sometimes.
419. That some nights we don't want to do an hour long test about the Bible, because we had tests in school.
420. Some of us have things in our lives hard to deal with.
421. We need a reason to do anything. Without a reason we won't want to do it.
422. That we're all different and that we have different dislikes.