

What would you like Faith Formation Leaders in the Archdiocese to know about the realities of being a teenager today?

- It's honestly hard, stressful, and complicated. We have to grow up in a tough time period.
- Life for a teen is hard! We would like to talk about how the church relates to us today. We like to talk about controversial subjects and how we can show our faith through these topics.
- Everyone who is a teenager judges others by their actions. Help to guide us but not force us to do things. We feel more accomplished if we make our own effort. We want to grow in our faith, we just don't know how.
- Everyone makes mistakes
- It's okay to make mistakes, learn from them.
- How difficult it is to be a Catholic teen
- When you are at church it's easy to be close to God but once you leave it's easy to get distracted by everyday life situations/reality.
- Feel welcomed
- Teens need to know more about Christ.
- Temptations are real and it's easy to forget about God.
- Your public image matters a lot.
- Not to stop being religious
- There's a lot of bad in the world that gets to us teens. We need reassurance that we're valued and there is good in the world.
- We need sleep.
- I would like them to know that it is not always easy, and that even if we don't always show it, we do respect them and their ideas.
- They make mistakes that shouldn't define them. They need to sleep!
- That we need sleep and I wish we got more during NCYC. It's hard when not many people at school worship God.
- There is a lot of pressure on us to be perfect all the time. Sometimes we feel people are hard on us for mistakes when it is a part of growing up.
- It's hard to live up to expectations. Living the way God wants you to be is hard for a teenager in this day and age.
- I would like to tell Faith Formation leaders about the realities of being a teenager by saying school is super stressful, we take things for granted, we only care about ourselves. You feel like you have to compete with others that are more prettier than me or you. We take relationships for granted and just used it to feel loved and wanted. Divorce rates have risen. Depression is on the high scales. You can't go anywhere alone without fearing you might not return home because you were abducted. All the things our there that people use against you to guilt you into peer pressure.
- It's not just social media that creates our problems. There is more than just phones.
- Learn more about the Miracles and gospels
- Need sleep. Kids want to fit in with others.
- Conformity is a big issue
- It's hard fitting in with other people.
- That we can still be faithful.
- Teens are losing their faith because of technology.
- That we have it hard and we need support.
- It's hard.
- Kids suffer more and are always stressed from school.
- It's a lot more difficult to talk about your beliefs with people that don't believe in the same things you do.
- That some times confidence from others bring out the good in us.
- We need more sleep.

- It is hard for teenagers to want to be close to God like praying, taking your weekend away and going to church
- We have a lot of distractions that keep us from our faith.
- At this age it is really nice to get help with religion
- It sucks
- Some topics aren't as interesting to us as others.
- we get bored fast
- As a teenager, it's very common for their faith to decrease which is why things like NCYC is good.
- Sometimes it can be hard for teenagers to maintain a strong relationship with Jesus so in FF teachers should enforce positive ways to maintain a strong relationship.
- It can be hard to maintain a strong relationship with God while still working on my education in school
- Not everyone shares the same beliefs
- People like to argue with religion so I'd try to inform kids why believe what we believe for those arguments.
- That we aren't open as much about our faith
- We struggle with our faith more than they think
- It is difficult and stressful
- Teens don't talk about religion outside church
- Mental health. They did talk about it a lot but something was missing. I can't explain what it was but I could feel it. That's it.
- sometimes teenagers do not listen
- Bipolar sucks.
- Most teenagers are in lots of activities which makes them feel like they don't have enough time for praying but there is always time.
- that starting faith early as a teen is important. Listen to the messages and really decide your faith and which path to take.
- All of us are depressed and struggling.
- Teenagers can be very shy
- Teens want to grow in their faith but we need to feel like we are apart of what we are being taught.
- It is getting harder and harder to have a good self-image with social media.
- There are good and bad decisions you make in life. If you mess up you get the consequences. So be good.
- I feel like it is harder to get our generation to Mass every Sunday. I don't think it is because they do not have a relationship with God, but that we need to get out of their mind that it's "boring." Also, today it's all about sports. I remember being in volleyball and having to practice on Sundays when I think that is unacceptable.
- Sometimes teens want a break in routine where they feel more included and engaged in what's happening around them.
- I think I would want them to ask how we are doing and pay more attention to how our mental health and spiritual health is.
- that there is a lot of things that are bothering people in their daily lives.
- We are very blessed with opportunities and everything.
- We are grateful to have these opportunities.
- That life is rough and complicated even over the little things
- That at some points it is hard to be yourself and sometime it takes us longer to get through a rough time.
- They did an excellent job this year. They helped get to God and Get engaged. Next NCYC, I hope we can get an even better atmosphere of friendship. But thanks so much for keeping us safe.
- Teenagers are constantly surrounded by temptations. They sin and make mistakes. What to do once they've made a mistake, beside reconciliation. How can they forgive themselves.
- It is difficult because you feel like you need to make everyone happy.
- teenagers are judged more now
- People are too dramatic

- Sometimes it feels like you are an outcast or you feel weird for being Catholic. NCYC really helped me realize that it is not true. A lot of teenagers are partying, drinking, having sex, and doing drugs, and sometimes it feels like you aren't like a normal teen because you don't do that. When I was at NCYC, I realized that it doesn't matter what everyone else does, because God loves you just as you are.
- Today being a teenager is much different and harder than it used to be.
- That teenagers get blamed and criticized for things the generation before us did.
- Being a teenager today is different than being a teenager back then, because of social media and our culture.
- It's tougher because there are more conflicts these days.
- It is hard to be good at everything.
- We are different and prefer our phones over church.
- We truly do want to get involved and make a difference, but not if it has to be super boring.
- It's tougher and there are more problems and conflicts these days.
- There's several temptations these days such as drinking and vaping so a session covering those topics could be helpful.
- It's a lot different now then it was 20, 30, 40 years ago.
- It's hard, it really is and we make decisions that might not be great but be patient we will get there.
- That sometimes I get busy with my life and need to start making time for God and to not keep pushing him away. I need to let God into my life and heart and be open to what he offers me each and every day.
- There's lots of temptations now, but keeping us busy will help eliminate those temptations.
- Lots of teens aren't as faith-filled and need to learn about God starting with the basics.
- We need to go to the bathroom and during the large sessions their isn't a good time to do that unless you want to miss parts of what people are saying.
- Have more younger speakers.
- It is difficult. It is not just simply ignoring people who are negative. Believe in us, don't focus on the negatives because some of us do care and pray and worship Jesus.
- The older you get, the less involved in church most students get. Draw them in young and never let go.
- We don't know what is good for us and we don't know what we really want.
- Being a teenager today is so different than it used to be. There are a lot of pressures and anxieties and I think that's because of the influence of social media. Being a teenager today is so hard because of the way we are all so segregated and judged and I think older generations struggle to grasp what we go through.
- Growing up in today's world as a teenager is very different from what it was. A lot of that comes with technology and social media. Social media puts lots of stress, worries, etc. on kids and the feeling like they need to fit in.
- Now being in high school it makes my life very busy but I do like it more than middle school. With homework and activities and sports it's a lot. Even though it's stressful sometimes I know all of hard work will pay off.
- Life is tough and remembering God in all the chaos is hard. Remind us that we're not alone, and God has a plan.
- PFM=Pray For ME
- Just because there are new trends in society, that doesn't mean that teens aren't interested in the old traditions of the church.
- That sometimes it's hard to believe and easier to doubt God. Sometimes it's uncomfortable to share your faith with others.
- It isn't easy to step up for what you believe
- That we are busy people and maybe we need more online tools to help us explore our faith.
- People joke about taking their lives a lot and it really affects some people Kids also might have some more negativity and stress and anxiety. Teachers give out a LOT of homework.
- It's hard. There is a temptation around every corner. Some places, you can't be Catholic AND fit in. So we have to choose one or the other. Most will succumb to peer pressure, but others are strong enough in their faith to make it through.

- We like to have fun
- I like everything besides curfew and breakfast. Please make breakfast better!
- There's a lot of peer pressure and a lot of opportunities to make mistakes.
- teens like to have fun
- it more harder than what you would think, at sometimes. Also some people don't want to engage in some things so don't make them. They can do things on their own. Also, it helps when some things are figured out by yourself.
- We need to be more engaged to get stuff out of what you are trying to teach us. A lot of us are really tired, and just having speakers are not going to cut it.
- Teens learn very well when engaged in open discussion.
- We like to have a relaxed, not strict class to learn about our faith.
- nothing
- It's not as easy as you think
- How busy we are and how stressful everyday life is.
- Teens are very, very busy and we are often exhausted as a result.
- Depression or feelings of intense sadness are VERY real. This causes us to feel isolated and lonely. We often don't want to let it show or tell anyone. Ask us how we are and what's going on in our lives and there is a good chance we will tell you something. Even if they seem to be a teen you are the least worried about, ask them anyway. They may be the one dealing with the worst.
- We can get busy and tend to almost forget to read scriptures deep prayer, etc. NCYC helped me get back on track for sure.
- That it can be hard to keep your faith in check.
- Don't try to be "hip" because they don't like it. There's a lot of stress and problem no one sees.
- That they worry a lot about what other people think about them.
- A lot of stuff is all about phones and fun meeting new people.
- There a lot more stress a lot of things revolve around your phone which some miss can be....(can't read handwriting.)
- It is very demanding about how you are supposed to act like everybody else
- it's fun
- We like to meet new people and have fun.
- I want them to know that it's really hard. I am constantly running between sports, work, and any "free time" involves homework. I want to have a social life, but I have to sacrifice because I don't have the money. I would really love to have a clear enough mind to truly pray, because there's a lot going on that I need help with, but I am constantly saturated with assignments, schedules, and deadlines. It is also hard to stay faithful because culture and the church are very different. Religion isn't as widespread or important and that makes it difficult to be a Catholic.
- That it can be stressful. School work can be overwhelming and we can become distracted easily from God. We need to become committed and determined to stay by God's side and let Him guide us all throughout our lives.
- Get better TV in hotel rooms.
- Sometimes we need to have a break from being serious and we want to just have fun.
- That it's a lot more stressful than you think and it sucks getting treated like a child.
- There are so many different emotions we have
- Social media can really be a good and bad thing if you don't/do use it correctly.
- It is hard to grow deep in your faith and believe that God will always help you as a teen.
- it is fine
- Peer pressure happens a lot and the decisions we make aren't always because we think it's what's best for us.
- There's a lot of pressure on being Christian in a public school. Saying you can't hang out on a Saturday night because you have church the next morning has like a weight to it, as if the people that asked to hang out with you don't understand that it's who you are. Plus, people think being Christian means you're

stuck-up and can't have fun. It's the worst because I like to be fun and people are surprised because I'm Christian. I hope this makes sense.

- That teenagers really do go through a lot and hard to go to faith when it is hard, but it has opened my eyes.
- I get put down for being so deep in my faith at school and NCYC really helped me to see that there is nothing to be ashamed of and it made me feel confident for being who I am. I also loved how almost everyone I talked to said that they absolutely loved their experience at NCYC.
- That we would rather not sit for a really long time and do more active things.
- It is often hard to pray often when in school.
- We like more fun and interesting speeches to get our minds on the right track.
- They should know that they find kneeling to be painful and Mass boring.
- It is different now then before.
- They could have speakers come who can relate to us or who catch our attention so we don't zone out or something.
- Teens can love God just as much when we want to.
- It's hard. Homework, responsibilities, preparing for the future is hard for us.
- It is hard to stay faithful sometimes, and it often feels weird to talk about the faith and God.
- That more and more people have issues when it comes to God. Like they just get so busy in life they forget about God.
- Many teenagers come to church and NCYC with a closed mind and it's important to remind them not to.
- It is sometimes hard to stay with your faith if your friends don't have the same beliefs.
- Looking towards the future is scary.
- We're going to make mistakes, let them be made. Don't shove "Jesus won't love you" at them if they make a mistake.
- Many teenagers find Mass to be very boring.
- Sometimes when we are going through a rough time, we don't know what to do about it and/or we don't want to talk about it.
- I think they have that topic pretty spot on and a lot of the speakers make me laugh.
- It's hard with all the bullying, people judging what you wear or how you look. People don't care much about our personalities but more about our appearance.
- It's hard to be a perfect Catholic but we try our best.
- It's a thousand times harder to be a teenager now then what it was when you were a child.
- Most teens no longer believe. Some want to but we don't know how, most teens no longer care.
- Social media is a big part of our daily lives. It can be a good and bad asset.
- There's a lot of stress and peer pressure.
- Teenagers are just plain difficult. Ex. cardboard Pope on camera, flooding the stage, etc.
- That people can be awful and life gets very stressful. People are sexist and racist, and get on my nerves. As long as you find a core group of friends, everything is much better.
- They need more ways to communicate with people.
- A lot of teenagers have a lot of problems and need help and guidance. However, many people I know, including me, are doing just fine. You don't need to preach to us. It'll be okay because we already know. Although we're just kids, many teens are firm in their faith and just looking for ways to grow it.
- It's hard to believe in and follow God in a society that makes sin not only cheap and accessible to teenagers, but also promotes a lifestyle of sin.
- The presence of cell phones distracts teens from their faith. It also lessens their relationships with others. They always have access to them 24/7. Sometimes people just need to look up and let God in because He heals.
- It's hard to fit in and focus on something other than your phone.
- People are trying to make teenagers submit, even in the name and for the sake of reform movements. The majority of the movements are good, but too many only care about getting rid of what's old without regard to what is good or not.

- Sometimes it's really hard to feel comfortable with talking about your faith. Many people judge you for countless reasons & it sucks when your faith is one of them. It is also really hard to feel close to God when your schedule is so busy & sometimes the Church seems like they want you to feel guilty for the lack of time you have or the decisions you make as a teen. It isn't that we don't care for God or don't want to give him our time, but sometimes we don't know how to manage our time & responsibilities in the perfect way.
- Teens are all going through their own struggles, whether it be with family relationships, mental health, etc.
- Being tired takes away from learning my faith
- The struggles of being a teenager isn't something basic like social media. We struggle with drama in school, not being able to sleep because we constantly overthink every situation, work, AP classes, college applications, family life, so I wished that other people didn't oversimplify our situations like they usually do.
- We are under a lot of pressure by a lot of different people
- Chances are we are stressed/have anxiety or even depression or just really busy with school because some teachers don't think we have lives outside of school.
- Yes, I think they did a good job understanding what we go through and how we can lose hope in God.
- Yes I think that it would be good for them to understand the struggles we go through at school and sports and everyday life.
- There are so many things that often pressure us. Sometimes it is unbearable and we don't have where to turn to so we need someone to lead us to God to know we are not alone.
- Everyone's really outspoken, and phones aren't the only problem - they can really help our lives, even with faith.
- don't always stereotype every teenager. Also, NCYC was amazing! thank you!
- That everyone is different and has different ways of thinking.
- Teenagers today have lots of issues. Anxiety, depression, not being good enough. But when I went to NCYC I realized that all the people there helped grow each other's faith including mine.
- it's hard nowadays, because everyone at my school does illegal (underage) things. sometimes I feel like I don't fit in, but then I realize God has more planned for me.
- Nothing, I believe they're doing a fine job at knowing and showing the realities of being a teenager and what that entails.
- That there are tons of people that go through some depression, even if it is not diagnosed, almost everybody went through very hard times.
- We need to be reminded and encouraged often to pray because we often try to do things on our own that we can't do without prayer.
- It's easy to say you're going to do one thing and then not - like commit to prayer or reading the scripture. It's hard to keep in mind what you've learned after you go home.
- That it is hard to show your faith as you will be judged and ridiculed.
- I would like the faith formation leaders in the Archdiocese to know that it is pretty difficult to express your faith in today's communities.
- All the talks were pretty spot on with what they thought teenagers are like.
- I think they need to know that life IS NOT easy for teenagers and that a lot of teenagers don't have any self-confidence. Sometimes getting close to God is hard for some kids.
- It felt like I didn't have to worry about anything. I was there.
- We have a ton of stress and pressure put on us.
- We have a lot of pressure and stress on us so just remember to be patient with us.
- Just to look at things in our shoes.
- At least in my friend group, we do not talk much about religious beliefs/church in school and outside of Church.
- Some Catholic teens will go to these and then when they get home they don't act like a Catholic. They go against everything like nothing had happened.

- that some problems in church or life before are different from the problems that there are today.
- there are some more modern issues/conflicts with the Church that should be talked about.
- That it is way different than when they grew up. There is way more distractions and people are definitely more harsh on what religion that you are practicing and finally social media. Social media is a huge part in the majority of people's lives. It is a good thing but can be abused.
- they like being more social
- Teenagers now are now more exposed to what is happening in the world, and communities and are still thought of as kids. Having us sheltered from the real world will make a rude awakening for most of us.
- That everyone sins and that is okay, and reconciliation is a great opportunity to lift the burden of your sins. Teenagers are very stressed and God/NCYC makes that stress vanish. It replaces that stress with hope and fulfillment.
- That life is already super hard, and when we think about Church, we think it's just more to cope with. But in reality, our faith is the cure to our life struggles, and I think that if everyone knew that, then we would take our faith much more seriously, and we'd be more passionate about it.
- Many teens still question the belief in God.
- Try to connect lessons with real life and real life situations
- No one talks about their faith as much as you think.
- Many teenagers struggle with mental issues and doubt the existence of God. NCYC I truly believe helps you feel loved and makes you feel like you matter. But most importantly NCYC lets you know that God is real and that he loves you so much, and that his love is eternal.
- Teenagers don't necessarily like sitting and listening to speakers that they can't relate with. Also, playing more music that is known to teenagers is more fun.
- That teens are very busy people too and they are trying their best to grow their faith and be involved. They also want to know and learn more about their faith.
- That we can't live like Bible times. Society has changed! We need to learn about how God can be a part of our life realistically in today's day in age!
- Sex. Life.
- I think that to get teenagers more involved during Mass we need to have more upbeat music. The music at NCYC was very uplifting and everyone was engaged.
- It's really easy to forget about your faith when having a lot of stress when you are busy.
- We struggle a lot more with depression or other mental illnesses as a result of the internet. I think that this causes a loss of faith for teens.
- We struggle more today to connect with God since more and more teenagers are suffering with depression, anxiety, etc.
- That there's a lot we go through that sometimes we just don't say but if they could just let us talk to them about anything and everything.
- More teenagers need to participate in conventions and opportunities like NCYC. The church is lacking youth and most teens don't know much about their faith.
- Scheduling can be difficult when teens are involved in a lot.
- Peers think Catholics are weird. Other kids make sex seem normal. Lots of STRESS.
- That we're all different and that it's hard to be a teenager.
- The fact that times are progressing and some of the Catholic views are a little outdated. As a teenager it is hard to not have doubts about Jesus, and to be completely committed to Christ.
- Teenagers shouldn't be forced into things. There should always be a choice.
- We aren't all addicted to our phones.
- Life sucks at times, and we are always tired and hungry.
- You are judged all the time. It isn't always easy talking to other teens about your faith.
- How social media relates to faith.
- For teens today, social media is a huge part of our lives. NCYC did a great job of utilizing social media, but teens need to learn more about using social media in a positive instead of negative way.
- We don't always make the right decisions and don't always think of God watching us.

- We work hard to get to Church and religion. But we have busy schedules.
- That we all go through hardships but God is always listening and there.
- The realities of being a teenager today is that there are so many influences that aren't good. The more interactive we are at Mass and religion classes, the more we grow in our faith.
- That technology is a big thing.
- We all have different points of view and shouldn't talk about political things.
- It can be really hard sometimes because some kids can be very mean and judgmental.
- That being a Catholic teen he doesn't feel like many people also are strong with religion at our age.
- That it's hard to find the right group that will help you grow in your faith and not put you down, and once you find them to keep them close.
- Being a teen is hard. There's a lot put on us and it's difficult to do everything right.
- Everyone has different opinions and we are not all self-absorbed.
- Stop bringing politics into Church. Not everyone believes what the Catholic Church believes is politically correct.
- No one likes small group sharing.
- That it is very easy for people to feel insecure. On social media there are all these perfect people. Seeing that makes you feel like you are not perfect like them. Listening to **Emily Wilson** made me feel better about myself because she was talking about how everyone is perfect in their own way.
- Most of us are uncomfortable talking about some things like our faith, so don't get mad at us for not talking sometimes.
- Being a teen today is so demanding. We have set expectations on what the perfect girl or boy should look like. Self-confidence is so hard to have because everyone is so judgmental. It is also very hard to tell if someone is real or fake to your face. Being a teenager is full of insecurities and that truly needs to change! We should all feel loved and have someone to be able to reach out to for help. We need help in teens, especially those contemplating suicide or harming themselves.
- That us teenagers like to interact with people that we may never see again.
- Even though we may sometimes act immature, we don't want to be treated like little kids. We want to feel important and that our voice matters. We struggle with secret matters that nobody knows about. Let us know it's okay to speak up and not be ashamed by our struggles. You guys do a good job in that and making us feel loved, by you and Jesus.
- It is difficult and we are often judged by other kids.
- Us as teenagers struggle with trying to find out who we are as a person. We struggle with a lot of the responsibilities and living up to them.
- How stressful it can be
- Being a teenager can be the hardest thing in life.
- Being a teenager you have a lot of different things going on and it could be hard to want to take the time to pray or go to church but taking a break and spending time with God would be the best thing you can do.
- It is hard to do different stuff because I am busy with school and other activities.
- We have a lot of other activities and commitments and it's hard to manage it all.
- Sometimes teenagers have so much going on in their lives that they forget about their faith, why they believe what they do, etc.
- It's different from when they were teens.
- That things have changed since they were teens.
- Many teens are affected by what other people think, and are scared to be a leader.
- We have school. NCYC is at a bad time, midterms and right before Thanksgiving break. This means we get a lot of homework and take multiple tests during this time.
- School takes a lot more time than it used to. Teachers give homework and tests out before Thanksgiving break.
- It's hard to be morally straight and faithful in an increasingly secular society with lots of distractions.
- That speaking about your faith is very hard.

- There aren't enough religious experiences in teenage life.
- It's difficult but church and religion alleviate some of the stress.
- There is a lot of stress and anxiety for pretty much everyone.
- We teenagers are very busy and have a lot going on. We do our best to fit everything in!
- We're really busy and have a lot going on.
- That the times are changing a lot. I think the church should change with the times so it can continue to grow.
- It is normal.
- We need to open everything up to everyone. Prayer, communion, reconciliation and everything. It makes teens feel included and loved.
- Teenagers today seem to go through a lot. It is important to understand everyone is going through something.
- Kids' lives are changing from their time.
- The pressures we have.
- To encourage more teens to NCYC
- We need you to lead us on the path to God.
- This is a life-changing experience.
- Peer pressure and comparing ourselves to others. These are two things so many teens struggle with that brings struggles in our faith.
- Teenagers have to deal with a lot of distractions and pressures through social media.
- The pressures we have.
- It's boring, but NCYC is better because they make it fun.
- How busy we are and how it feels like we're being pulled in so many different directions. We have no time at all. Everything is very confusing.
- It's scary to try and listen to what God wants and to stand up for God in certain topics.
- They need more than 4 hours of sleep! The thought of the religious life scares most of us, and perhaps something about practical steps to surrendering to His will and knowing how to recognize His voice could be included.
- We're very busy all the time with school or sports which gives you less time to focus on what you should such as faith and church.
- Teenagers like to engage in Mass and youth group was a big part of what brought me closer to God.
- Sometimes it's hard to be accepted because of my religion.
- The judgment young Catholics face from others
- That kids can be fake and school sucks.
- It's hard. Some teens think they need to change to fit in.
- Yes. I feel like there are too many people who underestimate how difficult it is to be a teenager.
- We like to have fun.
- Teenagers can be moved in incredible ways, that people will change from a normal life to a wonderful faithful life.
- We go to NCYC and we want to take Christ home with us and share him. But the hard part is that we were there and we have been changed. While everyone was still at school, living their normal lives and nothing changed for them. They didn't experience it with us so we become nervous to act differently. People our age are so judgmental these days that we get scared. We want to go share Jesus with everyone, but a lot of times, they aren't very accepting. We have the faith, we just need the courage.
- There is lots of temptation and secular motivation. Also my life for being a teen is hard sometimes because of the busyness and distractions of culture.
- We are scared to profess our faith due to judgement
- Mass can be boring and NCYC was a fun way to learn about God.
- Honestly, there's a lot in the sessions that we've heard before (definitely not all of it, though). However, there's a lot we're still confused about that is almost never talked about. We want to hear talks given on topics that the Church often avoids. Don't worry, we're tough, we can handle controversial topics.

Besides, if such talks are offered as sessions, teens can make their own choice of whether to go or not. We're all trying to form our individual opinions and morals, and we're interested in the Church's input.

- We all struggle. Please don't treat us as immature and unrespecting
- School pushes us and causes stress anxiety and depression is really common today. And it's not always easy to get to church if my parents are busy or I have sports.
- Teenagers told have a lot of stress and deal with problems such as anxiety and depression. Because of these hardships many teens believe God isn't with them so they put their faith behind them.
- There is very little knowledge of the traditions of Catholicism and I think it should be encouraged more.
- Not always easy to stick to religion and values in your day to day life, very easy to slip up and make mistakes.
- The expectations and new reality of what it is to be a typical teenager. New pressure has been put on us to succeed.
- Life is hard.
- Nothing really it is true about everything though.
- We don't like working for stuff and pretending that we do stuff.
- We need to do more work to stop vaping in our age.
- In today's world there is a lot of pressure that comes with being a teenager. To get good grades, be a good athlete. I go out for lots of stuff, participate at church. Sometimes it can be overwhelming.
- It was hard being a Catholic teen when other Catholics ignore their faith. Getting to meet and be with catholic teens who are active in their faith was hope giving to me.
- Not everyone wants to go to church. Love the experience of having church with a lot of people but trying to force some people to grow in their faith might push them further away.
- That we are all going through something and that we want to go to work on our faith at NCYC. We also love the upbeat music. It gets us going and sing along.
- There is more peer pressure then when you were kids.
- Not many care about the Catholic faith and sadly it's slowly disappearing. (mad face)
- There is a lot of pressure to make bad choices
- Sometimes we struggle trusting in God
- We have many struggles with believe God
- Many problems and decisions that are tough to make
- How to stick to morals in dating and partying situations. Mental health issues.
- That many teenagers act good on the outside but are truly broken on the inside. Social media is popular. Make it more interactive.
- Pop music/Christian rock is lame. Don't include it.
- Teens today keep lots of things to themselves because of how judgmental the world is in this time. We also suffer from more mental illnesses because of social media.
- Pop music kinda sucks and don't jazz it up.
- There's some kids that came to just mess around and it was very distracting during closing Mass.
- It is hard
- It can be difficult to be different from other peers in this society but we try; disrespect
- Teach them to be respectful.
- Traditional church isn't fun, and adding humor, music, etc. really won't help outbalance the fact that we don't want these aged traditions. We need more and if the Catholic church doesn't provide something to bring us closer to God we will leave.
- There is a lot of pressure to be the perfect Catholic. We are not perfect people and being told that we have to be perfect pushes us away. It would also be helpful to explain why we say the main prayers that we do, Our Father, Hail Mary, and what they mean. We were forced to learn the prayers so tell us how to keep them meaningful.
- I think the hardest thing is when your friends don't believe and don't understand when I go on trips like this, but I've learned that it doesn't matter if they don't understand as las as I know that God's my savior that's all that matters.

- We use our phones a lot because that's how we communicate.
- Not many things focus on or involve religion at all or even.
- That you are going to have to be a lot more responsible because you are almost an adult so you have to make good decisions.
- That it is hard with all the internet
- It's different than what it used to be.
- When kids run down to the stage to have fun and pray don't stop them. Let the unplanned happen.
- We sometimes do not want to accept reality
- IDK
- We all aren't like others where we stare at phones. We can be real leaders when in need.
- It hard to handle with addictions in school and at home.
- There are a lot of bullies. Of course this is already known but the focus right now is more the bullying that causes self-harm. I don't think they address the little bullies that just spread rumors and are rude to particular people. These bullies do more harm mentally than physically.
- It is not as easy as they think.
- It's hard to find your group of people, especially in smaller towns.
- We tend to be trouble makers but we really appreciate all you do!
- We can be troublemakers but in the end, we all mean well and hope to get closer to Jesus.
- Sometimes it may be hard for some to embrace their faith. When sister made a commitment to her faith & said No to her friends that took a lot of courage. Many of us teens don't have that courage.
- I feel it has become more stressful and harder for us to make decisions. it can be harder for us to connect with God.
- In some cases, social media & technology gets in the way of religion & prayer.
- Teens now don't seem that close to their faith because they have something that pops up like practice and being with friends. They try to stay close but it gets hard sometimes.
- Its very much about being the same and not showing anything different, everyone is very judgemental and its just harder than being a kid or adult.
- I don't think many adults realize how much stress teenagers really go through today. We are constantly pushed to get all these assignments and projects done in a short period of time and spending endless hours with sports causes so much stress.
- Not everyone that goes to these events has an impact from it.
- People that are not religious tend to disagree more with Catholic ideals. It makes it hard to announce to the world that I'm Catholic b/c of it.
- Most of our problems are rooted in self insecurity.
- That social media isn't bad. It has actually helped me with my faith with the amount of inspiration and Catholic apps that are out there.
- The stress of being a teen is hard, and more things such as drugs or horrible content provides a temporary fix that people can get addicted to. There is also a sense in this society that suicide is cool, like it makes you important. And everyone is told to be a certain way.
- I don't know... it's fun I guess. But I liked going to NCYC tho.
- That it sucks because the planet is dying and the country is falling apart and its all our parents fault.
- I think that teens are leaving the church because it is not engaging or cool enough. I think teens are intimidated by the older people in leadership roles in the church and that teens do not want to be lectured at they want to be involved.
- There are pressures and expectations that are hard.
- It is hard to open up sometimes and we just need the right people and the right timing to do that.
- I we have a lot of pressure put on us not just by others but ourselves to.
- That there are people struggling and going through many problems and it is very hard being a teenager.
- Teens are still teens, they: A, want to have fun, B, want to learn, C. Want to feel accepted. Most of the time teens have lots going on in their lives.
- We all struggle w/ different things

- I would like the Faith Formation Leaders to know that it's a lot different being a teenager of a Catholic Church today since more & more people take it less seriously.
- It's hard to keep us interested, so liven up things, make it more exciting.
- We like our phones, like TikTok and even if we seem we don't really care about our faith, deep down, we actually care.
- We really like sleep and even though people may have fallen asleep, we were all thankful to be there and be a part of NCYC 2019
- That it is hard to feel togetherness, it feels like everyone is against you.
- TikTok is our everything. we watch it A LOT! Sometimes talking about our faith is hard & it can be pretty scary when its around people who aren't as passionate.
- Most of us do not find going to the Church on Sundays as important anymore while we still care about the religion.
- That not all of us see the light of Jesus & that they have no hope, that's why we need to pray for them & give them faith.
- We live in a materialistic world and it's hard to control our urges to have this or do this instead of going to church or praying. I personally am very busy and it's hard to find time to pray or go to Mass when I barely have time to sleep.
- That the worst thing to do is force their opinions/views onto young people. People learn by forming their own opinions.
- How much stress we go through during high school.
- A lot of us are addicted to TikTok. I feel like it's harder being a teenager now adays because we live in the age of cell phones, and we feel that to be happy we need to have the most followers or the most likes. When in reality that's not what will make up happy putting the screen down.
- We kinda dumb
- I am not the best person to give any kind of feedback.
- It's a lot harder than you remember.
- Lots of judgemental people, many suffer from depression or anxiety, we don't really talk face to face, everything we do is with technology, focused on how many likes or follows or what their highest streak is.
- I already knew everything but it didn't teach as how to have a schedule of faith and not that motivation.
- Being a teenager is good because teenagers can start to learn more about their faith and getting to know how it feels like to be loved by others.
- That the music we play in church with the piano's gets boring especially in the mornings.
- Sometimes it's hard to trust God when you have little experience feeling him with you and sometimes it's hard to trust God.
- That pressuring us into prayer doesn't make us pray. It makes us scared. Telling everyone to pray or else they won't get into heaven just makes us feel bad. Saying that you're not a good Christian if we don't go to Church is absurd. And we listen to life stories more than lectures.
- I would like them to know that we think about our faith a lot and that they are much appreciated.
- That we have fun hanging out with our friends.
- Homework and stress.
- That most of life today is on the phone or an electronic device. And they should incorporate more things w/ the devices because that is what we understand & can relate to.
- that most of us struggle mentally. We all keep everything inside & no one really wants to share. Though we know that it's not healthy for us, we still do it.
- Homework is hard and teens can be very stressed.
- It's different now then when they were kids. Sometimes, it's hard to say your Catholic. NCYC helps show how many teens believe in the same faith and that we shouldn't be shy about showing our faith.
- It's hard. Adults don't get it. It's different from when they were teens.
- Being a teen can be challenging and learning about God and my faith helps a lot.
- In today's world, it's hard not to worry about what other think.
- It's different from when they were teens. It's harder.

- That becoming closer to God is so important.
- Eating habits. Most teens do struggle w/ their body & then mess up their eating habit because they stop eating. I would know personally.
- Meeting new people.
- Sometimes you could feel out of place when practicing faith.
- The faith can sometimes be lacking.
- It's hard and stressful. The pressure to be absolutely perfect give us mental breakdowns and anxiety attacks. And we feel like we have no one to turn to because we feel like you wouldn't understand. And when adults talk about how hard their life was because they didn't have phones. It doesn't even come close to comparison. They were affected physically and we are affected both physically and psychologically
- Today it can be hard being a teenager because of having a phone and social media.
- Sometimes its hard to have faith but you always should.
- That we can get closer to God we just need a little push.
- That teens are more addicted to their phones & only care about their phones & not God.
- That now days teenager don't care about people or God and they don't put effort on getting closer to God.
- We can get overly influenced by social media.
- Teenagers tend to not care anymore.
- I want/wish NCYC would be every year and every day in our community and it would make life so much easier. it was just absolutely amazing.
- That it's ok to participate in Mass. We have more expectations and pressure than teens in previous years.
- I would just like them to know that it's not easy, and that they must be understanding of that.
- That it doesn't matter who you are you always have God. Social Media is bad because it takes time out of prayer.
- I would want them to know that social media isn't everything to us even though that is our steryotype. Also, we don't know what we are doing and confusion is a big part of our problems.
- That we all want to have fun.
- It's harder being religious today because of things happening around us.
- Harder to keep in touch with our faith.
- Being a faithful teenager is much harder today because of all the temptations we face.
- We want to have fun, socialize and meet new people.
- We like to meet new people and have fun.
- A lot of teenagers are too lazy to attend Mass by NCYC made learning about our religion fun and participating in Mass fun.
- We like to have a lot of fun with stuff we can relate to.
- We like to have fun and not be bored.
- We just like to have fun and meet new people.
- We are very tired. We don't pay attention for that long.
- There is a lot of pressure put on teenagers. You need to have good grades, you need to go to a good college. If you can't go to college or choose not to you could become homeless. And, there are a lot fo faith-filled colleges but they are all really expensive generally.
- Society puts so much pressure on us teens and sets "standards" that make it hard for us to grow.
- we depend on our phones and it's an issue. Social media is an issue. It is a good thing but it is also a bad thing. We are all addicted to our phones and social media.
- Social media has taken over our lives. We're so insecure and self-concious now. We all need God to make us feel loved. We need to be more educated.
- We go to NCYC and it is amazing but we have to work on bringing the same energy back to our parishes because it makes opening up about faith a lot easier.
- I would like the faith formation leaders to know that being a teenager is very stressful and can be sad and we don't always feel like God is there with us.

- That it's stressful and we don't always feel like God is there.
- That a lot of people don't know how to convey our emotions and we don't properly know how to deal with stress.
- We don't always take mass as seriously as adults but we take it serious.
- Teenage girls are influenced by their friends I know many girls that are scared to share their faith because it might be "uncool". I'm just glad my friends aren't like that.
- That it is similar to when they were kids our age, but also very different. Motivate your kids to want to go to Church every Sunday, do not force them to and never stop loving and supporting them through their journey.
- That the people should learn about their faith now instead of later so they can get a better understanding.
- I think that NCYC need to touch more on the topic of LGBTQ+ Catholic teenagers. As a part of the LGBTQ community I didn't feel very welcome sometimes. I'm not saying to make it a deal of great importance, but at least mention it. I think it would help a lot of LGBTQ+ Catholic teenagers if they knew they were accepted as they are in their religion. I personally thank the leaders of my Archdiocese for going through so much to get us here and for working hard so we can get this educational experience. Thank you!
- It's hard to light the faith of teens on fire because they don't think it's cool/trendy. It took a lot of confidence for me to publicly believe in God.
- It is hard.
- Have more fun songs the teens would like to sing. Also have more enthusiastic people in the Church.
- We're stressed, overwhelmed teens.
- Most teenagers aren't real active in their faith and some may think it is uncool. That is why we need to encourage attending things like NCYC. Although it needs to be in a way that isn't just forced on them and they are willing to go with their choice.
- Teens are very rowdy and will get excited for things if you can get them out of their seats and doing something. Also teens get really into the Mass and everything it just depends on the place and the time for a lot of them.
- to have a relationship with God at this age is important because there is a lot of things that happen in our lives and if we can turn to prayer when we need God that would help a lot.
- We are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted; and lots of the people in our lives (adults) don't seem to understand that. Lots of us hide how we feel because lots of times we feel like no one cares. With the lack of time we have lots of us don't have time to pray, we're too busy with homework, jobs, projects, activities, and a social life.
- Sometimes it's hard to feel excited about Mass when I'm at home. NCYC makes me excited about my faith and we should try to incorporate more upbeat music and relatable stories for teens at Mass at my home parish.
- I enjoyed all the music & think For King & Country was very good but think more upbeat music could have been played Friday and Saturday nights.
- A teenager today goes through a lot during their time in high school. I want you to know that we live very busy lives. Although it may appear as though we are uninterested, this may not be true. To get more people involved I believe the music should be more from NCYC rather than the books.
- In order to get more young people to attend Mass, you should make the music more enjoyable. I understand it is tradition; however, young people want to praise Jesus with music that is at NCYC.
- There needs to be more ways for us teens to be involved in the parishes. Being a teen is hard in this generation with people constantly seeing your posts and judging.
- I would like them to know social media is a big part of our lives and we are easily influenced on what we see and read.
- Being a teenager today has many ups and downs. When we are up, we feel welcome and excited. When we are down, we are excluded and we want to connect to God more so he can lift us from low points.
- We like to enjoy ourselves and make our own decisions.
- Just that there is a lot more judgment in the world today & we try harder to fit in. I know that this isn't an excuse but teens these days are very busy making it difficult to make it to Mass every weekend.

- Teens need encouragement to share their faith.
- Teens need encouragement to share their faith.
- Being a teenager today is different than back then. Lots of teens want to connect to God while others do not sadly.
- There's a lot of pressure put on teens to do the things that are "cool" when even though it's not always the right thing.
- It's hard to be a teen today and NCYC has helped a lot of people feel more loved and welcomed. NCYC could help a lot of kids all over.
- People want to be cool and so some teens are pressured to be bad.
- Being a teenager isn't always easy. We have our ups and downs but getting experiences like this is heart moving to me and all the other teens in the world.
- That us teenagers try our best to grow in our faith and become closer to Jesus.
- There is a lot of chances to be hurt in the world today, not physically, but emotionally. I feel that there's a lot of gossip in today's world that plays a part of it, despite this there is also a lot of people that care, people need to really think before they say something. And while I haven't know that & by it, I feel like there's people I know that have.
- That all want to learn and come closer to God just not all are exposed to what God asks of us on a deeper level.
- It is not as easy as everyone might think. We, today have hardships still.
- premarital sex is a sin, teenagers are naughty.
- That we live in a different society and it's hard to be strong in a society of meak. we need adults to rather try and understand us then try and change us but help us grow. We don't need "back in my day" but rather "now in your day". Sometimes we feel criticized & we need to be lead with a balance of strict & love.
- It is important to see how many other teens are active or want to be active in the faith. Seeing others that wish to grow in their faith is inspiring.
- Nothing, they did good.
- I think they did a good job overall.
- I think it's harder to be a teenager today especially for teen girls with expectations of society for us.
- It's hard to deal with depression and losing a family member. It's hard to live by society's rules like what man and women should look like how to move on and if Christ is really there.
- The struggles of being a teen and how we react or think about people judge us. Teen life is pretty complicated at times and hard to understand.
- There's a lot of pressure on us.
- Teens are not as bad as we may seem, we just need to be put in engaging environments and we need to be taught in ways that are relevant to society today.
- It's not as easy as they make it seem to be a Catholic - not everyone has the same opportunities. Also if they really want teenagers to be interested, do more teaching & explaining instead of practicing. Not everyone came to grow, some came to learn.
- All we want is to be heard & felt loved, nothing else really.
- Please please address the view on the LGBT community. The number of religious LGBT young people is growing but we don't know if we're accepted! or how to handle our sexuality. It's just completely ignored.
- It's hard to live the life of a Catholic teen in today's world with people always pressuring you & telling you what you should do & what's right/wrong. It's hard to be a young Catholic teen.
- A lot of people say that it's easy being a Catholic teen but it's not because everyone thinks that you're different and treats you less.
- It isn't easy even if we get the opportunities to go to NCYC with our friends. There are still people who are going to discourage us from our faith.
- For me personally, being a teenager can be really stressful. Growing up in the time we are right now where social "norms" have changed so much can make it challenging to grow in my faith.

- That it's not that easy and that technology plays a massive role in our life and that balancing technology is hard.
- It is a lot of stress growing up in society now a days and so many people struggle with mental illness and it isn't really talk about.
- Teens have a lot of pressure and sometimes it's hard when it all starts to build up it's hard.
- Social media plays a huge role in today's world.
- Depression exists, school can be tough, we like people our age more than adults.
- It's tiring. Life is often very stressful. Mass is seen as boring. It is hard to comfortably express religion to friends, even if they are Catholic too. God isn't on our minds all of the time.
- Many teens are questioning the teachings of their faith and it is important to carefully choose our words so as to not shame or look down on those who haven't always made the right decisions. Teens are also more exposed to tragedy and struggle than many adults expect.
- The Mass and Church today don't necessarily capture teenagers' attention. We have extremely busy and stress-filled lives, and many times we don't think about turning to the Church for help.
- Everyone is different. We learn different & process different after experiences we don't all get the same thing.
- For some people it takes a lot to get through to them.
- Teenagers today face many temptations due to our society and world. The pressures placed on teens can be so hard, that it causes many of us to have mental troubles and causes us to struggle to keep our relationship with God strong. Help toward mental health as well as opportunities and reminders to teens that there is hope and God is alive and he wants to be with us, and that he loves us need to be more available and known for all teens.
- A lot of teens experience death early in life & blame God for it. If teens understood more about death then maybe they wouldn't move away from the faith.
- Lots of teens don't understand that the things that happen to them are not their fault. We get very confused about the why things happen. Also we need to be more encouraged to talk about we feel because we usually bottle things up and we need to learn that being vulnerable doesn't make you weak.
- Being a teenager, especially in today's world, is super difficult. We are faced with a lot of scrutiny due to our ages and the age of technology we live in. Also, the changes with acceptance in terms of race, identity, LGBTQ+, and much more is huge. I think it's important to work towards love for everyone and ensuring that teens feel comfortable being their true selves through Christ without fear of retaliation or discrimination.
- Depression is a huge issue.
- I don't know what they already know.
- None of know how to correctly pray, and there is so much temptation from our phones.
- There aren't too many Catholic teens. Many of them turn away, and the ones who are strong Catholics need to keep the faith.
- The impact things like NCYC have on young adults. It is a fun way to engage people in Christ. It makes Mass more enjoyable and meaningful.
- It's hard, judgmental, and we have to work hard to be accepted.
- Maybe try to get kids more involved in the Mass & parish, because it is hard to not only be a teen in 2019 but a Catholic teen in 2019. Show them what an actual Mass is not an NCYC Mass is.
- That it is not always easy there is always a lot of drama and conflict.
- It is not easy. But you can and will get through it with the strength of the Lord.
- School is harder now than it was even 20 years ago & social media makes things hard as a teen because you are held to certain standards and if you don't act a certain way or look a certain way then you aren't good enough.
- They should know that at times it is hard to talk about our faith to others.
- Social media can be toxic & uplifting. It's helpful & hurtful to building our faith.
- Teenagers sometimes just need to see things through a different perspective, rather than just being told the same thing repeatedly.

- Faith Formation leaders need to know that teenagers who don't go to mass have a more difficult time to be involved in their religion than most other age groups by a lot.
- I think they assume what we will like, for example, personally I am not a fan of Christian music. It makes it harder for me to enjoy/concentrate. For me, I enjoy the more traditional side of our faith because I already encountered God in my life with makes it harder to open up to modern traditions.
- By allowing teens to go on these trips, such as NCYC, can impact teenagers for the rest of their lives. They are able to see all of the great things that come from our religion, and how being religiously involved can help teens see the great things that God does for us.
- By having teens religiously involved in their youth, they are able to grow in their faith and see all the good in the world. The teens perspective on life can be influenced by what they are being taught in their religious classes. As the teen grows up, they are able to continuously grow in their faith and share what they know about what being Catholic is/means to their children to help them grow in their faith.
- Doing these trips can really be an eye-opener for teens and I think that everyone should go to NCYC to help open their hearts and minds to God.
- It's hard for us to sometimes be focused on our faith because of stuff going on in life for most of it.
- It's more tech based today. Esp. social media conflicts
- We're nuts, and the world is confusing and toxic. We've gotten used to it, and we sometimes don't care.
- We don't worry about social media as much as you say we do.
- We're most likely to die from either climate change or gun violence, and we know it. And we're terrified about it.
- Those hashtags you think are relatable? Aren't
- We're smarter than you think we are.
- People are gay. Get over it.
- Wes, we're addicted to our phones. But when we're on them it's not a blank screen. We're talking to friends, reading, writing, doing work.
- Peer pressure for drugs doesn't really happen.
- We really like bubble tea.
- You don't have to modernize music for us to appreciate it. The speakers during general sessions should relate to teenagers.
- Many people used the clips to hook up with guys. This is not what NCYC should be about!
- Talk more about the doubts in Catholicism.
- Music types everyone likes (country christian, rap christian, pop christian, rock christian, etc.)
- Have more free stuff/giveaways ;)
- Have daily competitions, maybe scavenger hunts. Meet people in these competitions. Ex: Find someone with white shoes on.
- Free time to go to the hotel pool or mall.
- Daily themes like psalms, verses. Daily outfit themes like dress Hawaiian, etc.
- A lot of people were there for the wrong reasons. Also I think teens would appreciate a free day.
- We need more help becoming a part of the church. We want to be involved, but we need that extra push. NCYC was a huge impact on our faith lives and we should try to have more things like it, but or closer communities, too more frequently- it could help.
- I would like them to know that not everyone is super comfortable sharing a lot, especially when they are just opening up to faith. I would love to see talks about how you can become more comfortable with that and I feel like that would make more people open to the idea of church and what it has to offer.
- I think it would be a good idea to address how some kids have unsupportive parents. Basically, just how to deal with having unsupportive parents but wanting to participate in church activities. They could also address parents that although they enroll their kids into RE they don't help inspire their kids and how to deal with that.
- We like to know why we do/believe what we do. Often when we ask why we genuinely want to know the answer. However, if our leaders don't know the answer or won't search/ask and relay the information it is really discouraging for our generation.

- How busy our daily life is and all the norms of our life.
- I think that I would like them to know about how busy everyone's schedules actually are along with a lot of the different issues in the work that we are contradicted in with our life about different topics that the may believe one thing as but church believes something else and how they should respond to that.
- Believing in God is hard sometimes.
- Growing i your faith can be boring if it's not fun.
- It can be hard sometimes to put religion first with all the expectations from school and activities. Also that we sometimes doubt and need reassurance.
- Realities of being a teenager today is different from our parents, we go through a lot and its hard to talk about it all in our society. There is also more pressure to be cool and fit in and its not always easy to say no or stay away from it all.
- There are a lot of different opinions about some of the ideas the church holds, which causes some people to struggle with their faith
- They got it covered...
- Some of us need a baseline when it comes to faith but there are some where we need MORE than what was given. And also, even though all people there were Catholic but it doesn't mean everyone is nice and respectful to each other.
- Most teenagers want to just be on their phones and doing dumb things.
- Trying to find out what really peaks a teen's interest and activities to keep them engaged
- lots of stuff goes on at school and with friends and you lose track of what is important
- There are plenty of things to think and worry about during high school (sometimes overwhelming)
- Busy schedules, be understanding and schedule better times not during the week. Be available for questions and give incentive to complete tasks.
- Adults trying to relate to teenagers through "trendy" words is not always the most effective way to connect with us. Our love for God is very strong, we just get easily caught up in the worldly expectations put upon us by school and society.
- a lot of them suffer with depression
- I think young people need to be able to connect to God through music and different forms of prayer before they learn all of the super details of being Catholic. I think a big part of leaving the church has to do with some outdated facets of the church's social teachings and I think establishing a relationship first is really important.
- Many people, at least in my area, don't have many Catholics around us. For me, I only have two other catholics in my grade, neither of which appear dedicated to their faith. NCYC is an amazing space that helped me realize there's other high schoolers that are dedicated to their religion.
- Teenagers and other young people strive for a modern approach for things, (like musics and speaker, but also desire to have traditional prayers and traditional church activities to fulfill them- (there's a reason why we've been doing it the same way though time-history.
- We like mass
- packs of people
- It is not as easy as some people think
- We aren't all perfect which I think they realize, but the thing is about that is that we don't always understand things about the faith. We learn through experiences and in our own time.
- I believe that faith formation is good how it is. Having class discussions are probably the best way to learn.
- Modernness, at NCYC we had lots of modern music and I felt that I could relate better with that music than older songs. Also the activities could be more modern too. Games and activities. Actively being part of our outside community. But times these day are tough on our minds and we have pressure coming from all sides. If the church could be an exciting open space to feel loved and away from outside pressures that would be so amazing.
- There are a lot arising problems so it would be great if we talk more about societal problems and the little things we can do to solve them.
- It's very hard to apply some of these things in our everyday lives. (things we never learned.)

- We love the songs and deeply connect to them. More would be great.
- Thank you for all you do!
- We don't like being shushed. Also kids are not fragile or anything. We just are going through a hard time, one many of us feel like we have to pick and choose what to make room for in our lives, and unfortunately, for many, religion just doesn't fit in.
- Social media has made expressing your religious side hard. I think I often don't express my faith so I fit in.
- The reality and the terror of being Christian and to listen to God's calling in your teenage years.
- Also, defying culture and listening to God's work and being mindful when consuming modern media.
- It's very stressful and hurtful at times, feeling welcomed and like you belong in the world is so comforting because our generation lacks kindness.
- Nothing
- That we can do any thing that we put our minds to it.
- The catholic faith is made fun of a lot at school
- There is always a lot of pressure on teenagers to do good in everything.
- Yes that would be epic. then you know the audience your teaching too.
- Substance abuse is becoming an epidemic.
- I need more sleep
- I want to learn more about traditions and whys about the church
- Tradition
- That it is hard trying to encourage others to go to mass and it takes bravery and prayer to bring them closer to GOD.
- It is difficult to balance a social life, faith, sports, and school.
- I wish my parish would have talked about what experiences we had and about the different sessions we attended each night to be able to learn from each other.
- It's hard, you never know what a teen is going through. There's a lot that adults don't know about because its a new generation. There a lot that a teen can be going through.
- Teenagers today are starting to less about faith so NCYC has helped some of us bring back faith into our hearts.
- I don't know, I don't feel like there is a whole lot of disparity between the 2 parties in that particular area.
- Maybe just instrumental music during adoration. it was hard to focus on prayer while music was being sung.
- we want to have adoration in silence (or with light instrumental music) Also we wish mass was more upbeat
- we need support from adults to be able to share our faith
- Life is hard. We aren't all just being dramatic and sensitive. We are competent human beings.
- That would be good, then they could know their students
- nothing
- Grow in faith
- We want to learn more. We also want to grow in faith.
- That technology does more help than harm
- Being a teen is a weird experience and events like these are amazing.
- More breaks or earlier nights. It is difficult to hold attention.
- Today, for me, it's so hard to share my faith. It feels as if there are not many teenagers I can relate to and talk to. The other struggle is who do I go to when I'm at my worst? It seems like this generation can't talk about deeper things, because that might be to much to handle. Talking to adults is good and better, but sometimes I wish I had someone my age to go too and relate to. My generation seems to be one that struggles with being true to one's self.
- I have a lot going on so I'm super stressed so sometimes I don't have time to do anything
- The more good things and love you share with us the better. We have low self esteem and are very fragile.
- were pressured to do lots of activities by everyone and have very little time

- Being a teenager is fun
- It's hard and emotional
- It's harder today to express your faith than it was back in the day.
- you don't understand anything we do so don't try
- We don't have many people. It discourages me to go to things because I don't have many people in the parish. I always have to go to things by myself. It makes me sad.
- We feel insignificant, like we can't make a difference. We need to be reminded that what we do matters and is important.
- I feel like they need to know about all the temptations there are that hurt our relationships with God. Personally, I have an awesome life and don't have the struggles of most teens. I'm really close with my family and I tell my parents everything. A lot of teens don't have that with their family or God, so their life is harder.
- We struggle with prayer.
- I would like them to know that I think teens today have grown to be more vulnerable to sin because of their phones. But this is also because of the world's growing use of technology and that as the next generation we need to make major impacts on the world and always expected to be better.
- Teenagers having phones in today's world are a bad thing because it takes away teens faith away from God. Phones also make teenagers feel worthless a lot.
- That there are so many pressures of being teen today. So much is expected of us today which makes us feel like we have to be "perfect". Knowing that we are under so much pressure from our teachers and parents is very important. There have even been times where God is putting pressure on me as well.
- Being a teen is hard. You are expected to live up to impossible expectations on your looks, athleticism, etc. This is often caused through social media. If I could make phones completely go away in this world, I would. Also, being Catholic can be hard because of judgements from peers.
- That not everyone is in the same spot in their faith.
- That sometimes it is hard to speak about religion because people want to be like others.
- Anxiety and Depression
- It is fun if you have Christ.
- It is very stressful.
- Don't try to force something on us, encourage us, but faith has to be a personal decision.
- We don't usually like being "told what to do" give more opportunities, less directions. Be less forceful.
- Teenagers usually don't like when they are forced to do certain things regarding their faith, and sometimes forcing teens to do something makes them not want to participate in their faith more.
- Teenagers today are followers of other people and are afraid to show their faith if their friends don't. they need to know they aren't alone.
- It's easier to follow along to speakers if they use humor to incorporate their faith.
- It's stressful!
- It's kinda hard. with all the stress & expectations it's hard to live a life.
- Having a phone takes teenagers away from God and their faith! phones change kids and sometimes make them feel sad or worthless, that is why going to these things we need to make sure to get off phones. Then another thing was how girls today think guys only want to use them, that is why some people don't always go toward the Lord in some situations.
- stressful
- They are much more stressed than they were and more self-conscious because of media pressure.
- Social Media is stressful & puts a lot of pressure on youth.
- Teenagers have a lot of pressure.
- Most teenagers have a lot of questions and sometimes they are afraid to ask them or they think their question is stupid. Being a teenager today is rough, there is so much pressure on us from school and grades to social situations. Adults are always pressuring kids to be better and it's hard to live under pressure.
- It's hard to be super quiet.

- Waking up early & going to bed late is tough.
- It's hard to be quiet and we are always stressed.
- That they need to be engaged and talking at them doesn't work. You need to talk with them.
- Teenagers need interactive sessions. If you speak at them, alike school, the teenagers are not going to get anything out of it. The students needs to be engaged and made noticed.
- Communicate with teenagers on a level they understand and to not act like they are better or more religious than the teens.
- Teenagers have a lot of stress. A lot of the stress comes with drama with friends. Technology is a big part of most teenagers lives. Sometimes technology is too much in their life and too advanced.
- Teenagers are really stressed mostly due to school.
- Teenagers are busier these days & it seems harder to remember our faith & follow it on a daily basis.
- It's rough and hard to stay committed to your faith.
- To be genuinely understood and appreciated is rare. Having someone to connect and relate to is key to helping them not only in their faith, but morals as well.
- The talks that are given by people who understand teenagers are the ones in my opinion that help the most for my faith.
- I don't know what to write... I don't really have any opinions about it.
- Being a teenager is hard. You have to deal with planning your future, keeping your grades up, finding friends, and finding out who you are as a person. All together teenagers are stressed and anxious.
- Not everyone is going to follow their beliefs and not everyone is going to be a "perfect" Catholic.
- An event like NCYC helps Christian teens to grow in their faith without judgement for a couple days. It is highly beneficial and necessary for the youth of the church.
- It's hard when everyone expects you to act like mature adults and holds you to those standards but treat you like you're little kids that need constant attention, instruction, and supervision. We have to make all of these enormous decisions in the next year or two that will affect us for the rest of our lives. Between those things, plus the constant schoolwork, activities, and trying to maintain a social life, people get stressed really easily. I know a lot of people who chose not to go on this trip because they didn't want to get too behind back home.
- Sometimes it can be stressful and scary to help and participate in mass.
- That we are all struggling through at the moment and not a lot of us have high confidence.
- Please don't refer to us as teenagers or teens. I just don't like it. We're also normal people. You act like we're a different species
- We are very busy
- it is very challenging, but with the amazing support group that we have it makes it easier
- That others don't see us as religious.
- I don't know
- the more real and relatable the better! we don't feel understood when adults sugarcoat things—just be real with us!
- Its probably very different from when they grew up
- Its hard to show your faith because so many people judge. Going on NYCY makes me not care what other think though
- It is hard to show your faith in front of people because the make fun of i
- idk
- That it's hard to express your faith with peers who are doubting there beliefs in Christ!
- There are a lot of difficulties but God will always be with us.
- Many people judge others for living out their faith.
- Just because we're generally seen by a lot of people as a bunch of dumb and lazy jerks doesn't mean that we are. We have complex feelings and deep thoughts, and sometimes we don't know how to express them. So don't ask us to bury those thoughts and feelings, teach us how to express them thoughtfully, and work it out without feeling stupid.

- It's hard. There's a lot of pressure and many of the morals that the church teaches are not considered normal to most teenagers.
- Interesting
- I think that a lot of times leaders in the church don't think of what it's like for a teen that doesn't go to a catholic school. I find myself fortunate because my family never misses a weekend of mass, but kids who go to catholic school tend to know a lot more about the church in general automatically putting public school kids at a disadvantage. And to think about what it's like to be around people every single day who don't have the same faith or morals as you and it's hard sometimes to be a catholic when you aren't allowed to show it.
- they suck
- that it's hard to be a Catholic in this world. teens are more accepting about things the Catholic church doesn't condone
- It's stressful
- It's hard to get everything done which makes it hard to get to church often
- It's hard to be a teenager and adults think it's easy being a teenager BUT IT'S NOT
- Being a teenager today is a lot different than when you were a teenager. Also don't try too hard to be relatable because sometimes it comes off as cringy.
- it can be hard to express being a catholic in today's society without being judged by others. it's also very busy and stressful sometimes and we feel a lot of pressure to conform
- That the public schools are different than the private schools
- That sometimes we get the mind set of what the point of going to church and I think we need more talk about how this can help you if you go.
- Feels like religion is forced on us.
- We aren't perfect.
- Sometimes it's difficult to incorporate God into our everyday lives
- Praying is something that not everyone enjoys and mass can be boring but you can bring life to it
- Church is boring for young people and it feels like a large part of mass excludes us and is directed towards older people.
- it's harder than it looks
- Even if it seems like most teens don't care, many do and they want to see change in certain areas.
- About technology and how it affects us.
- Life gets really busy with school, it's almost like there's no time for God, we just need to find time for God in our lives.
- It's harder to connect to God
- It is very difficult to talk about faith in Christ today. The secular society we live in is straying away from religion and refocusing on what you want not what God wants. Regardless of the high school you belong to, your faith IS challenged. Though this may sound bad, I see it as a time for the Church to rise and overcome these obstacles, like how Jesus conquered sin and death with his Resurrection. What we need to worry about now is how to combat those arguments in the Church. Teens today stray from Catholic Teaching to simply fit in with those around them like the LGBTQ. This is the major issue because if our generation fails there will be no future Catholic generation. We need to combat this with sound theological, philosophical, and scientific arguments. We need to bring back those who strayed from the path to God. Without bringing those people back they can not be Blessed, Broken, and Given. I believe that we need to help teens to be Pro Life and show them the flaws in Pro Choice. We need to take them on that Road to Emmaus.
- They're well aware as far as I'm concerned of the potential pitfalls of teenage life
- That the stress in teens life is just as similar as it is to adults and neither is more important than the other. Never underestimate what the younger generation is capable of and if you believe in them they will be confident in themselves.
- That it is hard to talk about our Faith to some teenagers. Because some teenagers don't care about their faith.

- I would like them to know the struggles that we are going through.
- It can be a struggle because a lot of us deal with a lot of anxiety, and are stressed with, activity's we participate in, and school work we have to do, so it's great when we pray and do fun activity's to help us not worry about life.
- People can be very rude and unwelcoming, so going up and meeting new people can be scary because you don't know how they will react.
- Find ways to make learning about God fun and relatable. Also try and get as many teens involved as you can because if one person is praising lord and has a great relationship with God and it shows, others will want that.
- There is a lot happening in my life as a teen and sometimes faith can be confusing especially when we aren't taught how to pray and how to read the Bible and how to do some of those things
- There are tons of pressures and it is so easy to cave into those pressures and it is so easy to be jealous or rude but you have to realize that and just keep it in your mind to NOT let yourself cave into those negative things.
- That it is so cool to be catholic and I love my faith
- Kids don't want to go to faith formation classes and read out of books, they do that enough in school. kids want to have fun in church and still be able to learn how great his love is. They want to sing fun, modern songs, and they want to play activities in faith formation class.
- Just reading out of a bible and talking about it does not get us closer, most of us will zone and out because although it is informative it is kind of boring and doesn't keep us engaged
- It's hard being a teenager because we are still growing and learning. And there are all these expectations and things that people want us to be.
- It's complicated because you don't know what someone is gonna say when they learn something new about you
- Being a teenager leads to many opportunities to lose sight of God and lose to temptations of sin. Conferences like these help strengthen faith and teenagers will feel closer to God than ever. It sends them back into their daily lives with a stronger faith and to push through temptations to be a better Catholic.
- Before this weekend I thought not many teens were interested/ involved in their faith but the experience this weekend changed that for me.
- A lot of teenagers have social media and there isn't anything about faith or God on it. I think we forget to pray and help others because we are so tied up in social media.
- it's hard to stay close to God in a world where everything around me doesn't focus on God and it can be hard
- We make bad decisions
- Too much sex and drugs
- Lots of judgement
- Like to do more hands on things instead of just reading out of a book all the time.
- A lot of people judge you now
- nothing
- Very stressful with school and sports
- That it's not all sunshine and rainbows. That we are responsible and don't need to be coddled.
- Even if being a teenager is hard sometimes, the idea that we are all broken and cannot truly ever be whole needs to be directly accompanied by only through Christ can we be whole. This was confusing and almost discouraging to hear.
- we're all busy and can't always be there when we're needed but more opportunities would allow for people with conflicting schedules.
- We are going to leave feeling incredible but after a little bit of time slowly go back to old habits because we don't have all the support we felt while at NCYC. Finding a way to keep this encouragement in our lives would be helpful. It could even be through the app or something simple!
- That most teens even if they go to a catholic school don't believe in the church or anything religious. The only reason they are there is because parents made them and none of them actually practice their faith

- It's hard man
- It is extremely hard to act the way you know you should when those you're surrounded with may not.
- Even if you go to a catholic school, it is sometimes seen as "weird" to actually be catholic.
- there is a lot of pressure to do other things that don't involve practicing faith
- There is a lot more going on in our lives than most of us say
- There are too many temptations to battle them all away
- Sometimes it is tough because taking time for God or to go to mass can result in judgement from others.
- Social media is a great thing, but it can also be a bad thing, and it can affect everyone. It's really unfortunate, but I think we all need to be more present in our lives around each other & with God.
- Relating to the church can be very difficult for teens
- It's hard to be perused honestly because of technology these days, but if a teen is able to go to Ncyc or something like it, it will help them
- That it can be hard to share your faith with other teens that aren't religious
- Teens are a lot more stressed in things like school, sports, extra curricular activities, etc. this opportunity gave teens the opportunity to relieve some of this stress by learning more about their faith and how you are not alone.
- We want it to be more upbeat and exciting! The slow songs are original but having it be like a live band would be amazing!
- Schools often discourage expression of religion and teachers aren't very willing to let the kids go.
- adults like to say that teens are "addicted" to their phones, and im here to say that this is the world we live in now. social media is what runs our world. if you aren't on your phone or dont have social media, you are so out of touch. stop blaming everything on our phones. if you just stop, and listen to us, you'll realize that for the most part, we're fine without being on them. its just the fear of missing out on something because everything that goes on is on our phones.
- They want the connection with the people and God at the same time
- It is very hard and we need someone to ask if we are ok
- They seem to know what is going on
- The amount of stress and pressure that teens have to deal with these days and the effect it can have on us
- Mass is more interesting with better music
- Teenagers need to be engaged and they like to do activities and be included in the talks. People we can connect with are also very important and stories can help to connect us the the speaker.
- It's hard. It's really hard being a teenager, so be understanding of us
- We aren't babies and we don't wanted to be treated that way. We understand more than you think we do. Being a teenager today is very hard, but we are managing.
- It's hard
- there's a lot of peer pressure to "be like this" or to "do that" and it's very difficult to always follow your faith and listen to god
- it is tempting to do a lot of bad stuff in high school because you want to fit in but going to ncyc made me think why do the wrong thing when god gave up his only son for us to be here. why ruin that by messing up your life he gave to us
- We are not as obsessed with our phones as you think we are, sure we use them, but are not attached to them. It is more common to find someone with a mental health problem than it is to find someone who does not have one. More talks about how your faith can help mental health would be pretty cool.
- Its hard
- We needed these 4 days together to grow in our faith even though we miss school and it can be very stressful NCYC was worth it 100% and I was able to leave school thoughts and focus on God.
- There is quite a bit of pressure to be "normal" which is only difficult because Catholic living is becoming "weird". However just teaching to have strong faith has really helped me to be a person I'm glad to be.

- Learning things by basing it off of real life experiences or reality helps us to really understand the message being portrayed. We don't want to keep listening to people talk and talk about boring things using big words that we don't understand
- It's very hard to voice your opinions sometimes
- It's hard to make the commitments they expect from us as Catholics
- It is not easy
- social media sucks
- You need to flat out talk about what's to far in a relationship and talk about what it means to be pure
- It's hard to fit in
- I think there are a lot of teens that are not exposed to God and Church because of their parents, and I believe that they would benefit from it. I wish my school was built by people that were like the people I met at NCYC!
- that we are busy a lot and often forget to pray
- When running a youth group do not treat them like children, they are ready and willing to go deeper.
- We are stressed and it's hard to take time to focus on our faith when we have the outside noise going on
- We are all so confused and broken in our own ways and the theme for NCYC helped me fully recognize and allow me to accept that I am and it's okay to be.
- Not much
- Life is challenging at this time, because everyone is changing and experiencing different things.
- It is very stressful
- It is very pressuring and can be very stressful at times, and solutions to problems are rarely the same as they were when they were teenagers.
- People aren't as into the idea of organized religion anymore. Being entirely faithful and trusting and loving to something that is not tangible creates a disconnect between what I see and what parishes say I should see.
- Just be open to the ideas of the teens in the community.
- Even though we can be a little much sometimes we still love god
- To let us no we aren't alone and to engage with us more.
- Listening to someone talking about anything wont have teenagers interested in what's happening, will have teens listening more if there was more modern day examples
- I feel like most the time there are opportunities to do around my community. But I don't feel like it's encouraged all the time.
- I enjoyed the fun and energetic atmosphere of NCYC. But sadly so many teens go home and go back to mass and don't find that in there parishes and can cause them to loose God so I think we should help teens find the beauty in the traditional mass first to then allow them to continue to find God after NCYC.
- It's much harder than they think. Social media and the internet expose us to so many potentially harmful things that we must keep our eyes out for. We must surround ourselves with the people and things we like.
- That we are under a lot of stress and sometimes making time for Jesus is hard. I think for the young people to get more involved, we need mass to be more engaging and enjoyable. We also need an environment that welcomes and where people should be able to express their faith without feeling ashamed.
- That kids can become bored easily so it's fun to have activities to keep us engaged in our faith.
- Nobody wants to talk about their faith because it's embarrassing. We also want to be helped with things, not just told. For example, we can't just be told that we can't have sex before marriage or it won't happen, we need help to understand it and work towards it. If beliefs are forced on us it makes us not want them.
- It's difficult, teens tend to turn away from God during difficult situations.
- we have so many questions and at times feel forced into the faith by school church or parents
- We love to love God

- Today, teens want to fit in with everyone else and be popular, but sometimes in order to become popular they do bad things and turn away from God. Seeing so many teens and young people there showed me that not everyone is this way.
- That we like change, especially with the music. We don't like singing the same songs every single mass. Changing the songs up and making them more modern would help us become more engaged.
- That most of us don't enjoy going to church it's more interesting for us if we are able to sing fun songs and listen to something more interesting than just a priest talking at us, I think ncyk gave us a good perspective of how mass can be if we choose to make it that way.
- Sometimes kids can get bored so it's important to have fun activities when growing in faith. Some kids may think they're too cool to do certain things.
- Sexuality, Identity, and Depression are all things we struggle with, help us
- that it's hard
- That it's hard not to give in to things. People can't say not to drink or have sex or do drugs because that's the world we live in
- I think they should know that there is an expectation that everyone thinks they need to meet and in reality they don't need to. It's good to be yourself and get out of your "bubble."
- there are lots of expectations
- That we are really busy
- That teenagers of today are exposed to more than we ever have been and have gone through so much much that we may know that God & Jesus are here for us but at the same time we don't. It's so much easier to just go through the motions instead of diving deeper into your faith and truly believing it.
- Relationship troubles
- There's a lot of peer pressure in schools, which leads to bad decisions
- That no matter how much we want to be in our faith it can be really difficult and having somebody to keep us in track and help us continue to grow is extremely important.
- NCYC is seriously a life changing experience
- I think they already understand
- I loved and can't wait for the next NCYC
- that we understand god is there for us, but at the same time we don't know. it's hard to explain the concept, but yeah.
- it's harder than it looks and there's a lot of pressure on us.
- We are hard to keep entertained. Mass is really hard for us to sit through when it's not entertaining.
- There's a lot of struggles and hardships people are being able to overcome.
- There's a lot of mental setbacks in teenagers. It's hard to live in this world.
- we need more sleep than just 5-6 hours
- we are kids and want to do fun stuff
- it's hard and we need extra pushes to get through
- The importance of a supportive religious community
- We already spent 8 hours at school sitting down and shutting up I don't want to do that the faith formation I would like to be able to have a good discussion. Also I feel like I have been taught the same thing in faith formation since second grade. I understand that I have to do the right thing even if my friends are not doing it.
- It's hard being a teenager in the environment we are in today. People are pressuring up to do things that is considered a sin. We are all stressed from school and from people.
- I liked the talks but sometimes they dragged on and it was hard to pay attention. We also sat in the stadium for over three hours and no one wants to do that for three nights in a row. Shorten it up a bit and add some movement. Sleep is precious and if we can't get enough of it, we can't give our full attention. The last thing is the food. It was all over priced and wasn't very good. Our hotel only gave us muffins and a piece of fruit for breakfast. Have more variety and make it like a normal hotel breakfast. I did like the pizza though. It was a score. Also, add some down time so we can explore Indianapolis, hang with our friends, swim at the hotel pool, etc.

- It's difficult but I'm sure everyone knows that. Also, that there is a big majority of teenagers that enjoy church. There is definitely a stigma about teenagers and how they get "bored," with it, but many of us enjoy it.
- In today's world, it can be harder to engage students in activities in the church that are thought to be boring. We get distracted easily, especially with modern technology and social media. So to keep us focused it needs to be kept interesting and relatable.
- Being a teenager is supposed to be fun and it's a time in our lives where we're just finding out who we are as people. Learning more and more about our faith helps us grow as people.
- We aren't perfect we are going to mess up and we sometimes we don't listen but have patients
- We struggle a lot. Those that want to deepen their faith don't know where to begin. There is so many distractions out there that in order for us to grow closer with the Lord we need a ton of guidance and structure. This may be how to read scriptures or how to pray a sincere prayer. We just need a lot of guidance. Also, teen life is a lot different from back in the day. Things have changed in society, life, and the church and adults need to realize life now is not the same as what they experienced.
- It's hard. Not everybody knows what goes on in your life.
- we go through a lot more than they think and school is very stressful. sometimes we just need a break
- We need more sleep than the time that was allowed
- We need more sleep and better food
- We are really busy and have lots of activities we are involved in.
- More hands on activities. The more you are moving around and actively doing anything, it is much easier to focus
- We really don't like having to stay up late and then having to wake up really early in the morning. I understand we need to fit everything in, but I also would like to do everything while I'm a little bit more awake and less tired.
- That saying no to a lot of things is quite hard today because we all just want to fit in
- I think that some people are too focused on the fact that "teenagers are only looking for instantaneous happiness". In all the videos I've had to watch about happiness and all the talks I've heard about it, that's all they talk about and they make it sound like seeking earthly, momentary happiness is a sin. I just feel as though it shouldn't seem as though we aren't allowed to be momentarily happy. Of course it's a problem if the ONLY happiness you seek is from likes, retweets, and popularity, but not everyone wants just earthly happiness. Also, I think we should teach kids to love everything about themselves before we teach them that God loves them. For some people, it might be hard to understand that someone so important and powerful could love them as much as God does if they don't love themselves to begin with. We should teach them that they are important for all the right reasons before we dive into how much God loves them no matter what they do.
- That it's all important
- There are challenges with social media. There is more bullying now then there was back then.
- We are more faithful people than we let onto. This weekend was so much fun because everyone there had a kind heart and soul and was there for the same reason. In high school people are bitter and mean for no reason so it's easy for that to rub off on you and to grow apart from God. People who are nice in high school are seen as weak and uncool. That is why it is so hard sometimes to bring faith into our lives at times.
- It's hard in many ways to explain.
- That it's hard and that sometimes no matter what you do, you can't make yourself feel better or feel like you can continue but deep inside with others help we know there is a way
- It can be really stressful at times and it's hard for us to come forward when we have an issue because we don't want to disappoint anyone and because it's just hard in general to figure out what our problem is sometimes but also because we don't want to be embarrassed
- Being a teenager in the Catholic faith might make you get some hate, but if you truly believe in your faith, than it shouldn't matter.
- I would like them to know that phones are a big thing to kids now and i feel like that got into some people's ways of getting deeper into there faith

- That everything revolves around technology
- Teens like it if you become more relatable and talk to them not down to them. If you're told "ok boomer" you're doing something wrong.
- Most teenagers don't think Jesus is cool. It isn't effective to just say talk about Jesus. The world is starting to see religion differently than it use to so its harder than ever before to talk about faith.
- ldk
- Its tough because we have all of these technology changes and we have lots of things to worrt about
- It's sometimes difficult to handle the stagnant religion in the ever changing world
- it's hard to be a teenager and sometimes when adults try to act like a teenager they just end up look silly
- We use our phones all the time
- The most important thing is to fit in and we do things to achieve that "goal" of ours
- Teens have a small attention span. Not every teen is an extrovert.
- It's hard to be a teen because there's so many things that can make us feel as though we aren't enough. Social media can be really downgrading, but it can also help stay connected with people who make you feel good about yourself. It all depends on the context of how you use it.
- It can suck at times
- that we are going through a lot and talking about how to solve our real life problems really helps
- They don't like it when you seem out of touch if you're told "ok boomer" your doing something wrong.
- Being a teenager is hard.
- That some of us REALLY dislike loud music
- We don't always need to sing songs that are trying to be hip and cool, some of us like the songs that we sing in normal church
- that it can be hard being a teenager in today's society especially with religion and not feeling accepted because of what you believe.
- A lot of teenagers have mental health problems.
- The current struggles like social media
- Many teenagers think it isn't cool to be close w/ god, but some of them could really use him.
- It's hard to reach out and show your faith without being shamed because people thing they are funny
- It's hard to have faith in a god when everything is built off of living proof now so if one of us isn't certain about their faith don't worry because we'll get there with the right guidance
- We are all very confused on what our religion means to us.
- There are a lot of ppl that don't believe in God. They need counseling and to find a reason why they don't believe in God.
- That we will be hyper and excited for different things and we like to be encouraged not put down and told be relaxed or quiet all the time. We all express ourselves in a different way and it can be a lot sometimes so you have to be willing to deal with all of us.
- That we get bored easily and we like real life stories that we can relate to.
- That god is not always the first thing on there minds
- most people don't like expressing their faith cause they want to fit in
- just try to have fun
- we aren't all completely horrible people but they treat us like we are
- We have a ton of other stuff to do
- The clothes pins made me feel unappreciated and valueless
- That there are a lot of issues and temptations that teens go through. NCYC helps us to realize the problema and how we cn fix our problems or temptations.
- Teenagers are engaged to NCYC, because of the upbeat music. Maybe if we incorporated that in our own parishes it would draw more teens near instead of push them away
- Everyone has different interest and can be very busy but the more we get each other to encourage other people they know to participate in things through the church can really make a difference.
- high is hard, and friends are confusing !
- Being a teen is hard, don't force us into anything we don't want to participate in.

- it's hard to always see God and to pray
- it is hard to express your faith at this age because of the pressuring of friends.
- We're very busy and if you want us to come it's gotta be fun.
- We need to modernize our music and worship. Teens like the music we had at NCYC, if we had that at mass I'm sure a lot more youth would come!!
- It can be hard sometimes
- That there are many temptations in our world today and that teenagers struggle to deal with them properly so it is important to help us through our journey.
- It's not easy, and we're not little kids, so don't talk to us like we're little kids.
- It's difficult and we're isolated so it very challenging
- There is a lot of peer pressure
- Love
- It sucks
- Don't make us go to the front of the bus and talk about ourselves or our favorite part. We just want to sleep. We can reflect by ourselves.
- Sometimes it's hard to apply what happened at NCYC to my life outside it
- Its hard to share your faith in today's society