



January 11, 2019

Dear High School students and parents, youth leaders and pastors,

OFFICE of the BISHOP

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held November 21-23, 2019 in Indianapolis. NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The 2019 theme is "*Blessed-Broken-Given*". The schedule includes general sessions and workshops addressing a wide variety of topics as well as opportunities for Reconciliation, daily Mass, and special activities such as concerts, a dance, and comedy club.

As you know, youth and young adult ministry is a high priority in our diocese. Over my years of visiting with the young people of our diocese, I have found that experiences like NCYC have been tremendously valuable in their lives, so I strongly encourage every parish to arrange for a delegation to attend NCYC.

I urge high school students to attend because I believe NCYC gives our young church a unique opportunity to experience a deepening of faith that cannot be duplicated by other gatherings. The energy and excitement of 25,000 youth celebrating the Risen Lord is inspiring! NCYC brings together the best Catholic youth presenters, musicians and entertainers in the country.

Youth, parents, youth leaders and pastors, I commend you if your parish already has a volunteer group leader and is planning on attending. If your parish has not yet identified a group leader, I encourage you to step up and lead a group. I realize this can appear to be a challenging task but I assure you that our Office of Youth Ministry will be available to support you every step of the way, and you will not regret attending. As often happens, the adults & leaders tend to benefit as much—if not more—from the experience as the youth.

Additional information can be found at www.dmdiocese.org/ncyc. If your parish does not yet have a group leader please contact your pastor. ALL PARISHES MUST REGISTER THEIR GROUP THROUGH THE DIOCESAN YOUTH OFFICE. If you have further questions you may contact Justin White at jwhite@dmdiocese.org or 515-237-5098.

Thank you for all you do for the young Church. You make a difference. My heartfelt prayers are with you. See you in Indy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines