



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors

**FROM:** Robert J. McCarty, Executive Director

**RE:** Student Attendance at the  
**National Catholic Youth Conference, November 19-21, 2009**

This year's National Catholic Youth Conference, *Christ Reigns*, will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. We at the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM) realize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. I am writing to request that students be allowed an excused absence due to the nature of the program.

NCYC is the premiere national gathering of Catholic high school age youth in the United States. It draws in excess of 23,000 youth and their chaperones from around the country for three days of prayer, catechesis, service, and educational workshops. It is a unique opportunity for young people to gather together to strengthen their Catholic identity. They meet other young people striving to live out positive values, learn ways to cope with influences that conflict with what they know to be right, and find that they are strong enough to be countercultural. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

In Kansas City, young people will hear presentations by leading speakers on wide array of topics including social justice, prayer, appropriate use of technology (Wii, MySpace, Facebook, etc.), servant leadership, racism and cultural diversity, the sacraments, and transitioning to college. They will have several opportunities to interact with bishops and other church leaders as session presenters, through daily liturgy and the sacrament of reconciliation, and during guided roundtable discussions. Young people will also be engaged in a variety of service activities. New in Kansas City is the opportunity for young people to participate in a college fair staffed by college admissions professionals from Catholic colleges and universities around the country.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit our website, [www.nfcym.org/ncyc](http://www.nfcym.org/ncyc). In addition, please feel free to contact your local diocesan youth ministry director or our office in Washington, D.C. for more details.

Your cooperation in enabling your students to attend is greatly appreciated.

*Serving Those Who Serve The Young Catholic Church*

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