

**2009 NCYC Kansas City: Christ Reigns!**  
November 19-22, 2009

**Archdiocese of Cincinnati**  
***Blessing of NCYC Pilgrims and Send Off***  
***November 18, 2009***  
**Carroll High School Gym, Dayton**  
**7:30 – 9:00pm (Doors open at 7:00pm)**



**Description:**

For some time now, the NCYC experience for attendees has been linked to the idea of pilgrimage. Young people and their chaperones travel from all over the United States to share in an encounter with Jesus Christ as they celebrate the Catholic faith with the larger Church—approximately 25,000 of them! The ancient practice of pilgrimage prepares hearts for an encounter with Christ through the experiences of journeying together in prayer, by doing good works and studying. All along the way, up to and including the actual travel to Kansas City, NCYC pilgrims and their families are preparing to be changed, to be transformed by this experience so that, when the pilgrims return home, their lives are charged with a new reality—one that is on fire for Christ and his Gospel.

The family is in a unique position to nurture and grow faith in our young people. NCYC pilgrims will return home energized and renewed by the Spirit for living their faith more authentically and faithfully. Parents and families who are adequately prepared to welcome back their son or daughter from NCYC will be more successful in helping them grow more deeply in the faith. And so, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is calling all pilgrims and their families to share in the Blessing of Pilgrims on November 18, 2009.

**What to expect:**

**Between 7:30 and 9:00pm**

- Inspirational and uplifting music, including the NCYC theme song “Christ Reigns”
- Parish and school groups will be formally introduced
- Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will address the assembly by video
- Sprinkling Rite
- Presentation of candles for each family to use in prayer while their pilgrim is at NCYC
- Blessing of Pilgrims
- A live video feed from the Kansas City convention center (hopefully with surprise special guests!)

**Between 9:00 and 11:30pm:**

At 9:00pm, pilgrims will get a chance to say goodbye to their families and place their suitcases on the busses, after which they will return to the gym for snacks. We expect that the orderly dismissal of families and loading of suitcases on the bus will take about an hour to complete. At 10:00pm, the pilgrims will participate in icebreakers and community-building games. At 11:00pm the busses will be boarded and a final prayer before departure will be prayed on each bus. Hopefully, by 11:30pm the busses will depart from Dayton.

**What We’ll Need to Make the Blessing and Send Off a Success:**

We are committed to making this a free event for everyone. However, that means we will need help from you and/or your group:

**Introduction of Parishes and School Groups:** At the beginning of the evening, the name of each parish or school attending NCYC will be announced. When your group’s name is called, stand up and celebrate! Some groups are creating a poster or banner that they’ll wave when their group is announced.

**Candles for each NCYC Pilgrim:** The Blessing rite includes the presentation of a candle decorated by the pilgrim to his/her family as a way of being in solidarity and in prayer with each other during NCYC. Have your pilgrims decorate their candles at a meeting prior to the Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Blessing and Send Of with symbols

that reflect their faith, your parish and the logo and themes of NCYC Kansas City: Christ Reigns! Some parishes and schools are buying the candles as a gift to the pilgrims. We've been assured by NCYC Planning Team members that 7-day votive candles in plastic (without the glass globe) can be purchased for \$1.00 or \$2.00 individually. Because sometimes a greater discount can be had by buying in bulk, some groups are going in together on a case or two (usually a dozen to a case). Votive candles can be purchased at most religious supply stores or even online. However, you can purchase any kind of votive candle you'd like, but please be sure to get a glass candle holder for it as well (which can be decorated by your pilgrims)—they will be lit for a long while before they are presented to parents.

**Snacks at 9pm:** We are asking each pilgrim to bring their own bag "late night dinner"—a sandwich at least. We will provide chips, yogurt and a beverage. (The busses will not stop before 9:00am for breakfast, so it will be a long time between meals.) (FYI: Some groups are opting to buy subs for each pilgrim, but that is completely up to you.)

**Needed: One Pilgrim from Each Group to Participate in the Sprinkling Rite**

There will be a Blessing of Water and Sprinkling Rite. Each group will be represented by one pilgrim who will come forward with a water pitcher and pour it into a large bowl which will be blessed by our priest presider. We will provide the pitcher and water. We don't need the name of your representative beforehand, but will ask to meet with him or her just before the prayer begins.

**If you have any questions,** please contact Andrea Parker at 937.223.1001 or [aparker@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:aparker@catholiccincinnati.org).