



**Youth Ministry E-Date - January/February 2009
Diocese of Rochester**

**ATTENTION PARISHES & SCHOOLS:
Please Print for the Parish Youth Ministry or Campus Ministry Contact**

**"When you come to a fork in the road,
take it" - Yogi Berra**

National Catholic Youth Conference

The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial four-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes keynote addresses, concurrent and workshop sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. There are also daily opportunities for liturgy, reconciliation, prayer and worship, recreation and special activities such as concerts, exhibits, and the interactive thematic park.

The theme for the conference is ***Christ Reigns; Christ Reigns in Us; Christ Reigns Among Us; Christ Reigns Through Us***

Over 23,000 Catholic youth are expected to attend NCYC 2009! NCYC is open to high school age young people and their chaperones.

Most participants are Catholic, though many are just beginning to connect to their faith. Some attendees may have participated in previous national or international events such as the World Youth Day.

Many are experiencing this type of gathering for the first time.

Youth participants must be accompanied by adult chaperones from their parish or school. NFCYM requires that adult chaperones be 21 years or older. Here are some quotes from Youth People:

I went to NCYC because I wanted to experience the real presence of God

Going to NCYC inspired me to think about becoming a priest.

I totally grew in my faith especially and it made me realize who

I am and why I am living. Also the keynote speakers and all

the entertainment from Steve Angrisano were amazing.

If you are interested in attending NCYC and you weren't able to make it to any of the NCYC INFO Sessions, please let me know and I'll be happy to go through the Info packet with you!

Hungry for resources? Check these out!

The ORB Challenge

Here's how it works:

- ~ Parish Youth Ministries decide to participate in the ORB Challenge
- ~ Let your parish know that you are participating
- ~ Youth Ministry Leaders e-mail Youth Ministry Office to "register" for the challenge by February 25th, 2009

- ~ Challenge runs from Ash Wednesday (Feb 25) to Good Friday (April 10).
- ~ Each week young people are encouraged to make contributions to ORB every time youth gather. Every time money is collected, be sure to get it to the parish office, ask for a receipt then e-mail the YM office with that amount.
- ~ Postings will be graphed at days end on the Wednesday of each week and sent out to those parishes.
- ~ Youth Ministry Leaders can access the Operation Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org/> for a variety of **FREE** Resources.
- ~ After all money is collected, Parishes must send a check to Operation Rice Bowl.
- ~ Last posting date is April 13th.
- ~ Youth Ministries who collect the most money for Operation Rice Bowl by April 13th will receive \$100 in their scholarship fund.

There are already several parishes involved. It's a simple way to live Matthew 25.

Souper Bowl of Caring – February 1, 2009 - Materials Available

The Souper Bowl of Caring has become a national movement uniting schools, congregations, community organizations, and compassionate individuals in the fight against hunger. More than \$50 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the country. Now it's your turn to fight hunger and poverty in your own community, while sharing God's love with the nation. Participation is easy!

There are just four simple steps to join this mission:

- Register to receive your free promotional materials
- Collect donations on, or near, Super Bowl Sunday
- Report your results to the Souper Bowl of Caring to be included in the national total
- Donate 100% of your collection to the charity of your choice

You may register online at www.souperbowl.org or by calling 1-800-358-SOUP(7687) to make certain you will receive the free starter kit to begin your Souper Bowl of Caring preparations.

FOUNDATIONS - Leadership Week

February 15-20, 2009 at Camp Stella Maris

Foundations is a leadership opportunity for young people in high school who would like to explore leadership essentials. During the week long experience youth will identify personal strengths, learning styles, Catholic Identity, moral decision making, Prayer that lasts a lifetime and their call to ministry.

Leaders aren't born they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll

have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal - Vince Lombardi

Early Bird Special - \$200 if registered between January 1 and February 1. \$225 if registered between February 1 and Feb 11.

Youth ministry leaders across the Diocese claimed that when the youth they sent to Foundations came back to their parish, they were confident, knowledgeable, and strong. They had a better understand of who they were and were able to lead from their strengths.

Forms are on the dor website.

E-Dates is monthly e-mail newsletter prepared by Sue Versluys, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Rochester, NY. For more information on upcoming programs, visit the Diocesan Youth Ministry website at: <http://www.dor.org/ec/youthministry/> or e-mail versluys@dor.org or phone at (585)-328-3210 or 800-388-7177 ext. 1279