



Helpful Hints for Families

When Your Young Person Comes Home From the Diocesan Youth Convention

The Diocesan Youth Convention is an exciting, and sometimes tiring, experience for most of the participants. After years of experience with Diocesan Youth Conventions (this is the 60th annual), National Catholic Youth Conferences and World Youth Days, we want to share with you some thoughts about how to share the impact of the weekend when your young person comes home.

What To Expect

- ✠ They may be very tired. The holiday on Monday is a good time to catch up on sleep.
- ✠ They may be very excited about their faith. Their experience of the conference may be like that of Peter, James and John when they saw Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Mk. 9:2-8; Mt. 17:1-8; Lk. 9:28-36) - “Wow! Awesome! Let’s tell everyone!” Ask them some of the ***Questions for the Journey*** below to help them share their “mountaintop” experience at the Diocesan Youth Convention.
- ✠ They may be very eager to talk. Give them plenty of time and opportunities to share their stories with you.
- ✠ Or, they may be relatively quiet and need time to think about their experience. Give them the time and tools to reflect on their experience. Follow up with them in a defined period of time, like a week later, and ask them about their experience.
- ✠ Their expectations of the Church and the parish community may be different. They may be more critical of the faith experiences or expressions of others. Let them know that their critique and questions are valuable. Encourage them to explore their questions by reading or talking with their youth minister or pastor.
- ✠ Their energy for their faith may be renewed. Help them direct this renewed energy into projects or activities in the parish or community, like service activities or youth group.

Questions for the Journey

- 🗣️ What was the high point of the Convention?
- 🗣️ What was the most interesting thing you did or saw at the Convention?
- 🗣️ What was the best workshop? Why?
- 🗣️ What is one thing you learned about your faith?
- 🗣️ What is one thing you learned about being Catholic?
- 🗣️ Of all the music you heard, what song did you keep singing in your head during the weekend?
- 🗣️ What was your favorite prayer experience during the Convention?
- 🗣️ Who was the person that you met who lives the farthest away from you?
- 🗣️ Who are the new friends that you met?

How to Share the Story

Here are some ideas of how your young person can share his/her experiences with you and others.

- ☺️ Ask him/her to walk you through the program book. Let him/her take you on a tour of the experience of the Convention as you page through the program book.
- ☺️ Encourage your young person to write a thank you note to his/her family, youth minister, pastor and anyone who helped him or her raise money to attend the Convention.
- ☺️ Encourage your young person to write an article for the parish or school newsletter or create a photo collage that tells the highlights of the weekend.