

2023 NCYC Experience Quotes

Josh Romitti, Sr. Ames High: “NCYC is the best trip if you have the chance to experience it. Regardless of where you are at in your faith life, this conference will change your life for the better. Going on this journey with THOUSANDS of other Catholics is a truly unforgettable experience.”

Lucas Wuebker, Sr. Roland-Story: “NCYC was the best last minute decision I’ve ever made in my life. To be welcomed by thousands of other young Catholics who walk similar paths as you is an authentic and incredible experience. To experience the Eucharist, to participate in your faith, and to feel accepted into the family of Catholics are some of the most gratifying features of the event. By attending NCYC, Christ equips you with every tool you might need to go forth in your life and live out the faith and show the world the love of Jesus.”

Tyson Grosz, Jr. Ames High: “The best part of NCYC was getting to be surrounded by a community that is on fire with God's love. Over the weekend, there were countless unique opportunities to encounter Christ.”

Isaac Powers, Sr. Ballard: “The most impactful thing for me was when Bishop Joe Espailat II (Archdiocese of New York City) said, ‘*It’s not just about believing in God; it’s about accepting God. Satan and his demons believe in God, but they do not accept God. As Catholics, when we fall, not if, we must get back up and run back to God not avoid Him.*’ This hit me hard when he said it but I only truly understood this when we celebrated Communion. After I received Communion from the Bishop, I went back to my seat, and as I was kneeling and singing I slowly realized that I was looking at all the distractions, all the lights, the band, the video boards avoiding something. I then scanned the stage looking for what I was avoiding and stopped at the Crucifix, I had been avoiding confrontation with God. Then it immediately hit me that this wasn’t a learning experience for me; this was a callout. Between the homily and the Communion, God was calling me out for avoiding Him in my daily life, not accepting Him in each and every day. Before this moment, I had always just believed in God, but I hadn’t accepted him. I would focus on all the distractions around me and avoid actually accepting Him and looking to Him for guidance and support. But as I was looking at the Crucifix, I slowly became more and more fixated on it. I felt His support and His guidance pushing me to what I need to do which is to live a fulfilling life in His name. I felt Him pushing me to accept Him, not just to believe in Him.”

Andrew Soupir, Jr. Gilbert High: “NCYC is definitely worth it! The entire experience is amazing and the sense of community is astounding! It is nothing but fun and faith for 3 days. At the end, you will be exhausted, but you won’t care, as the experience more than made up for it.”

Brendan O’Brien, Sr. Gilbert High: “The most impactful moment for me during NCYC was truly getting to know Christ during Adoration. I had a great experience that night and the Bishop Joe Espailat II (Archdiocese of New York City) cut straight through me with his point of making Jesus too far away and treating Him with too much reverence that it’s impossible to form a relationship.”

Alexandria Weary, Fr. Gilbert High: “My favorite experience from NCYC this year was Confession. I used to always say the same things because I didn’t think that Confession was super important so I never really put much thought or effort in what I would say until I was waiting in the Confession line and saw the green light being waved over a priest. When I sat down and he smiled at me, I knew something was different. A good difference and my whole viewpoint was completely changed. The priest that I had made me view life differently, and I can’t wait to continue this journey with the Lord.”

Rachel Aitchison, Fr. Homeschool: “My favorite experience from NCYC was Adoration. It was very freeing, and I felt so much peace afterwards.

Clara Fulton, Fr. Ames High: “My favorite experience from NCYC was hearing so many young Catholics praising God and filling the space with their voices.”

Norah Martens, Fr. Gilbert High: “My favorite experience from NCYC was Daily Mass on Friday. It was so cool to see a whole church full of teens who all came together in the Mass.”

Clare Stahr, Sr. Gilbert High: “NCYC was an incredibly powerful experience overall, with opportunities to learn more about my faith, meet new people, grow closer to those in my parish, and especially strengthen my relationship with God. The most impactful parts of NCYC for me were Adoration and receiving the Eucharist with so many other people who share my faith. Thinking of just how many people were on fire for Jesus was powerful and makes me want to bring His presence to more people. I absolutely recommend anyone considering attending a retreat to go to NCYC!”

Charlotte Aitchison, Sr. Homeschool: “My favorite parts of NCYC was the Bishop Joe Espailat II’s (Archdiocese of New York City) homily, Mass and being able to praise the Lord after receiving Communion.”

Adi Siegel, Sr. Gilbert High: “The homily on Saturday’s Closing Mass was really powerful and left me motivated to spread God’s love. It reminded me of the importance of staying on fire for God after a mountain-top experience and how we have the power to spark a love for God in others by living out our faith.”

Leah Mostek, Sr. Gilbert High: “My favorite experience was Closing Mass, especially the time we took to praise after receiving Communion. It was amazing to be there and witness and it definitely showed how powerful our Church is.”

Sarah Thatcher, Sr. Gilbert High: “One of my favorite parts of NCYC was Eucharistic Adoration. It was very powerful to be worshipping Jesus surrounded by 12,000 other Catholics who were doing the same.”

Adeline Oetker, So. Ames High: "My favorite part of NCYC was Adoration. The moment of silence and feeling God's presence. Also, Bishop Joe Espailat II (Archdiocese of New York City) for making us sing *Yeshua* over and over again for a good 20 minutes."

Chloe Nguyen, So. Ames High: "My favorite part of NCYC was Closing Mass with Bishop Joe Espailat II (Archdiocese of New York City), hearing all the youth praise the Lord and laughing with each other."

Lucy Read, Jr. Ames High: “My biggest take away from NCYC this year was everyone's joy of the mass. Through Adoration, speakers and the thousands of teens going through the same thing as me. I loved the environment so much, the wonderful band made it that much better too.”

Sophia Schneider, Jr. Homeschool: “What struck me the most was the emphasis and call to be authentically Catholic. Everything was rooted in the Eucharist and the speakers' talks gave various ways to live out this authenticity.”

Bethany Aitchison, Jr. Homeschool: “My favorite thing was the community building and the true feeling of being surrounded by the Holy Spirit during the Mass and Adoration.”

Allison Tjaden, Jr. Roland Story: “My favorite experience of NCYC was the speakers and the musicians during the general sessions.”

Cecilia Pelzer, Sr. Ames High: “NCYC creates a great sense of unity among young Catholics because it provides the opportunity to worship together in a huge shared space.”

Sophia Vernon, Sr. Ames High: “One experience from NCYC that I will carry with me was when at Mass we said ‘amen’ during the homily, and we were able to hear the echo of our voices because we were so loud and proud.”

Elle Nguyen, Sr. Gilbert High: “NCYC was definitely a one of a kind experience, especially being able to sit there and experience God with thousands of other teens.”

Rebecca Murphy, Sr. Ames High: “Attending NCYC for me not only reaffirmed that I truly belong in the Church and that this is truly a second home for me but it also reminded me of why I said yes to the Church through Confirmation.”

William Soupir, So. Gilbert High: “NCYC was an incredible experience all around, from the first to last sessions. My favorite parts were all three times that Bishop Joe Espailat II (Archdiocese of New York City) appeared and spoke, as well as when the ‘amen’ echoed through the stadium.”

Albany Read, Fr. Ames High: “My favorite part of NCYC was just the community that surrounded me and the amount that I grew with Jesus. I enjoyed the insane size of the crowd that I can't experience anywhere else but here and I just know that I'm going to miss that but I look forward to continuing this feeling.”

Joseph Stone, Fr. Homeschool: “My favorite part of NCYC was the music, hat trading, hanging out with friends, and learning that I'm not alone in this, none of us are, if we try to take on life on our own we're not going to succeed and in this alone, we have God and we have each other.”

Zachary Loecke, So. Ames High: “My favorite part of NCYC was the final breakout session into the Closing Mass, all of Ames together as a group as we glorified and learned about God.”

Christian Humphrey, So. Ames High: “My favorite part of NCYC was the hat trading and Adoration.”

Cael O'Brien, So. Gilbert High: “I liked Bishop Joe and how he made Jesus more relatable for me. I liked the hat trading. It was a fun and unique thing that I've never done before. I thought it was so cool to see so many priests doing confession.”

Susan O'Brien, Adult Chaperone: “It was wonderful to see the kids pushing themselves outside their comfort zone as they deepened their faith with God. It was a joy to accompany them.”

Maria Schneider, Adult Chaperone: “We had an exceptional group of kids. I am so thankful that I got to experience NCYC with them! Their faith lives as they came on the trip ranged from admittedly almost nothing to profoundly deep. What I love about NCYC is that it was able to reach the hearts of each of them (where they were) and draw them closer to the heart of Christ.”

Mindy Stahr, Adult Chaperone: “This is my 4th NCYC and I am enriched each time I attend. I am wowed by the fire of the Holy Spirit that gets enkindled in the teens! My personal faith increases by observing the teens, attending the breakout and general sessions and through the deep faith experiences of Reconciliation, Adoration and Mass. A takeaway quote, ‘Life is not a problem to be solved but is a beautiful mystery to be contemplated with joy.’ Soren Kierkegaard”

Lisa Schmidt, Adult Chaperone: “I knew spending time with our youth would be spiritually enriching and energizing. What I wasn't prepared to receive, however, are the beautiful spiritual friendships that have been formed with the other adult chaperones. I'm filled with hope as I continue to journey in faith with them!”

Michelle Soupir, Adult Chaperone: “As an adult, NCYC was an incredible experience! I was able to observe the holy spirit moving in the speakers, providing inspirational words and messages that connected with our teens. Bishop Joe's homily during the Saturday mass was amazing; his passion and love for Jesus spread through the stadium and for me was an authentic and humble example of the purest love for Jesus that we can all strive to attain! Another high point was watching our teens form new friendships based on their shared authentic Catholic community.”

Erica Wenzl, Adult Chaperone: “As a chaperone, NCYC as a whole is an amazing experience. Bishop Joe Espaillat II (Archdiocese of New York City) made excellent points during both Adoration and his homily during Mass. Seeing his love for the Lord and how teens carried out that love throughout the conference.”

Yvonne Romitti, Adult Chaperone: “I felt the love of Jesus everywhere at NCYC. It was so wonderful to see all the teens so enthusiastic for the Lord!”

Pat Stahr, Adult Chaperone: “

Brad Powers, Adult Chaperone: “

Barb Read, Adult Chaperone: “

Matt Aitchison, Adult Chaperone: “