



August 2008

Dear Youth Ministry Leaders:

The *National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)* sends best wishes as the summer draws to a close. This letter is about sports – and how your sports program can best reflect our Catholic mission and values.

Did you know that over 52% of Catholic school students and more than 40 million young people play sports in Catholic sponsored programs & CYO? That more than 5 million adults coach Catholic youth sports teams in Catholic schools and parishes?

National CYO Sports (formerly the National Center for Catholic Youth Sports) is part of the NFCYM. Hershey's Fund Raising has been our founding partner since we started 5 years ago. Hershey's supports our mission to empower athletic leaders to animate Gospel values in Catholic youth sports, and to encourage young people to live as disciples of Jesus. Hershey also knows that sports teams need funding for equipment, travel and training. When you review your fundraising efforts, think of Hershey's, our valued partner, as a solution to your funding needs. Enclosed is information about Hershey's Fund Raising programs.

National CYO Sports is literally putting the "Catholic" back into youth sports. We know the sports scene. We know that the pressure to win and over-invested parents are common occurrences. We know that our Catholic high schools have many part time coaches who aren't always connected to the school community.

National CYO Sports works with athletic leaders, coaches, and parents to make the connection between our Catholic identity and values and our highly visible sports programs. We have developed preventive and responsive strategies and resources to train coaches, educators, and parents. We share the goal of integrating our Catholic mission, identity, and values into sports programs. Here are samples of our services:

- On-line coaches training and certification program – **Catholic Coaching Essentials on line Course**
- Catholic School and diocesan wide consultations for athletic staff leaders to help them align their athletic programs with the mission and values of our Catholic faith.
- On-site Coaches training – helping Coaches see their role through the lens of Catholic youth ministry
- The Parents as Partners in Catholic Youth Sports resource and parent training to address parent's roles
- Training for leaders on integrating Catholic leadership principles and values into sports, connecting sports and spirituality. This includes preventing and responding to common sports related conflicts.

The **NFCYM, National CYO Sports, and Hershey's Fund Raising** serve Catholic schools throughout the U.S. Please contact Dobie Moser at 202.636.3825 x 19 or visit www.NationalCYOSports.org to learn more. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry with young people.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McCarty, D.Min.
Executive Director, NFCYM

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