

Keynote by Fr. Joseph Espilliat

Fr. Joe was raised in Manhattan and ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of New York in 2003. Prior to ordination, he obtained a master of divinity in theology and masters of theology (specializing in Church history) from St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. Fr. Joe currently serves as pastor and director of the Hispanic Charismatic Renewal in the archdiocese and director of the Renewal's retreat house in the archdiocese in the Bronx.

In addition to administering the sacraments and proclaiming God's Word, Fr. Joe loves working with youth and helping them encounter Christ. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching movies, writing poetry, and rapping. He has led numerous missionary trips

to the Dominican Republic (his parent's homeland) and Haiti and is founder of the Messengers of Christ ministry, a music, hip-hop, and evangelization ministry that performs around the country and at two World Youth Days.



Every parish and school delegation is encouraged to bring a poster representing their parish or school youth ministry. Take pictures, bring stories, and share the good works of your community!



Sample Bulletin Announcement

Live the Truth! Teens in grades 8 – 12 are invited to the Diocesan Youth Congress for teens on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at Assumption Regional Catholic School in Galloway, NJ. This day-long event provides teens with a chance to make new friends, explore their faith through service and connect more deeply with God. The schedule includes dynamic service events, inspiring prayer, and national speaker. Contact your parish's youth minister or pastor for more information or visit Youth Ministries at www.camdendiocese.org/diocesan-youth-congress-2018 for more information.

Sample Prayers of the Faithful

For the young people participating in the Diocesan Youth Congress and all young people of the Diocese of Camden, that the Holy Spirit may guide and bless their lives as they seek to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and grow as missionary disciples. We pray to the Lord.

For the teens of our parish participating in the Diocesan Youth Congress, that they may be strengthened to grow and understand their call as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to inspire, guide and lead the young people as they discern their call to be missionary disciples. We pray to the Lord.

TEENS GRADES 8-12

#LIVE THE TRUTH

SUNDAY
MARCH 11, 2018
12:30 - 7PM

ASSUMPTION REGIONAL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
(OLPH PARISH).
146 S. PITNEY ROAD.
GALLOWAY, NJ 08205

YOUTH ADULT CAMPUS
Ministries
www.youthcampus.org
DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

INFO

gregory.coogan@camdendiocese.org • 856.583.2908 • www.camdendiocese.org

Special Features for 2018!

- ◆ Package 40,000 meals for the hungry in partnership with Rise Against Hunger
- ◆ Hear dynamic speakers
- ◆ Meet other Catholic youth from South Jersey
- ◆ Celebrate and pray at Mass for all we serve.



A Full Day of Service, Friends and Fun!

- 12:00 PM **Registration Begins**
- 12:30 PM **Welcome & Opening Prayer**
- 1:00 PM **Keynote with Fr. Joe Espiallat**
- 2:00 PM **Break**
- 2:15 PM **Breakouts & Meal Packing Session #1**
- 3:30 PM **Breakouts & Meal Packing Session #2**
- 5:00 PM **Mass with Bishop Sullivan (Parents are invited)**
- 6:00 PM **Dinner**

What are people saying? Quotes from teens who attended in past years:

- “I love making a difference feeding so many people.”
- “I felt like part of something bigger.”



Pope Francis has dedicated the [15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](#) in October 2018 . . . to be focused on the theme of "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment."

Prayer for the Synod

Lord Jesus, in journeying towards the Synod, your Church turns her attention to all the young people of the world. We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.

Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others. Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from you. May they be witnesses to your Resurrection and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord.

Amen.

Diocesan Youth Congress

Answers to the Most-Frequently-Asked-Questions!

What is the Diocesan Youth Congress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Youth Congress is an exciting, one-day experience of prayer, service, learning, community and evangelization for Catholic teenagers (grades 8-12) and their adult chaperones. ◆ The schedule includes liturgy, prayer, breakouts and a large group service experience. Dinner is included. Registration is \$25 per person or \$85 for a group of 4 no exceptions.
Why attend <i>DYC 2018?</i> #LivetheTruth	<p>Youth and adult participants attend Youth Congress so they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Celebrate youth ministry programming with renewed energy. ◆ Learn, pray and serve together as church. ◆ Strengthen their parish youth ministry program. ◆ Re-connect and rekindle friendships from past <i>DYC</i> events and create new relationships with youth from around the diocese. ◆ Honor the gifts that young people bring to our parishes, schools, the church and the world. ◆ Recommit themselves to serving God and the church and to Live the Truth in our families, parishes and schools
What will the mega sessions talk about?	<p>Sessions are designed to enhance personal and spiritual growth. These sessions also model for youth and adults activities that can happen in their youth ministry programs. Breakouts will have unique options for service and learning.</p>
What's offered for leaders?	<p>One of the special features of Youth Congress is <i>the opportunity to minister with your young people; work together as a team; and discuss the impact of the day with them.</i></p>
How many adults should attend?	<p>Please register <u>at least two adults for every ten youth</u> registered. Remember to invite the adults on your Youth Ministry Leadership Team for an exciting day!</p>
How can I register?	<p>Young people should consult with their Parish or School Leader to register. The Parish or School Group Leader should note the Registration Policies below.</p>

REGISTRATION POLICIES

- ◆ **Registration Deadline is Monday, March 5, 2018.**
To register, the Parish or School Group Leader must submit:
 - ◆ The completed and signed Registration Form;
 - ◆ A Permission Slip, Medical Form and Participant Expectations Form (with originals) for each youth attending
 - ◆ **ONE CHECK PER PARISH** for the entire amount (payable to "Diocese of Camden")
- ◆ **Refunds** No refunds will be given for cancellations.
- ◆ **PERMISSION SLIPS:** The Parish Group Leader is responsible for submitting a completed and signed Permission Slip to Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministries for each young person attending *Diocesan Youth Congress*. Only originals can be accepted – **no photocopies or faxes**. Parish Group Leaders should make a photocopy of each permission slip to keep for their records before submitting them to the Office of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministries.
- ◆ **Mail registration & permission forms and fees to:** Diocese of Camden Youth Ministry
631 Market Street
Camden, NJ 08102
Attn: Martha A. Scutte