



**56th
Archdiocesan
Youth Conference**

July 20-22, 2012

**Registration and
Information
Packet**

*Hilton Americas Hotel
1600 Lamar Street
Houston, Texas 77010*


Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Office of Youth Ministry
2403 Halcombe Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77021
713.741.8723**

The Office of Youth Ministry is supported by the Diocesan Services Fund

Our Mother of Mercy Youth Commission
4000 Sumpter Street
Houston, Texas 77020-2497

www.ourmotherofmercy.net contact email address info@ourmotherofmercy.net

TO: Our Mother of Mercy High School Students
RE: 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference – July 20 – 22, 2012
DATE: November 13, 2011
FROM: Paul H. Ledet, Jr.  OMOM

Greetings:

Enclosed is the registration package for the 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference. Please read careful and have a conversation with your parents and or parents have a conversation with your youth. Please adhere to all deadlines.

Attached you will find the following information:

Registration Form
Parent Consent/Liability/Waiver/Medical Consent Form
Scholarship Application & Essay
ALL FORMS MUST BE NO LATER THAN APRIL 29, 2012 NO EXCEPTION

Total Cost per registration is \$85.00

Inclusive of the following:

Hotel Stay for two nights
Conference Tee Shirt
Food – Friday Evening
1/3 Conference Registration

The money is due – April 29, 2012 – NO EXCEPTIONS

Any questions you may see me or contact me at

(832) 971-3456
Phledet64@aol.com

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Conference Registration and Housing Payments are made payable to the Office of Youth Ministry and can only be made by way of one of the following:

Parish Check
Cashier's Check
Money Order
Cash

NO PERSONAL CHECKS

Complete Registrations are sent to:
Office of Youth Ministry
2403 Holcombe Boulevard
Houston, TX 77021

For additional information, contact:

Luz Guerrero
(713) 741-8723

or

Elda Skrehot
(713) 741-8778

or

AYC@archgh.org

2012

Archdiocesan Youth Conference Mission Statement

The Archdiocesan Youth Conference is an opportunity to bring the youth of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston together for a weekend to renew faith, deepen their relationship with Christ, build community and to celebrate the diversity of the our local Church.

Explore

- current issues that young people face
- the role of youth in the church
- avenues of discipleship (evangelization, spiritual growth, working for peace & justice)
- ways to bring about healing through reconciliation
- how to develop healthy relationships with peers, adults and parents

Experience

- community building
- a gathering which will offer a time to refresh and renew faith
- faith nurtured liturgies and the presence of the Holy Spirit
- the reality of diverse cultures and faith expressions
- increased hope through various presentations and worship experiences
- celebration of life through prayer, song, and dance

Express

- issues of faith and how to respond to church teachings
- the Good News of Jesus Christ by being a modern day disciple
- questions about faith
- a love of church, each other, and an acceptance of diversity
- actions for peace and justice in our world
- outward jubilation of joy in living as a Catholic Christian

2012 Major Presenters



Steve Angrisano is a veteran musician, composer and youth minister who has been featured at 6 World Youth Days, several National Catholic Youth Conferences and many diocesan youth conventions/ conferences , Steve Angrisano's easy, honest style of ministry is born from who he is: a committed witness to the life and love of Jesus Christ. No matter if the song is deep and moving like Welcome Home or a driving anthem calling us to discipleship like Go Make A Difference; whether the event is in an arena with tens of thousands of people, a parish mission where hundreds participate , or a weekend youth retreat with only dozens gathered, there is a consistent awareness that Steve is not just a performer. His genuine and sincere desire to bring everyone to a closer relationship with the Lord is what gives each event its own distinctive spiritual energy.

Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Those who are young (and young at heart) embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling. Always rooted in a spirit of humility and faithfulness, Steve has a keen intuition regarding the needs of any audience and engages them with his unique blend of humor, song, story and interaction. This makes him both a natural and popular choice for diverse parish, diocesan, national and world-wide events.

Though Steve spends a great deal of time in any given year on the road (indicated by tens of thousands frequent flyer miles he's earned) and his life may seem to be a whirlwind of activity with little time left to be 'contemplative', he is a man of deep prayer who is devoted to his wife Jenni and their three children. He has often said that he LOVES being Catholic and encourages each of us to remember that to be holy means to start where we're at right now, because we are all called to be

Mary Bielski, Born in Indianapolis, Mary grew up in a dynamic, loving family as the youngest of five children. With both parents involved in ministry and Catholic evangelization, the seeds of faith were impressed upon her at a young age. As an active teen, Mary was involved in student council, three varsity sports, and leadership roles in high school. To all, she seemed to have her act together, but internally Mary's high school years were a time of great struggle. She wrestled with deep questions about herself, life, and God.



Mary, like so many teens, sought answers to these questions in the world. In college, she lived her faith in the gray, with one foot in the party scene and the other in church. "I swayed back and forth between those two worlds because it's easy living in the middle," Mary says. "But when God calls us, He calls us TOTALLY – just like Jesus on the cross. He desires not just part of our hearts, not just part of our lives. He desires all of us. This is the heart of ALL4HIM Ministries." In the summer after her freshman year of college, this "total call" swept into Mary's life and heart and led to a strong conversion of faith that changed her life forever. Through the witness of beautiful Carmelite nuns, a dedicated youth minister, and a number of grace-filled events, Mary encountered the intimate love of Jesus and the call to live a life totally for Him.

This love led to answers that began to fulfill the deep searching within Mary. She added a second major in Theology at Marquette University and began to live her passion through youth ministry in her home parish. As a core member for eight years, Mary began to speak and share her stories in neighboring dioceses. Now, Mary speaks across the country, sharing her heart and her love for God.

2012 Major Presenters

Mark Hart serves as Executive Vice President for Life Teen International and is affectionately known to millions across the world simply as the "Bible Geek®". An award-winning author and producer, Mark is one of the most sought after speakers in the Catholic Church today. He is a popular guest on several radio shows, including a weekly regular on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio.

The author (or co-author) of ten books, his book "Blessed are the Bored in Spirit" quickly found its way onto the Catholic best-seller list. His latest resource, the new Catholic Teen Bible from Life Teen, is receiving national acclaim.

Additionally, his interactive DVD Bible Study series, T3, is revolutionizing teen and young adult Scripture Study - now with four volumes spanning Genesis to Revelation. Mark's free, weekly podcasts (Sunday, Sunday, Sunday) are available through iTunes heard by hundreds of thousands of souls each week in over 20 countries.

Mark currently lives outside of Phoenix, AZ with his amazing wife, Melanie, and their three beautiful daughters, Hope, Trinity and Faith.



Brian K. Johnson is a national and international keynote speaker, workshop presenter, retreat master, revivalist and diocesan director. He has been in youth ministry for 26 years and has been with Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of Youth Ministry for 20 years, the past 14 as the Director. In addition to his role for the Archdiocese, he serves as one of the local area contacts for Life Teen. He previously served as the coordinator of youth ministry at the parishes of St. Cecilia and St. Gregory the Great in Baltimore. His ministry has taken him to over sixty dioceses, 49 states and several foreign countries. Brian holds a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from St. Thomas University.

Although born in Baltimore, Maryland, Brian considers himself a true Texan living in Houston for 20 years. Godfather through Baptism to five children and through Confirmation to six teens, when he is not working, you can find Brian cheering for his beloved Astros and Rockets at a home game.

He is a past board member of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, Past Regional Coordinator for Region 10, and currently serves as the Region 10 Treasurer. He was a keynote presenter for the National Black Catholic Congress in Baltimore (1997), the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in Pittsburgh (2004), and the National Catholic Youth Conference (1995) in Minneapolis and (2009) in Kansas City, Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference in Little Rock (2010) and most recently Nation Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in New Orleans (2010).

He is one part singer, one part storyteller, one part comedian and all parts spiritual.

His daily motto is, "There is nothing that God and I can't handle together!"

2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference

General Information

Frequently Asked Questions

Helpful Hints

We have had many requests from "newcomers" to the AYC to provide some additional information to make the AYC experience even better. So ... for newcomers (and veterans that need some brushing up!) here is that information you requested!

Who may attend the 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference?

- Incoming freshmen through outgoing seniors are invited to attend the conference!
- AYC is structured to be developmentally appropriate for high school students. Please give younger adolescents something to look forward to.
- Participants younger than high school WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE.
- Only those registered are allowed at the Conference activities and events. All others will be asked to leave the hotel.
- Daycare is not provided at AYC; therefore, we humbly ask adult chaperones to make other arrangements for the care of their toddlers and children. Exceptions are made for those chaperones who are currently nursing newborns.

How much is the 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference?

- Conference registration for the 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference is \$85.00 per person.
- The hotel room cost for the Hilton Americas is \$128.00 and the Embassy Suites is \$150.00. All costs are per room/per night (this includes the 11% tax we are not exempt from).
- The *average cost per young person* (when 4 to a room/**including registration fee**): \$149.00 (Hilton Americas) and \$160.00 (Embassy Suites). This is only an increase of \$3.00 from 2011 for those in the Hilton.

What is included in the Registration Fee?

- 2 nights at the Hilton Americas or Embassy Suites Hotels, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Dinner, and conference sessions and activities

What is NOT included in the Registration Fee?

- The cost does not cover transportation to and from the Archdiocesan Youth Conference, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Sunday breakfast, parking or t-shirt.

Do Chaperones have to pay?

- Yes! Chaperones are also considered participants of the conference

Will the AYC accommodate special diets?

Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to meet a variety of dietary needs. We will provide a vegetarian meal in replacement of the typical beef and chicken plates.

Vegetarian plate requests must be placed on the Excel sheet in order to be processed.



2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference

General Information

Frequently Asked Questions

Helpful Hints

Is scholarship assistance available?

- If financial assistance is needed, a Scholarship Request Form must be completed for each teen requesting assistance.
- All requests are due by May 25, 2012 and must be accompanied by an essay from the teen requesting scholarship.
- Scholarships do not cover housing or transportation costs.
- The form is located within this packet.

Will participants need additional money?

- Additional money is needed for meals not covered in the registration cost and for T-shirts if they weren't pre-ordered.
- For those who wish to purchase religious goods and t-shirts, various vendors will also be available.

What is the cancellation policy?

- After June 18, 2012, registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable due to hotel contractual agreements.

How do I make substitutions for the Archdiocesan Youth Conference?

- Substitutions must be received IN WRITING utilizing the Substitution Form. All paperwork must be fully complete or the substitution will not be accepted. A new Excel file will not be needed.
- To ease the confusion with reworking rooming assignments, it is ideal that adults be substituted for adults, female for female and male for male, etc.. If your rooming situation allows, youth may be substituted for adults.

Who may chaperone the 2012 Archdiocesan Youth Conference?

- Adults must be at least 21 years or older to be considered a chaperone for the Archdiocesan Youth Conference.
- There MUST be at least 1 adult for every 10 youth in attendance.
- Young adults (older than graduating seniors) cannot register for the conference. Please contact the OYM if you have specific questions about the age of sponsors.
- Additionally, all key leaders and chaperones must have completed all safe environment protocols (VIRTUS and criminal background checks) completed one week prior to AYC in order to participate.



AYC Scholarship Application Form - Hand Delivered By May 25, 2012

CRITERIA

- ◆ A Scholarship Application can only be made by the youth participant once per program year (Program year: July 1-June 30).
- ◆ Scholarships are awarded toward registration cost (ONLY) per program/event. This does not include housing, travel, meals (unless included in registration costs). Full scholarship awards are not guaranteed.
- ◆ Scholarships will be distributed based on an individual need and not on a parish/school need.
- ◆ Participants who have been awarded scholarships and failed to participate or attend the program, forfeit the opportunity to apply for scholarship during the remaining program year and the scholarship is non-transferrable.
- ◆ Scholarship forms along with actual registration forms must be completed and returned to the Office of Youth Ministry by the program scholarship deadline.
- ◆ Scholarship awards are non-transferable.
- ◆ Late fees or substitution fees are not included in scholarship awards.

Youth Participant's Name: _____ Parish/Catholic School: _____

Participant's Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

How much is the total parish costs per person? \$ _____
 (This should include registration housing, transportation etc. for each person)

How much financial assistance is being requested from the Archdiocese? \$ _____

How much is the parish/school contributing? \$ _____
 (Each parish is expected to contribute something toward the cost of the event.)

How much are you able to contribute? \$ _____
 (Each participant is expected to contribute something toward the cost of the event.)

In a one page essay, the teen is to share how AYC will be of benefit to his/her faith life through attendance and active participation in the conference. (Please attach to this form) / If the essay is not included, the scholarship request will be denied.

I understand that failure to fully participate or attend this program; will result in our parish/school being ineligible to apply for further scholarship assistance this program year.

 Youth Participant's Signature Date

 Parent/Guardian Signature Date

 Coordinator of Youth Ministry Signature Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Request Accepted: _____ Request Denied: _____
 Must be initialed by
 OYM Director or Designee Amount Granted _____



Cost per person:

Includes Registration, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday, and all Conference Festivities

Name: _____

Male or Female

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Parish/Catholic School: _____

Year in School as of August 2012: 9 10 11 12 Class of 2012 HS Graduate

(If Parish Orders Conference Shirts Circle One)

Shirt Size: Small Medium Large XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

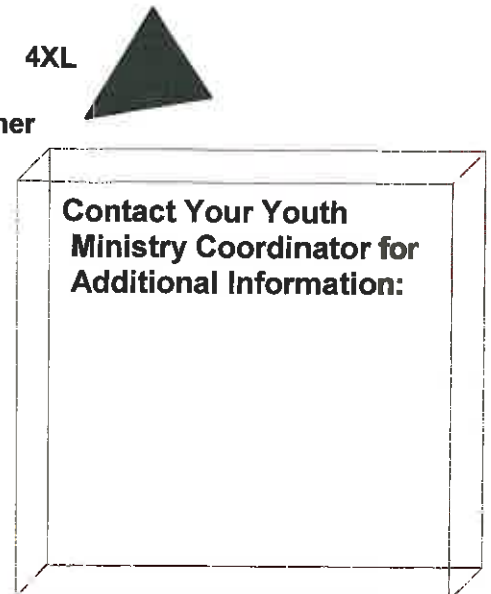
Check this box if you desire vegetarian plates for Lunch and Dinner

Please contact the Office of Youth Ministry if there is a request to assist a person with disabilities (ie. Wheel chair accessibility, hearing impaired, visually impaired, etc.):

Please make checks payable to:

Return Registration Form with the following items to your youth ministry leader:

- **Parent Consent/Liability/Waiver/Medical Consent Form**



- I am responsible for my own actions. I am asked to assume the natural consequences for any negative behavior or disturbance. I will take full responsibility for any damage or theft as a result of my actions. I understand that youth/adult leaders are acting in my best interest and for the benefit of this event and will be enforcing this code of behavior. I understand that I need to listen when asked or instructed to act.
- I am expected to attend all aspects of the event mentioned above. I will report to any and all check-in times as a result of my participation in AYC. I understand that if I fail to appear at any AYC events or check-in times, my parent(s) will immediately be notified.
- As a representative of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a guest of the Hilton Americas and Embassy Suites Hotels, I understand that I am to be respectful and courteous to ALL hotel guests and staff. I agree to abide by the curfew set by AYC and hotel staff. I also understand that if I am found to exceed the noise level deemed acceptable by the hotels, I will be asked to leave the hotel and will be excused from attending the remainder of the 2012 AYC.
- For my safety, I realize that I am not allowed to leave the event site for ANY reason without written consent of my parent/legal guardian or for meals with my parish chaperones. I understand if I need to leave the event site for any reason, I must be accompanied by my parent/guardian.
- ALCOHOL, CIGARETTES, WEAPONS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Possession of these items is grounds for immediate dismissal. (Weapons are defined as: knives, switchblades, guns, chains, or items intended to cause harm.)
- I agree to have the best possible time at the AYC and to share the spirit of Christian joy and friendship with other participants. In order for this to happen I agree to be prompt, to attend all Conference sessions, and to participate in all AYC activities. It is also important that I wear my Conference badge around my neck during all AYC activities.
- Regarding the accommodations, I understand that all hotel guests are required to stay in their assigned rooms and I agree not to change rooms. I also agree not to visit rooms with members of the opposite sex.
- For my safety, if I swim in the pool, I understand that there is no lifeguard. I swim at my own risk.
- Christ-like behavior is expected from me at all times. Inappropriate contact, touch, gesture, language or activity of an offensive nature is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- I agree to abide by this "Code of Behavior." As a representative of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, I am asked to project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity and respect to others and to the property around me. Infractions of these rules will result in Event Staff/or Supervising Adult discussing the infraction with me. In the unlikely event that a behavior problem requires action, my parent(s) or guardian will be notified and I will be dismissed from this event. My parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be expected to pick me up or I will be sent home with an adult chaperone at my own expense.

Youth Participant: With my signature on the PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT, LIABILITY WAIVER AND MEDICAL CONSENT I understand and accept the "Code" outlined above.

Parent/Guardian: With my signature on the PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT, LIABILITY WAIVER AND MEDICAL CONSENT, I accept the conditions stated above regarding my child's participation at AYC 2012. I give permission for my child to attend. As a participant, he/she has my permission to be driven to and from the event ONLY by an adult chaperone. I understand that all drivers must be 21 years of age or older, and from my parish (unless parishes have a prior arrangement to



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of Youth Ministry

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM & LIABILITY WAIVER

Participant's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Home Address _____ City/Zip Code _____
 Parish or Catholic School _____ Grade (As of Aug. 2012) _____
 Age _____ Sex _____
 Participant's Email Address _____
 Participant's Cell Phone: () _____
 Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____ Home Phone () _____
 Cell Phone Number: () _____

CONSENT & LIABILITY WAIVER

**Important! To be filled out by the Parent/Guardian for youth under 18 years of age.
 If participant is 18 years of age or older, consent must be signed by the individual)**

I (name of parent/guardian) _____, grant permission for my child, (participant's name),
 _____ to participate in the Archdiocesan Youth Conference (July 20-22, 2012) at the Hilton
 Americas Hotel.

I agree on behalf of myself, my child's other parent if known or living (name of parent), _____, my child
 named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns and defend the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the sponsoring parish/school
 (its pastor, youth ministry leader, principal, other agents, etc.) or any representatives associated with the scheduled activity unless the
 parties involved were careless and negligent.

In signing this form I certify that all information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

 Signature (Parent/Guardian)

 Date

YOUTH PARTICIPANT: In signing the line below I agree to abide by any/all policies and rules established for this event/activity
 (see Code of Conduct). Should I not be able to maintain the guidelines and expectations of the adults and my peers, I understand that
 there will be consequences for my actions, including being removed from the activity and being sent home at my parent's expense.

 Signature (Youth Participant)

 Date

VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT

As parent/guardian, I understand that promotional pictures and videos (individual and group) will be taken during this event. I give
 permission for my son's/daughter's picture to be used for promotional materials (newsletter, web page, calendars, power point, video
 etc.) in highlighting the event.

 Signature (Parent/Guardian)

 Date

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

Medical Matters

I hereby warrant to the best of my knowledge, my child is in good health, and I assume all responsibility for the health of my child. Of the following statements pertaining to medical matters, sign only those in accordance with your wishes:

Emergency Medical Treatment

In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to transport my child to a hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment. I wish to be advised prior to any further treatment by the hospital or doctor.

In the even of an emergency and you are unable to reach me, contact:

Name & Relationship _____ Phone _____

Family Doctor _____ Phone _____

Medications

My child will bring all such medications, well labeled, that are necessary. Names of medications and concise directions for seeing that the child takes such medications, including dosage and frequency are as follows

My child is taking the following medication at the present time.

Medication(s): _____ Dosage: _____

Administer: _____

I Grant Permission for nonprescription medication (such as Tylenol, throat lozenges, cough syrup) to be given to my child, if deemed advisable. I understand that Aspirin will not be given to my son/daughter. (Please initial)

OR

I Do Not Grant Permission for medication of any type, whether prescription or nonprescription may be administered by my child unless the situation is life threatening and emergency treatment is required. (Please initial)

Medical Conditions Information: (Archdiocesan personnel will take reasonable care to see that the following information will be held in confidence.)

My son/daughter has:

- Has had an episode the following or has been diagnosed: Seizures Asthma Diabetic
- Allergic reactions to the following (foods, dyes, latex etc.) _____
- Has had a medical surgery within the last six months? Yes No Still under doctor's care? Yes No
- Has a medically prescribed diet? _____
- The following physical limitations? _____
- Immunizations current and up to date: Yes No Date of last tetanus/diphtheria immunization _____
- You should also be aware of these special medical conditions of my child (e.g. depression, anxiety, etc.): _____

Insurance Information: No, I do not carry medical insurance at this time.

Insurance Carrier: _____ Name of Insured: _____

Insurance Policy Number: _____

Father's Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

In the event it comes to the attention of the chaperones associated with the activity that my child becomes ill with repeated symptoms such as headache, vomiting, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, I want to be called immediately. If this will be a long distance call, I want to be called collect (with phone charges reversed to myself). I fully understand the foregoing statements and sign this Parental/Guardian Medical Consent Waiver knowingly, freely, and willingly.

Signature (Parent/Guardian) Parent/Guardian must sign for anyone under 18 years of age. _____ Date _____

Signature (Participant 18 years of age or older must sign own consent) _____ Date _____

*The Future
Is Here...*



*The Future
Is Now!*

**Catholic Youth Ministry
Archdiocese Of Galveston-Houston**