

Overview

who?

All 7th – 12th graders from across the Archdiocese of New Orleans are invited to attend; groups from parish youth ministry programs, high school religious education/Confirmation classes, and high schools are very welcomed and encouraged!

what?

Our 38th Archdiocesan Youth Conference! There will be inspirational speakers, workshops to deepen our faith and learn more about how to live it out in our everyday lives, the celebration of the Mass with Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the sacrament of Reconciliation, a time of Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship music, prayer opportunities, exhibitors and more!

when?

Saturday, September 27, 2025
Doors open at 9:00 AM; day concludes at 5:00 PM

where?

Jesuit High School, 4133 Banks St. New Orleans, LA 70119

why?

To join young people from across the greater New Orleans area in celebrating the young Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

how?

Group leaders can register groups online:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/5492e7c0-d7b2-48d1-ae62-b3c358ab6105> 

Group leaders will need the number of students, number of adults, and lunch choices, in order to register. Group registrations must be submitted by **4:00 PM on Friday, September 12, 2025**. Following registration, group leaders will be sent information on making payments. Credit card payments are accepted online or a check may be mailed to the CYO Office. Payments must be complete prior to the conference. This is the **ONLY** deadline and the cost is \$45 per participant.

illuminate

2025 theme

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY SET ON A MOUNTAIN CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NOR DO THEY LIGHT A LAMP AND THEN PUT IT UNDER A BUSHEL BASKET; IT IS SET ON A LAMPSTAND, WHERE IT GIVES LIGHT TO ALL IN THE HOUSE." MATTHEW 5:14-15. THE WORLD AROUND US, ESPECIALLY TODAY, CAN SOMETIMES SEEM LIKE A DARK PLACE. EVERY DAY OUR WORLD IS FACED WITH THAT DARKNESS, AND THE UNKNOWN AND UNCERTAINTY THAT IT BRINGS. OUR LORD HAS CREATED US TO BE A LIGHT INTO THAT DARKNESS, AND AS HIS DISCIPLES, WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE THAT LIGHT WITH THOSE AROUND US. BY EMBRACING THE LIGHT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, AND SHARING IT BOLDLY, WE CAN BRING THE LIGHT OF HIS TRUTH AND LOVE TO A WORLD THAT SO OFTEN REMAINS IN DARKNESS.

Schedule

(subject to change)

9:00 AM	Doors Open/Music & Icebreakers on Main Stage	2:00 PM	Workshops Round 2
	Welcome by Archbishop Aymond	3:00 PM	Mass with Archbishop Gregory Aymond
10:15 AM	Keynote on Main Stage	4:00 PM	Adoration
11:30 AM	Workshops Round 1	5:00 PM	Conclusion & Dismissal
12:00 PM	Lunch/Exhibitors/Confessions Available		



Featured Speakers

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond mass celebrant

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond will join us once again for our annual youth conference! He will be with us at different points throughout the day, and will serve as our main celebrant and homilist for the NOLA Catholic Youth Conference Mass. His presence is a tremendous blessing for us. He wants the young people of our Archdiocese to know that they are important to the Church, not just as the future, but as part of the vibrant present!

Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR keynote & workshop speaker

Fr. Agustino Miguel Torres is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR), a religious community established in the Bronx, NY that is dedicated to work with the poor and evangelization. He is currently the community's Itinerant Preacher and CFR General Council Member. In 2008, Fr. Agustino founded Corazón Puro, an organization dedicated to awakening and accompanying leaders in areas of great need, beginning with Hispanic youth and young adults. Every year, Fr. Agustino speaks to more than 25,000 youth and many more through the media. Recent projects include the creation of post-confirmation toolkits for Hispanic youth and young adults in English and Spanish titled, R.E.A.L. Formation (Reawaken Educate Authentic Leaders), together with the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.



Fr. Jeff Merritt emcee



Fr. Jeff grew up in Algiers and went to Jesuit High School. Next, he went to Spring Hill College and then Tulane School of Medicine; but while he was in medical school, something felt off. A cradle Catholic, he started going to daily Mass to hear God's voice better. Slowly, God guided him to leave medical school, enroll at Notre Dame Seminary, and become a priest. Fr. Jeff is now a Parochial Vicar at St. Dominic as well as Chaplain for De La Salle High School. He is grateful for all that God has helped him to do in his three years of priesthood and is excited to serve as one of our emcees! He plays guitar, will happily debate philosophy and mythology and theology and superheroes, but does not understand why churchy peanut butter exists.

Featured Speakers



workshop speaker

Alanna Thibodeaux was born and raised in Slidell, Louisiana. Her love for the Catholic faith and youth ministry eventually led her to study at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Theology. In the past, she has served as a missionary with Vagabond Missions, and she currently teaches Religion at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School in Baton Rouge, and serves as the school's Coordinator of Religious Education. To further the mission she believes the Lord is calling her to, she is working on a Master's of Social Work, which she hopes to use in her community to further build the kingdom of God. Some of Alanna's favorite things are to accompany others in their walk with Jesus Christ, sing, and dance. Her greatest accomplishment in life is coming to know the heart of Jesus and becoming His disciple.

workshop speaker

Rhyan Ramirez, also known as "Bro Rhy", is a passionate and relatable speaker who's been serving in ministry for over 20 years. From small church gatherings to big national conferences, he's all about helping young people "realize with their real eyes" who they are in Christ, live with purpose, and walk confidently in their faith. With a background in mental health and experience as a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) educator, he knows how to connect real-life struggles with real hope. Whether he's telling stories, dropping truth, or helping teens see God in their everyday lives, his message is clear: You were made for this moment and the world needs your light.



music by
THE VIGIL PROJECT



The Vigil Project is a group of Catholic musicians who collaborate with new and known Catholic musicians around the world to create music for every moment of the Catholic journey. Following the Church's liturgical calendar, they share new music, host events for parish communities, and provide music leaders with resources for worship. Their mission is to restore devotional prayer in the Catholic Church that deepens participation in the Sacraments and liturgical seasons by helping Catholics learn to pray with music once again. The Vigil Project will be our music ministry leaders!

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION:

Conference wristbands and lunch tickets will be given out Thursday and Friday before the conference at school. Wristbands must be worn for entry into the event, and at all times throughout the day. Lunch tickets will be required to redeem for boxed lunches, and no day-of substitutions will be possible.

COST:

Registration is \$45 per person and includes lunch. Payment can be found on the Gulf Bank Site under "NOLA Youth Conference." Payment is due by midnight on Monday, September 8.

LUNCH:

Boxed lunches from Honey Baked Ham are included in the cost of the event. Participants will have a choice between: ham sandwich, turkey sandwich, chicken salad sandwich, California veggie sandwich, or vegetarian Cobb salad. Ms. Lannan will get your lunch option after payment is received.

LIABILITY FORMS:

Each student must have a completed Chapelle permission slip, which will be emailed to parents after payment has been received. These forms are due to Ms. Lannan by Monday September 9.

TRANSPORTATION:

Students are responsible for finding their own transportation to and from the event. Carpooling is recommended! If students drive, limited parking is available on-site, and will be first come, first served on the day of the event. Once on-site parking is at capacity, groups should utilize street parking around Jesuit. Chapelle will meet in front of the gym at Jesuit at 8:45am. Parents, please call Ms. Lannan if you have any trouble locating our group (251-510-8627). Ms. Lannan will also create a groupme to communicate to the girls where to meet the morning of the event.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Dress code is casual/comfortable, but please dress modestly and wear appropriate dress for the day. Please also keep in mind that we will attend both Mass and Adoration as part of the event. Dress must be in line with Chapelle "white dress down" rules.
- Participants are expected to remain on Jesuit High School grounds at all times for the duration of the event.
- Participants are expected to follow all directions, rules, etc. communicated by event staff. Respect should be shown to all adult volunteers, chaperones, speakers, presenters, entertainers, workers, etc. Participants are also expected to respect all property and facilities of Jesuit High School.
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, weapons, or anything dangerous are strictly prohibited.