



RESCUED

RESCATADO

48TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE
XLVIII CONFERENCIA JUNVENIL DIOCESANA

CHARLOTTE DIOCESE - ST JOSEPHAT EPARCHY

May 2-4, 2025 A.D.

RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER
BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



2 May 2025 A.D.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Thank you for choosing to come to the 48th annual Diocesan Youth Conference, “Rescued.” This weekend we come together because of Jesus and the life of faith we share in Him and through His Church, our spiritual home and place of refuge.

In this Sunday’s readings, the psalmist exclaims, “I will praise you, Lord, for You have rescued me” and we join our voices and repeat those words as we recall all the many ways that God has come to our aid and rescued us. Just last fall when we experienced the devastating destruction of hurricane Helene and the aftermath which, in many ways, remains and lingers still, we witnessed God’s saving power through the untold numbers of prayers and His People answering His call to come to clothe, feed, shelter and comfort those impacted by the ravages of the storm. For all these works, we give praise to the Lord for rescuing us!

God’s desire to rescue us is infinite, for He sent us Jesus to save us from sin so that we can spend all of eternity with Him in peace and joy and love. Rescued from sin by Jesus, we are called to go out and help our brothers and sisters in need by sharing the Gospel of Life and sharing the love of God with all who we encounter by being truly present to one another. We do this when we offer companionship and comfort to the lonely, lost, and forsaken, when we visit the sick and imprisoned, when we feed the hungry, offer drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, bury the dead, lead people away from sin, share our knowledge, support those who have doubts, comfort people when they are sad, show patience when we are hurt by others, forgive others and pray for both the living and the dead. This is our mission as disciples of Jesus!

My prayer for all who gather at DYC this weekend is for you to grow in your love of Jesus and His teachings, to grow in your love for one another and your willingness to care for each other, especially those in greatest need. In so doing, may we be light and hope for our all too often dark and desperate world. Rescued by Jesus, let us be rescuers in His Holy Name.

With Easter Joy,

Paul Jos. Kotlowski

Paul Jos. Kotlowski,
Diocesan Director for Youth Ministry

Conference Mission Statement

The mission of the DYC 2025 is to inspire the youth of the diocese to develop a personal relationship with Christ, to solidify their moral values and character, and to lead them to a deeper understanding of what it means to be rescued by our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Conference Prayer

Heavenly Father, our Rescuer, we cry out to You with hearts ablaze, desperate for Your saving grace. You have rescued us time and time again. Keep us from the grip of evil, persecution, and despair that suffocates our lives. Shake us awake, O Lord, and remind us that, only through You, can we be rescued and find eternal joy, freedom, and union. In this conference, let us rise, as those who have been rescued, to become rescuers for others. Let us storm the gates of despair. Help us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, accompany the lonely, and rescue the lost to find their path. We ask this through the intercession of St. Bernard of Menthon, who knew the urgency of rescue, with his guidance, and the strength of the Holy Spirit through Christ our Lord. Amen

THE ADDITIONAL TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I You represent the Catholic Church, your parish, and your family. You are expected to project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect for other people and property around you.
- II Adult chaperones are responsible for their youth and are encouraged to set the proper example and help keep these commandments.
- III **No one** may leave the camp without permission. In the event a need arises for you to leave, consent of your parish adult advisor **and** the Diocesan Director is necessary.
- IV Participants must attend all conference activities and **always have your nametag on.**
- V **Any** person at the conference in possession of or using alcohol or any illegal substance will be dismissed from the Conference immediately. This may result in their entire parish group being sent home. Proper authorities will also be notified.
- VI All participants are only allowed in their assigned dorms and must be in by curfew each night. Socializing is limited to open areas of the campus during non-curfew hours. Every parish is encouraged to gather as a group for shared prayer before lights out.
- VII There is a coffee shop, Clouds, open Friday 2pm-7pm, Saturday 7am-7pm, Sunday 7am-10am, at your own expense.
- VIII All participants are expected to be sensitive to the shared environment of Ridgecrest. Other faith communities will be present. Please be respectful of those around you.
- IX Everyone is responsible for cleanup! Any damages are the responsibility of the individual or the parish.
- X All youth participants are expected to respect and obey all Youth Ministers, Security Staff, Chaperones, volunteers, and the **Kahuna** for the duration of the conference. Any infraction of conference rules could result in immediate dismissal.

Rescued Conference Schedule

| FRIDAY, MAY 2 | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------------|
| 6:30 - 8:00 | Check-in and Games Workshop Sign ups | Pritchell & Arc Buildings |
| 8:00 - 8:20 | Introductions, Conference Prayer, Theme and Rules Video, Mission Statement | ARC |
| 8:20 - 9:00 | "Rescued From" Keynote - Fr. Pat Cahill | ARC |
| 9:00 - 9:20 | Small Group Sharing | ARC |
| 9:20 - 9:30 | Break | ARC |
| 9:30 - 10:15 | Holy Mass - Fr. Cahill | ARC |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Announcements | ARC |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Move to Dorms | Dorms |
| 11:00 | Grand Silence (Ridgecrest Rule) | |

| SATURDAY, MAY 3 | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 7:15 - 8:15am | Breakfast | Rhododendron |
| 8:30 - 8:45am | Morning Prayer | ARC |
| 8:45 - 9:30am | Morning Fun with Will | ARC |
| 9:30 - 9:40am | Saint Bernard Videos | ARC |
| 9:40 - 9:50am | Break | ARC |
| 9:50 - 10:30am | Holy Mass - Fr. O'Neal | ARC |
| 10:30 - 11:00am | Announcements and Dismissal | ARC |
| 11:00 - 12:00pm | Workshop Round 1 | Ivy |
| 12:00 - 1:00pm | Lunch | Rhododendron |

Rescued Conference Schedule

| SATURDAY, MAY 3 (continued) | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1:15 - 2:15pm | Workshop Round 2 | Ivy |
| 2:15 - 2:30pm | Break (stay in Ivy) | |
| 2:30 - 3:30pm | Workshop Round 3 | Ivy |
| 3:30 - 5:30pm | Free Time DYAC Interviews in the ARC at 4:20 | On Campus |
| 5:30 - 6:15pm | Dinner | Rhododendron |
| 6:30 - 8:00pm | Carnival | ARC |
| 8:00 - 8:15pm | Skit | ARC |
| 8:15 - 9:00pm | "Saved By" Keynote - Anne Trufant | ARC |
| 9:00 - 10:00pm | Eucharistic Procession & Adoration | Ivy to ARC |
| 10:00 - 10:30pm | Small Groups | ARC |
| 10:30pm | Announcements & Dismissal | ARC |
| 11:00 | Grand Silence | Dorms |

| SUNDAY, MAY 4 | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| 7:15-8:15 am | Breakfast | Rhododendron |
| 8:15-8:40 am | Clean up & Pack up | Dorms |
| 8:40-8:50 am | Morning Prayer | ARC |
| 8:50-9:00am | Recognitions & Coming Attractions | ARC |
| 9:00-9:40am | "Rescued For" Keynote - Dr. Matt Harrison | ARC |
| 9:40-10:20am | Small Group Sharing | ARC |
| 10:20-10:30am | Break & Evaluations | ARC |
| 10:30-11:30am | Holy Mass - Fr. O'Neal | ARC |
| 11:30am | Slideshow, Farewells & Dismissal | ARC |

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Workshop Descriptions

ROUND 1: 11:00AM

1. Rescued: Encountering the Lord's Mercy in the Sacrament of Confession — Fr. Christopher Brock

IVY
Room 6

This workshop will help you to better understand the Sacrament of Confession, and how this sacrament enables us to encounter the Lord's mercy in a concrete way in our lives.

**2. Blessed are You
— Dcn. Daniel Hoffert**

IVY
Room 7

Who are the "Blessed" Jesus Was Talking About in His Sermon on the Mount and other important things to know if you plan to go to Heaven someday. Come learn about the 8 beatitude and their importance to living your best life.

**3. Rescued from Anxiety and Despair
— Dcn. Bill Schreiber**

IVY
Room 8

Jesus came so that we might have life and have it abundantly! God wants us to know deep and true love. He wants us to be truly happy and to find purpose in our lives. Come explore how nurturing your spiritual life and friendship with Jesus can provide hope that breaks through our anxieties and fears.

**4. Masculinity: Toxic or Awesome? (BOYS ONLY)
— Mr. John Keating**

IVY
Room 9

True masculinity is never toxic, but a beautiful expression of God's love.

**5. Weeding the Garden of Your Soul
— Mr. Simeon Willis**

IVY
Room 10

There are seven capital sins, poisonous weeds in our soul, that all our other sins come from. Each of us has one of the seven at the root of all our sinful habits. Knowing which one is at the root empowers us to more effectively cooperate with God's grace in attacking our faults and sins and growing a garden pleasing to God in their place. Come explore which weed is the root of all your other personal sins and how to best pull it out! (This is a workshop with guided reflection.)

6. Eucharistic Adoration & The Sacrament of Reconciliation — *Jesus*

IVY
Room 11

Remain with Jesus in an Holy Hour of prayer and reflection.

ROUND 2: 1:15PM

7. Rescued: Encountering the Lord's Mercy in the Sacrament of Confession — *Fr. Christopher Brock*

IVY
Room 6

This workshop will help you to better understand the Sacrament of Confession, and how this sacrament enables us to encounter the Lord's mercy in a concrete way in our lives.

**8. DIE YOU DIE TODAY?
— *Mrs. Trica Poche***

IVY
Room 7

If you want to live forever get busy dying! Come and learn how to live the life you are called to live. In this session we will discuss how to carry your cross well. We will pray with scripture and learn from the Saints about how denying what we desire will lead to a closer relationship with God, a joy filled and peaceful existence and most importantly an eternity in Heaven.

9. Rescued from Anxiety: Become the Woman God Created You to Be (GIRLS ONLY) — *Mrs. Kathleen Prevost*

IVY
Room 8

Come hear words of hope for women about the deepest of life's questions: who am I? Am I loved? Is there life after death? How can I find happiness? How can I escape anxiety? Learn about our beautiful Catholic faith and discover practical strategies for your daily life.

**10. Rescued from Anxiety and Despair
— *Dcn. Bill Schreiber***

IVY
Room 9

Jesus came so that we might have life and have it abundantly! God wants us to know deep and true love. He wants us to be truly happy and to find purpose in our lives. Come explore how nurturing your spiritual life and friendship with Jesus can provide hope that breaks through our anxieties and fears.

**11. Called by God to Rescue!
— *Mrs. Dawn Matthews***

IVY
Room 10

As God rescues us throughout our lives, we, in turn, are called by God to help others in need. Come hear how God has called Mrs. Dawn Matthews to leave the comforts of home and the familiar to travel around the world to bring the hope of Jesus and the promise of better lives to the poor.

12. Eucharistic Adoration & The Sacrament of Reconciliation — *Jesus*

IVY
Room 11

Remain with Jesus in an Holy Hour of prayer and reflection.

ROUND 3: 2:30PM

IVY
Room 6

13. Human Trafficking Awareness in Our Community

— *Ms. Tammy Harris*

Human Trafficking is a complex social issue and not what most people perceive it to be. We as Catholics are called to protect all life, so how does this issue intersect with other pro-life issues? Learn about the facts and how to play a role in the fight against this evil scourge in society.

14. DID YOU DIE TODAY?

— *Mrs. Tricia Poole*

IVY
Room 7

If you want to live forever get busy dying! Come and learn how to live the life you are called to live. In this session we will discuss how to carry your cross well. We will pray with scripture and learn from the Saints about how denying what we desire will lead to a closer relationship with God, a joy filled and peaceful existence and most importantly an eternity in Heaven

15. Rescued by Divine Grace - Eastern Style!

— *Rev. Joseph Matlak*

IVY
Room 8

Pope Saint JP II referred to the Eastern Rites of the Church as the Church's second lung. Come experience the deep breaths of this rich tradition.

16. Search and Rescue!

— *Mrs. Dawn Matthews*

IVY
Room 9

Teens around the United States who serve in the Civil Air Patrol train to mobilize and rescue others when faced with disaster. Come learn more about the importance of being prepared to respond when opportunities arise, both in the natural world and our spiritual lives.

17. Cultural Appreciation (Apreciacion Cultural)

— *Miss Juana Mayra & Dcn. Mark Mejias*

IVY
Room 10

Being Catholic means being part of the Universal Church with all of its beauty and challenges. As Catholics we are called to love, honor and respect all cultures, our own and others. Jesus calls us to love and serve one another. Come explore how we can show our love and willingness to serve our neighbors by appreciating their cultural heritage.

18. Eucharistic Adoration & The Sacrament of Reconciliation — *Jesus*

IVY
Room 11

Remain with Jesus in an Holy Hour of prayer and reflection.



Participating Parishes

St. Jude
St. James the Greater
St. Barnabas
St. Thomas Aquinas
Sacred Heart, Brevard
St. Therese
St. Dorothy
Holy Infant
Immaculate Conception,
Hendersonville
St. Joseph, Newton
St. Leo
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Our Lady of Grace
Our Lady of Mercy
St. Benedict, the Moor
St. Francis of Assisi, Franklin



Diocesan Youth Advisory Council 2024-2025

Carmella Immel Ortiz – Asheville Vicariate
Emily Kramer – Asheville Vicariate
Clare Prevost – Charlotte Vicariate
Will Prevost – Charlotte Vicariate
Cecilia Dierking – Greensboro Vicariate
Marshall Davis – Winston-Salem Vicariate
Salvador Tapia – Winston-Salem Vicariate
Anthony Sanchez Perez – Smoky Mountain
Daniela Mendoza Resendiz – Smoky Mountain Vicariate
Anna Isbela Alvarez Vargas – Greensboro Vicariate
Benjamin Parker – Charlotte Vicariate
Betzayda Diaz-Acevedo – Smoky Mountain Vicariate

Adult Council Advisors

Gary Colhouer • Denys Davis • Erin Kotłowski
Paul Jos Kotłowski • Megan Mulhall • Katie Reyes • Cathy Young

Elements of Making a Good Confession

You can bring this into Confession with you.

- 1) Make a thorough examination of conscience to recall all of your sins since your last confession
- 2) The priest will start with the sign of the cross. Then, inform the priest of the length of time since your last Confession. Say, **“Father, forgive me for I have sinned. It has been __#__ (yrs, months, weeks) since my last Confession.”**
- 3) **Confess** your serious (mortal) sins as completely as possible, naming them and indicating their frequency to the best of your ability. [Say: I looked at porn daily. Not: I sinned against purity.] Less serious sins should also be mentioned specifically, but can be mentioned more generally. [Frequently, I find myself being vain.]
- 4) In order to receive the effects of forgiveness from your sins, there needs to be a sincere desire to reject the sinful behavior confessed and a willingness to respond to God’s grace by attempting to avoid all future sin as well as environments where sinning might be too easy to fall into.
- 5) After you say your sins, say, **“For these and all my sins I am truly sorry.”** Father will give you a penance and tell you to say an Act of Contrition. There are lots of versions of this prayer, but you can use this one:
Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen. (Make the sign of the cross)
- 6) Take some time for prayer and to say your penance after you leave the Confessional. At any point, it’s ok to ask the priest for help if you don’t know what to say.

Examination of Conscience

“The ordinary method followed in the examination for confession is to consider in succession the Ten Commandments of God, the Commandments of the Church, the Seven Capital Sins, the duties of one’s state of life, the nine ways of partaking in the sin of others. For persons who have led uniform life it will often suffice to recall where they have been, the persons with whom they have dealt, the duties or pursuits in which they have been engaged; how they have behaved on ordinary occasions – as, for instance, when busied in their usual employment on working-days – and on unusual occasions, such as Sundays and holidays.”
– Catholic Encyclopedia



We examine our conscience in order to repair our relationship with God, not just to go on a guilt trip. You wouldn’t fly a plane that wasn’t checked for malfunctions before it took off; this is because you want to be safe and arrive at your destination. Similarly, we shouldn’t start a new day without having a sense of where our destination is (ultimately heaven) and what obstacles (sins and bad habits that lead to sins) might prevent us from getting there. God is the mechanic; He’ll fix us if we open ourselves to His grace.

Questions to Ask Yourself: Using the 10 Commandments

I. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image.

Have I put money, popularity, material things, technology, or any other thing above my relationship with God?

Have I rejected God's plan for my life or His teachings through the Church and Scripture?

Have I presumed that God would forgive me when I decided to do something sinful? Or, on the flip side, have I despaired that God could help me or forgive me?

Have I used things that are superstitious, occult, or related to witchcraft?

Do I make an effort to pray daily throughout the week?

Have I made a serious effort to get to know my faith well?

Do I believe the false idea that one religion is just as good as another?

Have I denied my faith before others? Do I practice my faith in public, or just in private?

II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I used the name of God casually or improperly, in anger or surprise?

Have I disrespected holy, consecrated people or things

III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Have I, through my own fault, not worshiped God on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation by failing to go to Mass?

Have I made an effort to keep Sunday holy by spending time with my family, spending extra time in prayer or in charitable activities, and resting from the work of the week? Do I save my homework for Sunday night?

Do I try to be fully present and participate during Mass? Do I arrive late or leave early without good reason?

Have I kept the 1 hour fast before receiving the Eucharist? Have I received Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin?

IV. Honor your father and mother.

Have I been respectful of and loving towards my parents (or step-parents and family members)? Do I obey them cheerfully?

Have I been respectful of my teachers, coaches, and others in authority over me?

Do I try to bring happiness and peace to my family or do I cause tension and division? Do I offer to help out? Do I mock, insult, yell at, or tease my family members?

Do I respect my older relatives and seek to form a respectful relationship with them?

V. You shall not kill.

Have I done damage to someone's reputation or well being?

Have I done damage to myself through drugs, alcohol, cutting, or other self-

destructive behavior?

Have I hoped that bad things would happen to another?

Have I held a grudge and refused to forgive?

Have I been a bad example to others (like younger siblings) that might have made them fall into sin themselves?

Do I get angry easily and lose my temper or stonewall others?

Have I attempted suicide or entertained thoughts of hurting myself? [*Confession is a first step here. Step 2 is to get help!*]

VI. You shall not commit adultery. & IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Have I been sexually impure by myself (masturbation) or with another (sex, impure fondling or passionate kissing, etc.)?

Have I pursued and sought out lustful thoughts or sparked them through intentionally reading or watching sexually impure materials—books, tv, movies, video games, magazines, porn, etc?

Do I joke about sexuality and private matters in a way that does not respect their beauty and the modesty of others and myself?

Do I dress in a way that could lead others to sin?

Am I careful to guard against occasions and entertainment that may be sexually impure?

VII. You shall not steal & X. You shall not covet neighbor's goods

Have I respected the property of others, both in my family and outside of it? Have I stolen or damaged property without owning up to it or making restitution?

Have I been unhappy with what God has given me and been jealous of another?

Have I cheated in school or sports?

VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I told lies? Have I gossiped or passed on rumors?

Have I told others someone's faults without a serious reason (detraction) or made up or exaggerated negative things about someone that ruined their reputation (calumny)?

Did I judge others?

Using the 7 Capital Sins

Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and laziness.

When and how have you engaged in these sins?

Additional Questions

Have I failed to go to Confession at least once a year?

And...

Have I ever encouraged, advised, defended, or supported another in their sin?

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