

Episcopal Commission on Youth
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2017



*“The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name”* [Luke 1:49]

2017 November 06-10 | Archdiocese of Zamboanga

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I - INTRODUCTION

What is the National Youth Day

The National Youth Day (NYD) is an event where the Philippine Church expresses, in very concrete ways, her great love for the young. It is an occasion offered for young people to celebrate and deepen their faith, and a special moment of coming together as one body, united in a journey towards intimacy with Christ.

In 1986, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), as a way of concretizing its preferential apostolate for the youth, approved the annual celebration of the NYD every December 16, the first day of the *Misa de Gallo* or *Simbang Gabi*.

The NYD is celebrated annually in the dioceses and organizations on the 16th of December (or on any day near it). The Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY) prepares the NYD formation program and proposes activities for its celebration. Adaptation of the formation program to suit the local context depends largely on the creativity and possibilities of each diocese or organization.

The NYD is also celebrated through a national gathering. It is usually on a date near December 16, and lasts for around three days. When celebrated this way, the local host of the celebration collaborates with the ECY in the planning and execution of the NYD events.

The NYD activities are centered on the theme offered by the Holy Father for the yearly celebration of the World Youth Day (WYD).

II - THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2017

Aside from the annual celebration of the NYD, the NYD2017 will be celebrated through a national gathering, to hosted by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, and will be held in the City of Zamboanga, also dubbed as “Asia’s Latin City”.

Objectives

Through this gathering of young disciples of Jesus, it is our hope that the pilgrims will deepen their faith-experience, fellowship with co-pilgrims, and compel them to:

1. REDISCOVER their giftedness and potential to make a difference in our society and in the Church.
2. BE MORE AWARE of their own parochial issues and challenges, but at the same time, as part of the universal church, to “think universal” as Pope Francis would suggest.
3. Like our Blessed Mother, BE MORE DISCERNING AND SOCIALLY ENGAGED by acquiring deeper skill on how to read the signs of times, pray and reflect, discern well according to gospel values, and make decisive life-changing actions.
4. SPEAK OUT and produce significant and well-discerned data on “issues and challenges of the world” as requested by Pope Francis, in preparation for the coming Synod of Bishops in 2018.

Festival Sites

The program will generally unfold in four campuses, called Festival Sites-- to illustrate that the NYD is a celebration of faith:

1. Ateneo de Zamboanga University
2. Claret School
3. Immaculate Conception Elementary School
4. Pilar College

Accommodations

Homes of families in parishes within Zamboanga City will open their doors to host participants and provide accommodations. Staying in foster families is an integral part of the NYD2017 program.

III - INVITATION FROM THE ECY AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA

The ECY, along with the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, invites all the 86 ecclesiastical territories in the Philippines and member-organizations of the Federation of National Youth Organizations (FNYO) to send delegations of their young people to the NYD2017. The ECY Chairman and the Archbishop of Zamboanga write letters of invitation to the Local Ordinaries and National Heads of FNYO-member organizations, accompanied by the NYD2017 Primer and Delegation Registration Form 1 (DRF#1). As a sign that the invitation is accepted, the Local Ordinary / National Head should endorse the forming of a delegation from his / her ecclesiastical territory or youth organization by accomplishing and sending the DRF#1, possibly with the assistance of the youth ministry office.

IV - THE DELEGATION

For the NYD2017 to become a fully meaningful experience, those coming to participate in it must be prepared well, starting with understanding what the event stands for. The best context for this preparation is the delegation and its origin, whether the particular church (diocese) or movement (organization).

To support this, it is helpful that a certain structure for organizing, animating and accompanying be in place, with the following features:

Composition

Basic criteria for youth pilgrims:

- At least 13 and at most 39 years of age
- Belongs to the diocese/ organization represented by the delegation
- If a minor (below 18 years of age), carries a written authorization from parent/s allowing the child to participate in the NYD under the supervision of the Delegation Head

Basic criteria for youth-minister pilgrims:

- Actively involved in the youth ministry of the diocese/ organization represented by the delegation
- Between 20-50 years of age

The Delegation Head

As the name of the role implies, the Delegation Head is responsible for leading the entire delegation. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Accomplish the Registration Forms accurately and fully, and send it to the ECY;
- Serve as the contact person of the delegation for all NYD2017 communications and transactions with the ECY and the Archdiocese of Zamboanga;
- Act as conduit of information from the NYD2017 Organizers to his/ her delegation members, ensuring that all information are relayed and understood;
- Organize the preparation of his/ her delegation, starting with a Delegation Orientation aimed to ensure that each member of the delegation understands the NYD2017 Primer, and other ways and means, including those offered by the NYD2017 Organizers for the preparatory phase; and
- Travel to the NYD2017 with his/ her delegation and accompany them in full and active NYD2017 participation.

The Delegation Assistant Head

The Delegation Assistant Head assists the Delegation Head in all his/her functions and responsibilities. Second to the Head, he/she serves as the contact person of the delegation. He/She also assumes full responsibility over the delegation in case of the absence or incapacity of the Head.

Basic criteria for both the Delegation Head and Assistant Head:

- Come from the same origin as the rest of the group that they will lead
- Between 25-50 years of age
- Duly designated by the Local Ordinary (for a diocesan delegation)/ National President (for a delegation of an organization)
- Capable and committed to represent the delegation
- Have a working email address for the exchange of communications with the NYD2017 Organizers

V - REGISTRATION

Each ecclesiastical territory and FNYO member organization is allocated **30 spaces** for its delegation, eighty percent (80%) of which are youth pilgrims, while the rest are the youth minister/s (clergy, religious and/or lay) accompanying them. Meanwhile, the host-archdiocese is allocated 500 slots for participants, both youth and their youth ministers.

Additional slots may be requested by the delegation, the request for which should be specified in the DRF#1. The assessment of requests for these additional slots shall depend on the initial turnout of the registration. Available slots from the initial turnout, if any, will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Given the above instructions on the invitation, dioceses and organizations forming a delegation to the NYD2017 are then asked to follow this registration process, which consists of two (2) phases:

First Phase: A delegation is registered using the NYD2017 Delegation Registration Form 1 (DRF#1). This form requires the following:

- 1 - **Name of the Origin** (ecclesiastical territory or organization), which the Delegation represents
- 2 - **Estimated number of pilgrims:** Here, to be indicated is how many of the 30 slots allocated to the Origin will be taken by the Delegation. Here too, the number of requested additional slots, if any, should be specified.
- 3 and 4 - **Delegation Head and Assistant Head**, with important information about them
- 5 - **Endorsement by the Local Ordinary**, if the delegation is from a diocese, or **by the National President**, if the delegation is from an FNYO member

The ECY must receive the accomplished DRF#1 by 2017 May 31, Feast of the Visitation.

Second Phase: After receiving and assessing the DRF#1, the ECY through its Secretariat shall confirm the registration of the delegation through email. This confirmation ushers the Second Phase, where the ECY will send the following for further accomplishment by the delegation:

- 1 - NYD2017 Delegation Registration Form 2 (DRF#2), which will generate the following regarding the delegation:
 - a - Final number of participants
 - b - List of names of the participants
 - c - Total amount of registration fee
 - d - Travel details

2 - NYD2017 Individual Registration Form (IRF), which will require the following information regarding each individual participant:

- a - Personal details
- b - Contact person in case of emergency
- c - Health declaration
- d - Authorization and waiver

The ECY must receive the accomplished DRF#2 of the delegation and all the IRF of its delegates by 2017 September 08, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother.

Registration Fee

As part of the registration process, each delegate is asked to submit a Registration Fee as one's personal share in the considerable resources required for a big event like the NYD.

For the NYD2017, the amount for the individual Registration Fee is socialized, as follows:

<i>Origin</i>	<i>Amount per Pilgrim</i>
From dioceses in Luzon	P 900.00
From dioceses in the Visayas	P 900.00
From the Military Ordinariate	P 1,200.00
From the FNYO-member organizations	P 1,200.00
From dioceses in Mindanao (except the host)	P 1,200.00
From the host-archdiocese	P 1,000.00

The Delegation Head may remit the total Registration Fee for his/her delegation in either of two ways:

1 - By bank remittance to the ECY account using the following details:

Bank Name: Philippine National Bank, Intramuros Branch

Account Name: EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON YOUTH
Account Number: 101786300017

After the deposit, a copy of the bank-validated deposit slip with the following subject “NYD2017 REGISTRATION FEE FROM <origin>” must be sent to the ECY either by fax, to (02) 5279566 or by email, to <nyd@cbcp-ecy.ph>.

2 - By payment of check, payable to the “EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON YOUTH”

The Delegation Head is expected to submit the total Registration Fee on or before September 8, to conclude the Second Phase of the NYD2017 Registration.

VI – PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travel Arrangements

All members should have the same travel arrangements in arriving for the NYD2017. While it may be preferred that the delegation also leaves together after the NYD2017, different dates of departure may be accepted; however, the hosting offered by the host-archdiocese ceases once the delegation deregisters on the last day of the gathering.

Preparing for the NYD2017

Each delegation which is confirmed after the Second Phase of the Registration Process will receive, through the Delegation Head, materials and resources for the preparatory phase, as well as further information and updates about the NYD2017. These will be sent primarily through email.

At the onset, delegations are requested to submit and keep a realistic number of participants. Since, in a manner of speaking, the group begins the NYD2017 pilgrimage not only upon arrival in Zamboanga but even in their own origins months before the NYD2017, it will be well to have everyone onboard throughout the pilgrimage, i.e. from the preparations up until the NYD2017 itself, and even after.

Policy on Cancellation

If a registered participant or even a whole registered delegation has to cancel registration, a certain percentage of the Registration Fee will be collected or considered non-refundable, the amount of which will depend on the date of cancellation.

For cancellations on September 15-October 06:	10% non-refundable
For cancellations on October 07-November 05:	50% non-refundable
For cancellations on or after November 06:	100% non-refundable

This scheme is in place in consideration of preparations already being made as the event draws near.

Replacement of Cancelled Registration

Replacing a cancelled registration may be requested to the Organizers provided that the replacement is of the same status as the cancelled participant.

For particulars, please contact:

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