

# The CYO Quest

In the past few weeks, the staff at the CYO Office has discussed what exactly the philosophy of the CYO should be, and we tried to convey it succinctly in three sentences. This is our finished product:

## The CYO Quest

At the core of every activity that occurs throughout the CYO is the desire to bring all involved closer to Christ. A holistic approach of mind, body and spirit is incorporated for faith formation through athletic, camp and enrichment activities. Christlike conduct by all is the true measure of success within the Catholic Youth Organization.

## This is... The CYO Way!!

As we break down each of these three sentences individually, I think we really do capture the true essence of what our ministry is all about. As the Catholic Youth Organization for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the first sentence is pretty powerful as it states that at the core of every activity that occurs throughout the CYO is the desire to bring all involved closer to Christ! Perhaps the two key words in this first sentence are “all involved” ... meaning every participant, coach or moderator, adult volunteer, official, and spectator at these events. In short, the faith development component of the CYO is not only intended to touch the lives of the young people we serve, but “all involved”, including all who are in attendance at CYO activities. At the CYO office, we believe this is certainly a worthwhile endeavor!

The second sentence states that a “holistic approach of mind, body and spirit is incorporated for faith formation through athletic, camp and enrichment activities.” This emphasizes that CYO is intent on development of the “whole” person, where activities are designed to strengthen both physical and mental growth. This is evident in the various sports offered, as well as activities at Camp Rancho Framasa, the Chess Club, Choral competitions and Science Fair opportunities. In addition, there is one component that makes CYO different than most youth leagues or organizations across the country. The **best part of what we do** at CYO is the emphasis on **spiritual formation** to compliment the physical and mental development pieces. As stated in the first sentence mentioned above, this is at the core of everything we do at CYO!! We believe this holistic approach is the best way for us to assist our youth on their life path, and on their lifelong journey to God. In the process, we are helping them become the person that God created them to be. This “holistic approach” becomes all-encompassing.

Finally, the third sentence states “Christlike conduct by all is the true measure of success within the Catholic Youth Organization.” The emphasis here is that if our primary intent is to truly bring all involved closer to Christ, shouldn’t the best measure of our success as an organization be directly related to how well we all model Jesus in our lives, and especially how we treat one another? A real point of emphasis this year across the CYO is that as we conduct ourselves in a way that is pleasing to God, it will permeate through our interactions with each other. This includes players towards other participants, Coaches and Officials; Coaches towards players, Officials and parents; Officials towards players, Coaches, and spectators; and parents and spectators towards players, Coaches, Officials, and other spectators. Imagine how awesome it would be if “all involved” at CYO activities would conduct themselves in a way that is pleasing to God! The old saying “Competition will bring out the best in some, and sometimes the worst in

others" often times rings true. Let us all give our best effort this year to live out the CYO philosophy... the world around us will certainly be a better place because of it!

I am so proud and honored to be a part of the CYO and its' mission! For the past 78 years, literally thousands of lives have been touched and changed for the better because of the strong, faith-based influence of the Catholic Youth Organization. With God's help, and a concentrated effort by all to follow the example set by Jesus many years ago, this influence will continue for many years to come.

**This is... The CYO Way!!**