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Dear Group Leader,

We look forward to seeing you and your group at one of the 2018 Steubenville Youth Conferences! We wanted to share with you two specific aspects of the programming this year.

The first involves the content of the Men's and Women's Sessions. The focus for both talks is identity. We want the youth to recognize ways in which the world tries to reduce their identity and how God reveals their true feminine and masculine identity. The main Scripture for this talk is the second account of creation (Genesis 2: 4-7, 18-23). It will touch on the fact that men and women each have unique, complementary gifts from God.

Within the context of this session, we want to speak truth to the topic of transgender and gender confusion. It will not be the primary focus of the session, but rather a point addressed within it. We will acknowledge the reality of the struggle and confusion that exists and pastorally address the truth of God creating us male and female despite feelings or perceptions. We have emphasized to the presenters the importance of presenting this keynote pastorally and with love, ending on a note of hope for those who struggle. As in past years, we continue to feel the need and responsibility to address some of the major issues in the culture today that are impacting the beliefs and behaviors of youth.

The second pertains to a new aspect of the youth conference schedule this year. We have received feedback, that while the content is good and needed, it can be a lot for the youth to appreciate and absorb. The youth need down time to relax and process what they have heard and how God is working in their lives. Therefore, we will have an open time in the schedule on Saturday afternoon called "Recharge." It will take place after lunch, between a General Session keynote and a round of workshops. This provides an opportunity to have small groups and just spend time together. Depending on the conference site, other activities may be offered during this time as well. Your site-specific conference schedule will have more details regarding this time. We are excited that it provides space in the schedule for your group to continue to bond, process, and simply have fun!

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do for the youth. Know of our prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you and your ministry!

In Christ,  
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