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Dear Group Leader,

We look forward to having you and your group at one of the 2019 Steubenville Youth Conferences! We are excited about our theme of Belong and Scripture from 1 John 3:1 *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God."*

This theme will speak to relationship with God the Father as sons and daughters, with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and with the Church as members of the Body of Christ. This theme developed as a response to a lack of authentic relationships and feelings of loneliness, often seen in youth culture, especially as a result of social media use. Through this theme, we hope the youth come to understand their true identity and the fact that they truly belong just as they are.

We wanted to share with you a few new aspects of the programming this year:

#### **Friday Night**

The focus of the evening time of prayer is worship and the Holy Spirit. We will not have Eucharistic Adoration on Friday night. There will, however, be time for Adoration after the evening session ends. Depending on site logistics, it will either be in the main venue or a secondary location. This will be a great opportunity for youth who are ready and wanting to spend time in Adoration to choose to do so. At the close of the programming, the host will give the youth a focus for their time of prayer, which will flow from the theme of the night. Your site-specific schedule will have more details. We will still have Confession offered as well, now adding the opportunity for Adoration.

#### **Men's and Women's Sessions**

At every site, the men's session will be in the main venue. The women will have their session while the men eat lunch. Then the men will have their session while the women eat lunch. There will still be opportunities for Confession and small groups for both the men and women. More details will be included in your site site-specific schedule. The title of these sessions is "Belong Together: Authentic Friendship." With this topic, we want the youth to recognize the need for authentic male/female friendships in their lives and what an authentic friendship looks like. They were made to be in relationship and belong to a community of like-minded friends.

#### **Saturday Afternoon Keynote**

This year, the topic for the Saturday afternoon keynote is family. We want the youth to know the origin of family in the Trinity and that they belong to the family of God, despite their biological family circumstances. We have emphasized to our ministry team the need to be pastoral, given that youth have many different experiences and ideas of family - some positive and some negative. This talk will provide beautiful opportunities for ministry as youth share in small groups about their family experience and open themselves for healing in this area of their life.

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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