

## **-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

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### **Cleveland's Young Catholics Host "Walk on the Wild Side" August 22** Walk-a-thon to Raise Funds for Local Youth's Pilgrimage to National Catholic Youth Conference

**(CLEVELAND), July 6, 2009** – The local Catholic Diocese's recent clustering process and its subsequent parish mergers and closings have been featured prominently in local media. But the Catholic youth of Cleveland are excited about their faith and are focusing on something else—their upcoming pilgrimage to Kansas City for the National Catholic Youth Conference. This November, over 200 high school students and young adults from Catholic parishes in Northeast Ohio will fill six motor coaches and take a 13-hour trip to Kansas City to celebrate their faith and meet young Catholics from around the nation at the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

NCYC—the largest single gathering of Catholic youth in the country—is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The cost of the trip is high, but teens attending the conference are working to money by mowing lawns, babysitting, working extra jobs, hosting car washes and collecting pledges for ***Walk on the Wild Side for Catholic Youth Ministry***.

***Walk on the Wild Side for Catholic Youth Ministry*** is a Walk-a-Thon Fund-raiser on **Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**. The event is being coordinated by the Youth and Young Adult/CYO Ministry Office of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, in partnership with parishes traveling to the NCYC Conference. The walk-a-thon is a fun and healthy activity for people of all ages who wish to support Catholic Youth Ministry. Participants commit to complete a 1-mile walking course at the Zoo.

Check in and registration begins at 7:30 A.M. at the Pavala Hut Pavilion near the Main Entrance of the zoo. The course will open at 8:30 A.M. and the event concludes at 10 A.M. with music and prizes for the walker with the highest amount of pledges collected. The event will take place rain or shine. Zoo concession stands open at 10 A.M. and participants are welcome to enjoy the zoo & rainforest with their family, friends and fellow walkers.

Registration fees are \$20.00 per adult walker or \$18.00 per child (ages 2-11). Children ages 2 and under are free. Participation fee includes all day entry to the Zoo & Rainforest. Tickets are good for the day of the walk or if participant is unable to stay, can be used another day. T-

shirts are also included for those who register before August 1<sup>st</sup>. Drinks and snacks will be provided for each walker.

All monies raised and a portion of each registration fee will go directly to the parishes with youth & adults attending the NCYC conference in November. These include: The Community of St. Malachi, Elyria Catholic High School, Holy Angels, Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart Chapel-Lorain, St. Agnes/Our Lady of Fatima, St. Aloysius, St. Angela Merci, St. Barnabas, St. Clare, St. Clarence, St. Joan of Arc, St. Joseph-Amherst, St. Joseph-Strongsville, St. Julie Billiart, St. Justin Martyr, St. Martha, St. Mary, St. Novel/Divine Word, St. Raphael. Proceeds will also support the Youth and Young Adult Ministry/CYO to benefit the NCYC Scholarship Fund, awarded to income-eligible teens to help with the conference fees.

***Walk on the Wild Side for Catholic Youth Ministry*** is sponsored by the following individuals/organizations: Cleveland Catholic Charities, Sisters of Charity Health System, and The Sisters of the Humility of Mary. For more information, visit [www.clevelandcyo.org](http://www.clevelandcyo.org) or contact Margaret Vogel, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Specialist at Cleveland Catholic Charities|Parish & Community Ministries at 216.334.1261, ext. 28. or [mjvogel@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:mjvogel@clevelandcatholiccharities.org).

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## -MEDIA ADVISORY-

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### **Cleveland's Young Catholics Host "Walk on the Wild Side" August 22**

Walk-a-thon to Raise Funds for Local Youth's Pilgrimage to National Catholic Youth Conference

**WHAT:** *Walk on the Wild Side for Catholic Youth Ministry*, a new, one-mile fun walk at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for people of all ages to support Catholic Youth Ministry. Occurring early in the day before the zoo opens to the public, participants will catch a rare glimpse at some of the zoo's exhibits and animals. Refreshments & snacks will be provided.

**WHO:** Presented by the Youth and Young Adult (YYAM)/CYO Ministry Office of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, in partnership with over 20 local Catholic parishes. An estimated 200 participants will take part.

**WHERE:** Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
*Main Entrance/Pavala Hut Pavilion*  
*3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, OH 44109*

**WHEN:** **Saturday, August 22, 2009** (Rain or Shine).

- Registration is from 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. and the one-mile **walk begins at 8:30 a.m.** after an opening prayer at 8:15 a.m.
- Walk concludes by 10 a.m. when music will be provided by a DJ and prizes awarded in the Pavala Hut Pavilion.

**WHY:** To help over 200 of Cleveland's young Catholics raise funds for their upcoming pilgrimage to the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference, an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones in Kansas City this November.

**HOW TO HELP:** **Register to walk** on August 22 at 7:30-8:15 a.m. Registration fees are \$20.00 per adult or \$18.00 per child (ages 2-11). Children ages 2 and under are free. Participation fee includes all day entry to the Zoo & Rainforest for the day of the walk.

**Monetary donations** will also be accepted and can be designated for the following parishes or to support the YYAM/CYO's *NCYC Scholarship Fund*, awarded to income-eligible teens to help with the conference fees:

- The Community of St. Malachi, Elyria Catholic High School, Holy Angels, Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart Chapel-Lorain, St. Agnes/Our Lady of Fatima, St. Aloysius, St. Angela Merici, St. Barnabas, St. Clare, St. Clarence, St. Joan of Arc, St. Joseph-Amherst, St. Joseph-Strongsville, St. Julie Billiart, St. Justin Martyr, St. Martha, St. Mary, St. Novel/Divine Word, St. Raphael.