

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW 1 P IQJ

CYMFed Flame 2017, National Youth Congress, March 11th 2017

I am writing to wholeheartedly commend to you the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) Flame 2017, a gathering and celebration for young people to be held at Wembley SSE Arena on Saturday 11th March, 2017.

Encouraged by the great success of the Flame events in 2012 and 2015 CYMFed is already giving careful preparation to Flame 2017, with the hope of completely filling the SSE Arena, Wembley.

Flame has now become an important part of the Catholic Calendar and mission in England and Wales. It is a unique opportunity for young Catholics to experience a joyful and missionary Church. In that setting, they experience Christ's presence through times of prayerful worship and inspiring speakers, as well as through music and much true enthusiasm.

In 2015 Cardinal Tagle, the keynote speaker, recognized how important our young people are to the mission of the Church, and encouraged them with these words: "My dear young people of England and Wales, be the living signs in our world of God's mercy. Be living signs of the joy of the Gospel of mercy. Recall in your lives how God has been merciful to you. Proclaim God's mercy and the joy that has come to you, because God has been merciful to you."

The theme for Flame 2017 is "10,000 Reasons." This is the title of a song by Matt Redman, who will be leading the music. The Arena, to capacity, seats 10,000 people. We know that our ministry with young people helps us to see their God-given gifts and talents. So the theme both encourages us to see the unique gifts of every person, and for everyone to go forth from the Arena at the end of the day with renewed faith, fresh "reasons" to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

This commendation is addressed especially to parish youth leaders, school teachers and school lay chaplains, parish priests, and those who work with young people in many different contexts. I take this opportunity to thank you for your work, which is deeply valued within the Church and very precious for our young people. I strongly encourage you to bring a group of young people to CYMFed Flame 2017, as part of your ministry with the young. It is sure to be a most rewarding day.

I look forward to seeing you at CYMFed Flame 2017.

Yours devotedly,


+Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and
President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference
of England and Wales