



2025 NCYC Digital Encounter with Pope Leo XIV

Voices that Matter: Dialogue, Faith, and the Future

Focus: Explore what it means to be heard, to listen with intention, and to carry faith conversations forward like Pope Leo XVI modeled at NCYC. Young People will reflect on how their voices matter in the Church and how they can be instruments of unity in their world.

Suggested Schedule (60–75 minutes)

Welcome & Icebreaker (10 mins)

Opening Remarks:

- Share with the young people gathered some highlights from the Document: [Introduction to the Series Carrying the Dialogue Forward](#).
- This will help to set the tone for what they are about to journey through as they unpack the importance of dialogue.
- We encourage you to also use the subsequent sessions that break open each theme more fully with your young people.

Icebreaker:

- “Two Truths and a Deep Thought”: Invite each participant to share two fun facts and one faith-based question they’ve wondered about. This helps to promote vulnerability and sets a tone for dialogue.

Opening Prayer (4 mins)

Instructions:

- Begin with prayer that invites the Holy Spirit into the conversation. The focus will stem from James 1:19 - “You must understand this, my beloved, let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit.
We ask You to be present in this conversation
to open our hearts, soften our words,
and guide us in listening with humility and love.

Teach us to “...be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger” as Scripture calls us (James 1:19).

Form us into people who seek understanding before being understood.

Lord Jesus, You remind us that every person has a place in Your Church
and that our voices matter when we speak with honesty and hope.

Help us carry forward the spirit of dialogue we witnessed with Pope Leo XVI. A dialogue that builds trust, creates peace, and helps us draw closer to You and to one another.

Holy Spirit, make this moment sacred.

Make our listening generous.

Make our sharing courageous.

And make our hearts open to whatever You desire to teach us today.

Amen.

Watch The Designated Video Clip (4 mins)

You will show the video clip that begins from 4:37 to 8:00.

- This video clip from the November 21, 2025, Digital Encounter highlights the opening address by Pope Leo XVI to participants gathered at NCYC and should be viewed before moving into the session below. You can share the full opening if time allows up until the 8:00 minute marker.
- [Full Pope Leo XIV's LIVE Digital Encounter with U.S. Youth | NCYC | November 21, 2025](#)

Reflection on Dialogue (2 mins)

- After viewing the video clip, share the following reflection...

Today, we step into something sacred. Even though you weren't sitting in the stadium with the Holy Father, his invitation is for you just as much as for the young people who were there. He wants to enter into dialogue with you...your questions, your hopes, your worries, your story.

But before we can enter that kind of conversation, we need to understand what real dialogue actually is.

Dialogue is not debate. It is not about winning a point or proving we are right. True dialogue seeks to understand.

It begins with humility. The kind of humility that meets another person with openness instead of assumptions. It grows when we listen with the heart, because listening is the first act of love. And when we really listen, something beautiful happens: walls fall and bridges rise.

Dialogue is the path where truth and charity walk together. It is the space where the Holy Spirit can move, soften us, and even turn us into peacemakers. And without dialogue, there can be no real community...not in our families, not in our friendships, not in our Church.

So, I want to invite you to reflect silently on a few simple questions as we continue:

- What would change in our Church (and in our world) if we listened twice as much as we spoke?
- Who in your life needs you to slow down long enough to truly hear them?
- How might God be speaking to you through someone you disagree with?
- And what difference could one honest, compassionate conversation make this week?

As we move forward, remember this: your voice matters in the Church, and Jesus desires to meet you in what you share. Dialogue is the road that brings us closer to Him and to one another.

Let's walk that road together today.

Small Group Discussion (15–20 mins)

Encourage leaders to actively model listening and refrain from giving quick answers.

Questions:

1. What part of the opening address from Pope Leo XVI stayed with you and why do you think it stood out? Or what piece of the reflection just shared stood out to you and why?
2. How can we carry the spirit of this encounter into our schools, homes, or parishes? How can our voices, and our listening, help create unity in the Church today?
3. If you could ask a Church leader, or even the Holy Father one honest question, what would it be?
4. What makes someone a truly good listener? What gestures, attitudes, or behaviors make you feel safe to share?
5. How does it feel when someone really hears you...not just your words, but your heart? Why does being "heard" matter so much in friendships, families, and the Church?
6. What makes dialogue possible? Where do you see a need for more dialogue in your school, family, parish, or online life? What difference could listening make in that space?

Reflective Activity or Journaling (10–15 mins)

Give each participant a "Dialogue Reflection Card" or journal sheet with the prompt below.

"What would YOU ask the Pope?" Use a journal to gather your initial thoughts.

Write a short, honest message or prayer...to the Church, to a leader, to someone who needs to hear your voice, or even to God.

Consider:

- What do you hope adults understand about your life?
- What do you wish the Church could see more clearly about young people?
- What encouragement, question, or challenge is on your heart today?

Option: Invite two or three participants to share if they wish.

Sending Challenge (5 mins)

Encourage the young people to choose one intentional act of dialogue to live out this week:

- Have a real, face-to-face conversation with someone you normally wouldn't talk to.

- Be the listener in at least one conversation, practicing being “quick to listen and slow to speak.”
- Share one faith question online or in a trusted group setting. Share something honest that might help someone else feel less alone.
- Ask someone in their life a thoughtful question and genuinely listen to the answer.

Provide a small card or digital graphic with the theme title: “Voices That Matter: My Dialogue Challenge This Week” and a blank space for them to write down the challenge they commit to.

Optional Add-Ons – Extend the Session

- Invite a Guest for Live Q&A
 - Bring in your pastor, a youth-friendly religious sister/brother, or a diocesan leader to answer questions generated from the session. Emphasize openness, curiosity, and respectful dialogue.
- Create a “Dialogue Wall”
 - Set up a space where teens can anonymously post:
 - Questions
 - Hopes for the Church
 - Things they wish adults knew
 - Places they want to see more listening
 - Review themes over time and respond to them pastorally.
- Collect Prayer Intentions
 - End the night or the week with a group Rosary or chaplet offered for:
 - The Church
 - Young people
 - Families
 - Healing where dialogue is needed
 - Courage to be peacemakers