

## **The National Year of Youth Summit 2017 (NYOYS 2017)**

### **Code of Conduct**

*as determined by the Leadership of the Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA)*

As a participant of the National Year of Youth Summit 2017 (NYOYS 2017) taking place on December 28, 2017 to December 31, 2017 at the Whitehall Hotel, located at 1700 Smith Street in Houston, TX, I agree to adhere to all policies (see code of conduct below) and rules set forth by the Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA) of the Saint Thomas SyroMalabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, USA.

I understand that I represent my respective parish/mission, my respective parish/mission priest, and my respective youth group. As a participant and representative of my community, I agree to exhibit Christ-like and professional behavior at all times and to be cooperative with NYOYS 2017 coordinators, Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA) leaders, and the Diocesan curia.

I also agree to be on-site for all sessions, activities, and recreational time taking place at the the Whitehall Hotel (1700 Smith Street, Houston, TX) from check-in on December 28th, 2017 until the program ends on December 31st, 2017.

In agreeing to these terms, **I reserve the right for the NYOYS 2017 coordinating team, DYA leadership and the St. Thomas Diocese to take any necessary action in response to inappropriate behavior or violation of NYOYS 2017, Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA), and St. Thomas Diocese of Chicago policies** – which may include returning to my respective hometown at my own personal cost without refund of paid registration fees or travel-related expenses.

I also agree that I am liable for all my actions and personal property, not the Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA) and its affiliates, the Whitehall Hotel (Houston, TX), or any volunteers individual responsible to the DYA and/or the Whitehall Hotel (Houston, TX).

#### **SYROMALABAR NATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH SUMMIT CODE OF CONDUCT & POLICIES:**

1. Each participant shall conduct himself/herself in an orderly and responsible manner before, during, and after all functions of the Summit programs.
2. Any actions that may serve to compromise the integrity of the DYA and its affiliates will not be condoned or allowed.
3. Participants must follow given instructions and be respectful to leaders/chaperones (for minors) during the entire course of the Summit.
  - a. Chaperones will be assigned to any minor (participant under 18 years) participating in Summit activities. If you are under 18, please check in with your chaperone on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please contact your chaperone. Please know the room number of your chaperone.
4. Prior notification is needed to check-in to the conference at a later time other than the regular check-in time (December 28, 2017). Participants will not be allowed to leave the facilities after check-in without adequate reason and notification of the Summit Coordinating Team.
5. For both logistical and safety reasons, you are not allowed to leave the hotel for any reason without notifying/the accompaniment of a member of the Summit Coordinating team.
  - a. Participants should remain in the assigned areas for the Summit at all times. It is your responsibility to be aware of any assigned boundaries/perimeters, which will be detailed upon your arrival to the venue.
6. Name tags and/or wrist bands are to be worn at all times while in the hotel. Identity may be verified by the leaders at any time during the conference.
7. Participants are requested to be punctual throughout the Summit, particularly in regards to times for adoration and Holy Qurbana.

## 8. Behaviors

- a. Any actions that may serve to compromise the integrity of the DYA and its affiliates will not be condoned or allowed. Any misconduct will be reported to the coordinating team. There will be no hesitation in sending home participants who break the code of conduct.
  - b. Participants are requested to keep punctuality throughout the Summit.
  - c. Have the utmost respect for the privacy and personal space of all participants, leaders, and speakers. Please be mindful and respectful in your interactions with others and their properties.
  - d. No behaviors that are abusive in any manner to others will be allowed. This includes verbal abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse.
  - e. Males and females are to remain in separate sleeping spaces at all times. No visiting is allowed in bed/hotel rooms by members of the opposite sex.
  - f. Gambling is prohibited and any excessive rowdiness and noise are discouraged. Please be mindful of your surroundings.
  - g. Possession, distribution, or use of marijuana, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, drug paraphernalia, chewing tobacco, fireworks, pornographic material and weapons is completely **prohibited**. Absolute compliance with this rule is essential! Visual observation need not be necessary for immediate dismissal if there is enough evidence to corroborate that these risk-taking behaviors have occurred. Those of legal age are requested to **refrain from consumption of alcohol/tobacco for the duration of the Summit**. This is considered a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**. Infraction of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the Summit.
  - h. Regarding disciplinary dismissals:
    - i. Participants over the age of 18 will be required to checkout of the hotel and vacate the premises. You will be in charge of arranging your own transportation/accommodation after leaving the venue. There will be no refund of your registration fee, and all associated privileges are forfeited.
    - ii. Cases regarding participants under 18 will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Your parent/guardian will be notified. You will be escorted to the airport/other transportation, and either you/your parent/guardian will be responsible for any costs accrued for your travel expenses. Your registration fee is completely forfeit and nonrefundable.
9. All participants are required to dress appropriately throughout all days of the conference. Dress code is business casual during the day. Anyone not in compliance with the dress code may be asked to change clothes.
10. Please respect the facilities and take care of all accommodation and session areas. The Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago and/or the Whitehall Hotel in Houston, TX will not be held liable for any injuries or property loss/damage. The facility should be used with utmost care and participants will be held liable for the any damage caused by them.
11. This is a discussion-based gathering. All participants are expected to participate fully in the relevant discussions, to have active participation by active listening and contributing to the topics.
- 12. Christ-like behavior is expected at all times. Inappropriate contact, touch, gesture, language or activity of an offensive nature is NOT ACCEPTABLE. Respect for all leaders, peers, and all property is expected.**

I agree that all personal information posted in the registration system is accurate and completed to the best of my abilities. I have correctly stated all medical concerns and needed medications on my registration form.

I agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct Outlined above.

Name (printed):

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Signature:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Supplementary Form (Minors)**

If participant is under 18:

I, the parent/legal guardian of the above signed participant have read and discussed the code of conduct with my child, and agree also on their behalf to the Code of Conduct listed above, and to the consequences described therein.

Parent/guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_