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STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILIES

PRESS RELEASE

Three National Organizations Announce Partnership to Build Strong Catholic Families

Washington, D.C., May 20, 2011: The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), and the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) announce a partnership with the *Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth* national initiative currently scheduled in nearly forty dioceses across the United States.

Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth is a parish-based process to reach out and empower parents in Catholic parishes to form strong Catholic families. These three national organizations are uniquely qualified to assist pastors and parish leaders throughout the United States who seek effective strategies to engage parents in the life and mission of the parish as well as ways to help parents take ownership as the primary leader of faith within their families.

The partnership of NCCL and NACFLM with NFCYM is grounded in the baptismal commitment that all parents make to be the primary educators and therefore the major influence in the faith development of their children. Therefore, all partner organizations are committed to promoting *Strong Catholic Families* within their membership, providing persons to serve as trainers, and actively participating in the ongoing development of this dynamic initiative.

The *Strong Catholic Families* program has recently been transliterated into Spanish to address the unique needs and concerns of Hispanic parents and families. *Fortaleciendo Familias en la Fe* (Strengthening Families in the Faith) will be available for use by dioceses and parishes beginning June 1, 2011.

About the Strong Catholic Families Process

Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth is designed as a three-step cyclic parish process that engages parents in reflecting, assessing and actively sharing with parish leadership the specific support and formation needed to form their families in the Catholic faith.

During the initial two-hour presentation and dialogue, parents learn about the vital dynamic that faith plays in their children's lives and the critical role that parents uniquely possess in how faith is experienced and lived out. Throughout this session, there is time for parents to react to what they hear, discuss in small and large groups what they want to do about it, and express to parish leaders what support they need in order to take their next steps as a family. The session ends with parents completing a needs assessment that identifies specific needs upon which parish leaders will follow-up.

For more information, contact Michael Theisen at 202-674-4209 or visit:
<http://www.nfcym.org/programs/Training/strongfamilies.htm>