

## Celebrating the 6th National Coming to the Promised Land Convention

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*Picture: Bishop Thomas John Paprocki (middle) celebrating the Eucharist with various priests*

To the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement in the USA (VEYM-USA), this past July truly marked a historic milestone within the Movement as it celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> National Coming to the Promised Land Convention in the beautiful Carlinville, IL. With God's grace, the convention united approximately 1,000 VEYM-USA members across the country to praise and give thanks to the Lord for His love, guidance and protection over the Movement, and to celebrate its ministry. Among the attendees, who mostly were from the States, the convention also attracted VEYM members from other parts of the world, such as Canada, Australia, Vietnam, and Italy.

The convention was blessed to have had Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop for the Diocese of Springfield, IL; Fr. Frederic Fornos, SJ, Director of the Pope's Worldwide Network of Prayer, appointed by Pope Francis; Sr. Lourdes Varguez Garcia, RJM, Assistant to the International Eucharistic Youth Movement and; Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, Assistant Director, USCCB/Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/Asian and Pacific Island Affairs, who through their presence, lifted the spirit of the convention to new heights.





*Picture: Presenter leading one of the workshops during the VEYM Convention*

Additionally, more than ever in the history of the VEYM-USA, the convention had in attendance over 70 religious brothers and sisters.

With the theme “Christ lives in me”, participants were called to be the temple of God and through the Holy Spirit, make Jesus’ way of life their way of life. Consistent with the Gospel of John, participants were called to “walk as Jesus walked, live as Jesus lived” so that their minds, bodies,

spirits, attitudes, behaviors, and love mirror that of Jesus who is always present in the Eucharist.

From the majestic liturgical services, dynamic key note speakers and well-crafted workshops, to the personal gifts, professional performances and concerts, fun competitions, incredible talent show, beautiful decor, amazing VEYM family, and much more, “Christ lives in me” as the central theme permeated. It was apparent that the more participants strive to become like Christ, the more Christ is present in them.

The convention also provided the opportunity for participants to celebrate the Movement’s successes over the years. According to the President of the VEYM-USA’s President of the National Executive



*Picture: Group of VEYM-USA members taking an oath during the convention*





*Picture: Participants enjoying a game of volleyball*

Committee, there is no better time to be a part of the VEYM-USA than the present time. The Movement has grown tremendously over the years and has ventured into numerous uncharted territories. To date, the Movement has 130 plus chapters and over 25,000 members throughout the country. At the local level, Catholic communities recognize the important contribution in apostolic services the VEYM-USA provides. Nationally, the VEYM-USA is cited as “one of the most organized and the largest in terms of

membership among Asian and Pacific Island Catholic Youth groups in the USA,” by the USCCB/Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/Asian and Pacific Island Affairs.

Recently, the VEYM-USA was referenced in one of the research publications from the Georgetown University Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate as playing a vital role in the vocational discernment experience of Vietnamese clergy men and women. On the international front, along with our Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth



Movement brothers and sisters in Vietnam, Canada, Australia, and France, our Movement is collaborating with the International Apostleship of Prayer/Eucharistic Youth Movement to motivate and inspire youth to be in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All of the above achievements speak volume to God’s mercy and love to the VEYM-USA, and indirectly, to the Universal Church. God bless and see you at the 7<sup>th</sup> Coming to the Promised Land Convention!