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## **NFCYM Announces 2025 National Youth Ministry Award Recipients to be Honored at NCYC**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**, — The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 National Youth Ministry Awards. These awards celebrate exemplary leaders who have made significant contributions to the field of pastoral ministry with young people in the United States.

Honorees will be recognized during a special presentation at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), held this November in Indianapolis. These prestigious awards are rooted in the lives of saints and servants of the Church, lifting up individuals who embody their spirit and commitment to youth ministry.

### **2025 Award Recipients**

**The Saint John Bosco Accompaniment Award** recognizes *an individual, apostolate, or organization on the national or regional level* that promotes innovative accompaniment.

- Michael Marchand (ProjectYM)
  - Michael is the cofounder and president of ProjectYM. He has worked to address the number one reason youth ministers leave ministry: feeling alone, isolated, and unsupported. That's why community is at the heart of everything he does – whether training leaders across the country, fostering intentional mentorship through small groups, or creating spaces marked by radical hospitality that renew and sustain those who serve.
- Patrick “Pat” Clasby (St. Patrick Catholic Church, Carlsbad, CA)
  - Pat has served in youth ministry for 30+ years. He co-founded Camp Emmaus, the San Diego Diocesan Leadership Camp, in 2003 and continues to coordinate it. He also led the diocesan youth rally from 2008–2019. He has served as Chair and Co-Chair of the 2022 and 2024 NCYC General Session team and is a board member for EQSaints.
- Richard “Rich“ Donovan (Diocese of Newark)
  - Rich has dedicated the past 30 years to Youth Ministry. He currently serves as Chair of the upcoming NFCYM Exchange Conference and is the Regional Contact for Region 3. Rich previously served two terms on the NFCYM Board of Directors. Since 2006, Rich has been part of the Archdiocese of Newark's Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, where he currently serves as Associate Director. In addition to his diocesan work, Rich serves as Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Saint Michael Parish in Cranford, NJ.

**The Saint John Paul II Parish Leadership Award** recognizes innovative outreach at the *parish level* that identifies and equips adults to respond to the diverse needs and gifts of young people.

- Jeffrey “Jeff” Corder (St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lansing, MI)
  - For the past 13 years, Jeff has dedicated himself to the young people of St. Gerard and the Diocese of Lansing, coordinating diocesan level and regional level Conferences and Camps. Empowering young people to serve the Church is a passion of Jeff, ensuring youth leadership is at the center of his ministry.
- Joan LaBone (St. Mary Help of Christians Parish, Aiken, SC)
  - Joan has been a Catholic educator for over 35 years. During this time, she has taught in a Catholic grade school, worked in parish faith formation and spent the last two decades in youth ministry. She has developed camps based on Matthew 25, “When did I see You Lord” and different faith experiences for children aged 3-18 serving neighbors near and far.
- Timothy “Tim” Janiszewski (The Pastorate of the Visitation, Pasadena, MD)
  - Tim is Pastoral Associate and Director of Youth Ministry at The Pastorate of the Visitation in Pasadena, MD, where he was ministered for over 28 years. Besides ministering to the families of his own community over the past decades, Tim has also spoken and led retreats for many parishes and schools, for both students and staff, and presented at local conferences.

**The Sr. Thea Bowman Bridge Building Award** recognizes *an individual, apostolate, or organization on the national or regional level* that develops bridge building pathways fostering efforts in diversity and inclusion.

- Joyce Francois (Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance)
  - Joyce has served youth and young adults for 30 years, with many of those years served in Detroit. Joyce has a passion for young people and social justice. Joyce came to the Alliance from the Youth Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit with extensive experience in youth programming and youth leadership development.

“These individuals represent the heart and soul of youth ministry—mentors, leaders, and bridge builders whose faithful witness has shaped the lives of countless young people,” Christina Lamas, NFCYM Executive Director.

To read their complete biographies, please [Click Here >](#)

For more information, visit [nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org). For media inquiries, please contact Natalie Ibarra, Communications Manager for NFCYM, at [nataliei@nfcym.org](mailto:nataliei@nfcym.org).

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**About the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), Inc. ([nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org)), a nonprofit organization, is a broad, nationally recognized leadership alliance for Catholic youth ministry. Its mission is to “support and strengthen those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ.”