



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, Teachers, and Activity Directors
FROM: Kim Vercauteren, WCC Executive Director 
DATE: February 25, 2019

RE: Student attendance at *Catholics at the Capitol*, April 30, 2019

The bi-annual *Catholics at the Capitol* conference is scheduled for April 30, 2019, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. This year's celebration has been redesigned to accommodate student schedules and hopes to attract more high school and college-aged attendees. We recognize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. Therefore, I am writing to urge you to encourage student participation in the conference and allow student attendance as an excused absence. The day features both academic formation, civic engagement, and religious expression.

The focus of the conference is to encourage all Catholics, including students, to identify and respond to how God is calling them to live their faith in service to others, at home, at school, in church, and in society. Our Holy Father speaks of "faith in action" and "to serve not be served" and this conference will provide an extension of the Holy Father's message. Our agenda includes discussions on homelessness, immigration, pro-life health care, criminal justice, Catholic social teaching, and creating communities of generosity. It also entails visiting the State Capitol and meeting with lawmakers. Your students' participation will be life-changing.

Without your support, many students will not be able to attend, as they are committed to school and school activities. I hope you agree that we need to take advantage of every opportunity to help our students practice their faith in action and engage in civic advocacy. Learning occurs best by doing! Please consider allowing your students to attend the conference as the "practical application" of our faith and democracy in action.

For more information on speakers and conference content, please visit our website at www.wisconsincatholic.org or call us at (608) 257-0004.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cc: Catholic religious education leaders