



More than just a party – ‘RISEUP’ 2018

Nineteen young adults from our diocese piled into a thirty-one-foot school bus at 5:00 AM on the 18th of December, 2018. Destination—Calgary, Alberta.

This is where the group would meet up with five other members of Prince George and unite with over 700 other young people at the National “Rise Up” Conference hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO).



This five-day conference, geared for adults between the ages of 18 to 35, during a transitional time in their lives, provides an opportunity to encounter Christ in a personal way and place him at the center of lives.

What motivated these young people to leave their families and friends for New Year’s Eve? It was the invitation to “come and see.” As one participant put it before she left for the conference—

I’m going because I’ve been invited, and I want to see whether the experiences of those people who went to Rise Up in the past are really true. They say that Rise Up is going to change your entire life; I want to experience and see if it’s true.

It was true. Each of us encountered Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Father’s love in a personal and unique way. Some members of the group responded to this personal love of God when they intentionally placed Christ at the center of their lives and chose to follow him unreservedly for the first time.

Our prayer is that the seed of God’s personal love planted in each one’s heart will “rise up”, and that many more will hear the invitation to “come and see” the One whom we have encountered, who has given our lives purpose and a direction. The good news is that this encounter is not reserved to an annual conference; far from it--His love for each of us is new every morning.

