

Catholic Exchange and American Family Media

PRESENT

CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

BASEBALL EDITION

YOU'VE BEEN DRAFTED.

(Congratulations!)



ARE YOU IN THE GAME?

A Special Retreat Experience for Fathers and Sons

YOUTH



RETREAT

Dynamic Event for High School Youth Corresponding to *Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition*

Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition is a powerful film that showcases the faith of Major League Baseball's premiere players and coaches.

Contained here are easy-to-follow directions for an incredible youth event corresponding to the film.

YOU'VE BEEN DRAFTED! But are you in the game?

Dynamic Event for High School Youth Corresponding to Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition

Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition is a powerful film that showcases the faith of Major League Baseball's premiere players and coaches. Contained here are easy-to-follow directions for an incredible youth event corresponding to the film.

Preparation:

Total program time: 2 hours

Allow more time if the evening will include Mass, a supper, a baseball game, or another activity.

Build Your Team. Invite adults and youth leaders to help you plan the event, develop all the necessary materials, and draw up a list of participants you'll invite to the program.

Mail an Invitation/Flyer to Prospective Participants. Here is sample text you can use or adapt for your invitation/flyer: "You've been drafted! Come discover your position on the field in *The Big Game*—an awesome event created especially for high school youth." Include date, time and location. Indicate that refreshments will be provided.

To generate more interest, include with each invitation a free raffle ticket and list on the ticket the baseball-related prizes that will be distributed to the lucky winners at *The Big Game*.

Design Draft Cards. Each participant will receive a "draft card" bearing the name of a Major League Baseball Team that's signed them, and a "direction." Generate two of each because participants will work in pairs.

Sample Teams and Directions:

You've been drafted to:

The Atlanta Braves

When Directed: Do the Tomahawk Chop and shout the Braves' war cry.

You've been drafted to:

The New York Yankees

When Directed: Sing "Take me out to the ballgame"

You've been drafted to:

The Chicago Cubs

When Directed: Shout "Strieeeeeeeke!"

You've been drafted to:

The St. Louis Cardinals

When Directed: Swing your arm like a third base coach directing a runner, and shout, "Around the Horn!"

Publicize Your Event. 1) Send a press release about *The Big Game* to local and diocesan media outlets. 2) Have flyers available at schools, parishes and everywhere high school kids hang out. 3) MOST IMPORTANTLY—take the personal approach by texting, emailing, and calling high school kids you would like to see at *The Big Game*.

If someone on your team is web-savvy, develop a simple web page with details of the event, and the growing list of those who have been “drafted” (or registered) for *The Big Game*. This will build excitement and “grow” the event quickly as the students see their friends sign up.

Location. An outdoor location is ideal. Have some baseballs and gloves available so the kids can play catch while waiting for all the participants to arrive. If possible, arrange to hold the event at a local baseball field where the kids can gather on the bleachers and, after dark, watch *Champions of Faith* projected on a big screen.

Registration. At the entrance hang a banner that reads, “You’ve been drafted! But are you in the game?” Set up a table where the participants can register. Lay out markers and blank name tags which read at the bottom, “has been drafted.”

Setting the Mood. During registration have ballpark-style organ music playing in the background.

Food and Beverages. Plan a ballpark-inspired menu: hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, and soft drinks.

Event Part I:

Introduction. Once all the participants have registered and had something to eat, bring everyone together and have them sit on the ground or on the bleachers

Leader’s welcome (read or paraphrase):

We’ve been watching your performance on the field. You’ve worked hard, you’ve excelled, and now here’s your big break. You’re here because you’ve been drafted. That’s right--you’ve made it to the Majors! You’re a star now. And in the weeks and months that follow your life is going to change big time. So I want to welcome you to your first shot at *The Big Game*. You’re going to learn about your Owner, the field, your teammates, the position you’ve been called to play and what it takes to win.

Pair Up. Before distributing the prepared draft cards, offer a word of explanation.

Now you’re going to meet your teammates. In a moment you will receive a draft card. Each card contains a team name and a direction. For instance, one card might say, “You’ve been drafted to The Atlanta Braves.” The card will also contain a direction, such as, “Do the Tomahawk Chop and shout the Braves’ war cry.” Pay attention here! Two people will receive matching cards. That means you are on the same team, and together you’ll be doing the same action. Once you’ve received your draft card perform the specified action so your partner can find you. Then both of you come to me and I will write your draft round number on your cards. After you get your draft number, sit and just chill for a moment until everyone here has paired up. Now come forward to receive your draft card, but DO NOT LOOK at it until I tell you!