

ICYC

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Christians in earlier times risked their lives when they professed their faith publically. Today, people feel pressure against speaking up for their beliefs because of what others might think of them.

He often found himself hiding his religious beliefs whenever he entered the team locker room. "I was still not ready to give up my reputation. I was a '007 Catholic,'" referring to the fictional secret agent character James Bond.

However, there were points where he felt hiding his belief was too much to bear, and he would openly discuss issues such as abortion with his teammates. The results surprised him.

"I thought that if I said anything, they were going to kill me," Horn said, noting very little backlash at all. "It was way worse in my head."

He urged the young people to pray all the time and practice doing what their faith demands of them. "In football, I knew if I didn't practice, I wouldn't be the player I wanted to be. You cannot be the person you want to be without prayer, and that takes effort."

Horn told the young people to receive the sacraments often, especially reconciliation, to regularly re-establish a right relationship with God. He told the crowd that it takes effort to love others and to dedicate their lives to doing what God asks of them.



SPEAKER WITH A PLAYBOOK — Former National Football League player Chris Horn calls on young people to practice their faith during his address Feb. 28 at ICYC. (ICR photo)



JUNIOR PARTICIPANT — Abraham Santos Jr., stands near his father and other members of St. John Cathedral Hispanic Ministry Feb. 26 at ICYC as they perform the "Dance of the Fishermen." The dance, a dance of thanksgiving in Mexico, included placing gifts by the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located to the side of the stage. The St. John's group represented the Hispanic Youth Ministry Leadership of West and West Central Deaneries. (ICR photo)



PRAISE AND WORSHIP — Teenagers raise their hands and voices in prayer during an afternoon session Feb. 27 at ICYC. (ICR photo)



YOUNG WOMEN LISTENING — Teenage girls listened to a presentation, held in Bishop Kelly's old gymnasium, by Jackie Francois Feb. 27 at ICYC. (ICR photo)



GOD SQUAD ON STAGE — Members of the God Squad, a group of volunteers that helped coordinate movement of the participants and other duties behind the scenes, hopped on stage for the last songs and dances of the 2010 ICYC Feb. 28. (ICR photo)

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