

Definition of

Catholic Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community.

A Vision of Youth Ministry, 1976, p. 6

Goals of

Catholic Youth Ministry

- ✦ To EMPOWER youth to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- ✦ To draw young people to responsible PARTICIPATION in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
- ✦ To foster the personal and spiritual GROWTH of each young person.

Renewing the Vision, 1997, p. 2

Definition of

Young Adult Ministry

The purpose of young adult ministry is to strengthen the relationship of young adults with the Church.

Sons and Daughters of the Light, 1996, p. 25

Goals of Young Adult Ministry

To connect young adults with:

- ✦ JESUS CHRIST
- ✦ THE CHURCH
- ✦ THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD
- ✦ A PEER COMMUNITY

Sons and Daughters of the Light, 1996, p. 28-38

A Ministry Affiliated With:



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Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Directory Of Services

FORMATION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

The main purpose of this office is to provide resources, consultation and training on current youth and young adult ministry practices. Pastors, youth ministry coordinators and other leaders can contact the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry for workshops, in-service training, networking, or any other means of support that provide formation for leaders to be successful in their ministry.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The March for Life is an annual bus pilgrimage to Washington DC to protest the January 22, 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. This pilgrimage is a prayerful journey to our nation's capital to learn more about life issues and how to advocate for these issues from a Catholic perspective. Sight-seeing is not an emphasis of this pilgrimage.



CATHOLIC ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

This office supports the faith development of youth and adult leaders involved in athletics through a variety of relationships with national organizations including Catholic Athletes for Christ, Sports Leader and National CYO Sports.

TOTUS TUUS

Totus Tuus is a week-long Catholic parish mission for students in grades 1 – 12 that is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechetical instruction, Christian witness, vocational discernment, Marian devotion and Eucharistic worship. A team of four college-aged teachers presents the program in a local parish each week of the summer. This office recruits both young adults and parishes to participate!



WORLD YOUTH DAY

World Youth Day is an international event held every three years where the Holy Father comes to meet and pray with the young Church. Parishes and individuals are invited to collaborate in creating the pilgrimage experience that includes visiting local spiritual sites as part of the trip. Young adults are the target age group for this gathering.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes general sessions and workshops as well as opportunities for reconciliation, daily liturgy, and special activities such as concerts, a dance, a comedy club, and an exhibit hall. NCYC is a great experience for teens who want to see the Church in action on a national scale.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Diocesan Youth Conference is a biennial event which presents the Catholic faith in a practical and inviting way to catechize, evangelize and energize the high school youth of the diocese. These goals are accomplished through music, witness and fellowship at the Lake Williamson Christian Conference Center in Carlinville. This event is hosted on even numbered years in correlation with the National Catholic Youth Conference.



DIOCESAN YOUTH DAYS

Diocesan Youth Days is a middle school activity coordinated in the fall each year for younger teens to explore questions about who they are as young Catholics and what that means in the world today. Events are hosted by Catholic schools during the week, and parishes host evening sessions for students who are not enrolled in a Catholic school.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

This committee is a group of Catholic lay people and clergy who give guidance, vitality and leadership to the spiritual programs that are available for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and all kindred organizations. A variety of religious awards are available to members of Scouting groups and other kindred ministries.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is an outreach of the Church for those who are college age and older to help build stronger relationships with Jesus Christ. A variety of gathered and non-gathered activities are available to help young adults deepen their faith and meet peers who share the same commitment to our faith.

RETREATS

Youth or adult retreats can be arranged through the Office for Catechesis. Topics can include Confirmation, graduation, leadership and team-building experiences. St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body retreats are available, too. Any spiritual topic can be covered in a retreat experience to meet local needs.



Co-Workers
In The
Vineyard

CO-WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Co-Workers in the Vineyard meetings are networking and formation opportunities for youth ministers throughout the diocese. These gatherings feature time for youth ministers to pray together and share each other's joys, hopes and struggles as we labor in the vineyard of the Lord. Updates on diocesan news and events are also included as part of these gatherings. Meetings are hosted in local parishes throughout the diocese.