

**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

KYLE HOLTGRAVE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
(217) 698-8500 x. 154
(217) 622-4994 (Cell)
kholtgrave@dio.org



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS
1615 West Washington Street
Springfield, IL 62702-4757
www.dio.org/youthministry

Call to schedule a parish visit for an overview of youth ministry and to learn how to dive deeper into ministry with teens and young adults!

**Introduction
to Youth &
Young Adult
Ministry**

**Diocese of
Springfield
in Illinois**



PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

According to research, it takes a willing parish for great youth ministry to happen (*Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry*, p. 9). No single program or specific leadership quality makes good youth ministry happen. When an entire parish supports the young people in their community, wonderful things happen!

Not only does it take a willing parish, but it takes the whole parish for youth ministry to thrive! As our bishops teach us, “no one strategy, activity, or program is adequate to the task of promoting the three goals for ministry with adolescents and that families, parishes, and schools cannot work in isolation if the Church is to realize its goal” (*Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, p. 19).

Rather than one program, such as a youth group, a parish should look for a variety of ways to connect with young people. A possible model for youth ministry might look like this:



BECOMING A YOUTH - FRIENDLY PARISH

A “youth friendly” parish values youth by...

- ◆ making youth feel welcome
- ◆ listening to youth
- ◆ responding to young people’s needs
- ◆ supporting youth with prayer, time, facilities and money

A “youth friendly” parish sees youth as partners by...

- ◆ empowering the gifts young people bring to the Church
- ◆ providing meaningful roles for youth in the community
- ◆ acknowledging and affirming their efforts and contributions

A “youth friendly” parish nurtures meaningful relationships by...

- ◆ connecting young people with role models and mentors
- ◆ including youth in the life of the parish: prayer, discipleship, service and celebration

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- ◆ connects young adults with Jesus Christ through the Church
- ◆ welcomes young adults in the community as part of the journey of discipleship
- ◆ challenges young adults to share in the mission of the Church
- ◆ provides a peer community where faith is nurtured and strengthened

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Everyone in the parish is called to help with ministry for their young people. Leadership roles include:

Coordinator of Youth Ministry-

- ◆ Facilitates planning
- ◆ Administers programs
- ◆ Develops leaders
- ◆ Advocates for youth in the parish and wider community

Youth Ministry Leadership Team-

- ◆ Organizes the overall ministry
- ◆ Plans strategies and programs
- ◆ Recruits leaders
- ◆ Identifies community resources
- ◆ Connects the ministry with other ministries and activities in the parish and wider community

Program Leaders-

- ◆ Animate specific youth or young adult ministry activities
- ◆ Work as a team with youth, parents, and other leaders in the parish and community
- ◆ Includes both youth and adults

Support Roles-

- ◆ Provide assistance for specific activities
- ◆ May work behind the scenes before, during or even after an event

Learn more at <http://www.dio.org/youthministry/organizing-a-youth-ministry-strategy-in-your-parish.html>