

What are the Components of Youth Ministry?

Advocacy: “The Ministry of Advocacy engages the Church to examine its priorities and practices to determine how well young people are integrated into the life, mission, and work of the Catholic community” and with society.” (RTV, p. 27) The ministry of advocacy includes protecting the sanctity of human life, speaking with and on behalf of young people, empowering the voice of young people, and helping them to speak for themselves.

Catechesis: “The Ministry of Catechesis most effectively promotes the faith development of young and older adolescents when the curriculum is focused on important faith themes of the Church and on the developmental needs and life experiences of adolescents.” (RTV, p. 30). It helps young people enrich and expand their understanding of the Scriptures and the sacred tradition. It provides a healthy future by encouraging youth to live faithfully in providing real life application so that they may grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

Community Life: “The Ministry of Community Life builds an environment of love, support, appreciation for diversity, and judicious acceptance that models Catholic principles, develops meaningful relationships; and nurtures Catholic faith.” (RTV, p. 34) This includes building community and relationships between youth and caring adults, families, and between youth.

Evangelization: “This Ministry of Evangelization shares the good news of the reign of God and invites young people to hear about the Word Made Flesh.” (RTV, p. 36) Drawing from Jesus’ example, the ministry of evangelization incorporates several essential elements: witness, outreach, proclamation, invitation, conversion, and discipleship. Evangelization is the energizing core of all we do in youth ministry

Justice and Service: “The Ministry of Justice and Service nurtures in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; empowers young people to be engaged in working for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and infuses the concepts of justice, peace, and human dignity into all ministry efforts.” (RTV, p. 38)

Leadership Development: “The Ministry of Leadership Development calls forth, affirms, and empowers the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities.” (RTV, p. 40) Inviting, training and supporting adults and young people for leadership in youth ministry and the broader parish community.

Pastoral Care: “This Ministry of Pastoral Care is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus’ care for people, especially those who were hurting and in need.” (RTV, p. 42) It involves promoting positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive

(preventive) strategies, caring for adolescents and families in crisis through supports, counseling, and referral to appropriate community agencies; providing guidance as young people face life decisions and make moral choices, and challenging systems that are obstacles to positive development.

Prayer and Worship: “This Ministry of Prayer and Worship celebrates and deepens young people’s relationships with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer, and liturgical experiences; it awakens their awareness of the Spirit at work in their lives, it incorporates young people more fully in the sacramental life of the Church, especially Eucharist; it nurtures the personal prayer life of young people, provides youth with a variety of communal prayer experiences and it fosters family rituals and prayer.” (*RTV, p. 44*)