

Youth & Young Adult

Vision: The Archdiocese of Detroit will bring youth and young adults into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments, prayer, the study of his Divine Word and by showing them how the faith relates to their daily lives, so that with Jesus as the center of their lives, they are better able to discern their vocation and are inspired to share their gifts, energy and enthusiasm in the mission of the Church.

Definition of Catholic Young Adult Ministry:

Young adult ministry is a special effort by the members of the church to actively invite and welcome young adults (18 to 30s) into the life of the Church, understand their life situations to respond effectively to their needs and concerns, and recognize and encourage them to share their gifts with the body of Christ. (*Sons & Daughters of the Light*, USCCB, 1997)

Definition of Catholic Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people (7th – 12th grade) and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community. (*Renewing the Vision*, USCCB, 1997)

- Goal 1:** Establish a framework of standardized programming, resources and opportunities by which to develop a continuum in ministry with a holistic climate and culture which instills the core teachings and practices of the Church, and encourages young Catholics into a vibrant relationship with Christ, invigorated in their faith, leading them to be active disciples evangelizing their peers and communities.
- Goal 2:** Theologically trained and pastorally equipped ministers who are able to assist and form youth and young adults in negotiating the culture in which they live while understanding and actively living out the teachings and faith of the Church.
- Goal 3:** Parishes will as necessary utilize the various resources to achieve the standards provided by the Archdiocese of Detroit as they coordinate ministry to youth and young adults within their parishes, vicariates and regions.

TO RESPOND TO THIS VISION AND MEET THESE GOALS

It is recommended that Families/Individuals will:

1. Become living models of faith for the young people in their lives by strengthening their own knowledge of and relationship with Christ, equipping themselves to accompany young people as they negotiate living an active and true faith in Christ.
2. Recognize that the Sacrament of Confirmation is not a “graduation” from Church rather a deepening of their relationship with Christ, and encourage young people to remain active participants in their youth or young adult ministries and their faith communities.
3. Create a home environment embracing virtuous living that is distinctly Catholic and Christ-centered, which places a higher priority on faith formation for the family, especially youth and young adults.

4. Encourage youth and young adults to become involved in their parish in any of the many areas including evangelization, community service, prayer and worship or leadership, actively living their faith in the community.

It is recommended that the Parishes/Schools will:

1. Ensure young people are incorporated in all activities and facets of parish life and encourage collaboration among parish ministers and volunteers to provide a seamless holistic experience of faith formation, helping to ensure that no young member gets “lost” from one parish ministry to the next, creating an environment that equips young Catholics with the knowledge and skills needed to proclaim the Gospel.
2. Offer doctrinally sound resources to parents and families that help build strong foundations of faith in the home, leading to an active practice of the faith.
3. Ensure that ministers in schools and parishes who are theologically trained and pastorally qualified to effectively address the stages of faith development in young Catholics.

It is recommended that the Regions/Vicariates will:

1. Collaborate across parish boundaries to maximize the spiritual and financial resources entrusted to them for the evangelization and catechesis of youth and young adults.
2. Reinforce the message to parishes, families, young adults and youth that religious education, faith formation, and Christian service do not end with Confirmation, but require a lifelong commitment.
3. Where necessary, utilize materials provided by the AOD to address any weak areas of ministry in the region/vicariate.

It is recommended that the Archdiocese will:

1. Articulate and provide standardized materials and objectives for youth and young adult ministry, while remaining flexible to meet the needs of individual communities, and annually assess ministry programs.
2. Provide theological and spiritual formation and resources for ministers to become well-trained, vibrant witnesses and conduits of the faith and teachings of the Church.
3. Provide a network to assist parishes, young adult and youth ministers to collaborate with one another in order to maximize financial and spiritual resources.

It is recommended that the Archbishop will:

1. Recognize the limited resources of parishes and locate funding for certified and trained lay ecclesial ministers and vibrant ministry programs, encouraging all stakeholders, especially Pastors, to be well versed in comprehensive ministry to young people and more actively involved in ministry to youth and young adults.
2. Make himself and the Bishops of the Archdiocese more available to interact with the young people of the Church to reinforce a feeling of commitment from the hierarchy to the young Church.
3. Communicate to parishes, families, young adults and youth that religious education, faith formation, and Christian service do not end with Confirmation, but require a lifelong commitment.