

Roles in Youth Ministry

1. Coordinator of Youth Ministry: The coordinator of youth ministry facilitates the gifts of the parish to carry out its pastoral ministry with youth. The coordinator is primarily responsible for facilitating the planning team and the volunteer leaders in youth ministry. This leader works with others in advocacy for young people and working towards the inclusion of young people's gifts and energy in the life of the parish community and civic community.

2. Youth Ministry Core Team: The team with the coordinator coordinates the parish's ministry with youth. A particular responsibility of this team is the ongoing assessment of needs and evaluation of parish programming for youth. Developing goals and objectives, selecting needed programs, identifying resources, and recruiting program leaders are also important.

3. Program Leader: A program leader is someone who is responsible for a particular youth ministry effort (program, activity, course, event). If this effort requires a team, the leader recruits and facilitates a program planning team. The program leader coordinates these efforts with the core team to promote flow and cooperation between programs.

4. Chaperones: This is an important role within the youth ministry program. This role is often where the relational dimension of youth ministry is most evident. These are the individuals without specific responsibility for program planning or implementation, but who provide the necessary supervision and involvement for programs to exist.

5. Advocates/Links: Within the parish and the broader community advocates or links are, leaders whose support is needed so that programs and projects can be successful. This can include everyone from civic leaders to parish secretaries. It is important to include and nurture the support of these key individuals. This does not mean that we always bring these leaders on to planning teams. Support can be developed by sharing information, soliciting advice and guidance, and by demonstrating appreciation.

RETREAT COORDINATOR

1. Program: Older adolescent catechetical, worship or leadership program

2. Leader Tasks to be Performed:

- a. Recruiting and training a Retreat Planning Team (youth, young adult, adult);
- b. Designing, or choosing from existing program materials, a retreat model (content and format) that meets the goals
- c. Recruiting and training retreat leaders for the roles of: retreat director/coordinator, program leaders, and logistics leaders;
- d. Choosing an appropriate site for the retreat experience.
- e. Determining retreat expenses and budget;
- f. Publicizing and promoting the retreat
- g. Coordinating appropriate parental involvement through all phases of the retreat experience;

h. Designing a follow-up program integrating the retreat experience with ongoing YM efforts;

h. Evaluating the retreat;

3. Abilities Needed:

a. Ability to design retreat programs incorporating a balance of community building, catechetical, and prayer experiences;

b. Ability to incorporate varied methods and approaches to learning and worship experiences into the retreat experience;

c. Willingness and ability to speak with conviction about his or her own experience and beliefs as a Catholic Christian;

d. Understanding of adolescent growth and development, especially faith growth;

e. Understanding of the signs, symbols, images, and culture of youth;

f. Understanding the content of and resources available on the particular faith theme selected for the retreat experience;

g. Ability to work collaboratively with retreat leaders, supporting them in their role and providing them with the training needed to fulfill their retreat roles.

4. Involvements: Provide leadership for Retreat Planning Team and retreat leaders.

COORDINATOR OF SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Program: Younger or older adolescent service program.

2. Leader Tasks to be Performed:

a. Recruiting & training a Service Committee to assist in selecting & coordinating service programs;

b. Collaborating with catechetical program coordinator to incorporate a general catechetical session on Christian Service and the Call to Justice into parish or school programming prior to the actual start of service programming;

c. Working with service sites to develop a specific training component for each service project.;

d. Recruiting and training leaders for individual service projects;

e. Presenting service opportunities to youth; placement of youth in appropriate projects;

f. Maintaining regular communication with service sites and individual project leaders through the duration of the service projects (training, implementation, reflection and evaluation);

g. Evaluating individual service projects and overall service program;

h. Reporting regularly

3. Abilities Needed:

a. Ability to design service projects incorporating appropriate catechesis and training, reflection and prayer;

b. Familiarity with Scripture and Church teaching as they speak to the issues of service & justice;

c. Willingness & ability to witness to the importance of integrating service into life on an ongoing basis;

d. Understanding of adolescent growth and development;

e. Ability to communicate with service sites a sense of who adolescents are and how their

enthusiasm and skills can best be used in service to others;

f. Ability to work collaboratively with project leaders, supporting them in their role and providing the training needed for group discussion and reflection on the service experience.

CATECHIST

1. Program: Older adolescent catechetical program
2. Leader Tasks to be Performed:
 - a. Designing and conducting the mini-course learning program;
 - b. Obtaining the materials needed to conduct the program
 - c. Evaluating the learning program;
 - d. Contact youth who miss sessions;
 - e. Report on the progress of the program.
3. Abilities Needed:
 - a. Ability to design a learning experience using shared Christian praxis;
 - b. Ability to use media in a learning program;
 - c. Willingness and ability to speak with conviction about his or her own experience and convictions as a Catholic Christian;
 - d. Understanding of adolescent growth and development, especially faith growth;
 - e. Understanding of the signs, symbols, images, and culture of youth;
 - f. Ability to lead a group discussion and conduct faith sharing activities;
 - g. Ability to design and conduct prayer experiences;
 - h. Understanding of the content of his/her particular faith theme.
4. Involvements: Participation in support group meetings.
5. Length of Commitment: Total = 12 meetings (weeks)
6. Supervision/Support: Catechist support group meeting