Five Roles in Youth Ministry Programming

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.