

Key Understandings in Developing a Leadership System for Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is the responsibility of the total community.

Youth Ministry is not an optional program at the parish. It is not the activities of the hired minister. Youth ministry is the description of the pastoral efforts of the parish that are directed towards young people. Effective leaders nurture and encourage community ownership of the parish outreach with young people.

The coordinator of youth ministry facilitates the gifts of the parish to carry out its pastoral ministry with youth.

The coordinator of youth ministry is more like the conductor of an orchestra than a soloist. The diverse needs of youth require many gifts to develop and sustain ministry programs. The coordinator is the animator - the one who inspires, challenges and brings to life the ministry of the parish.

The gifts of the parish are best utilized when the diverse communities and the variety of talents are included.

Within each community, God has placed the gifts needed for that parish to be the presence of Christ. Many times, parts of the community have been left out, resulting in diminished ministries. Effective leaders engage the diverse age groups and ethnic communities so that the ministers reflect the wider community. In this way the many diverse talents can be included in providing an outstanding and vibrant ministry with and for youth.

Basic Guidelines for Youth Programming

- ✓ **Focus on People**
- ✓ **Involve Youth**
- ✓ **Strive for Balance**
- ✓ **Keep It Moving**
- ✓ **Be Prepared**
- ✓ **Be Flexible**
- ✓ **KISMIF**
Keep It Simple; Make It Fun!