

# **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

# **FOUR DIMENSIONS OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

Youth Ministry is to, with, by and for youth

1. Youth ministry is TO youth when the Christian community exercises its pastoral role in meeting young people's needs.
2. Youth ministry is WITH youth because young people share with adults a common responsibility to carry out the Church's mission.
3. Youth ministry is BY youth when young people exercise their own ministry to others, particularly to their peers.
4. Youth ministry is FOR youth in that adult youth ministers attempt to interpret the needs of youth and act as advocates in articulating youth's legitimate concerns to the wider community.

# **SIX BASIC NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

(The Religious Life of Young Americans)

1. The need to believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose.
2. The need for a sense of community and deeper relationships.
3. The need to be appreciated and loved. -
4. The need to be listened to - to be heard.
5. The need to feel that one is growing in faith.
6. The need for practical help in developing a mature faith.

# **FIVE HUNGERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

(Challenge of Catholic Youth Evangelization)

1. The hunger for meaning and purpose
2. The hunger for connection.
3. The hunger for recognition.
4. The hunger for justice
5. The hunger for the holy.