

RECLAIMING THE CHARISMS OF ADOLESCENTS

The Charism of VISION

The Charism of QUESTIONING

The Charism of SERVICE

The Charism of ENTHUSIASM

The Charism of PROPHECY

QUALITIES FOR YOUTH MINISTERS

As youth ministers, we are first and foremost:

- * persons of faith
- * witnesses of the Gospel
- * witnesses of the Church
- * servants of the community
- * sharers in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Above and beyond these qualities catechists possess a genuine love for young people and display qualities that demonstrate this love:

- * availability
- * acceptance
- * authenticity
- * vulnerability

ENCOUNTER

An encounter with an adolescent requires openness, a presence and a real availability.

Adolescents seek out catechists who can authentically share their own faith story - the struggles, hopes and doubts that they experience in their own lives. Adolescents seek to be appreciated for who they are - persons loved by God.

Adolescence is essentially a rapid, intense and multifaceted experience of change, growth and transition from childhood to adulthood. We can help them move through these stages of growth and crises. We can create with them **meaningful ways of celebrating:**

darkness >- light

fear > trust

alienation >- fellowship

feeling lost > feeling at home

dependence >- responsibility

slavery >- freedom

confusion of identity >- being called by name

guilt > peace

hatred of self & others >- acceptance & love of self & others

despair >- hope

death > life