

RENEWING THE VISION.....A YOUTH MINISTRY MINDSET

- Catholic Youth Ministry needs room to grow.
- We need to minister with the diverse youth of today.
- We need room in our ministries for new, creative ideas and ministry responses
- We need to make room for the people of our parish to become involved with youth by sharing their gifts and experiences
- Youth today face many challenges as they grow to adulthood.
- They also share with us the good news of positive youth development and the proven effectiveness of youth ministry efforts.
- All of us contribute to these efforts - as community organization, as parish community, as individuals, as families
- In the past, some youth ministry programs focused on few key leaders who work to organize the ministry.
- In the New Renewed Vision for Ministry -we make room for different kinds of youth, different responses and different resources.
- We begin to see problems as opportunities.

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY- IT TAKES A PARISH

Since the 1970's, the Church has learned a great deal about ministry with youth. We have also learned that no one strategy, activity or program is adequate to the task of promoting the three goals of ministry with adolescents and that families, parishes, and schools cannot work in isolation if the Church is to realize its goals. We have learned that it takes the entire Church to achieve the three goals that have been established for ministry with adolescents:

THREE GOALS OF YOUTH MINISTRY

- Goal 1: Youth Ministry works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.
- Goal 2: Youth Ministry seeks to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community.
- Goal 3: Youth Ministry empowers young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to their faith by living and working for justice, peace, and human dignity

NOURISH THE GOOD WORK GOD HAS BEGUN

- + Stress the relational aspects of faith, centered on the person of Jesus Christ
- + Help young people see all of life as sacrament
- + Allow time for storytelling and faith- sharing
- + Invite young people into responsible participation with the faith community
- + bring religious imagination into all aspects of prayer, Scripture, ritual, Liturgy and Catechesis
- + introduce young people to experiences of silence, solitude and reflection
- + Challenge young people to clarify their values using their faith as a guide
- + Never underestimate the power of presence to young people
- + Assist adolescents in attending to the spiritual dimension of their lives

ADOLESCENT FAITH FORMATION IN THE PARISH FAITH COMMUNITY

- Teaching
- Service
- Community
- Prayer and Worship

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