

# **MODEL FOR YOUTH MINISTRY SESSIONS**

1. Create Environment
2. Gathering Prayer Experience
3. Community- Building
4. Life Experience
5. Catechesis/ teaching/ presentation
6. Small group sharing – Processing
7. Application to Life
8. Insertion into parish life
9. Social
10. Closing Prayer Experience

## **5 DIMENSIONS OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

1. Making of disciples
2. Giving skills needed as disciples
3. Form small groups- It's based on relationships
4. Comprehensive: mind, heart, behavior... know, love, serve.
- 5, Collaboration, work of whole Church

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH SHARING WITH YOUTH**

### **Catechesis that:**

- = considers the diversity of the religious situation of each young person
- = is given in the context of wider pastoral care
- = addresses problems facing their lives
- = includes well organized group action
- = provides personal accompaniment and spiritual direction
- = includes specific themes as well as other kinds of occasional and informal meetings
- = proposed in new ways
- = theological, ethical, historical and social in nature
- = formation of conscience and education for love
- = vocational discernment
- = missionary dimension
- = humanitarian nature
- = translates into their "Language" (mentality, sensibility, tastes, style,vocabulary)  
the message of Jesus with patience and wisdom without betrayal

## **HOW WE SHARE FAITH WITH YOUTH**

1. Verbal Symbols – storytelling, reading, sermon, lecture, debate, dialog, interview, group interview, panel, discussion
2. Visual Symbols – books, pictures, maps, charts, photographs, art, diagrams, cartoons
3. Audio Symbols – records, cassettes, radio
4. Audiovisual Symbols – films, filmstrips, videotapes, music videos, slide shows, television.
5. Exhibits – displays, bulletin boards, posters
6. Field Trips – in the community, to other churches
7. Demonstrations – by resource people

8. Dramatized Experiences – plays, scripts
9. Contrived Experiences – role playing, simulation games, case studies
10. Direct, Purposeful, Personal Experiences – service projects, mission work camps, prayer, worship, creative expression (creating videos, slide shows, scripts, role plays, case studies), creative writing.

## **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.

## **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