



### ***Definition of Catholic Youth Ministry***

“Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of the youth with the larger community.” *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic youth Ministry.*” USCCB, 1997, p.1 (quoting *A Vision of Youth Ministry*, 1976).

### ***Three Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry***

#### **Goal 1: Empowerment**

To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. (RTV, p. 9)

- Present the Good News
- Relationship with Jesus
- Call to discipleship
- Provide for catechesis
- Explore vocations

#### **Goal 2: Participation**

To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. (RTV, p. 11)

There are four faith communities.

- Family
- Parish
- Catholic Schools
- Youth-serving Organizations

#### **Goal 3: Growth**

To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (RTV, p. 15)

- Aim: “healthy, competent, caring, and faith filled youth”
- Address spiritual needs in context of life
- Ministry fosters:
  - Healthy adolescent development
  - Discipleship
  - Catholic identity



## ***Components of Comprehensive Youth Ministry***

The components describe specific areas of the mission of the Church that work together to provide ministry with adolescents. “These components provide a framework for the Catholic community to *respond* to the needs of young people in sharing their unique gifts with the larger community.” (RTV, p. 26)

### ***1. Advocacy***

Interpreting the needs of young people, standing up for young people, both as individuals and as a youth community.

### ***2. Catechesis***

Deepening the faith of young people through teaching and reflection – working towards transformation.

### ***3. Community Life***

Building community, not just between young people, but with their families and engaging youth in the broader parish community.

### ***4. Evangelization***

Proclaiming the Good News and inviting youth into relationship with Jesus Christ through ongoing witness.

### ***5. Justice and Service***

Engaging young people in helping and serving other people, and understanding the Gospel call to justice through education and reflection.

### ***6. Leadership Development***

Inviting, training, and supporting adults and young people into leadership for youth ministry and with the broader parish community.

### ***7. Pastoral Care***

Providing prevention programs for youth and families, caring for those in crisis, and providing guidance during times of decisions and moral choices.

### ***8. Prayer and Worship***

Helping youth to develop an individual prayer life, experience a variety of communal prayers, and involving youth in the sacramental life of the Church.



### Is Our Youth Ministry Dynamic?

Now that you have assessed your parish youth ministry in light of the components of a *Comprehensive* youth ministry, let's assess the *dynamic nature* of your ministry. Parishes with dynamic youth ministry develop models for youth ministry that include these eight elements. Use this assessment tool to identify areas of strength and areas that need growth for your community. Take a moment to reflect and answer these questions, then discuss with your small group how each statement does or does not reflect your ministries. There is space under each element for you to write down notes and/or ideas of how you can improve this in the coming year. **Don't be shy about what you are doing well! What works for you might spark an idea for someone else in your group.**

**For each statement circle one of these options:**

***This needs growth*** – This indicates that this statement does not currently describe your parish and this area needs to grow.

***We try to do this*** – This indicates that you are making efforts to make this statement true about your parish, but there is more work to do.

***We do this well*** – This indicates that this statement describes your parish and this time.

1. We gather our youth **regularly**.

This needs growth

We try to do this

We do this well.

2. We provide a **variety of special events** within which youth can participate

This needs growth

We try to do this

We do this well.

3. We provide **intentional catechesis** for adolescents.

This needs growth

We try to do this

We do this well.

