

Expectations of a Youth Ministry Leader (YML)

The lay ecclesial YML is responsible for developing a pastoral ministry with youth, and is accountable to the pastor or other duly appointed representative. The YML reaches out to all youth in the faith community, provides for formal catechesis (if this is not expected of the Catechetical Leader), invites, and enables youth to serve others. He/she develops close communication with and mutual support from families of youth and collaborates with other community and parish/school youth organizations.

Specific Responsibilities

Program Development

Acts as a role model and collaborates with the faith community to implement the components of Catholic youth ministry:

- Utilizes the aims, principles, processes, and methods of adolescent catechesis in implementing adolescent faith formation including sacramental preparation.
- Facilitates the development of community among youth, families, Church, and society.
- Invites young people into intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and empowers them to live and witness as disciples in today's world.
- Engages youth in the social mission of the Church in accord with Catholic social teaching.
- Enables healing, growth, and healthy development of youth in their relationships.
- Enables young people to celebrate and deepen their relationship with God through individual and communal prayer and participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- Engages the Church and broader community in voicing and addressing the rights and needs of youth.
- Affirms and calls forth the gifts of youth and adult leaders and provides opportunities for their ongoing spiritual and leadership development.

Recruitment and Training of Leaders

- Recruits, trains, assigns, and evaluates the youth leaders; coordinates participation in training programs.
- Serves as an advisor and support to youth leaders.
- Recruits, screens, trains, assigns, and evaluates the adult leaders. Coordinates participation in training programs.
- Monitors the efforts of volunteer adult leaders and evaluates their progress.
- Makes special efforts to gain the endorsement, support, and involvement of all adults, especially parents and parish organizations.
- Defines the responsibilities of each adult leader/advisor.
- Publicizes and offers education programs and support systems for volunteer leaders.

Administration

- Initiates ways of gathering data on the needs, interests, attitudes and beliefs of youth and uses this data to respond to the identified needs of youth.
- Plans, organizes, and implements programs/experiences that provide a holistic approach in meeting the needs/interests of youth.
- Submits annual financial report and budget; administers budget throughout the year.
- Maintains necessary office and program records, including a log of activities and time.
- Determines effective means for publicizing and promoting programs and experiences.

- Submits periodic reports to the pastor or other duly appointed representative detailing programs in youth ministry.
- Initiates procedures for evaluating all aspects of the parish's ministry to youth

Communication

- Keeps the parish faith community informed of youth ministry activities and goals.
- Advises, communicates, and cooperates with other parish and diocesan organizations.
- Works with youth ministry team on goals and programmatic ideas for meeting needs.
- Participates in parish governing structures to ensure greater participation of youth in parish life and facilitate communication and decision-making.
- Supervises and coordinates scheduling of youth events and activities.
- Keeps informed through attendance at diocesan, regional and national conferences, regular reading, and membership in professional associations.
- Is aware of community agencies and resources that interface with youth.
- Sets annual goals and objectives for each junior/senior high program as requested.

Adapted from the **National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers**, by the National Association for Lay Ministry, the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, and National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry; 2003