

Research Questions for YOUTH MINISTRY PARISH GOAL

Establish or Enhance Youth Ministry Opportunities by July 1, 2020

(This document has the same list of questions that are found on pages 14-15 of your Parish Leadership Team Training manual. However, it also includes guidance for assessing what needs to be done at your parish to achieve your goal.)

▪ **Do we need to “establish” or “enhance” our parish youth ministry?**

Youth Ministry is more than a program. It’s a comprehensive way of ministering to youth. In order to assess how your parish is currently doing in regards to youth ministry, we recommend the [Youth Ministry Benchmark Indicators Assessment Tool](#) developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). (You can also visit www.dosp.org/youth-ministry-resources to download the Assessment Tool.)

▪ **What are the best practices in Youth Ministry at the Parish Level?**

Begin your research by navigating the websites of Church and Ministry Organizations. (You can also visit www.dosp.org/youth-ministry-resources for direct links to all of these resources).

- a. The [USCCB Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry](#) has established a foundational overview of what youth ministry should be and has propagated a document entitled [Renewing the Vision](#), which is a framework for Catholic Youth Ministry.
- b. The USCCB has also established a Youth Ministry Initiative for Hispanic Youth entitled [Pastoral Juvenil](#).
- c. Also, there are three Youth Ministry organizations that provide an excellent guide for practical application of “[Renewing the Vision](#)”
 - i. [The National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
 - ii. [Life Teen](#)
 - iii. [The Center for Ministry Development](#)

▪ **What are the obstacles for our parish in this area?**

Consider a variety of factors such as these:

- a. Resources: Human and Material
- b. Leadership
- c. “Past History” of Youth Ministry at the Parish
- d. Formation of the parish community regarding the need for comprehensive Youth Ministry
- e. Other: _____

▪ **What are some of the advantages of our parish in this area?**

Consider a variety of factors such as these:

- a. Facilities: Parish Campus, Neighboring/Collaborating Parishes, Catholic Schools, Retreat Centers, Civic facilities, etc.
- b. Support: Financial, Expertise of Local Agencies, etc.
- c. Other: _____

▪ **What do we really want to see happening? (Dream big!)**

- **How much are we willing to let go of current methods, patterns or leadership in order to reap a better harvest?**

- **Who and what do we need to help us?**
 Consider a variety of resources such as these:
 - a. Resources or services from the Youth Ministry Organizations or USCCB that we previously researched
 - b. Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry Staff Members
 - c. Neighboring Parish Leaders
 - d. Best Practice Models in our Diocese as recommended by the Diocesan Office
 - e. Key Parish Staff Members
 - f. Other Stakeholders: Parents, Young Adults
 - g. Other: _____

- **What training is available to us?**
 Consider a variety of resources such as these:
 - a. Diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
 - b. Current Program Materials Publisher (e.g. Life Teen & Edge, Center for Ministry Development— Youth Ministry Access)
 - c. Civic Agencies (e.g. Juvenile Welfare Board)
 - d. Other: _____

- **How can we effectively communicate the goal and its potential to the entire parish?**
 Visit www.dosp.org/communication-resources for simple steps for effective communication.

- **What will motivate us to keep working on this goal and how do we tap into that motivation?**

- **Other questions...**

For direct links to all the resources mentioned in this document, visit www.dosp.org/youth-ministry-resources or www.dosp.org/communication-resources.

