

Profile for Parish Youth Ministry **

Introduction

As a baptized Catholic, each person is called to proclaim the Gospel and participate in the mission of the Church. Certain individuals responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit take on the specialized role of a parish youth minister. A person designated as a parish Youth Minister should meet the “National Certification Standards For Lay Ecclesial Ministers” * and the requirements of the *Growth in Faith* diocesan catechist certification process.

* www.usccb.org/resources/Lay-Ecclesial-Ministry-Standards-2018.pdf.

Main Responsibilities

- Teach core content of Catholic faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Creed, Sacraments, Life in Christ, Prayer) to provide a solid foundation for continued growth in faith.
- Provide developmentally appropriate content and processes around key themes of Catholic faith that respond to the needs, interests, and concerns of younger and older adolescents.
- Provide education and formation experiences which address knowledge, emotions, and service to others.
- Incorporate a variety of learning methods and activities through which adolescents can explore and learn important religious concepts of the Scriptures and Catholic faith.
- Provide real-life application of learning by helping adolescents apply their learning to living their faith.
- Encourage participation in diocesan youth ministry events and summer camp at Guggenheim.
- Promote Christian attitudes toward human sexuality.
- Encourage and guides group participation in an environment where adolescents can hear and respond to God’s call, express their point of view, and ask questions.
- Provide opportunities for socialization, fun, prayers, and faith sharing.

Competencies and Skills

- Does the Youth Minister have the skills and education to plan, implement, and supervise a parish youth ministry program that addresses the threefold ministry to youth: head, heart, and hands?
Consider the Youth Minister’s Diocesan GIF certification status and formation in the areas of Scripture, Sacraments, Morality, Church, Prayer, Liturgy, Social Teachings of the Church, experience as a catechist, organization and leadership skills, familiarity with *Renewing the Vision* and the *Diocesan Vision for Youth Ministry*.

- Does the Youth Minister accept and live the Gospel and the teachings of the Church? Consider the Youth Minister's regular attendance at Sunday Mass, participation in the sacramental life of the Church, joyful witness to the Gospel and active participation in parish life.
- Does the Youth Minister recognize that the most effective place for youth ministry is at the parish level with appropriate participation of parents and other adults as role models? Consider the Youth Minister's participation in parish life and ability to engage parish members in youth ministry endeavors.
- Does the Youth Minister have the skills, personality, experience to accompany youth on their journey of faith? Consider the Youth Minister's ability to relate to youth and facilitate opportunities for them to grow in an intimate relationship with Jesus and empower them to live as missionary disciples through individual and communal prayer, participation in the liturgy and service to others.
- Does the Youth Minister have community building skills? Consider the Youth Minister's ability to facilitate and build community among youth, families and within the parish community; foster healthy/wholesome relationships among youth; establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with youth and inspire their engagement in parish life and (outreach) service; personality traits that encourage communication, e.g., empathy, ability to listen, etc.
- Does the Youth Minister have adequate teaching skills? Consider the Youth Minister's ability to articulate the Church's teachings, draw youth into the rich heritage of the Catholic faith and tradition and help them to examine their beliefs and practices in light of Church teaching and develop a loving relationship with Jesus and His Church.
- Does the Youth Minister effectively use digital technology to enhance a youth program that addresses the head, heart, and hands? Consider Youth Minister's use of digital material that supports faith formation, knowledge of on-line resources and ability to use websites effectively and appropriately, email, mobile devices, and social media.

** A parish Youth Minister should be commissioned through the Formation For Ministry Program

Note: No one person has all these qualities. However, people working in Church ministry should exemplify some of these qualities. As they continue in ministry, it is hoped that they would begin to develop those qualities that may be deficient.

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