

Prioritizing Tasks for the Role of a Diocesan Youth Ministry Office

A diocesan youth ministry office supports the development of youth ministry through the following means:

- **Leadership Formation and Training**
This includes providing training for parish staff and leadership, coordinators of youth ministry, adult youth ministry team members and youth leaders.
- **Resources**
This includes providing and identifying resources needed for parishes to implement effective youth ministry.
- **Promoting Ministry with Youth from Diverse Cultures**
This includes collaboration with other departments and faith communities in developing ministry for youth from diverse cultural groups.
- **Consultation Services**
This includes providing on-site assistance for parishes and clusters of parishes by helping parish teams to plan for and implement various aspects of youth ministry.
- **Networking**
This includes building a network of support for youth ministry at a variety of levels.
- **Building Support**
This includes a variety of tasks that help to build support for youth ministry.
- **Direct Ministry with Youth**
This includes strategic gatherings of youth on a diocesan or deanery level to support the development of parish youth ministry.

Potential Tasks for a Diocesan Youth Ministry Office

The following are a list of potential tasks for diocesan offices. Assess these tasks from this perspective, how strategic or important is this task for the development of parish ministry?

Assessment: *In this diocese, how strategic or important is this task to the development of parish youth ministry?* Please assign a rating for each item using the following scale by circling one item:

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Scale Description:

- **Not desirable** means that this task is counter-productive in developing parish youth ministry.
- **Not important** means that this task has a neutral or minimal impact on developing parish youth ministry.
- **Important** identifies a task that makes an impact.
- **Very important** identifies a task that makes a substantial impact.
- **Essential** identifies a task that a diocesan youth ministry office must provide in order to be effective.

Leadership Formation

L1. Providing training for Coordinators of Youth Ministry in the pastoral practices of youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L2. Providing leadership formation for Coordinators of Youth Ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L3. Providing theological formation for Coordinators of Youth Ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L4. Providing spiritual formation for Coordinators and other adult leaders in youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L5. Developing a process for certification of Coordinators of Youth Ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L6. Providing training for adult leaders in youth ministry. (Note: this is training for all adults who work in youth ministry, not specifically the coordinator.)

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L7. Providing training and formation for catechists who work with youth.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L8. Providing education for parish staff and leadership regarding youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

L9. Providing leadership training for youth.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Resourcing

R1. Identifying and distributing timely and strategic resources needed by youth ministry leaders.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

R2. Establishing a diocesan resource library.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

R3. Recommending resources for youth ministry leaders to use (print, technology, media, speakers, retreat leaders, etc...).

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

R4. Recommending resources for use in adolescent catechesis.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Promoting Ministry with Youth from Diverse Cultures

P1. Developing relationships with leaders and communities within the diocese.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P2. Collaborating with the various departments and apostolates that serve ethnic communities.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P3. Inviting, empowering and forming youth from diverse cultures as Christian leaders.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P4. Empowering and forming adults from diverse cultures for leadership in youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P5. Providing consultation for parishes on the formation of different groupings based on ethnicity and how to work with them under one youth ministry vision and structure.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P6. Providing education and resources for parish staffs to assist communities in responding to the social and religious needs of youth and their families from diverse cultures.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P7. Providing training, models and practical resources for youth ministry leaders to develop responsive ministry with youth and their families from diverse cultures.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P8. Including leaders from diverse cultures within the planning and leadership of diocesan initiatives and events.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

P9. Celebrating the diversity of cultures within all diocesan sponsored gatherings and events.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Consulting

C1. Providing consultation for parishes to assist in selecting a coordinator of youth ministry

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C2. Providing assistance, training and resources to help parishes plan for and implement youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C3. Providing consultation for coordinators of youth ministry for special situations.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C4. Providing consultation for parishes in developing adolescent catechesis and sacramental preparation

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C5. Providing consultation for parishes in developing retreats and other specialized elements of youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C6. Assisting parishes in promoting a safe environment for youth and children and providing for screening of adults in youth ministry.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

C7. Assisting parishes in implementing diocesan policies for ministry programs, insurance, travel and other matters.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Networking

N1. Building community and a network of support among youth ministry leaders.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

N2. Connecting youth ministry leaders with each other for mutual support and networking through regular gatherings.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

N3. Collaborating with other diocesan ministry offices.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

N4. Working with youth ministry movements that are present in the local area.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

N5. Networking with other religious leaders and youth serving agencies in your area.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Building support

S1. Communicating a vision for youth ministry through diocesan communication channels including emerging technologies such as websites, internet and e-mail.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

S2. Working with the diocesan newspaper and other media regarding youth ministry matters.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

S3. Advocating for youth ministry and the needs of youth ministry coordinators with diocesan staff and councils.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

S4. Visiting parishes for ongoing needs assessment and support.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

S5. Promoting ministry with youth from the cultures and ethnicities that comprise the local church.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Ministry with Youth

M1. Providing for a diocesan youth ministry conference or rally.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

M2. Organizing diocesan delegations for regional, national and international youth events (i.e.: NCYC, World Youth Day.)

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

M3. Providing deanery level youth events and rallies

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

M4. Providing youth retreats.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

M5. Promoting ministry for at-risk youth.

Not Desirable Not Important Important Very Important Essential

Comments:

Priorities:

1. What are the most important services the diocese should provide to support the development of parish youth ministry (state the categories, service numbers, or combination of both)?

2. What are the least important services or tasks that should be avoided or set aside in a diocesan plan (state the categories, service numbers, or combination of both)?

3. What are the needs of the local area that should be considered in developing a diocesan youth ministry plan?

This resource is provided by the Center for Ministry Development.
For more information about ministry training and resources,
please contact Tom East at tomeast@cmdnet.org or (253) 853-5422.