



Guide to Using Accompaniment Resources for Parish Leaders

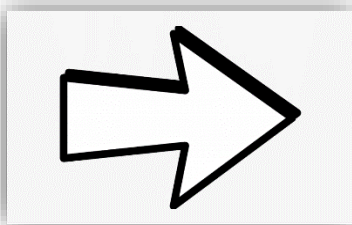
Growing as a Parish who Accompanies Youth

- **Begin with the parish relationship with youth**
- **Empower parents and faith companions**
- **Transform ministry efforts to support accompaniment**

To accompany young disciples, parishes need to have courageous conversations and develop effective skills for accompaniment. These conversations can lead to growing the ways that a parish community includes and accompanies young members, transforming ministries to promote accompaniment, and equipping parents, and faith companions to accompany youth.

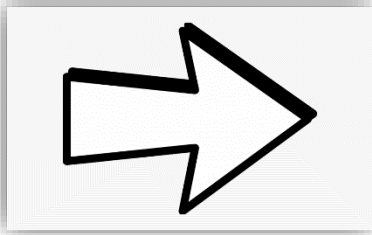
This resource page contains general resources to assist with accompaniment, resources to help form and equip parents and faith companions, and leadership conversations that can guide a parish in accompanying youth. You can use these resources to guide your community through a year-long process of growing accompaniment or you can choose specific elements that will help your parish get started or grow in the accompaniment of youth. The resources match with a variety of starting points.

Starting Points for Parish Leaders



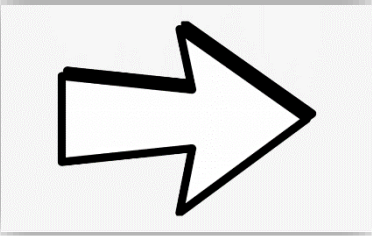
Accompaniment Process

I would like to work with a team to guide my parish through a process of growing in our accompaniment of youth. This will address all three areas. Go to description on page 7.



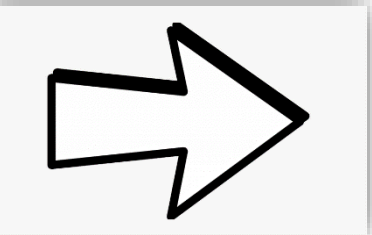
Creating a Plan to Equip Parents and Faith Companions

I would like to work with a team to create a plan for our parish to equip parents and faith companions to accompany young people. Go to description on page 8.

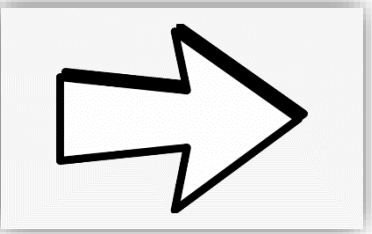


Creating a Plan to Transform Ministries to support accompaniment

I would like to work with a team to guide my parish through a process of transforming our ministries with youth to better support accompaniment. Go to description on page 8.

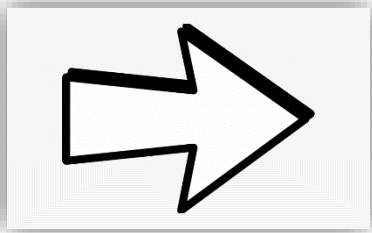


Creating a Plan Build the Relationship between Youth and the Parish I would like to work with a team to guide my parish through a process of building the relationship between youth and the parish. Go to description on page 8.



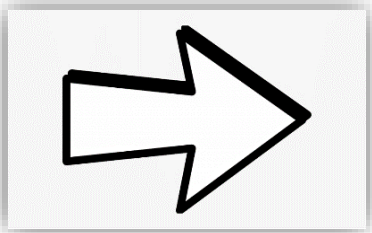
Creating Leadership Positions for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Youth Ministry Team

I would like to work with parish leaders to develop the leadership position for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and the leadership team. Go to description on page 8.



Provide Training and Support for Parents and Faith Companions

I would like to gather with parents and faith companions to provide training, resources, and support to equip them for accompanying youth. Go to description on page 8.



Provide Parish Leadership with an Assessment of Accompaniment

I would like to meet with parish leadership to consider accompaniment and provide tools for assessing our resources and areas to change to accompany young people. Go to description on page 8.

Description of Resources



General Resources

Implementing Accompaniment – Journal Article

This article provides direction for growing accompaniment in parish communities and includes examples for growing the relationship of the parish with youth, empowering parents, and faith companions, and transforming ministries to support accompaniment.

Leadership for Youth Ministry in Parishes Who Accompany – Journal Article

This article provides direction for developing leadership for youth ministry by describing the tasks and qualities of leaders and providing job descriptions for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and the Youth Ministry Coordinating Team.

In Parishes Who Accompany Youth and Families

This description of parishes who accompany youth and families in faith provides specific markers for communities who are implementing accompaniment. (English and Spanish – Word and PDF)

Reflection and Assessment - In Parishes Who Accompany Youth and Families

This reflection and assessment instrument is developed from the description of parishes who accompany youth and families. This tool helps communities to plan for growth. (English and Spanish – Word and PDF)

Accompaniment Project Team Vision, Process, and Roles

This resource supports parishes and dioceses in creating and supporting an Accompaniment Project Team to guide implementation in their community.

Job Description for Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Leadership Team Members

These descriptions for the leadership roles of Coordinator of Youth Ministry, and Youth Ministry Leadership Team Members, provide vision and direction for leadership that supports accompaniment.

Resources for Equipping Faith Companions

Let's Talk about Youth and Faith: Training for Parents and Faith Companions Video Guide – Tom East

This is a video-based training outline for use with parents, Confirmation sponsors, catechists, ministry leaders, and others faith companions for young people. (Word and PDF)

Let's Talk - Parent and Faith Companion Training Handouts for Video

These are the handouts for participants in the video-based training outline for use with parents and faith companions. (Word and PDF)

Let's Talk - Parent and Faith Companion Training - SLIDE HANDOUTS --Tom East.pdf

These are the handouts for the slides for participants in the video-based training outline for use with parents and faith companions. (PDF)

Prayer for Faith Companions

This prayer is for all who companion youth in life and faith. (PDF)

Conversation # 2 Being a Faith Companion

This is a workshop designed to equip parents of youth, Confirmation sponsors, ministry leaders, catechists, teachers, coaches, and all who could be faith companions to accompany youth.

Conversation Question:

What support is needed to accompany youth in our community?

Follow-through:

Provide resources, networking, additional training, and support for parents and all faith companions for youth. Consider implementing Conversation # 3 to extend this training, and Conversation # 4 to plan for ways to provide this training for additional audiences.

Conversation # 3 Witnessing Faith

This is a workshop designed to equip parents of youth, Confirmation sponsors, ministry leaders, catechists, teachers, coaches, and all who could be faith companions to provide a witness to faith.

Conversation Question:

What is my faith witness? How can we provide experiences of witness for youth as faith companions, in families, in our ministries, and as a parish?

Follow-through:

Provide resources, networking, additional training and support for faith witnesses. Build elements of witness within youth ministry, adolescent catechesis, retreats, and other opportunities for youth faith development.

Conversations

These seven conversations are intended for gatherings of parish leadership. Each gathering includes presentation, sharing of vision, sharing of resources, questions for conversation, and opportunities for planning.

These conversations can be used in sequence over a series of months by a leadership team to implement a project to build accompaniment in the parish. The conversations can also be used as an individual unit or as a series to build specific elements for accompaniment.

Conversation # 1 Introduction to Accompaniment

This introduction shares a vision for accompaniment and invites teams to consider the resources and needed changes in their community.

Conversation Question:

What are the resources and changes needed in our parish community to support the accompaniment of youth?

Follow-through:

Consider evaluation of the parish utilizing this resource (located in Part 1):

Reflection and Assessment - In Parishes Who Accompany Youth and their Families OR

Choose a starting point for involving leadership in developing an Accompaniment Project for the parish or selecting a specific starting point. (See Starting Points.)

Conversation # 2 Being a Faith Companion

This is a workshop designed to equip parents of youth, Confirmation sponsors, ministry leaders, catechists, teachers, coaches, and all who could be faith companions to accompany youth.

Conversation Question:

What support is needed to accompany youth in our community?

Follow-through:

Provide resources, networking, additional training, and support for parents and all faith companions for youth. Consider implementing Conversation # 3 to extend this training, and Conversation # 4 to plan for ways to provide this training for additional audiences.

Conversation # 3 Witnessing Faith

This is a workshop designed to equip parents of youth, Confirmation sponsors, ministry leaders, catechists, teachers, coaches, and all who could be faith companions to provide a witness to faith.

Conversation Question:

What is my faith witness? How can we provide experiences of witness for youth as faith companions, in families, in our ministries, and as a parish?

Follow-through:

Provide resources, networking, additional training and support for faith witnesses. Build elements of witness within youth ministry, adolescent catechesis, retreats, and other opportunities for youth faith development.

Conversation # 4 Developing Faith Companions for Youth

This leadership gathering is designed to assist ministry teams to plan for ways to empower faith companions for youth.

Conversation Questions:

How can we provide five faith companions for each youth in our parish? How can we equip and support parents and faith companions in our community?

Follow-through – Organize trainings for parents and faith companions in the parish to be offered between November and March, and develop structures for ongoing support for those who accompany youth.

Conversation #5 Transforming Ministries to Promote Accompaniment

This leadership gathering is designed to assist ministry teams to plan for ways to support accompaniment by building opportunities for faith companions within all ministries with youth.

Conversation Questions:

How can we build accompaniment opportunities within all aspects of our ministries with youth? What do we need to enhance, and create to reach out to youth? What program initiatives do we need to let go of to make room for innovations?

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating current ministries with youth in the parish to plan for ministry efforts to transform, eliminate and create.

Conversation #6 Becoming a Parish Who Accompanies

This leadership gathering is designed to assist parish leadership groups and ministry teams to consider the ways that the parish community is engaged with young members. This will include assessing the current situation and planning for ways to involve youth in the parish and engage the community with youth.

Conversation Questions:

How are youth involved in our parish? What are the resources of our community for accompanying youth? What strategies can we develop to engage the community with young members?

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating the relationships and engagement of youth in the parish community, and plan for efforts to share insights about accompaniment with the wider parish community.

Conversation # 7 Leadership for Accompaniment

This leadership gathering is designed to assist parish leadership groups and ministry teams to consider the leadership needed to support the accompaniment of youth. This will include exploration of the Coordinator of Youth Ministry Role and the development of a Youth Ministry Leadership Team.

Conversation Questions:

How are we structured to support accompaniment as a parish? What leadership roles can we develop to support accompaniment?

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in developing the leadership positions and structure needed to support the ongoing accompaniment of young disciples.

Starting Points

Implement a Parish Accompaniment Process

For parishes implementing an Accompaniment Project, implement all seven of the conversations along with implementation of project elements with other groups. Consider this potential Schedule:

May to July – Consultation with Pastor and Parish Leadership to identify project leadership and recruit a project team. Resource: Accompaniment Project Vision Team Process and Roles.

August – Conversation # 1 Introduction to Accompaniment

September – Conversation # 2 Being a Faith Companion, and Conversation # 3 Witnessing Faith

October – Conversation # 4 Developing Faith Companions for Youth

Follow-through – Organize trainings for parents and faith companions in the parish to be offered between November and March, and develop structures for ongoing support for those who accompany youth.

November – Conversation #5 Transforming Ministries to Promote Accompaniment

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating current ministries with youth in the parish to plan for ministry efforts to transform, eliminate and create.

January – Conversation #6 Becoming a Parish Who Accompanies

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating the relationships and engagement of youth in the parish community, and plan for efforts to share insights about accompaniment with the wider parish community.

February – Conversation # 7 Leadership for Accompaniment

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in developing the leadership positions and structure needed to support the ongoing accompaniment of young disciples.

Some parishes may choose to engage leadership in a specific initiative around accompaniment.

Equipping Parents and Faith Companions for Youth

Working with a leadership team in the parish, implement Conversations 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Follow-through – Organize trainings for parents and faith companions in the parish to be offered between November and March, and develop structures for ongoing support for those who accompany youth.

Transforming Ministries to Promote Accompaniment

Working with a leadership team in the parish implement Conversations 1 and 5. Once the programs are developed, implement Conversations 2, 3, and 4 to develop faith companions for the programs.

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating current ministries with youth in the parish to plan for ministry efforts to transform, eliminate and create. Within the implementation of these plans, provide training for faith companions in the various programs.

Becoming a Parish Who Accompanies

Working with parish leadership, implement Conversations 1 and 6.

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in assessing and evaluating the relationships and engagement of youth in the parish community, and plan for efforts to share insights about accompaniment with the wider parish community.

Planning for Leadership for Accompaniment

Working with parish leadership, implement Conversations 1 and 7.

Follow-through – Engage parish leadership in developing the leadership positions and structure needed to support the ongoing accompaniment of young disciples.

Provide Training and Support for Parents and Faith Companions

You have two choices in providing training and support for parents and faith companions.

Video-Based Option

You can use: “Let’s Talk about Youth and Faith: Training for Parents and Faith Companions Video” These resources include a video guide that has the links to the video, participant handouts, and handouts for the PowerPoint slides used in the video.

Presentations / Workshops

You can use Conversations 2 and 3. These resources include leader’s outlines, handouts and PowerPoint slides.

You can also use the Parent and Faith Companion Toolkits, available in English and Spanish.

Provide Parish Leadership with an Assessment of Accompaniment

Working with parish leadership, implement Conversations 1 and 2. You can also use the “Reflection and Assessment - In Parishes Who Accompany Youth and Families” which is available in English and Spanish. This starting point might lead to a discernment about implementing the full Accompaniment process or implementing other elements described above.