

# Tasks of Leadership in Parishes Who Accompany Youth

Parishes accompany youth on their journey toward holiness as missionary disciples. Youth are accompanied by their parents, their family, faith companions, a youth community, and the entire parish. To accompany young disciples, parishes expand the ways that the community includes and accompanies young members, equips those who will accompany youth, and transforms all ministries to promote accompaniment. **Leaders in ministry with youth animate these actions by listening, planning, implementing, evaluating, and engaging the community in the accompaniment of youth.**



## Engage with Youth

- Plan and prepare for the active engagement of youth in liturgy, community life, formation, and service.
- Involve youth in ministries, leadership and decision making.
- Engage members of the parish community with young people.

## Empower Parents and Faith Companions

- Plan to engage all the potential faith companions for young people.
  - Family connections: Parents / Aunts / Uncles / Grandparents /siblings
  - Sacramental connections: Godparents / Sponsors
  - Ministry connections: pastor, pastoral leaders, ministry leaders, catechists
  - Community connections: teachers, counselors, coaches, community workers, employers
- Provide formation, resources and coaching for faith companions to equip them to care for and witness faith with young people.

## Provide Ministries to Youth that Promote Accompaniment

- Build accompanying relationships within programs and membership.
- Allow for flexible ways to participate.
- Focus on opportunities for encounter and witness.
- Provide pastoral care for youth and families.

## Evaluate and Plan for Accompaniment

- Listen to youth and families, especially those who are on the peripheries
- Assess needs of young people and mobilize the resources of the parish
- Strengthen existing programs to promote accompaniment.
- Eliminate programs and strategies that no longer match the parish vision and mission
- Create new efforts paying particular attention to outreach.

# Leadership Role Description for the Coordinator of Youth Ministry

**Position Overview:** The Coordinator of Youth Ministry facilitates the gifts of the community and supports the leadership team, ministry leaders, and the parish community as they accompany youth on their journey toward holiness as missionary disciples.

## **The Coordinator provides leadership for ministry that accompanies and engages youth.**

- implementing the ongoing training, resourcing, and support for parents and faith companions for young people.
- developing initiatives that support the engagement of youth with the parish community and the inclusion of youth in parish life, including leadership and ministry roles.
- developing ministry programs and strategies that support accompaniment, serve youth and their families, and engage youth in mission

## **The Coordinator facilitates the development of an accompanying ministry with young and older adolescents**

- leading the coordinating team in planning and coordinating programs and services for youth and their families
- facilitating the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a plan for accompaniment of youth and the development of ministry responses that engage youth and their families
- establishing a collaborative relationship with members of the pastoral staff and parish leaders
- developing and supervising the program budget
- assuring that legal and moral responsibilities are provided for within the context of the parish program, including developing and implementing plans for promoting a safe environment

## **The Coordinator promotes the formation of youth as missionary disciples.**

- developing and implementing evangelization and outreach programs, paying particular attention to underserved youth and families on the peripheries of the parish community
- developing and implementing catechetical programs and sacrament preparation
- promoting active youth worship including inclusive and participative liturgy and prayer opportunities
- engaging youth in the mission of the Church, including empowerment for service, leadership, and ministry roles
- providing for the accompaniment of youth that sustains their experiences of encounter and leads to discernment of their vocation

## **The Coordinator acts as an advocate and link for youth.**

- Identifying and interpreting the needs of youth to the parish staff, parish leaders, and the community

- facilitating the development of community among young people, their families, their parish, and the local community
- supporting families in their role of sharing faith and accompanying young disciples
- promoting the pastoral care of youth and their families

**The Coordinator recruits, prepares, and supports adult and youth leaders in youth ministry.**

- creating a leadership system for inviting, preparing, supporting, and supervising leaders
- promoting the spiritual formation of youth and adult leaders
- developing job descriptions and recruitment processes
- facilitating the training and support of leaders
- providing feedback on leadership performance and continuous support for leaders

## Process for the Coordinator Role

- What are some personal qualities we should seek in the Coordinator of Youth Ministry?
- Who should be the Coordinator in Our Parish?
  - Volunteer
  - Part-time or Full-time Staff Person
  - Assignment to Existing Staff Position
- Who would supervise this position?
- What kind of background, experience and skills would be helpful?
- Where could we look, who could we talk to in searching for this position?
- What support should we provide?

# Leadership Role Description for the Youth Ministry Coordinating Team

**Role Overview:** The Youth Ministry Coordinating team works on behalf of the parish community to support youth on their journey toward holiness as missionary disciples.

## **The Youth Ministry Coordinating Team shares leadership in overseeing the parish's ministry to accompany youth.**

- Providing vision, goals, and directions for all aspects of youth ministry, including
  - implementing ongoing training, resourcing, and support for parents and faith companions for young people.
  - developing initiatives that support the engagement of youth with the parish community and the inclusion of youth in parish life, including leadership and ministry roles.
  - developing ministry programs and strategies that support accompaniment, serve youth and their families, and engage youth in mission
- Coordinating schedules and programs for youth ministry
- Planning for communication and engagement with youth and families.
- Making recommendations for resources, budget, and facility usage regarding youth ministry
- Assuring adequate recruitment, training, and support for leadership in youth ministry
- Establishing and updating any policies and/or procedures necessary for effective implementation of youth ministry
- Providing regular feedback to the parish staff, parish council, and leadership groups regarding needs, recommendations, and accomplishments of youth ministry
- Advocating for the needs of youth and families within the parish and wider community

## **The Youth Ministry Coordinating Team facilitates the development of an accompanying ministry with young and older adolescents**

- listening to youth and families and assessing needs of youth, paying particular attention to underserved youth and those on the peripheries of the parish.
- planning, implementing and evaluating plans for the accompaniment of youth and the development of ministry responses that engage youth and their families.

## **The Youth Ministry Coordinating Team promotes the formation of youth as missionary disciples.**

- providing for the accompaniment of youth that sustains their experiences of encounter and leads to discernment of their vocation
- developing and implementing evangelization and outreach programs, paying particular attention to underserved youth and families on the peripheries of the parish community
- promoting the pastoral care of youth and their families
- developing and implementing catechetical programs and sacrament preparation
- promoting active youth worship including inclusive and participative liturgy and prayer opportunities

- engaging youth in the mission of the Church, including empowerment for service, leadership, and ministry roles

## Process for the Youth Ministry Coordinating Team

- What are some personal qualities we should seek in members of Youth Ministry Coordinating Team?
- What kind of background, experience and skills would be helpful?
- Where could we look, who could we talk to in searching for members of this team?
- What support should we provide?