

Respect for Life: Resources

Youth Ministers Guide

A hallmark of youth ministry noted by the USCCB is that “Young people need to be able to see the practical relevance of their efforts to meet the real needs of people, especially the poor and neglected. They should also be able to see that their apostolate belongs fully to the Church's mission in the world (cf. Pope John Paul II, *Christ Invites, Reveals and Sends*, 1993).” USCCB

In order to effectively support our youth in this process of faith in action we are given 3 goals as youth ministers:

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

The Sisters of Life have developed Respect Life Month: Resources for Youth Night materials to assist youth ministers and teachers to achieve our collective goal of “drawing young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.”

When adapting these resources for youth ministry talks with youth, the following topics are too important to rush. Please take the following instructions into consideration when planning your youth night:

- **Read through the youth night documents and choose one topic to focus in on for the month or a couple of weeks.**
- **Prepare guiding discussion questions for your youth. (You can base it off of the prayer, intro information, or video.**
- **Review the activities and pick the one that fits in your timeframe of youth group, (do not shorten activities to fit them into your youth group time. If appropriate spread conversation over two consecutive meetings.**
- **Follow up all activities with a reflection of both the topic and activity before closing your youth night with a closing prayer.**

It is absolutely important that we open up a conversation with youth about these subjects and allow time for fruitful discussion.

It is important for our youth to have a safe space at our churches to grow spiritually, mentally, and psychologically. Therefore, it is important for our youth to feel comfortable having these discussions, while ensuring that they know that you are keeping the conversation confidential, not a secret. If something is said that notes that the youth is in danger, someone else is in danger, or that they may harm themselves, it is your moral obligation to let someone know to keep them safe.

[Additional resources and links to the resource document can be found on our website.](#)

USCCB- <http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/young-adults/renewing-the-vision.cfm>