



Definition of Catholic Youth Ministry

“Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of the youth with the larger community.” *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic youth Ministry.* USCCB, 1997, p.1 (quoting *A Vision of Youth Ministry*, 1976).

Three Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry

Goal 1: Empowerment

To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. (RTV, p. 9)

- Present the Good News
- Relationship with Jesus
- Call to discipleship
- Provide for catechesis
- Explore vocations

Goal 2: Participation

To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. (RTV, p. 11)

There are four faith communities.

- Family
- Parish
- Catholic Schools
- Youth-serving Organizations

Goal 3: Growth

To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (RTV, p. 15)

- Aim: “healthy, competent, caring, and faith filled youth”
- Address spiritual needs in context of life
- Ministry fosters:
 - Healthy adolescent development
 - Discipleship
 - Catholic identity



Components of Comprehensive Youth Ministry

The components describe specific areas of the mission of the Church that work together to provide ministry with adolescents. “These components provide a framework for the Catholic community to *respond* to the needs of young people in sharing their unique gifts with the larger community.” (RTV, p. 26)

1. Advocacy

Interpreting the needs of young people, standing up for young people, both as individuals and as a youth community.

2. Catechesis

Deepening the faith of young people through teaching and reflection – working towards transformation.

3. Community Life

Building community, not just between young people, but with their families and engaging youth in the broader parish community.

4. Evangelization

Proclaiming the Good News and inviting youth into relationship with Jesus Christ through ongoing witness.

5. Justice and Service

Engaging young people in helping and serving other people, and understanding the Gospel call to justice through education and reflection.

6. Leadership Development

Inviting, training, and supporting adults and young people into leadership for youth ministry and with the broader parish community.

7. Pastoral Care

Providing prevention programs for youth and families, caring for those in crisis, and providing guidance during times of decisions and moral choices.

8. Prayer and Worship

Helping youth to develop an individual prayer life, experience a variety of communal prayers, and involving youth in the sacramental life of the Church.