

Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Goals & Objectives for Young Adult Ministry



Introduction:

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry works with pastoral ministers, campus ministers, volunteers and young adults supporting single and married Catholics in their late teens, twenties and thirties as we develop and strengthen relationships with Christ, one another, and the wider community. In the document *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, the U.S. Bishops identified four goals for young adult ministry. These too are the foundation of the specific goals and objectives for the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

- Connecting Young Adults with Jesus Christ
- Connecting Young Adults with the Church
- Connecting Young Adults with the mission of the Church in the world
- Connecting Young Adults with a peer community



Goal 1: Advocate on behalf of young adults (18-35, single & married) with diocesan departments, parish communities and the Western New York community

- Objective 1: Create and publish articles concerning relevant and current trends in young adult ministry in *The Western New York Catholic*, E-newsletters for the Departments of Lifelong Faith Formation, Parish Life, and Youth & Young Adult Ministry (quarterly articles beginning September 2009)
- Objective 2: Establish training sessions for the Catholic Education Division and Pastoral Life Division (January 2010)
- Objective 3: Design learning sessions and presentations for vicars meeting and letters to the vicariates (January 2010)
- Objective 4: Train Diocesan Evangelization Teams in the needs of young adults
- Objective 5: Prepare young adults as parish advocates on “How to develop young adult friendly communities” (spring 2010)

Goal 2: Provide support, resources and trainings for parish leaders on young adult ministry, generational tendencies, communication techniques, and evangelization efforts

- Objective 1: Develop a consultation process for parish communities (January 2010)
- Objective 2: Create real and relevant power point presentations to be posted and offered for parish leaders: (November 2009)
- Who are Young Adult Catholics?
 - Y Evangelize
 - Communicating with Millennials
- Objective 3: Establish and update *Young Adult Ministry Ideas*, a compilation of book & web tools for parish leaders. These tools will include power point presentations, parish assessments, and a bibliography. All materials above may be downloaded from the department website. (Spring 2010)
- Objective 4: Create young adult interest and needs finder template for parish communities (Summer 2010)
- Objective 5: Introduce online resources and podcasts for young adult and parish use (Summer 2010)
- Objective 6: Establish Campus Connection Initiative which creates pathways to connect young adults from their parish to the campus Catholic community and then from the campus Catholic community to the parish community (April 2010)
- A) Collect names, contact information and the university or college that students will be attending from Catholic High Schools and parishes
 - B) Correlate information to send it to University or College Campus Ministry programs with a letter to suggest some ways to use the information
 - C) Fashion a *College Connection Parish Resource Packet* to include student send-off ideas, how to prepare a student for send-off, ideas on how to stay connected to student parishioners during their college years, how to be a welcoming community to returning or new college graduates
 - D) Link to resources for young adult college students on department website
 - E) Provide resources on-line that will help young adults after graduation from college

Goal 3: Facilitate department communication efforts to and for Generation X, Millennial Generation Catholics, and seekers in parishes and the community

Objective 1: Reformat the young adult section of the department website, creating avenues to make information readily available for parish leaders and young adults (November – December 2009)

Objective 2: Establish a database of young adult leaders (including pastors, pastoral ministers, campus ministers, and young adult parish coordinators) (beginning September 2009, ongoing)

Objective 3: Establish a presence for young adults in the Diocese on Facebook (January 2010)



Goal 4: Facilitate strategic collaborations and leadership in the area of Catholic young adult ministry

Objective 1: Establish a Young Adult Ministry Committee composed of diocesan, parish and young adult leaders

- A) Originate a young adult needs survey for possible parish and diocesan use

Objective2: Develop strong collaborative relationships with:

- ✓ **Lifelong Faith Formation**
Promote, help and connect growth and learning opportunities to young adults
- ✓ **Family Life Ministries**
Promote, help and connect Family Life offerings to young adults (engaged, married, young families, separated, divorced or experiencing difficult marriages)
- ✓ **Vocations**
Promote, help and connect young adults exploring a vocation to priesthood or religious life to vocation directors and the Network of Vocation Directors of WNY
- ✓ **Parish Life**
Promote, help and connect young adults to offerings through parish life and evangelization efforts.
- ✓ **Cultural Diversity**
Promote, help and affirm the diversity inherent in the young adult generations and connect young adults to parish and diocesan offerings.
- ✓ **Catholic Schools**
Promote, help and connect young adult teachers and parents to parish based resources for young adults.
- ✓ **Tribunal**
Seek avenues to reach young adults needing services and questions regarding the annulment process
- ✓ **Campus Ministry Vicariate**
Promote, help and connect campus ministry centers and young adults and continue to explore parish to campus connections and transitions

Objective 3: Explore, in collaboration with the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation, revisions and possible renewal of the *iServe* program

This endeavor is a pathways to ministry project for the Diocese of Buffalo. *iServe* is a program for young adults (20's & 30's). It will foster a deeper understanding of one's gifts and the leadership skills needed for the Catholic Church of the new millennium. Church leadership skills, diversity training, and other learning opportunities will prepare participants for effective lay leadership within parish communities.

(Fall 2010)



Goal 5: Facilitate young adult ministry pilot projects that connect young adults and parish communities to Jesus, the Church, the Church's mission in the world and the peer community.

- Objective 1: Partner with parishes and communities on Charis, online and Busy Person retreats
- Objective 2: Develop strategies for leadership development of the 18-22 year old young adult population (January 2010)
- Objective 3: Explore the need and possibility of a Catholic School teachers' (20's & 30's) retreat in collaboration with the Departments of Lifelong Faith Formation & Catholic Schools (Summer 2010)
- Objective 4: Encourage parish communities to embrace evangelization opportunities on community college campuses (ECC, GCC, JCC, NCCC)
- Objective 5: Advocate for Elmwood Village parish outreach initiatives

