

Understanding Catholic Youth Ministry



During his 2010 NCCYM workshop presentation “Adolescent Catechesis in the Context of Adolescent Evangelization”, Robert Rice offered the following analogy for the eight components of Catholic Youth Ministry:

ADVOCACY = Tilling the soil (preparing the ground for effective growth)

EVANGELIZATION = Seeds and roots (the missionary dimension)

CATECHESIS = Trunk (the heart & core from which all else grows)

PRAYER & WORSHIP = Nourishment (watering and feeding)

PASTORAL CARE = Protection (from weeds and other harmful elements)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT = Pruning the branches (discipline & strengthening)

COMMUNITY LIFE = Leaves (the visible sign of unity)

JUSTICE & SERVICE = Fruits of the tree

May this analogy inspire us and remind us of the importance of all the different aspects of Catholic Youth Ministry. Happy planting!