

- **Sacramental and/or catechetical programs** — facilitating the faith development of youth in the areas of catechesis and preparation for the celebration of the sacraments.
- **Administration** — coordinating an efficient office, working in tandem with the pastor and parish staff, especially the director of religious education and/or the principal of the school and staying in contact with the diocesan office of youth ministry.

What sort of education and training is necessary?

- A bachelor's degree with a background religious studies or theology
- Open to examining the tenets of Catholic Youth Ministry
- Know and understand the bishops' documents on youth ministry, especially the 1997 USCCB document *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*
- Open to ongoing education
- Have served as a volunteer or intern in parish youth ministry programs

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

- Talk with coordinators of youth ministry, find out what they do, ask them questions about real life situations.
- Take the time to pray and reflect about this ministry and the ways that God is calling you to share your gifts with others.
- You could be called to a noble adventure as a coordinator of youth ministry in the Catholic Church.



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DO YOU
 WANT TO
 BECOME A
 CATHOLIC
 YOUTH
 MINISTRY
 LEADER?



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Are you called to be a Catholic coordinator of youth ministry?

There are many exciting ways to serve in today's church. One way is by pursuing a career in youth ministry. Coordinators of Catholic Youth Ministry assist parishes in providing a meaningful ministry to middle and high school youth. It is a very rewarding career with never a dull moment! This brochure is designed to help you examine this career field more closely.



Who is a Catholic coordinator of youth ministry?

A disciple of Jesus Christ

Before Catholic/Christian coordinators of youth ministry do anything, they must be serious about their relationship with God in Jesus Christ. That means an active prayer life, familiarity with scripture, especially the gospels, a real connection to church life including the sacraments, its moral teaching and the realization of their own need for conversion.

Has a genuine love for youth

Coordinators of youth ministry must love young people too! They should have a real desire to serve young people by helping them experience God's love for them and the communities desire to invite them into the life and mission of the church.

Knows faith and self

Coordinators of youth ministry are evangelizers who live and preach the Gospel with joy and conviction. They serve as a mentor, guide, example, teacher, companion, and friend in the gospel sense of that word. They know how to set and respect boundaries, have a good sense of self, and are not afraid to speak the challenging words young people and, for that matter, adults sometimes need to hear.

Loves justice & mercy

They are also passionate about justice and peace as well as fostering church teaching on respecting life at all its stages and circumstances.

Coordinates the gifts of others

They realize that it is the parish or the school that is the real youth minister. The whole community does youth ministry-not just one person.

What do coordinators of youth ministry do?

In many respects it is a job that never ends since coordinators of youth ministry never stop caring for young people. We are not talking about 24-7 availability. It does mean, however, that they are always ready to reach out to young people and their families, especially their parents with the care and concern of Christ. This is done through:

- **Direct programming** — working with a core team of youth and adults to organize programs like retreats, youth group, peer ministry, outings, opportunities for pastoral care, gathered and non-gathered events, as outlined in the Bishops' document *Renewing the Vision*.
- **Seasonal programming** — involving youth in the liturgical life of the parish and its celebrations. For example, youth leading the Stations of the Cross during Lent and youth working with other members of the parish to organize parish outreach or a Christmas social.
- **Leadership development** — recruiting youth and adult volunteers, and training them for effective ministry, looking for opportunities and other people to enrich the lives and the faith of young people.