

2008-2009 DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

The DYC is made up of 31 members. Each deanery (16) and one from each Catholic high school (12) with a member representing the following special ministries; CYM Sports (1) and the Catholic Committee on Scouting (2).

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is coordinated by the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This Department is one of five within the ministry of the Secretariat for Education. The four other departments that make up the Secretariat are: the Department for Catholic Schools, the Department for Persons with Disabilities, the Department for Educational Media and the Department for Religious Education.

The Mission Statement for the Secretariat for Education is:

*In order to assist the Catholic Church of Pittsburgh
to participate more fully in the teaching mission of Christ
and to aid the Bishop in his own task
as shepherd and teacher of this local Church,
the Secretariat for Education has been established
to proclaim the Gospel,
to communicate the teaching of the Church,
to fashion a people in whom the Word of God has taken root,
and to provide the coordination and administration
of those programs and services
which foster a living, conscious, informed, and active faith.*

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

I. TITLE

The name of this body is Diocesan Youth Council (DYC), Diocese of Pittsburgh.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Diocesan Youth Council, represent Catholic youth throughout the six counties within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We are called to serve the deaneries, high schools and special ministries we represent. We serve our peers by praying for them, speaking on their behalf, resourcing the ministries we belong to and promoting the goals of youth ministry. The purpose of our work is to lead our peers closer to Jesus Christ and His Church and help them become mature, strong and joyful Catholics.

III. VISION

The vision for the Diocesan Youth Council is centered on section #47 of Pope John Paul II 's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Ecclesia in America*. In this document, Pope John Paul II wrote "young people are a great force in society and for evangelization" and that the "formation process for young people must be constant and active, capable of helping them to find their place in the Church and in the world." He further reminded us that all "young Christians, trained to have a mature missionary consciousness, must become apostles to their contemporaries."

IV. SCRIPTURE (1 Timothy 4: 12-16) *

Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and purity. Until I arrive, devote yourself to reading to the people, encouraging and teaching. You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not neglect it. Let this be your care and your occupation, and everyone will be able to see your progress. Be conscientious about what you do and what you teach; persevere in this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

* The New Jerusalem Bible translation

V. FUNCTION

- 1) Members pray for youth in our diocese especially youth in the deaneries, schools and special ministries they represent.
- 2) Members speak on behalf of diocesan youth and represent their interests.
- 3) Members serve as resources for youth ministries in deaneries, high school ministries and special ministries within the Secretariat for Education's mission of Total Catholic Education.
- 4) Members promote the mission of youth ministry, especially the vision and activities set forth by the Secretariat for Education, at the school, parish, and deanery levels.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

In recognition of the expectations listed on the Member Agreement, membership will consist of one representative from each of the following constituencies:

- 1) Each Catholic high school will select a representative through a process determined by each school under the supervision of the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools (12 members).
- 2) Each deanery will select a representative through a process determined by the Adult Deanery Representative (16 members).
- 3) CYM Sports will select one representative through a process determined by the Associate Director from the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry responsible for CYM Sports.
- 4) The Catholic Committee on Scouting within the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry will select up to two representatives through a process determined by the Chaplain of the Catholic Committee on Scouting.
- 5) The DYC Moderator will select, under the supervision of the Director of the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, one (1) to six (6) seniors who are former DYC members to serve as DYC Animators for a one-year term.

Members will serve a term of one year with an option for another year if agreeable with the member, the party he/she is representing and the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Member Agreements will be mailed out in March of each school year and are due May 1ST. The maximum anyone can serve as a member on the council is two years.

If, at the end of one year, expectations have not been met on the part of the DYC member or the youth decides he/she does not want to continue as a representative, the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry will inform the necessary constituencies of the need to select a new representative.

If a deanery does not have an adult representative or the deanery cannot select a youth representative, then the Deanery Director will be notified of the situation and asked to personally select a DYC member. If a Deanery Director is unable to select a representative, then youth who are willing to commit to the expectations listed on the member agreement will be able to apply for the position. If the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the constituency involved agree on the applicant, the youth will be named the DYC representative. Applications will be mailed to pastors and youth ministers who request them. The deadline for application each year is June 21ST.

VII. MEETINGS

- 1) Mandatory In-service (July 28-30): will focus on service, prayer, spiritual development and community building. Members will be formally commissioned at the end of the in-service.
- 2) Fall Gatherings (September 13): the purpose is to report on deanery and school religious activities, as well as for personal enrichment.
- 3) Youth Leadership Event: (October): an event coordinated by the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- 4) Winter Retreat: (January 16-18): this retreat is a time to pray and reflect on our faith and report on work done half way through the year.
- 5) Youth Council Forum (March): is a discussion on youth with the Secretary for Education and other appropriate staff members.
- 6) Celebration of Ministry (April or May): a chance to celebrate the “Ministry Projects” finished and to recognize members who have completed their time of service.

VIII. MENTORS

- A. The DYC Moderator is responsible, with consultation from the deanery and high school, for the selection of DYC Mentors. An Adult Deanery Representative or Ministry Team Leader can also serve as a DYC Mentor.
- B. While the selection process for DYC Representatives is still determined by the Adult Deanery Representative or Ministry Team Leader, the functions of the DYC Mentor include:
 - 1) Praying for youth in our diocese especially DYC Representatives of deaneries, schools and special ministries.
 - 2) Attending an In-service regarding DYC and Mentor’s responsibilities.
 - 3) Meeting regularly with the DYC Representative.
 - 4) Working with the DYC Representative on his/her ministry project.
 - 5) Aiding in coordinating DYC ministry and gatherings.
 - 6) Encouraging and if necessary facilitating the attendance of the DYC representatives at gatherings during the year, especially the mandatory July In-service.
 - 7) If the mentor is not the Adult Deanery Representative or Ministry Team Leader, then an additional function is communicating regularly with the Adult Deanery Representative or Ministry Team Leader on the activity of the DYC.
- C. A term for a DYC Mentor will be consistent with a term for a DYC Representative.
 - 1) Each DYC Mentor will serve a term of one year with an option for another year depending on the term of the DYC Representative.

- 2) If at the end of the DYC Representative term, an option for another year is agreed to by the representative, the party he/she is representing, the mentor and/or Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the DYC Mentor will serve another term of one year.
- 3) If the DYC Representative is not eligible for another term or another term is not agreed upon by the representative, the party he/she is representing, the mentor and/or Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the DYC Mentor is responsible to convey to their deanery, school or special ministry that they are required to select another DYC representative and possibly another DYC Mentor.

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE . . .

The Diocesan Youth Council's foundation lies in Christ. Youth Council Members continually strive to improve themselves as servant leaders while demonstrating strong Christian values. Youth Council members constantly challenge themselves and others to be servant leaders while faithfully following the Christian life they have been called to lead.

Youth Council members work out of a genuine conviction to serve the Lord, rather than personal gratification. Their energy in serving the Lord encourages positive team involvement. Together as a team they enthusiastically respond to the needs of all through their individual gifts and talents. Relying on their faith to guide them, DYC members grow spiritually through their experiences as members of the Council.

Diocesan Youth Council members sincerely care about all. They are sensitive to others' feelings, understanding of their actions, and open to sharing themselves. They realize that laughter and a fun-loving attitude are uplifting in times when tedious tasks must be faced, but are aware to not let those actions be disruptive.

Diocesan Youth Council members constantly strive to live as Christ developing their servant leadership qualities.

We, the Diocesan Youth Council, have heard God's call to faith and leadership in the Church and have responded. In reflection we are ready to face the challenge to witness our faith to our generation, to listen, to understand, and to open ourselves to others. In being Christ to our world we realize we must be in constant communication with God and those we come in contact with. We must forget ourselves and take a role of an unsung hero to step up and not give into fear. We promise to pray for and support each other, to welcome each other with open arms, to teach by the example of a servant leader and to bring our faith in Jesus Christ to all those who will listen.

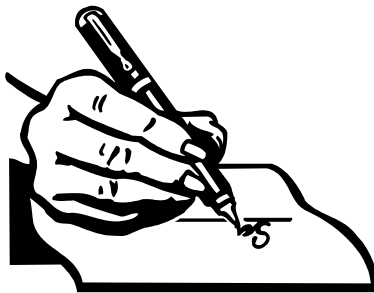
* DYC Statement Fall Retreat 2004



MEMBER AGREEMENT

The Member Agreement is a contract with each DYC member. They accept responsibility for their own attendance and commitment to DYC. It is agreed that each DYC member attend the mandatory In-service and do their best to attend the other gatherings and fulfill the expectations listed on the Agreement.

- * All new and old DYC members will be asked to sign the Member Agreement for a one-year term of service July to June.
- * All Member Agreements must be signed and turned in by the First of May.



**DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH YOUTH COUNCIL
2008-2009 MEMBER AGREEMENT**

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) serves a four-fold purpose:

- 1) Pray for youth in our diocese
- 2) Speak on behalf of diocesan youth
- 3) Serve as a resource for youth ministries, deaneries and Catholic high school ministry teams
- 4) Promote youth ministry and Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry events

The following expectations are binding and held in common to accomplish the above purposes. All members are expected to attend the events * listed; failure to do so could jeopardize membership.

1. Members will serve a term of one year with an option for another year if agreeable with the member, the party he/she is representing and the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The maximum anyone can serve on the council is two years. A term can begin during a sophomore, junior or senior year.
2. Members must be connected with their parish youth ministry program, if one exists, AND deanery program, if one exists, OR your high school ministry team.
3. Members must have a willingness to do witness talks and presentations advocating youth ministry programs.
4. Members must complete one approved "Ministry Project" during the school year.
5. * Attend the **mandatory** DYC In-service, July 28-30, 2008. The In-service will focus on service, prayer, community building, and leadership development.
6. * Attend the fall gathering, September 13, 2008. The purpose of this meeting will be to report on deanery and school religious activities, as well as for personal enrichment on the World Youth Day theme.
7. * Attend the "Leadership Day", TBA.
8. * Attend the winter gathering, January 16-18, 2009. This meeting is a time to pray and reflect on our faith and report on work done half way through the year.
9. * Attend the Youth Council Forum, March, 2009. The forum is a discussion on youth issues with diocesan Secretary for Education.
10. * Attend the "Celebration of Ministry" event, April or May 2009. A chance to celebrate the "Ministry Projects" and recognize members who have completed their time of service.

I agree, with the support of my parents, to uphold this agreement. If I am unable to uphold this agreement, I will notify, in writing, the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry AND my deanery adult representative OR my school principal so that a replacement may be selected.

I understand that if, at the end of one year, these expectations have not been met on my part, the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry may request a new DYC member. They will inform me in writing as well as the deanery adult representative OR the principal so that a new DYC member may be selected.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| DYC Member Signature | Parent Signature | Date | Graduation Year |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Print DYC Member's Name | E-MAIL | Parish | Deanery or Catholic High School |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Address | City | Zip Code | Phone Number |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|

2008-2009 DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL DATES

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>GATHERING</u> | <u>PLACE</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| July 28-30, 2008 | In-service | Gilmary |
| September 13, 2008 | Fall Retreat | DYYAM Building |
| T.B.A. | Leadership Day | Parish |
| January 16-18, 2009 | Winter Retreat | Gilmary |
| March, 2009 | DYC Forum | DYYAM Building |
| April or May, 2009 | Celebration of Ministry | DYYAM Building |



Don't forget to mark your calendar!

REPORT OUT FORM

Diocesan Youth Council

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

- ❶ My experience as a member of DYC so far has been:

Excellent Challenging Satisfactory Frustrating

WHY?

- ❷ Please indicate (X) the following objectives you have successfully fulfilled as of today. In the space provided, please write comments on each objective if applicable.

____ Praying for the youth
____ Speaking on behalf of youth
____ Serving as a resource for the deanery/school/ministry
____ Promoting DYYAM events

- ❸ Please check all of the following that apply:

____ I understand my role as a DYC member.
____ I have found the department to be helpful in my ministry.
____ I have met with my representative or contact person.
____ My representative or contact person is supportive.
____ I have completed a Ministry Project.

- ❹ Describe your Ministry Project and how it will impact or has impacted you and your ministry area:

- ❺ Please list any obstacles that you have encountered as a DYC representative:

- ❻ What has worked for you this year so far? What would you have done differently?

- ❼ Please summarize the above information in a report form on the back and include anything not mentioned.

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL GUIDELINES

I. ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR GATHERINGS

- The July In-service is mandatory. Anyone named to DYC but does not attend the summer In-service could be removed.
- No one is to miss a gathering unless they have a legitimate excuse.
- Classifications of legitimate excuses are as follows:
 - 1) Family obligation
 - 2) Illness
 - 3) Youth Group obligations
 - 4) Job *** if a representative must miss a gathering due to work, the representative is encouraged to discuss the situation with the DYC Moderator. DYC dates have been given in advance so that work can be scheduled accordingly.
 - 5) School *** same guidelines as job.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- If a DYC meeting is missed, it is the responsibility of the member to find out what happened and come prepared for the next gathering.
- If a gathering is missed, an assignment will be issued. For example, for our Fall Retreat, anyone missing this gathering must submit a report detailing their progress before the retreat starts.
- If a member is planning to leave a DYC gathering early or arrive late, he/she should contact the DYC Moderator before the event.

Youth Council Mission Statement

We, the Diocesan Youth Council, represent Catholic youth throughout the six counties within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We are called to serve the deaneries, high schools and special ministries we represent. We serve our peers by praying for them, speaking on their behalf, resourcing the ministries we belong to and promoting the goals of youth ministry. The purpose of our work is to lead our peers closer to Jesus Christ and His Church and help them become mature, strong and joyful Catholics.

MINISTRY PROJECT INFORMATION

The Ministry Project is designed and implemented by the DYC Member with special consideration of his or her spiritual gifts, representative deanery or school, and the means available. The project will be different for each DYC Member and is open to creativity and new ideas, but must be approved by the DYC Moderator prior to it being put into action. Each project must be connected to the Eight Components of Comprehensive Catholic Youth Ministry. This Ministry Project is an important part of each members responsibility.

IDEAS

- ◆ Organizing a 'Saint of the Week' for your Catholic school -- have a short biography read over the announcements in the morning and a picture of the Saint if it is televised in your school.
- ◆ Have a weekly Resource Table at lunch time promoting DYC and DYYAM events.
- ◆ On school or Church grounds get permission to make a shrine to Mary and lead a Rosary there on the first Friday of every month.
- ◆ Declare a 'Pray for the Pope Day' and plan activities to celebrate it.
- ◆ Plan a nature hike and devote extra time to caring for the environment: planting trees, picking up litter, or making a bird feeder.
- ◆ Actively encourage your school, Church, or deanery to begin recycling while giving good reasons to do so according to Church teaching.
- ◆ Plan a 'Family Service Day' where families in your school or deanery get together for a day of service beginning with a Prayer Service.
- ◆ Start a Rosary Group or Bible Study.
- ◆ Set-Up a Teen Reconciliation Service and Youth Mass for your school or deanery.
- ◆ Organize a free baby-sitting night for local families.
- ◆ Organize the 'See You at the Pole' at your school if not already present there.
- ◆ Coordinate a Regular Meeting with school officials/deanery staff.
- ◆ Organize an All Night Bowling that begins with a Prayer Service.
- ◆ Organize a Meditation Walk.

Be Creative, Pray about it, and let the Spirit lead you!

**** Take a minute to write down an idea, or pick one of the above, that you are interested in and might consider for your ministry project and write it down:***



Example Letter of Intent

DATE (Due by October 1, 2008)

Mr. Gary Slifkey
1010 McNeilly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Dear Gary,

After spending time discerning my ministry project, I have decided to organize a day of service for the youth groups in my deanery. Over the past year, I have spent large amounts of time working with different service organizations and found it very rewarding. I would like to motivate other students to get involved in service so they can grow in their Catholic faith. I believe a project of this type would build community within the youth groups of our deanery. This project covers the justice, peace and service component of youth ministry.

The Scripture passage that I picked for this project is Ecclesiastes 1:1 “Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later.” During my service experiences I realized that the more you give, the more you receive. I also learned that the best gifts a person can give are an open ear, a warm smile and time. I hope that my deanery will be blessed because of this service day.

I have met with my DYC Mentor and she believes this project is a good one with lots of promise. She mentioned some obstacles we might encounter would be finding enough service sites, deciding on a host site, and promoting and marketing the event.

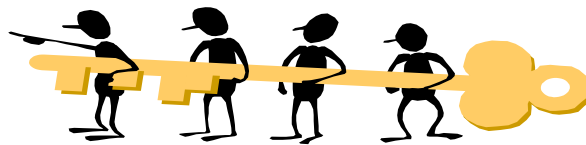
My goals for this project include getting youth to attend from at least six different churches and integrating the other youth ministry components. I hope to conclude the project by mid March so I will be ready to report on it during our **“Celebration of Ministry.”** Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding my Ministry Project.

Sincerely,

Name
Deanery, school or special ministry you represent

Keys to a Successful

Ministry Project



- ➔1. **PRAY** asking God to direct your ministry.
- ➔2. **DISCERN** with adult contact and/or ministry team the needs of your area.
- ➔3. **WRITE** a resource list including facilities, finances and human resources available.
- ➔4. **BRAINSTORM** ways to meet the needs with the resources available.
- ➔5. **PRAY** discern a particular project.
- ➔6. **CREATE** a project mission statement and timeline
- ➔7. **SEND IN YOUR** “*Letter of Intent.*”
- ➔8. **REMEMBER** to be upbeat and excited about your project.
- ➔9. **PERSONALLY** invite others to help you carry out the project.
- ➔10. **MAKE** an action plan including:
 - Marketing.
 - Publicity (remember to start at least six weeks before the event.)
 - Obstacles you might encounter.
- ➔11. **CARRY OUT** and **COMPLETE THE PROJECT.**
- ➔12. **SHARE** the results of the project with others.

•→**13. EVALUATE** what went right and what could have gone better.

•→**14. OFFER THANKS**, written and spoken, to all who supported your work, especially God.

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL VOCABULARY

ADULT DEANERY REPRESENTATIVE: The Diocese of Pittsburgh is broken into sixteen (16) sections or deaneries. Each deanery has a person who has been appointed by the Director of the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry to serve as a contact and representative for youth ministry in their deanery.

ANIMATOR: A previous DYC member of two years who is now a senior in high school. He or she will help facilitate the total ministry of the DYC and the ministry of each member. Due to their own DYC experience, animators support members communicating the vision and mission. There are two or three Animators each year.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING: This volunteer group of Catholic leaders has existed for over 50 years. They encourage youth in religious training and values, promote the principles of Scouting/Camp Fire, and exhort youth to strive for religious awards and emblems.

COMMISSIONING: At the end of the DYC In-service each member will be commissioned for the upcoming school year.

COMMITTEES: A group of council members that begin and implement a certain process.

COMPONENTS OF YOUTH MINISTRY: There are eight components which are central to the vision of a comprehensive youth ministry program. The DYC In-service is focused on these components. A listing of these components are in this handbook.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: A three page document listing the Title, Mission Statement, Vision, Scripture, Function, Membership, Meetings, and Mentors for DYC. A copy of this document can be found at the beginning of this handbook.

CYES (CATHOLIC YOUTH IN EDUCATION AND SERVICE): The service program in the DYYAM. Each member of the DYC is invited to promote and attend CYES events.

CYM (CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY): The sports program in the DYYAM. Each parish is invited to enter a team in our volleyball, softball and basketball leagues.

DEANERY: The Diocese of Pittsburgh is broken up into sixteen deaneries. Each deanery is made up of a number of parishes.

ENABLEMENT: Providing youth with the tools to recognize and develop their unique gifts and talents.

DYYAM (DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY): Department within the Secretariat of Education which coordinates the Diocesan Youth Council program.

EMPOWERMENT: To give youth authorization to use their discovered gifts and talents.

FACILITATOR: A person who guides Council's meetings. This person guides the discussion, is open to new ideas and viewpoints, is prone to question rather than tell, is enthusiastic, looks for positive, respects all members, and is conscious of time restraints.

FORUM: An annual meeting with the Secretary for Education to discuss issues related to youth.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: A listing of goals and various objectives to continue to reshape the Diocesan Youth Council through a working document.

IN-SERVICE: A mandatory three-day training program for DYC members.

INTERVIEW: A short meeting between the moderator and the member schedule around the In-service. A chance to set goals and objectives for the year.

MENTOR: Each deanery representative has a mentor assigned to him/her. The functions for each mentor include: praying for youth, meeting regularly with representative, working with youth on Ministry Project, aid in coordinating DYC gatherings, encouraging attendance and communicating regularly with Adult Deanery Representative.

MINISTRY: Sharing with others God's love and presence through care and service.

MINISTRY PROJECT: An idea followed by action on the part of the DYC Member after much prayer and contemplation. This is an action used in one's area (deanery, school, and special ministries) based on the need present. It is used to bring the school or deanery together, by means of prayer and creativity.

MINISTRY TEAM: Each Catholic High School has a ministry team to aid in the spiritual development of their school. Each DYC member from a Catholic High School should work directly with his or her ministry team.

MISSION STATEMENT: A statement of the council's beliefs: who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

PERSONAL PROFILE: A four page informational handout on each member of DYC to be completed two weeks prior to the In-service.

RECORDER: A member of the DYC who takes accurate notes at the meetings and is able to communicate what has been said by the entire Council.

REPORT OUT: A time, usually during the Fall and Winter retreats, in which the entire DYC is informed of each member's progress and frustrations in completing their mandate.

RESPECT: A mandatory component of all Diocesan Youth Council gatherings to be observed by all towards adults and others.

UPBUILDING SPEECH: Youth Council Members use positive and upbuilding speech at all council events.

QUOTES DYC FROM PAST DYC REPRESENTATIVES

- • **Leadership Formation**

“The formation of the Diocesan Youth Council fosters in its members the Christian leadership skills necessary for a successful ministry. The mandatory In-Service provides the introduction to the member’s calling to ministry, the instruction and explanation of the leadership skills the member will call upon throughout his/her ministry, and the inspiration to begin. The seasonal retreats, with a spiritual, catechetical and organizational focus, provide the members with the spiritual support towards their growing ministry as well as focusing upon efficiency and effectiveness.”

Kata Hribar
Oakland Catholic 2002

- • **Ministry Projects**

“I will remember the prayer service and my ministry project. Without DYC, I would never have had the idea or chance to pray with the elderly. I will remember the faith and strength I gained from DYC Ministry Projects and the way it empowered me to place my trust in the Holy Spirit.”

Vincent Tenerelli
Quigley 2001

- • **Youth Congress**

“Often in life, teens feel that they are not part of the community because they’re voice is ignored on significant issues. The Youth Congress gives them an opportunity to express opinions and solutions for the problems that plague our world. Youth leaders are an invaluable part of this process because they can guide the teens to express themselves in a productive and positive way, showing their peers that teens really can make a difference.”

Katie Schaffer
Butler Deanery 2001

- • **Forum**

“The forum is a tremendous outlet for the youth to interact with diocesan officials. The main purpose of this event is to have youth present new ideas to Fr. Kris Stubna, and to make their voices heard throughout the diocese. Through this event we establish a connection and relationship with the rest of the Church, and give ourselves the opportunity to make positive changes.”

Gavin Lamb
Central Catholic 2001

- • **Animator***

“When youth join the Diocesan Youth Council, they are often times unsure what to expect in the way of people they will meet, what they will be asked to do, and, more importantly, how to go about completing a ministry project. This is where an animator comes into play. From the first In-Service in July the animators help to welcome and unify new and old representatives to the youth council. By getting to know the members personally, the animators are able to offer sincere support and help to the ministry projects which unite deaneries, schools, and as a result the diocese.”

Laura Ledgerwood
DYC Animator 2001

THE EIGHT COMPONENTS OF YOUTH MINISTRY

The Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry seeks to implement the national vision of comprehensive youth ministry in its Junior and Senior High programs and gatherings. The following eight components are central to the vision.

ADVOCACY

Interpreting the needs of youth and their families, especially the social problems facing them and *acting* with or on behalf of youth and their families for a change in the systems (policies, procedures, programs) which create or contribute to the social problems; *giving* young people a voice and *empowering* them to address the social problems that they face.

CATECHESIS

Sponsoring youth toward maturity in Catholic Christian faith as a living reality through the kind of teaching and learning that emphasizes understanding, reflection, and transformation; *fostering* in youth a communal identity as Catholic Christians within the intergenerational community of faith *and* helping them to develop their own personal faith identity (*The Challenge of Adolescent Catechesis*).

COMMUNITY LIFE

Creating an environment which nurtures meaningful relationships among youth and between youth and adults characterized by Gospel values (e.g., acceptance of all people, trust, respect, cooperation, honesty, taking responsibility, willingness to serve); *helping* young people feel like a valued part of the Church; *providing* opportunities for social interaction and meaningful participation in the Church and civic community.

EVANGELIZATION

Proclaiming through word and witness the Good News of the Gospel to youth who have not heard or seen it and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and the community of believers; *ongoing witness* of the faith community as it attempts to live out the Gospel with such authenticity that the faith of all the members is sustained and nourished. Evangelization is the energizing core of all the components of youth ministry (*The Challenge of Catholic Youth Evangelization*).

JUSTICE, PEACE AND SERVICE

Guiding young people in the development of a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service grounded in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures and in Catholic Social Teaching; empowering young people (and their families) to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering, to serve those in need, to pursue peace, and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all people; infusing the concepts of justice and peace into all youth ministry efforts.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/

Recruiting, training, and supporting youth and adult leaders in youth ministry; empowering youth for leadership and ministry with their

ENABLEMENT

peers, in their schools, and in the Church and civic community; *developing* a leadership team of youth and adults to organize and coordinate a ministry with youth; *partnering* with parents and families in promoting positive youth development and faith growth.

**PASTORAL CARE/
GUIDANCE**

Promoting positive youth and family development through a variety of preventive strategies (e.g., developing life skills and parenting skills); *caring* for youth and families in crisis through support, counseling, and referral to appropriate community agencies; and *providing* guidance as youth face life decisions and make moral choices.

**PRAYER AND
WORSHIP**

Assisting young people in deepening their relationship with Jesus through spiritual development and a personal prayer life; providing a variety of communal prayer and worship experiences with youth to deepen and celebrate their relationship with Jesus in a caring Christian community; involving young people in the sacramental life of the Church.

*Don't let anyone
look down on you
because you are young,
but set an example
for the believers
in SPEECH in LIFE,
in LOVE, in FAITH,
and in PURITY.*

- 1 Timothy 4:12