

## Developing Effective Parish Youth Ministry

This list was compiled following a nationwide study of parishes deemed to be effective in their ministry to, with, and for young people.

1. Assess strengths and areas for your parish to grow in comparison with the research findings. (See assessment questions in Appendix 1)
2. Initiate conversations in your parish about effective youth ministry. Include youth, parents, youth ministry leaders and parish staff. (See Section 3)
3. Invest time, prayer and attention to strengthen your parish's "web of relationships": youth with youth, youth with adults, youth ministry leaders with parents, parish community with youth, youth ministry leaders with parish staff and leadership, etc...
4. Identify ministries and aspects of parish life in which youth can become involved; - work with parish staff and ministry leaders to prepare for youth involvement.
5. Communicate a vision for youth ministry to the parish staff and the parish community.
6. Nurture your spirituality as a youth ministry leader.
7. Take positive steps to strengthen and/or develop your relationship with your pastor.
8. Collaborate with other parish staff and ministries.
9. Network with other coordinators of youth ministry.
10. Utilize local and national resources for developing responsive youth ministry.
11. Develop a youth and adult coordinating team to vision and plan for effective youth ministry.
12. Nurture the skills and the spirituality of the adults who work with youth in your parish.
13. Involve youth in leadership, ministry and teaching roles in youth ministry and in the parish.
14. Evaluate and develop faith formation efforts utilizing the directions in the findings.
15. Develop service experiences utilizing theological reflection.
16. Collaborate with other parish leaders to plan for ways to promote youth participation in liturgy.
17. Invite, prepare and involve youth in liturgical ministries.
18. Create opportunities for extended trips and retreats for youth.
19. Take the time to develop your skills as a coordinator of youth ministry.
20. Create more variety in the youth ministry offerings in your community by complementing your central ministry strategies.