

# Elements of an Effective Model for Dynamic Youth Ministry

Parishes with dynamic youth ministry include these eight elements within their program model. This tool will help your parish reflect on the elements that need growth and support.

1. A pattern for gathering with youth on a regular basis
  - Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
  - Youth can count on gathering
  - Community can be nurtured
  - Parents can encourage / becomes part of family pattern
  - *What is our pattern for gathering youth?*
  
  - *How can we strengthen this pattern?*
  
2. Special events and ways to gather with youth
  - Gatherings that go beyond regular pattern
  - Day long, evening, extended program, weekend or longer
  - Round out program
  - Provide opportunities for youth with different interests to participate
  - Provide for deeper experience of community
  - Can include: social events, retreats, service experiences, trips, and conferences
  - *What special events do we provide for youth?*
  
  - *What can we provide?*

### 3. Intentional methods for providing adolescent catechesis

- Informal teachable moments and intentional faith learning
- At the heart of youth ministry
- Variety of methods:
  - Infused throughout youth ministry and parish life involvement
  - As part of the parish community in an intergenerational model
  - Religious education and sacramental preparation as a distinct element of youth ministry
- Catechesis is collaborative, planned for and intentional

➤ *How do we provide adolescent catechesis?*

➤ *How can we strengthen our catechetical efforts?*

➤ *How can we collaborate in developing our catechetical efforts?*

### 4. Opportunities for youth who want to grow deeper in faith

- Provides opportunities for youth with different interests
- Some youth are looking for deeper ways to learn and grow in faith
- Especially important to develop ministry for juniors and seniors
- Avoid “one-size-fits-all” approach

➤ *How do we provide opportunities for youth who want to grow deeper in faith?*

➤ *What can we provide? How can we strengthen our efforts?*

5. **Non-gathered ways to connect with youth**
- Connect with youth by reaching out and sending ministry to them
  - Be present where youth are
- *How do we minister with youth in non-gathered ways?*
- *How are we present to youth where they are?*
- *How can we strengthen these efforts?*
6. **Ways to connect youth to the life of the parish**
- Help youth participate in sacramental life of church, especially Eucharist
  - Provide ways for youth to participate in faith formation, community, and service as part of parish
  - Plan for youth participation – make them welcome and included
- *How are youth ministered to within parish life?*
- *How can we connect youth to parish life more effectively?*
- *How can we connect the parish community to youth ministry?*

## 7. Ways to connect with families

- Consider the impact of youth ministry on family life
  - Communicate with parents about youth ministry
  - Provide programs and resources to support families of adolescents at home
  - Provide occasional gatherings for families of adolescents
- *How do we connect with families of adolescents?*
- *How do we communicate with parents about youth ministry?*
- *How do we support parents and families with programs and resources?*
- *How can we strengthen these efforts?*

## 8. Ways for youth to be involved in ministry, leadership, and service

- Youth desire a way to share their gifts
  - Include youth in liturgical and catechetical ministries
  - Provide ways for youth to share leadership in youth ministry and in parish life
  - Provide service involvements for youth and with the parish community
- *How are youth involved in ministries of our parish?*
- *How are youth involved in leadership in youth ministry and the parish?*
- *How are youth involved in service?*
- *How can we strengthen these efforts?*