
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY



COMPREHENSIVE
YOUTH MINISTRY
APRIL 2025

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The plan outlined in this document is a combination of *Renewing the Vision* (1997,) *Christus Vivut* (2019,) and *Listen, Teach, Send* (2024.) The latter two documents utilize the imagery of the Risen Christ accompanying the disciples along the Emmaus Road. They also bring into focus some contemporary challenges facing our Church. Because of the concrete pillars outlined in *Renewing the Vision*, I will not be completely abandoning this plan as I find it easy to comprehend and continually evaluate our parish-based youth ministries.



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DCD High School Catechists



dcdiocese.org/youth

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DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS AMONG ALL PEOPLES. - 1 CHRONICLES 16:24

VISION STATEMENT

We seek to develop our youths' relationships with God through total spiritual, personal, and social growth.

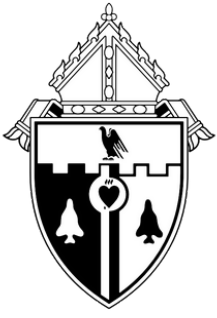
MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of Youth Ministry seeks to create lifelong disciples of Christ through the development of comprehensive youth ministry in parishes and homes. Our goal is to nourish the growth of the total human person through prayer, catechesis, the sacraments, and works of mercy.

WHY IT MATTERS

"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69)

Change is inevitable. You will transition from grade school to middle school to high school to college. You will try navigate homework, sports and extra-curricular activities. You will take on your first job, new towns, new friends, rapidly changing media, and a fast-paced culture. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) By investing into youth ministry we can share the Gospel with great joy and imitate Christ in our ever-changing world! Everyone benefits from the proclamation of the gospel and the ministry of Jesus Christ.



THE ROAD MAP

LISTEN

As the risen Christ walks along the road to Emmaus, he first listens to what the disciples have to say about all that has happened.



Pro Tip: If you have difficulty conversing with teens, consider the “4 F’s” - ask them about their **Family**, **Friends**, what they like to do for **Fun**, or what they want to do in the **Future**.

TEACH

After listening, Christ opens the Scriptures to them and helps them to understand why all this has happened.



“Classroom style” catechesis is just one way in which we can teach teens. See pages 6 and 7 for creative and interactive ways in which we can teach teens our faith through service, prayer, community life, and more!

SEND

Christ reveals Himself to the disciples in the Eucharist and sends them on their way to tell others all that they have witnessed.

THE ROADMAP

LISTEN

"Let us ask young people regularly: What's on your mind? What's on your heart? What's bothering you? What's exciting you? What are you dreaming about?" (Christus Vivit, 15)

A posture of listening allows us to truly know the youth, rather than just knowing about them. It gives us the ability to truly **advocate** for them, provide effective **pastoral care**, and to **pray** meaningfully with and for them. We should strive to have some time of dialogue every time we meet with the youth.

"Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, those we encounter may be walking in the wrong direction...like Jesus we are called to listen with love, tenderness, and compassion. God seeks us and takes the initiative to claim us as his own..." (Christus vivit, 15.)

TEACH

"[Jesus] interpreted the Scriptures and applied their wisdom to present circumstances." (Christus vivit, 26.)

As many youth and young adults embrace the "spiritual, but not religious" lifestyle, it is the duty of the Church to **catechize** in Wisdom and impart Truth in Love upon the young people in Her care. (Christus vivit, 30.) In sharing the faith, we are initiating youth into the celebration of the mystery, forming disciples of Christ, teaching to **pray**, and introducing **community life**. (Directory for Catechesis, no. 79.)

Evangelizing catechesis may take place in the home, within religious education settings, in youth ministries, in informal dialogue, one-on-one conversations, dynamic presentations, online learning, post-event processing, through visual art, theater, or music, and during Sacramental preparation. I encourage the use of many learning styles in the proclamation of the faith. (Christus vivit, 30.)

SEND

"The Church has long recognized that the young are excellent evangelists and witnesses of the Gospel among their peers..." ((Listen, Teach, Send. 38)

"The proclamation of the kerygma also means sharing in the Lord's command to offer food and clothing to those in need, to care for and be present to those who suffer or are imprisoned, and to welcome the stranger..." (Listen, Teach, Send. 39)



COMPREHENSIVE PARISH LEVEL YOUTH MINISTRY

"GO, THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." - MATTHEW 28: 19-20

EVANGELIZATION

- Establish outreach to young people and their families
- Work concession stands at local events
- Provide meal for local sports team
- Prayer & Action
- Totus Tuus (evening program)
- Holy Fire in Hays (junior high)
- Fall High School Rally in Dodge City
- Host a "5th Quarter" after a ballgame

PRAYER & WORSHIP

- Retreats
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Word Working or Lectio Divina
- Rosary/Living Rosary
- Pray at Cemetery in November
- Holy Mass - *Note: Invite and encourage teens to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and days of obligation as often as it naturally arises in conversation!*
- Ignatian Meditation with Scripture, Holy Art, Sacred Music, or in Nature
- Teach teens to pray extemporaneously and allow them to lead prayer
- Liturgical Calendar

COMMUNITY LIFE

- Meal during or before every gathering (provided by parents and parishioners)
- Frequent gatherings for fellowship
- Incorporation of youth in the parish such as serving, lecturing, music, etc
- Invite 18 year old boys to join Knights of Columbus
- Discuss Vocation - priesthood, marriage, religious vows - for after high school

CATECHESIS & FORMATION

- Salvation History
 - FOCUS
 - Venture (Ascension Press)
- The Apostles Creed
- The Sacraments
- The Commandments
- The Virtues
- Prayer
 - See Prayer & Worship

**** Contact Emma Webs for free, pre-written curriculum and activities regarding the above topics****

COMPREHENSIVE PARISH LEVEL YOUTH MINISTRY

SERVICE & JUSTICE

- Pray at Cemetery or Clean Cemetery after holiday
- Serve Concessions at local event
- Collect and deliver Non-Food Pantry Items to nearest Catholic Charities (Great Bend, Dodge City, Garden City, Liberal)
- Collect food pantry items for local food bank
- Make and deliver Easter goodie bags at local nursing home
- Sing Christmas Carols at local nursing home
- Lead rosary at local nursing home
- Pilgrimage for Life (January)
- Prayer & Action (summer)
- Clean church property before Easter
- Teach virtue of Justice - discuss importance of being an informed and moral voter
 - See Virtues Curriculum
- Pro-Life Flag Display

PASTORAL CARE OF OUR YOUTH

- Develop life skills
 - financial responsibility
 - work ethic
 - communication skills
- Develop pastoral care skills in adults working with teens
 - Pastoral Ministry Formation
- Be available to listen to teens and walk alongside during life transitions
 - Middle School to High School to College or Workforce transitions
 - Parental/Family discontent
 - Death of loved ones
- Discuss Vocation - priesthood, religious vows, or matrimony - for after high school
- Host a "5th Quarter" after a ballgame

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Youth participation in liturgical service (lector, usher, cantor, server)
- Teens help with grade school catechesis
- Teens lead Living Rosary
- Partner teens with grade school during Cemetery Walk
- Teach and allow teens to lead extemporaneous prayer
- Adult formation in faith, theology, relational skills, and organizational ability
 - Pastoral Ministry Formation
 - Local adult Bible study
- Teens lead silly songs and games for grade school before PSR starts
- Teens attend Pastoral Council, Finance Council, K of C meetings to request necessary funds
- Allow teens to help plan calendar
- Teens help with CGS atrium or retreats

ADVOCACY

- Advocate for youth needs at Parish Council and Finance Council
- Teach teens to advocate for life at all stages
 - See Justice and Service
- Advocate for youth group, reconciliation, liturgy times that accommodate teens' busy schedules
- Provide meals for students before youth group or PSR gathering times

**** Cross-Programming - Since schedules are busy and limited, it is helpful to plan calendar in a way that utilizes multiple components of Comprehensive Youth Ministry in one event ****

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY SELF-ASSESSMENT

To be completed once a year to assess areas of excellence and areas of improvement for your ministry. Feel free to complete this with teens, as they may have valuable insights.

Optional: Submit to Emma Webs to share activities with other parishes.

What lessons or activities have we done this year in each of the following 8 components of comprehensive youth ministry?

1. Advocacy

2. Pastoral Care

3. Service & Justice

4. Leadership Development

5. Evangelization

6. Community Life

7. Prayer & Worship

8. Catechesis