

# **The Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry**

## **Qualifications**

The Office of Catholic Youth Ministry requires the following qualifications for a Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

1. An active Catholic in good standing with the church.
2. An active and visible member of a parish community.
3. A person of deep faith and prayer.
4. A person of good character, reputation, and with no convictions of felonies, no history of violent or deviant behavior. (Must pass a background records check)
5. A person called to ministry with an understanding of vocation.
6. A person with working knowledge of the “Vision” of Comprehensive Youth Ministry
7. A person with a commitment to continuing professional and ministerial formation.
8. A person who is skilled in human resource management and is willing to enable youth and adults to manage resources in order to achieve an effective integration of all dimensions of youth ministry.
9. A person who understands and is willing to apply the principles and foundations of youth ministry.
10. A person with a theological perspective consistent with *Renewing the Vision* (NCCB, 1997), *General Directory of Catechesis* (Congregation for Clergy, 1997), and *The Challenge of Adolescent Catechesis* (NFCYM, 1986).
11. A person able to provide formation adapted to meet specific individual needs so that the spiritual growth and community involvement of the young person is both encouraged and enriched according to his/her abilities. (Reference: Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities (1978) and NCCB Guideline for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (1995).
12. Attained a minimum of 22 years of age.

## **Preventative Strategies**

### **Self-knowledge**

- The minister should clearly understand the dynamics of being male or female
- The minister should recognize his/her intimacy needs, arousal mechanisms, and the warning signs of the shift from pastoral interest to sexual interest.

### **Self-care**

- The minister should develop a healthy way of living that avoids working long hours with little time for exercise, proper nutrition, sufficient sleep, recreation, friends, prayer, or reflective reading.
- The minister should maintain the boundaries of his/her professional commitment
- The minister should not try to assist anyone whose needs extend beyond his/her level of competence.

## **Self-disclosure**

- The minister should maintain a regular program of spiritual direction or supervision
- The minister should participate in a peer support group.

## **Responsibilities**

Each parish and each Coordinator of Youth Ministry are unique. It is not possible to develop a job description that applies to all situations. Each parish should assess the needs of their own parish when deciding the job description for a youth minister.

The NFCYM COMPETENCY-BASED STANDARDS FOR THE COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY MANUAL states:

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE POSITION: The Coordinator of Youth Ministry responds to the spiritual and social needs of Catholic Youth in the parish. The Coordinator of Youth Ministry serves students in grades 7 – 12 through direct contact and through training parish volunteers for youth activities in the parish.

## **Evaluation**

The effectiveness of the Coordinator of Youth Ministry's leadership should be evaluated every year by those to whom he/she is responsible. The evaluation should be done in light of the job description that the Coordinator of Youth Ministry agreed to when accepting the position. It is also a means of determining how the Coordinator of Youth Ministry can be challenged to grow as a person and as a minister.