

# Youth Ministry and Youth Leadership Development

## Youth Ministry Has Three Goals

- **"Goal 1:** To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today" (*Renewing the Vision*, p. 9).
- **"Goal 2:** To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community" (p. 11).
- **"Goal 3:** To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person" (p. 15).

## Youth Ministry Needs the Whole Parish Community to Minister to All the Youth of the Parish

- "Youth Ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community" (*A Vision of Youth Ministry*, p. 6).
- "The Church and world need the faith, gifts, energy, and fresh ideas of young people" (*Renewing the Vision*, p. 50).
- "The comprehensive approach is not a single program or recipe for ministry. Rather, it provides a way for integrating ministry with adolescents and their families into the total life and mission of the Church, recognizing that the whole community is responsible for this ministry" (p. 19).

## Youth Ministry Sees Each Parish as Ready and Able to Respond to Youth.

- "If parishes are to be worthy of the loyalty and active participation of youth, they will need to become 'youth-friendly' communities in which youth have a conspicuous presence in parish life" (*Renewing the Vision*, p. 13).
- "*Renewing the Vision* is a blueprint for the continued development of effective ministry with young and older adolescents. Its expanded vision and strategy challenges leaders and their faith communities to address these challenges and to invest in young people today" (p. 7).

## Youth Ministry Includes the Leadership Development of Youth

- "The ministry of Leadership Development *calls forth, affirms, and empowers* the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of . . . young people in our faith communities" (*Renewing the Vision*, p. 40).
- "We strongly encourage all ministry leaders and communities to call forth the gifts of all young people and empower them for ministry to their peers and leadership in our faith communities. We need their gifts, energy, and vitality" (p. 42).

(The quotations in paragraphs 1–3 and 5–10 are from *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* [Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops USCCB, 2002]. Copyright © 1997 by the USCCB. Used with permission.)

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