



Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies

Online Cohort # 1 - Course Calendar
January 10, 2023 - April 16, 2024 *(dates subject to change)*

Course 1: Context of Youth Ministry

Beginning with the ministry of Jesus and understanding that the Church is a sacrament of Christ, youth ministers will move from the Biblical roots to the contemporary context in the following topics:

- The mission of the Church
- The Biblical roots of ministry
- Ministry in the early Church
- The eight components of youth ministry
- Modern adolescents

Course Dates:

- **January 10, 2023:** Cohort Launch
- **February 14, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **February 28, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course 2: The Person of the Youth Minister

Recognizing that the youth minister is a disciple, care is given to the personal formation of the person. They will deepen their interior life with the Lord and understand themselves as a public minister through the following topics:

- Being a disciple who discipled others
- Authentic witnesses to the faith
- The path of self-understanding
- Praying as the Lord created me to pray
- My path to holiness

Course Dates:

- **February 28, 2023:** Course 2 Start Day
- **April 4, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **April 18, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course 3: Youth Ministry Management

Leadership in youth ministry requires management skills. The course seeks to raise the level of competency of youth ministers through:

- Skills in training, retaining, and maintaining volunteers
- Effective budget management
- Understanding leadership styles and practices
- Strategies for working as part of a team

Course Dates:

- **April 18, 2023:** Course 3 Start Day
- **May 23, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **June 6, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course 4: Parish Infrastructure for Youth Ministry

Regardless of parish size, location, and demographics, a successful infrastructure can be recreated. The analogy of the course is that of artwork supported by the three legs of an easel, seen through the following:

- Navigating the parish dynamic
- Fostering youth leadership
- Engaging parents in discipleship
- Involving the entire parish in youth ministry
- Programming for fruitful ministry

Course Dates:

- **June 6, 2023:** Course 4 Start Day
- **July 11, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **July 25, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

BREAK

Course 5: Prayer and Worship

Liturgical prayer is the place where our salvation is worked out and studies reveal that daily personal prayer is the most common behavior among those who remain engaged in their faith. The course will present a vision and strategies for rooting teens liturgically and in personal prayer through:

- Exploring methods for personal prayer
- Learning to plan meaningful experiences of prayer
- Instruction in ways to raise up liturgical leadership
- Preparation of liturgical celebrations
- Effective retreat preparation

Course Dates:

- **August 22, 2023:** Course 5 Start Day
- **September 26, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **October 10, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course 6: Forming Catholic Identity

Catholic youth ministers receive a mandate from the Church to foster a uniquely Catholic spirituality and worldview within the teens to whom they minister. The course seeks to help teens grow in both the understanding and practice of their faith through:

- Deepening their liturgical spirituality
- Reflection on their own practice of the faith
- Examining the current cultural context
- Skills for nurturing Catholic identity
- Create experiences that are uniquely Catholic

Course Dates:

- **October 10, 2023:** Course 6 Start Day
- **November 14, 2023:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **November 28, 2023:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

BREAK

Course 7: Forming Missionary Disciples

The Church has a single mission to reconcile all things to the Father in Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. This single mission has two aspects. One is found in the Church’s evangelistic efforts and another is found in her work for justice. This course will:

- Explore the Church’s evangelistic mission
- Provide evangelistic strategies for reaching teens
- Explore the Church’s social teaching
- Provide strategies for engaging teens in works of justice
- Help equip teens as evangelists

Course Dates:

- **January 9, 2024:** Course 7 Start Day
- **February 13, 2024:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **February 27, 2024:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course 8: Pastoral Care

Today's youth ministers face different realities. There is a growing need to address the state of mental health among adolescents and also a desire among other adolescents to move more deeply in their walk with the Lord. The course seeks to:

- Give an overview of the psychological development of teens
- Help youth ministers assess the needs of teens
- Aid youth ministers in the art of accompaniment
- Provide guidance in building a network of professionals

Course Dates:

- **February 27, 2024:** Course 8 Start Day
- **April 2, 2024:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **April 16, 2024:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

** Final Course Homework Information: There are assignments/coursework assigned each week as students work through the course material. There is also a final homework assignment for each course. The purpose of these final assignments is to show how the course material is impacting your ministry. In order to allow time for the material to have an impact upon your ministry, the final assignment for each course will be due three months from the end of the course.*