



Course: 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:

- **January 21, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **February 25, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **March 11, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: 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 through the following topics:

- The Mission of the Church
- The Biblical Roots of Ministry
- Ministry in the Early Church
- The Eight Components of *Renewing the Vision*
- Discover the Discipleship Metric
- Current Teen Culture

Course Dates:

- **March 11, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **April 15, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **April 29, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: Youth Ministry Management

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

- How to empower others for leadership (youth and adults)
- Leadership structures for youth ministry
- Volunteer Management (how to recruit, train, and support volunteers)
- How to make and defend a budget for youth ministry

Course Dates:

- **April 29, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **June 3, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **June 17, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: Parish Infrastructure for Youth Ministry

Youth ministry should not operate as a silo. Youth Ministry is and should be integrated into the parish infrastructure in order to grow and disciple young people. The entire parish should be fully invested in the spiritual growth of its young people, and young people should feel a sense of belonging not just in their youth group, but in their parish -- and the universal Catholic Church! In this course, you will learn the essential elements needed for a parish youth ministry to thrive and strategies for building up those elements through the following topics:

- To see the parish as a school of raising up young Saints
- To have a strategy for developing youth leadership
- To understand the need for parental engagement and develop a strategy for their engagement
- To develop a strategy for involving the entire parish in the work of youth ministry
- To identify the destination, the goal, and desired outcomes of your programmatic efforts

Course Dates:

- **June 17, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **July 22, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **August 5, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: Forming Missionary Disciples

A disciple is not fully formed until they become "missionary" disciples. In this course, Forming Missionary Disciples, our goals will be to learn the Church's vision for missionary discipleship and

to develop strategies for forming young people to take up the fullness of the Church's mission through the following topics:

- To understand the nature of the "Gospel" of Jesus Christ
- To develop a vision for the evangelization of the parish's youth
- To develop strategies for evangelistic efforts
- To develop strategies for fostering missionary identity within the parish's youth
- To understand the Church's seven themes of her social teaching
- To generate a plan for social outreach

Course Dates:

- **August 5, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **September 9, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **September 23, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: Prayer and Worship

Everything we do in youth ministry should be geared towards helping teens to pray daily and develop a relationship with God that will help them to grow as lifelong disciples. All ministry must flow from worship and all ministry must flow towards worship - to and from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Mass gives us our universal identity as Catholics. It is where we receive the living God face to face and it is where we are united to one another - in Christ. The moment after we have all received communion at Mass is the most profound moment in which we experience a foreshadowing of the life to come - where Jesus has united us to Himself and to one another. To further explore these elements, participants will learn:

- How the Sacraments relate to our human identity
- How the Sacraments are God's revelation and relationship to us through both physical and spiritual means
- To define corporate worship and its necessity in our personal lives, ministry, and lives of disciples
- How to bring teens to the Eucharist
- What is the interior life and why it is crucial to ministry
- How to help teens develop a personal prayer life
- How to plan transformative prayer services
- Effective retreat preparation

Course Dates:

- **September 23, 2025:** Course Start Day
- **October 28, 2025:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **November 11, 2025:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: Forming Catholic Identity

The Catholic Identity Course of the Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies Program invites students to develop their understanding of Catholic Identity and how they can assist adolescents in growing an understanding and practice of the Catholic faith. Through the following topics, participants will learn:

- To develop a Theological Understanding of Catholic Identity
- What does Catholic Identity mean in the context of who I am and am becoming?
- How to program for success
- How Catholic youth grow in Catholic Identity
- How to perform a SWOT Analysis of their ministry
- How to implement experience driven theology

Course Dates:

- **January 20, 2026:** Course Start Day
- **February 24, 2026:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **March 10, 2026:** Course Ends/ *Outstanding assignments due

Course: 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. Through the following topics, participants will learn:

- Foundational principals of Pastoral Care
- Best practices in Pastoral Care
- The difference between Pastoral Care and counseling Adolescent/Teen Development
- Pastoral Care of the Family
- Crisis Intervention and when to refer to professional help

Course Dates:

- **March 10, 2026:** Course Start Day
- **April 14, 2026:** Week Six material released; End of sessions.
Course remains open for course work completion
- **April 28, 2026:** 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. Homework is due no later than 2 weeks after the online class is finished.*