

Youth Ministry Leader's Guide

To Training, Formation & Networking Opportunities

◆ Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Diocese of Buffalo ◆

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo sponsors and supports a wide variety of training, formation and networking opportunities for adult youth ministry leaders. **Whether your involvement in youth ministry is full-time or part-time, salaried or volunteer, with junior high or senior high students, there are programs that will fit your schedule and budget.** Programs are grouped according to program content, as well as financial and time commitments. Use these categories to identify programs that will meet your needs. There are more details about each program on the following pages. For specific information about the dates and locations for each program, please:



- ◆ **Watch your mail** for flyers enclosed in the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry mailings;
- ◆ **Consult our web site** at www.dobyouth.org
- ◆ **Check your email** after subscribing to biweekly **Youth & Young Adult Ministry E-Bulletins** (subscribe at the web site)
- ◆ **Email the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry** at youth@buffalodiocese.org; or
- ◆ **Call the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry** at 716-847-8789.

Teenagers live in a world that is increasingly complex and difficult. To help them develop a faith that helps them deal with their daily issues, we need to be as informed and prepared as we can be. **Invest some time in training for yourself and those volunteers who work with you. The young people of your parish will benefit from it!**

WADING AROUND

Recommended for all adults in youth ministry – both junior and senior high. These events help new volunteers “get used to the waters” of youth ministry and are “refreshing” for seasoned veterans.

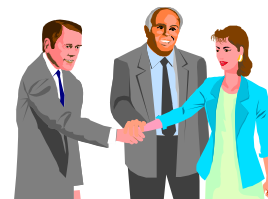
- A1. Level I of Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program
- A2. Level II of Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program
- A3. Catechist Formation – Level II (offered by regions/vicariates)
- A4. *Growing Youth Ministry!* - Track at *Lights for the World* (one-day conference in September)
- A5. Adult workshops at the Diocesan Youth Convention in Buffalo (weekend conference in February)
- A6. Retreat Ministry Training
- A7. Other Youth Ministry Workshops



LEARNING TO SWIM

Recommended for adults who are very involved in their parish youth ministry program and are willing to take leadership positions (e.g. veteran volunteers, new youth ministers).

- B1. Level III of Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program
- B2. “Foundations in Ministry” course (offered each fall)
- B3. Catechist Formation – Level III (offered by regions/vicariates)
- B4. Biennial Youth Ministry Leaders’ Retreat (odd-numbered years)
- B5. Colleagues in Youth Ministry - professional and ministerial support groups
- B6. National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders (NACYML)
- B7. Courses offered through Christ the King Seminary
- B8. Biennial National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) (even-numbered years)



DIVING IN!

Recommended for adults willing to make a significant commitment to ministry in the Church.

- C1. Level IV of Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program
- C2. Certificate in Pastoral Studies at Christ the King Seminary
- C3. Graduate studies at Christ the King Seminary (**Scholarships available!**)

SEVEN “WADING AROUND” EXPERIENCES. . .



Before learning to swim, many people prefer to spend some time getting used to the water, surveying the terrain. Even those who know how to swim may return to the shallow water when they need to refresh themselves. The following training, formation and networking opportunities are convenient ways for newcomers in youth ministry to get comfortable and for veterans to stay current in the field. **All adults** involved in youth ministry with junior and senior high aged youth throughout the Diocese will benefit from these experiences.

A1. Level I - Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program

This program offers the fundamentals of youth ministry for those who are new to ministry or have not yet received training. Those who complete this level and attend the “Protecting God’s Children” seminar will receive a Certificate of Completion. Individuals can register for sessions sponsored by the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, or parishes, clusters or regions can have many people trained by collaborating to sponsor their own series. See the program brochure for more details, including program content, dates and costs.

A2. Level II - Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program

Picking up where Level I left off, Level II sessions provide knowledge, skills and practical wisdom for those who want to be more effective as ministers with youth. As with Level I, the Level II sessions are open to individuals or can be sponsored by a parish, cluster or region to maximize convenience. The program brochure outlines the requirements for a Level II certificate, the content of the sessions, dates and costs.

A3. Catechist Formation – Level II

Designed by the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation, these sessions help those who work with youth to understand more about faith development, liturgy and prayer, sacraments, and morality. Each vicariate or region sponsors these sessions in their local area. For more information, contact your parish catechetical leader or the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation at 716-847-5505.

A4. Growing Youth Ministry! Track at Lights for the World

Adults who bring a group of young people to enjoy this one-day Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry event will find something for their enrichment as well! *Lights for the World* is held in early fall (**September 13, 2009**) and in 2009 features a special track entitled, *Growing Youth Ministry!* Growing Youth Ministry will teach parish leaders about youth ministry and the skills



involved in making it happen. We recommend that you **send a team** (of the people who provide leadership for youth ministry – both youth and adults), to gather practical ideas and learn skills that will help them take the next step in developing your parish youth ministry program.

A5. Diocesan Youth Convention

The annual **Diocesan Youth Convention** offers adults three rounds of workshops and a chance to network with peers. These training opportunities are part of a weekend youth gathering. This is also a convenient way to learn about youth by being immersed in youthful culture and energy! The Convention is held in downtown Buffalo in February (**Feb. 12-14, 2010**).

A6. Retreat Ministry Training

Do these questions sound familiar?

- ◆ “Our teens need a retreat. Where do I begin?”
- ◆ “We need a Confirmation retreat. Who can do it?”
- ◆ “Wouldn’t it be great if we had our own peer ministry retreat team?”

If so, then this is the training program that you have been waiting for! It is perfect for those who are new to retreat ministry as well as experienced retreat leaders who wish to enhance their skills. Participants will experience a peer ministry retreat, examine retreat components, learn how to design, implement and evaluate a retreat, and learn the theological and ministerial principles related to retreat work. For more information, call the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (716-847-8789).

A7. Other Youth Ministry Workshops

Each year, the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry hosts special gatherings for adults who work with junior and senior high young people – youth ministry leaders, DREs & CREs, catechists, priests, campus ministers, and others. Led by leading experts in the field of youth ministry, these events help adults to learn new skills, network and stay current in the field.

. . . EIGHT “LEARNING TO SWIM” EXPERIENCES . . .

If you are comfortable in the “waters of youth ministry” and are looking for ways to lead others into the waters, it’s time to go deeper! The following programs are designed for those who are really hooked on youth & young adult ministry and ready to move into leadership positions. In addition to training and formation, these programs stress collegial support and networking (in simpler terms, “the buddy system”). After all, when the water gets rough and choppy, we shouldn’t be swimming alone!



B1. Level III - Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program

Looking to deepen your understanding of ministry and sharpen your skills? Level III is for you! Level III consists of four continuing education courses offered through Christ the King Seminary. **Organizing Effective Youth Ministry (offered Fall 2009)**, teaches critical leadership skills and tasks that are necessary for organizing youth ministry. Come find out what it’s all about. Completing these courses and other requirements will earn a Certificate of Completion. See program brochure for details, and see Christ the King Seminary brochure for course descriptions and registration form.

B2. “Foundations in Ministry”

This course is a basic program for adults who are seeking a greater understanding of their role in the Church’s ministry. It will provide a short but intensive overview of the scriptural foundations of ministry, a theology of the Church, general ministerial skills, personal spirituality and the discernment of gifts for ministry. A day of reflection is included. The course may be applied to the Seminary certificate program (see next page) and can be used to fulfill requirements for Youth Ministry Level II and III certificates. Contact Christ the King Seminary for more details.

B3. Catechist Formation – Level III

Once you know some basic youth ministry skills, it’s time to brush up on theology! Designed by the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation, these sessions help those who work with youth to understand a little more about basic theological topics. Each vicariate or region sponsors these sessions in their local area. For more information, contact your parish catechetical leader or the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation at 716-847-5505.

B4. Youth Ministers’ Retreat

Typically held in odd-numbered years (opposite the NCCYM, see B8.), these retreats tend to our needs as adults who devote time and energy to Church ministry. All adult youth ministry leaders (paid, volunteer, full or part-time) are invited to join us for a retreat that includes time for discussion, reflection and prayer as a community of colleagues. **The next retreat will be held on December 5, 2009 at CKS.** Details are included in this mailing.



B5. Colleagues in Youth Ministry

A chance to network . . . opportunities for faith-sharing . . . the

support of others . . . this is *Colleagues in Youth Ministry!* Adult youth ministry leaders gather regularly to support each other through prayer, discussion and reflection on our call to ministry. New colleagues are warmly invited to join us! We know that being a youth ministry leader can be challenging. *Colleagues* groups remind us that it doesn’t have to be lonely, too! Three groups currently exist [Evening (northern area), Daytime, and Southern Tier]. Choose the one that works for you! See the enclosed flyer for details and contact information.

B6. National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders (NACYML)

NACYML is a professional organization designed to support, resource, and network people like you! It is an association *of* youth ministers, *for* youth ministers. More details are available on the enclosed membership application or at www.nfcym.org.

B7. Courses at Christ the King Seminary

Christ the King Seminary offers many courses that benefit youth ministry leaders. While these courses can be applied to the Certificate or Graduate Degree Programs (see next page), they can also be extremely helpful as stand-alone resources. The Seminary offers courses in Scripture, theology, spirituality, ministry skills and many other areas. If you could better serve teenagers with a deeper understanding in any of these areas, why not try a course or two this year? Regular courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters, and special sessions are offered each summer. For more details about educational opportunities from the Seminary, contact Kathy at the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at (716-847-8789) or the Academic Office at Christ the King Seminary (716-652-8900).

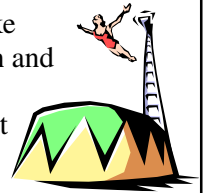
B8. NCCYM

An event not to be missed! The next **National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)** will be in **New Orleans, LA from Dec. 9-12, 2009** and will celebrate the theme “March with the Saints.” This conference is an opportunity to renew yourself with inspiring keynotes, informative workshops, spirit-filled worship, the Catholic Youth Ministry Resource Expo, and lots of fun! Best of all, this conference is by adults, for adults — strengthening our personal spirituality, our professional competence, and our church’s ministry with young people. Find more details and register online at www.nfcym.org. (Registration opens June 2010.)



. . . AND THREE DIVING IN EXPERIENCES!

OK, you're comfortable in the water; you've learned how to swim; and you've got buddies who will make sure you are safe. Now it's time to dive in! For adults who are very committed to ministry in the Church and willing to invest time and treasure, the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry suggests ways to obtain the educational credentials that support your intentions. The following programs provide excellent training and formation for Christian ministers. If you are devoted to youth ministry and are looking to further your understanding of Church and ministry, please seriously consider the following programs.

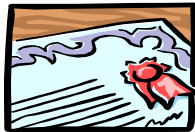


C1. Level IV – Youth Ministry Leadership Training Program

This level of training helps coordinators of youth ministry develop the skills essential for effective ministry in the Church today. To complete Level IV, ministry leaders must earn either a Certificate in Pastoral Studies (with specialization in Youth Ministry) or the Masters degree in Pastoral Ministry. A guided self-assessment and personal learning plan is also required. See the program brochure for details.

C2. Certificate in Pastoral Studies

The Institute of Theological and Pastoral Studies at **Christ the King Seminary** offers a **Certificate in Pastoral Studies with a Specialization in Youth Ministry**. Students complete twelve courses in scriptural, theological and pastoral studies (some are specific to youth ministry) and a 60-hour practicum which enhances their ministerial skills. For a brochure and admission application, visit www.cks.edu or call the Academic Office at Christ the King (716-652-8900).



C3. Graduate Programs at Christ the King Seminary

Adults who seek the knowledge, skills and credentials necessary for active participation in the mission of the Church should look to **Christ the King Seminary's graduate programs**. Offering a Master of Arts in Theology (MAT), a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) and a Master of Divinity (MDiv), the Seminary is the key for Church ministers who desire personal and professional growth. Of particular interest to adults who work with youth is the **Concentration in Youth Ministry for students in the MAPM program**. *Tuition assistance is available (see below)*. For more information and a course catalog, call the Academic Office at the Seminary (716-652-8900).



CONSULTING SERVICES

Not sure what your parish needs to do in order to build or strengthen your youth ministry program? **Contact the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry to arrange for a FREE consultation!** Our staff will listen to your parish's needs and hopes for youth and young adults, and work with you to design a ministry response that is tailored to your unique parish situation. Our consultants will develop a long-term relationship with your parish leadership to provide ongoing training, direction, resources, and feedback.

To find out more about the possibilities for your parish:
Contact Kathy Goller at 716-847-8789.

CUSTOM TRAINING PROGRAMS

Does your parish need more information or skills about a particular area of youth ministry or young people? **Contact the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry to arrange for a custom-designed workshop or training event!** Here are a few options to consider:

- ◆ Presentations for parish staffs or councils
- ◆ Workshops on youth ministry skills or youth issues
- ◆ Leadership Skills Training
- ◆ Junior and Senior High Catechist In-services

To find out more about the possibilities for your parish:
Contact Kathy Goller at 716-847-8789.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES!!

In an effort to promote the theological education of lay leaders in parishes, Christ the King Seminary has developed a joint parish/seminary **tuition assistance program** for individuals who serve as **directors of religious education, pastoral associates, and youth ministers**. The program provides tuition assistance to students accepted as degree candidates in the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry or the Master of Theology programs.

Christ the King Seminary will assume one-third of tuition costs for degree candidates who are sponsored by their parishes. One-third of the tuition is paid by the parish, and the remaining one-third and all student and administrative fees are the responsibility of the degree candidate. For more information about this tuition assistance program and Christ the King education programs, call Christ the King Seminary (716-652-8900).

