

Youth Friendly?

...a resource for your parish



The Jubilee of Young People, tells us, that young people, have a profound longing for those genuine values, which find their fullness in Christ.”

John Paul II
Apostolic Letter
Novo Millennio Ineunte

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National Council for Young Catholics
An agency of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference
www.catholic.org.nz/ncyc



(a) Are young people and their needs being represented at parish staff, pastoral council and finance committee meetings?

“We want to impress upon Church workers at all levels of involvement, but especially parish leaders, that (you,) the young adults in our Christian family, must be given a voice and a place in Church affairs.”

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

Pastoral letter to the young adults of the Catholic Church in New Zealand



(b) Is the youth ministry programme expected to raise more for its programme expenses than other parish ministries?

“As leaders in the field of the youth apostolate, your task will be to help your parish...to be truly open to the personal, social, and spiritual needs of young people.”

John Paul II, Listen to the True Word of Life



(c) Do the Youth Minister/Coordinator and the Director of Religious Studies at the local Catholic Secondary School/s work together to create a faith formation programme for the parish young people?

“We believe that young people have a very special ministry to youth. But at the same time, we stress that this work is the responsibility of the whole Church Community.”

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

Pastoral letter to the young adults of the Catholic Church in New Zealand



(d) Are the parents of young people being ministered to as well as young people?

“Youth ministry recognises that the primary community of young people is the family. Support for young people requires support for the family.”

John Roberto - Director and Cofounder of the Center for

Youth Ministry Development, Principles for ministry with youth



(e) Do parish liturgies speak to young people (music? homilies?) as well as invite youth to fully participate as lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, and musicians?

“This is what is needed: a Church for young people, which will know how to speak to their heart...a Church which is not afraid to require much after having given much.”

John Paul II, World day of prayer for Vocations



(f) Are there special liturgies or prayer experiences celebrating youth; e.g. youth liturgies or prayer experiences, youth-commissioning, Confirmation, rites of passage, conferences, or retreats?

“...make a systematic effort in your dioceses and parishes to open new doors to the experience of Christian Prayer and contemplation...”

*John Paul II to the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference
On the occasion of their Ad Limina Visit 1998*



(g) Are professional training and continuing education available to the coordinator and volunteers in youth ministry?

“We want to ensure that even greater resources are provided to assist the training of youth leaders.”

*New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference
Pastoral letter to the young adults of the Catholic Church
in New Zealand*



(h) Are young people actively encouraged to become involved in leadership and ministry programmes at all levels in the parish?

“You’ll have to find ways of involving young people in projects... giving them responsibility for themselves and their work”

John Paul II, Listen to the True Word of Life



(i) Are youth ministry efforts at the parish being promoted and spoken about in a positive and affirming manner?

“You are the hope of the Church and of the world. You are my hope.”
John Paul II to young people, on the occasion of his Succession



(j) Are young people and youth ministries included in the parish bulletin?

“Youth ministry should support and be supported by other Church ministries”

John Roberto
Principles for Ministry with Youth,



(k) Is there a gathering space for young people? Is there a bulletin board for publicising youth ministry activities?

“...make youth and families a central concern by supporting ministry efforts with prayer, time, facilities and funding.”

Tom East,
on the staff of the Center for Ministry Development



(l) If the coordinator of youth ministry is a paid position, are the salary and benefits equitable and just for the responsibilities and hours worked?

“...in every case a just wage is the concrete means of verifying the justice of the whole system...Besides wages, various social benefits intended to ensure the life and health of workers and their families play a part here.”

John Paul II, On Human Work



(m) Are youth excited about the parish and present at parish activities?

"As leaders in the field of the youth apostolate, you will have to find ways of involving young people in projects and activities of formation, spirituality, and service, giving them responsibility for themselves and their work, and taking care to avoid isolating them and their apostolate from the rest of the ecclesial community."

Pope John Paul II, Listen to the True Word of Life

