

Youth and Young Adults Checklist

“As a community we are less complete when the teens are not with us. We as the Mystical Body of Christ are less whole.” (*From Age to Age: the Challenge of Worship with Adolescents*, 9)
The Pastoral Priority of Youth and Young Adults sees this as a vital goal for youth and young adults of the diocese of Camden. Youth and young adults need to be integrated into the life of the parish so that they are a part of the fabric of the parish, not separate (apart). The Church of South Jersey desires to connect youth and young adults with Jesus Christ, with the Church locally and world-wide and to connect them with their peers.

- 1. We have a professionally trained youth / young adult minister on staff who has the expertise needed to create opportunities for our youth to participate fully in parish life.
OR
- 2. Due to resource constraints, our parish has chosen to cluster with another parish(es) in our deanery to plan and conduct youth and young adult ministry.
- 3. A variety of activities, faith formation, and ministry involvement has been developed for our youth and young adults.
- 4. The percentage of youth in the parish active in youth ministry is increasing.
- 5. Youth and young adults are invited and encouraged to take an active role in the liturgy (ushers, cantors, and ministers of hospitality etc.)
- 6. Fully initiated, active and faith-filled youth and young adults are invited and trained to be lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in our parish.
- 7. Our youth have participated in leadership training skills and engage in peer ministry.
- 8. Young adults are welcomed into and are present at every parish activity, often in a leadership capacity: e.g. Pastoral Council, faith formation sessions for Young Adults, Compassionate Outreach, parish organization, and liturgical life.
- 9. Youth and Young adults participate in inter-parish, diocesan, national, and international events such as World Youth Day.
- 10. Youth and Young Adult leaders discern and plan the direction for the service, faith formation, and liturgical life of their groups.
- 11. Retreats and evenings of prayer are provided for youth and young adult groups.
- 12. Youth and young adults are given vocational sessions for lay, married, or religious and priestly life.
- 13. Youth and young adults gather socially in the parish setting.
- 14. Youth and young adults participate in opportunities for ministry to the whole family so they serve and work with all ages and groups in the Parish (such as the Knights of Columbus, Altar and Rosary, Legion of Mary, and other parish outreach groups).

ASSESSING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN OUR PARISH

Evidence (List specific ways in which the parish currently implements items on the checklist).

Example: We have an activity for the young adults of our parish the first Monday of each month. They go to a coffee house where they play some Christian music, listen to a guest speaker who is invited to share a spiritual talk, and after that, they chat one to another.

Challenges (List areas that need attention).

Example: A lot of young adults live in our community but we are experiencing a hard time trying to bring them to the Church. We must create an evangelization team formed especially for active young adults in our community to reach out to the young population in our parish.