The Year of Youth 2018

Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy

Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment

A Resource to Help Unpack the Year of Youth 2018
Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable for spreading joy, the joy that is born of God’s love...

Pope Francis
World Youth Day 2016, Vigil Address

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The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent (3rd December 2017), as a national Year of Youth. This is an exciting opportunity in the life of the church to focus on young people.

The Year of Youth invites the church into dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church.

THE YEAR OF YOUTH AIMS ARE:

• To prayerfully discern the Australian Bishops’ vision for ministry with young people, Anointed and Sent;
• Authentic and personal engagement by Church leaders in the challenges and success in young people’s lives;
• Acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church; and
• Upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm.

The Year of Youth is focused on local renewal and engagement.

From the Year of Youth website www.youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth
Pastoral message from the Bishops on the announcement for the Year of Youth

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, joy and peace to you. I give thanks for your faith and witness in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

From the Catholic Bishops of Australia, I bring a message of deep joy and hope.

The Church in this land is entering a time of discernment as we move towards the Plenary Council of 2020 when we will chart a course into the future, with young people a crucial part of that journey. During 2018 the Church will contribute to the next Synod of Bishops in Rome, announced by Pope Francis as a dialogue on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment. In 2008 we celebrated World Youth Day in Sydney, the pilgrimage around Australia of the Cross of Christ and the Icon of Our Lady. In 2018, we want to engage with youth in new ways and they with us, helping young people to encounter God in Jesus Christ. We seek to awaken love and open your spirit to others so that you find and commit to the meaningful life God intends and so make a difference in the world.

We invite Catholics in Australia to celebrate a Year of Youth, from the beginning of Advent 2017 to the end of Ordinary Time in 2018. Here we will seek to open new horizons for spreading joy for the young Church and our communities. As we prepare with joy for this Year of Youth, we invite all the People of God to join us on this journey. The Year of Youth is a journey for the entire Body of Christ.

Throughout history, it has often been young people who have inspired renewal and change into new opportunities for witness and evangelisation. Many saints, including our own St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, were young adults when they set out on their path to holiness. Young people have a great capacity to address injustice and create new opportunities for joy and hope. Today, many young people want to serve, and others are willing to take a chance to make the world a better place. Leaders and older members of the Church must continue to listen to and benefit from the many graces of youth, supporting them to discern their vocation and identity their call in the world, within communities where they are safe, nurtured and respected. Working in partnership with young people’s passion and energy will help us all become more fully alive as the Body of Christ. But all of us are called to a journey of conversion, which requires an open heart.

As Bishops we invite you, the youth of Australia, to open your hearts to Christ. You are deeply loved by Jesus and the Church. We appreciate your gifts and contributions, and we want to journey with you.

AT WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016, POPE FRANCIS CALLED YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH TO ‘OPEN NEW HORIZONS FOR SPREADING JOY’.

“Joy friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal ‘more’. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God’s love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the ‘craziness’ of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists.”

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil with Young People, 30 July 2016.

These words of the Holy Father challenge us to welcome new opportunities for sharing the joy and hope of the Risen Christ. You have dreams for your future. Jesus also has dreams for you and your future. We want to accompany you as you discern the path that God has for you.

With Christ as our ever-present companion, we want to work with you to take courageous steps for building a civilisation of love where we can all become what God wants us to be.

To launch the Year of Youth, we invite you to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, 7-9 December 2017 in Sydney. The Festival will bring your peers and Church leaders together to celebrate the young Church of Australia. This invitation also presents a unique opportunity to go on pilgrimage to the shrine of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in North Sydney.

In this Year of Youth, we ask you to listen to the deep questions in your life. Do not be afraid to question and to seek understanding. By doing so humbly and prayerfully, you equip yourself to fulfill your baptismal call to become missionary disciples in today’s world.

We entrust the Year of Youth in 2018 to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Australia’s Patron, Mary Help of Christians. We draw inspiration from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whom we ask to pray for us and to join us on the way.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Denis Hart
President
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Create a Year of Youth Action Team in your parish
Gather together people from the parish who are interested in working together for the Year of Youth. The team may include a variety of parishioners including parents of young people, older parishioners and young people. Consider opening this up to any parishioners who are interested in helping out. Enlisting the help of a small team of people who can lead the parish’s response will ensure that the task does not just fall to the Parish Priest or the parish council and it will allow the passion and creativity of the team to benefit the whole parish.

Recruit Year of Youth Ambassadors
Invite young people in the parish to be your official “Year of Youth Ambassadors”. These young people can be invited to assist in various ways such as being a part of the Year of Youth Action Team, representing young people on the parish council and promoting youth initiatives around the parish. The Youth Ambassadors are invited to be commissioned by Archbishop Hart at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday 3rd December – the first day of the Year of Youth.

Review where your parish is at regarding youth ministry
It can be helpful to spend some time looking at what youth ministry has been carried out in the parish over recent years. What worked - why did it work? What didn’t work - why not? People in the parish will remember recent efforts and it is helpful to be aware of the various responses people may have. You may also want to look at your parish’s data from the Pastoral Research Office, to help get a sense of the demographics of your community: http://pro.catholic.org.au/2011-Parish-Social-Profiles/12-Melbourne/.

Start dreaming
Brainstorm what your goals for the Year of Youth are and what ideas could help to achieve those goals. Look at the following pages of this resource for some ideas. You may like to organise a short survey to ask your parishioners what they would like to see happening for young people in the parish.

Map out your calendar
Put together a concrete timeline of when each activity will occur and let the whole parish know about your plans. Consider doing one thing for each of the five focus areas in the Melbourne framework.

DECEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018
Focus on good news with joy
(The Annunciation)
This period will be a time of announcing the Year of Youth in our Archdiocese. Parishes can share their dreams and plans for the coming 12 months and commission their Year of Youth Ambassadors and Year of Youth Action Teams.

MAY – JULY 2018
Focus on the joy of families
(The Birth of Jesus)
We will focus on families and how we can support them in their important role of parenting and bringing up young people of faith. Parishes may run formation sessions on parenting young people or how to talk to their children about different vocations, organise events for families to attend together, and think of ways they can support young parents in their communities.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2018
Focus on joy in discernment
(The Finding of Jesus in the Temple)
In this period we will especially focus on young people’s need to discern their vocations; asking their Father who He is calling them to be and what He is calling them to do with their lives. Parishes will be encouraged to unpack this with their young people. As the Year of Youth draws to a close there will be a need for parishes and communities to discern where and how they are called to continue to assist young people in growing in their faith and contributing to the Church.

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2018
Focus on joy in service
(The Visitation)
This period corresponds with Lent and Easter and will be focused on charity, almsgiving and service. Young people will be encouraged to engage in service of others, starting first with the needs most pressing in their communities. Parishes will also be encouraged to reach out to the youth in the parish – both those already engaged in parish life and those who are not connected to the parish. There will be a real focus on youth in the margins: those who are homeless, suffering from mental illness, addicted, refugees, those in trouble with the law etc.

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2018
Focus on joy in service
(The Finding of Jesus in the Temple)
DECEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018: FOCUS ON GOOD NEWS WITH JOY
THE ANNUNCIATION

J esus entered the world on the yes of a young woman. At the Annunciation, Mary said “yes” to a promise for all the ages: The Lord is with you! You will bear a Son and he will reign forever.

In the Year of Youth, this is good news to be shared! Christ and His church are with young people, and young people can bring Christ to the world.

What initiatives will you say “yes” to in your parish, school and community? As the Year of Youth opens with the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, we focus on announcing the good news of this coming year. Young people will return from the Festival full of the promise of Christ. Use this time to invite your people – young and old – to discern how the Year of Youth will bring joy to your community.

IDEAS

• Announce the coming Year of Youth in your parish. Play the Year of Youth video. Simply search “Year of Youth 2018” on YouTube.
• Invite parishioners to be part of your Year of Youth Action Team. Include members of local schools so you can work together.
• Facilitate a Year of Youth dreaming meeting. Invite your community to share their ideas for how the Year of Youth might open new horizons for joy, discerning how to participate locally and with the Archdiocese.
• Commission your Year of Youth ambassadors and action teams by attending the Year of Youth Commissioning Mass on December 3 at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Alternately, you may commission them locally at a parish mass.
• Welcome back the young people from your parish and schools who have attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Invite them to share their testimony with your community at a Sunday Liturgy, and through your parish’s social media.
• Host a Parish Christmas Party and launch your plans for the Year of Youth.
• Learn the Australian Catholic Youth Festival theme song available at www.acyf.org.au. Feature it in your liturgy through the Year of Youth.
• Invite young people to lead music for your Christmas liturgies.
• As you welcome families and young people to your Christmas celebrations, acknowledge the Year of Youth and be ready to invite these people to be part of your parish’s Year of Youth journey in 2018.

“DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE, JESUS GIVES US LIFE, LIFE IN ABUNDANCE. IF WE ARE CLOSE TO HIM WE WILL HAVE JOY IN OUR HEARTS AND A SMILE ON YOUR FACE”

POPE FRANCIS
FOCUS ON JOY in Service
February – April 2018:
FOCUS ON JOY in Service
THE VISITATION

After receiving her good news, Mary sets out to visit her cousin Elizabeth. John, still in the womb of his mother, recognises the nearness of Jesus and leaps with joy. It’s an encounter which prompts Mary’s spontaneous canticle of praise: “My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my saviour”.

Our next stage of the Year of Youth journey focuses on joy in service. Our next stage of the Year of Youth journey focuses on joy in service.

IDEAS

- Organise an outreach activity to assist homeless young people in your local area. For example collect blankets to give to the homeless or run a sleepout to raise money for Vinnies.
- Get behind this year’s Project Compassion Campaign which is particularly following stories about young people: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
- Work with your local school to host an information evening for parents which focuses on supporting mental health in young people.
- Discover the joy of service lived through the different vocations in your community. Invite a panel of people representing different states of life to your youth group to share how they live service joyfully.
- Review the way your community welcomes and involves young people with disabilities. For helpful resources produced by the Disability Projects Office for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference visit www.catholic.org.au/disability
- Rediscover lives of radical service! The saints are an opportunity to see what a joyful faith in action looks like. Borrow the AoY “Young Saints” resource (see page 27) or look up the Resource section of the AoY website for youth group sessions on Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Mother Teresa of Calcutta: www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Online-Resources
- Invite young people to join the many ministries of your parish such as parish working bees, ministering at Mass, pastoral visits to local nursing homes, works of the local St Vincent de Paul conference, and the parish food bank.
- Join in the Melbourne Youth Festival on March 17. The Festival includes a Mission Expo which will share opportunities for young people to volunteer throughout Melbourne. Visit www.cam.org.au/youth for more information.
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- Contact your local Catholic Care office and find out how you can support them in their work with youth.

“FOR WHAT FAITH
BASICALLY MEANS
IS JUST THAT THIS
SHORTFALL THAT WE
ALL HAVE IN OUR LOVE
IS MADE UP BY THE
SURPLUS OF JESUS
CHRIST’S LOVE, ACTING
ON OUR BEHALF”

BENEDICT XVI

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Phil 4:8).

1. Decide on a form of service.
   Invite young people to discern a need in your local area or through an international partner. It’s good to start small but start somewhere. Decide on a clear and manageable task that the group is interested in. Young people should be able to organise, sustain and lead the task.

2. Put out a call to action.
   Invite other young people to be involved through announcements and personal invitation. Emphasise that this is a task that they are specially needed and called for.

3. Prepare and de-brief.
   Ensure that the young people receive some preparation before their service and then allow them to jump in. Once the form of service has been undertaken, have a de-brief session to allow for reflection – What was each person’s experience? What feelings, thoughts, emotions arose during or after the service? What are our motivations for serving? How did we work together? Were there moments of love, grace, suffering, challenge? Was God or Jesus present? Over the time of service, keep coming back to – Why are we doing this? Are we changing?

4. Emphasise relationships.
   Any form of service is not just about what is done, but about what relationships are formed and developed. In other words, we’re not just doing something, but ultimately we are offering ourselves in love and being loved.

5. Pray and reflect.
   Allow space for prayer, contemplation and reflection. Depending on the age of the group, this can come in different forms. Pray before and/or after each act of service. It’s good to choose a common prayer to use each time or to choose a saint that will guide the work and whose example will be a model and inspiration for the group.

6. Retreat and act again.
   As the group matures in its work, think about holding or participating in a retreat. This will allow for deeper reflection on the experiences in service and how it has affected each person. It will also allow the group to evaluate its activities and what it is being called to in the future.

A final insight...

“If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing” (1 Cor 13:3). My deep personal sharing in the needs and sufferings of others becomes a sharing of my very self with them. I must be personally present in my gift” (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est 34).

Christian service is simply an act of love – freely given – in imitation of Jesus himself and an expression of God’s love. Being involved in social justice and service is ultimately about expressing this love more deeply. But in order to give it, we must first receive it.

It’s important to affirm the service of young people. But it’s also important to gently help them see, though their experience, that, like those they serve, they are in need too. None of us are perfect and none of us can correct all the injustice in the world. But young people will look for answers! The answer we give is God: only God can end all injustice. We can only contribute to God’s mission by being more fully immersed in God’s love – through retreats, liturgies, sacraments, service, relationships... This insight must be gently and lovingly modelled and discussed. Young people need good spiritual guides.

Joel Hodge
Senior Lecturer of Theology, Australian Catholic University
MAY – JULY 2018:
FOCUS ON THE JOY OF FAMILIES
THE BIRTH OF JESUS

IDEAS

- Pope Francis says “the human experience of being son or daughter allows us to discover the most gratuitous dimension of love”. Jesus entered this human dimension of family love at Bethlehem.

As our Year of Youth journey continues, we focus on the joy of families and being part of the family of the Church which was born at Pentecost. Supporting and strengthening families helps young people face the challenges of life and helps them discover the joy of being God’s child. How can the Year of Youth affirm the experience of families?

- Run formation sessions on parenting young people. Contact the Archdiocesan Office for Youth or the Life Marriage and Family Office for recommended speakers.
- Celebrate! Organise a parish picnic for the whole parish. Make an effort to invite local families, especially those who are part of your sacramental program and in schools.
- Support local organisations such as the Caroline Chisholm Society which assist young mothers. Collect baby items and clothing to donate.
- Invite parents to attend your youth group for a session.
- Host a "Father and Son" and "Mother and Daughter" breakfast, afternoon tea or retreat day.
- Involve young people in the baptismal program of your parish, assisting with preparation sessions, or hosting a celebratory morning tea.
- Think about the young married couples in your community. Explore opportunities for young married couples to develop friendships in your community by starting a young married couples group.
- Mark the ten year anniversary of World Youth Day Sydney. Specially invite World Youth Day pilgrims who have been supported by your community in the past.

“LOVE IS SHOWN BY LITTLE THINGS, BY ATTENTION TO SMALL DAILY SIGNS WHICH MAKE US FEEL AT HOME. FAITH GROWS WHEN IT IS LIVED AND SHAPED BY LOVE. THAT IS WHY OUR FAMILIES, OUR HOMES, ARE TRUE DOMESTIC CHURCHES. THEY ARE THE RIGHT PLACE FOR FAITH TO BECOME LIFE, AND LIFE TO GROW IN FAITH.”

POPE FRANCIS
AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2018:
FOCUS ON DIALOGUE BRINGING JOY
THE PRESENTATION

IDEAS

- Organise a listening forum where young people and parish or community leaders can share their ideas, concerns and hopes.
- Run a parish pilgrimage to a shrine such as the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Ta Pinu in Bacchus Marsh, inviting older and younger parishioners to participate and chat to each other along the way.
- Invite your Parish Priest to youth group and feature him in a “get-to-know-you” style interview, or open question box.
- Create a video series featuring older parishioners being interviewed by younger parishioners asking the question, “What life lesson did you learn as a young person?” Share through your parish social media.
- Invite nominations for a young person to join your parish council as a permanent member.

5 TIPS FOR PASTORALLY RESPONDING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Listen
If we want to encourage the dialogue and engagement of young people with the Church, we need to be open to really hearing them. This involves creating spaces in the community and in individual conversations where young people can express themselves authentically and without the fear it will be followed with judgment or pressure. Listen to the worldview and core values of where the young person is coming from, even if you don’t agree with them. Get a young person to explain to you what they believe and what they are wrestling with. Look for their positive intention and the good that they are seeking.

2. Love
Seek to have an attitude of love and acceptance. A young person will not feel free to share their opinions with you if they don’t sense your love and care for them. How you make them feel will be more important than what you say. Set aside your own agenda and be aware of your reactions. Young people will also be watching your interactions with those on the margins and how well you are able to model the love of God to them. Young people will often place belonging before believing, that is, they might belong to a Christian community without necessarily having a full adherence to the beliefs of that community. If the young person is made to feel loved, accepted and receives a sense of belonging, their adherence to beliefs is more likely to come later.

3. Affirm
Young people often need a lot of support in struggling with the big issues of today. If you can affirm this struggle, it will communicate that you have heard them. If you are able to see behind the issue and into the pain, anger, confusion and betrayal that many feel, the person is more likely to feel heard, understood and valued. This will in turn create an atmosphere of respect and positive regard and develop the relationship between you.

4 Be positive
Visions inspire, rules repel. When tackling the big issues with young people, cast a positive vision, emphasising the reasons why the Church teaches what it does in the language of “dos” rather than “don’ts.” Couch Church teaching in language that presents the best of what we offer. Consider how Church teaching inspires beauty, truth and goodness, and how you have experienced this when deciding what to share. Be humble enough to share your own story and struggles in accepting Church teaching.

5. Accompany
Where possible, seek to be in relationship with the person over time, or to see that you are playing your part in their journey. This means not aiming to answer their entire question or situation in one session. Aim to “plant seeds, not trees” by giving them something to walk away with and ponder. Don’t try to “win” or argue, but rather propose and accompany. Keep it simple. Be a witness with your life and your love of the person. Entrust them to God at the end of your encounter and know that God can and is working powerfully in their life even though your involvement with them may be over. Where possible, seek to accompany them further gently and sensitively, or connect them with someone who can.

#4

Mary and Joseph present their child at the temple, we see a meeting of tradition and new promise. The wisdom of Simeon and Anna resonates with us.

5 Tips for pastorally responding to young people:

1. Listen
2. Love
3. Affirm
4. Be positive
5. Accompany

IDEAS

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- Invite nominations for a young person to join your parish council as a permanent member.

Options for youth group:

- As a youth group, focus on joining some of the parish activities that you may not have experienced before, such as a novena prayer or the bingo night! If you are part of parish activities which do not involve younger people, make an effort to personally invite young friends.
- If you are part of a prayer group, offer intercessory prayers especially for the young people in your community: those in the youth group, students, young people discerning their vocation, young people who no longer participate in parish life.

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5 Tips for pastorally responding to young people:

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The Year of Youth concludes with an invitation to discern vocation and life choices. For communities, the Year of Youth offers a chance to discern how the journey of engaging with the young heart of the church continues.

IDEAS

- Work with your local school to host a Vocations Forum – contact Vocations Melbourne for ideas and assistance, or invite a local married couple your parish priest and a local religious to attend.
- Book the AOY travelling exhibition on Young Saints and display in your parish or school around All Saints and All Souls day.
- Organise a parish Holy Hour to pray for Vocations.
- Organise a “Day in the life of a priest/sister”, where a small group of young men and women tag along and experience a typical day in the life of a religious.
- Include an anniversary Mass at this time to recognise marriage anniversaries being celebrated this year among your parish community. Have young people involved in hosting a morning tea after this Mass.
- Invite young seminarians or young religious to your youth group to share their experiences of discernment.
- During Mass and in your prayer groups offer intercessory prayers for young people discerning their vocation.
- Have the Year of Youth Action Team hold a parish forum to discern how the activities and relationships established in the Year of Youth may continue.
- Celebrate your experiences during the Year of Youth: create a display or presentation which captures the different ways your community has engaged in the Year of Youth in 2018.

The only time we encounter Jesus as a young man in scripture is at the finding in the temple. While his parents were afraid that Jesus may have been lost, he assures them that his place is in his Father’s house.

As the Year of Youth draws to a close, we focus on discernment. Discernment is for those who are searching for ways forward, lost. Discernment helps us place our plans and lives firmly in our Father’s house.

For young people, the Year of Youth concludes with an invitation to discern vocation and life choices. For communities, the Year of Youth offers a chance to discern how the journey of engaging with the young heart of the church continues.

WHO SHOULD WE BE TALKING TO ABOUT VOCATIONS?

Start encouraging vocations early.

Over 50% of the young men ordained in 2017 first thought of their vocation before they turned 18 years old (38% as 6-13-year-olds and 23% as 14-17-year-olds).

Keep an eye out for those young people already involved in parish life.

76% of those ordained had served as altar servers before entering the seminary. Half served as lectors. Two in five served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and just over a quarter served as cantors or in some other aspect of music ministry.

WHAT FORMS OF PRAYER ENCOURAGE VOCATIONS?

What can we be offering in our parishes and youth groups to encourage vocations through prayer?

82% (that’s four in five) reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently a parish priest, friend, or other parishioner).

Around seven in ten reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a parish priest (70%).

Two in five reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a parishioner (44%).

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE VOCATIONS OFFICE.

It is important to help young people connect with the Vocations Office.

Half of those ordained (47%) reported participating in a “Come and See” weekend at the seminary or the religious institute/society.

Check out some of the great videos and other resources available through the Archdiocese of Melbourne Vocations Office at www.melbournepriest.com.

For more information, resources or to organise a member of the Vocations Office to come and speak at your parish, youth group, school or movement feel free to contact us on: (03) 9926 5733 or vocations@jcam.org.au

Fr Nicholas Pearce
Vocations Office

WHAT ABOUT YOUTH MINISTRY?

How can youth ministry affect vocations?

Half of the newly ordained priests participated in a parish youth group (48%) before entering the seminary. 45% attended a youth event outside of their parish, for example World Youth Day or the National Catholic Youth Conference.

CALLED BY NAME.

Don’t be afraid to suggest a religious vocation to the young people in your parish.

69% prayed the rosary.

46% attended a prayer group or bible study.

38% went to high school retreats.

WHAT CAN YOUTH MINISTRY DO?

What can be being offered in our parishes and youth groups to encourage vocations through prayer?

77% or four in five of those ordained attended Eucharistic Adoration on a regular basis before entering the seminary.

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Fr Nicholas Pearce
Vocations Office
The two halves of the title for the Year of Youth (Opening New Horizons for Spreading Joy and Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment) are both from Pope Francis but at different times and places. The first part of the title is from his address to the young people at the Vigil in Krakow; the subsidiary one is the focus that he has given to the Synod for Youth to be held in 2018.

The Year of Youth is a call and an opportunity for us to recreate with and for the young people of today the possibility of encountering God, the Church and other young people so that something of the gift that was World Youth Day 2008 lives on.

The Church’s call to the Church in this Year of Youth is to invite young people and challenge them to enter the deep questions of their lives and their faith, to appeal to them on behalf of Jesus to be builders of a culture of love, to be witnesses of the Gospel and to grow as missionary disciples.

The energy out of which we operate when we share our faith and help with the discernment of vocation is vitally important. We are the best youth ministers that we can be when we operate out of joy and gratefulness, when we want others to receive what we have.

It is essential that we get in solid contact with what our sources of joy are. This is indispensable preparation for the Year of Youth as well as being central for our own spiritual growth.

What we share about joy has to be what the Church teaches and what we believe. It is not right for us to present to our young people as true something that we do not believe. If it is appropriate and possible, sharing from our experience of how the faith provides us with a light and grateful heart will be a helpful element too. Joy, along with mercy, synodality (which includes accompaniment and listening) and the integrity of creation, is one of the great threads running through the papal messages of Pope Francis. I have lost count of the number of times that I have seen reported that he said something like: “Don’t be a sourpuss.”

One way in which faith inspires joy for me is the knowledge that with the eyes of faith, the God who knows exactly what we are like accepts, likes and loves us. He loves us so much that he became one of us, died and rose again to prove it.

What God is asking of them, to help them hear his voice in the busyness of their lives. The example of the discernment of Servant of God Mary Glowrey JMJ, who may possibly be Australia’s second saint, might be helpful for you and for young people in your care. The staff at the Mary Glowrey Museum are well equipped to help understand this and want to share this knowledge: www.facebook.com/pg/maryglowreymuseum/posts/

OUR LORD PROMISES US THAT “NOTHING IS HIDDEN BUT IT WILL BE MADE CLEAR, NOTHING SECRET BUT IT WILL BE KNOWN AND BROUGHT INTO LIGHT” (LK 8:17)

More, God loves us so much that he wants us to live a life of significance. In the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, we were chosen as God’s beloved sons and daughters (MK 1:10). God anointed us with power in his own Spirit in our baptism and confirmation and sent us into the world. There is vitality in these sacraments.

Vocation in its widest sense includes the noble vocations of being a business person or doctor or childcare worker as well as those of married or religious life. Our call is to accompany young people as they try to listen to what God is asking of them, to help them hear his voice in the busyness of their lives. The example of the discernment of Servant of God Mary Glowrey JMJ, who may possibly be Australia’s second saint, might be helpful for you and for young people in your care. The staff at the Mary Glowrey Museum are well equipped to help understand this and want to share this knowledge: www.facebook.com/pg/maryglowreymuseum/posts/

When we want others to receive what we have, we have to appeal to them on behalf of Jesus to share their faith and help them hear his voice in the busyness of their lives. The example of the discernment of Servant of God Mary Glowrey JMJ, who may possibly be Australia’s second saint, might be helpful for you and for young people in your care. The staff at the Mary Glowrey Museum are well equipped to help understand this and want to share this knowledge: www.facebook.com/pg/maryglowreymuseum/posts/
The first aim identified for the Year of Youth by the bishops refers to the document Anointed and Sent. This document provides a vision for ministry with young people aged 12-30 in the Catholic Church Australia. It calls the entire Church to accompany them as maturing disciples through their school and post-school years into young adulthood, and to help them find their place in the Church and the world. It calls young people, to be more involved in their faith community and to grow in understanding and expressing who they are as the Church of today and tomorrow.

Youth ministry in Australia builds upon a rich history of education and Catholic youth organisations. But it also reflects very significant growth occasioned by Australian involvement in World Youth Days, especially World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, in national and more local youth events, and through the establishment of new youth ministries by dioceses and parishes, religious orders and ecclesial movements, and others.

As the Church in Australia continues to grow in understanding and experience of youth ministry, this ministry is increasingly focused upon “the new evangelisation” of those young people who are disconnected from the life of the Church, and upon ongoing formation and mission for those who are or may become more connected. This is taking many different forms, some of them very successful. At the same time, there are also significant gaps and challenges and always more that can be done.

Anointed and Sent focuses on “Why?” we engage in ministry with young people more than “How?”, offering a context for existing youth ministries and a rationale for establishing new ones. It offers a comprehensive vision for the holistic development of maturing disciples.

The three goals and eight focus areas are based in Scripture and Church teaching. They describe the mission of the whole Church but in this context are applied in a particular way to young people.

Anointed and Sent was initiated by the Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators and developed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Following consultation with youth ministry practitioners the Bishops ratified Anointed and Sent in May 2009. In 2014 Anointed and Sent was updated with revisions ratified in September 2014 by the Bishops Delegate for Youth and the Australian Catholic Youth Council.


Content from the Anointed and Sent vision is available online at www.youth.catholic.org.au/anointed-and-sent.

You can also request a copy in booklet form from the Archdiocesan Office for Youth by emailing aoy@cam.org.au and including your address details.

Check out the website: youth.catholic.org.au/anointed-and-sent
The Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to supporting youth ministry which ensures the safety and care for all young people who come into contact with our parishes and communities. In consultation with the Office for Professional Conduct and Ethics, the Archdiocesan Office for Youth has produced a resource called “ Seriously important things you need to know” to support parishes in running youth ministry which meets Archdiocesan and legislative requirements around caring for children. This resource assists parishes in applying May Our Children Flourish (the Melbourne Archdiocese Code of Conduct for caring for children) in the specific context of youth ministry, where participants may include young people aged over 18 and under 18 together, and leadership teams may include volunteers who are close in age to the young people they are serving.

“Seriously important things you need to know” addresses the following aspects of safety in youth ministry:

- Youth ministry basics – why we run youth ministry
- Leadership and supervision
- Codes of behaviour
- Information collection
- Communications (including social media)
- Venues
- First aid
- Food safety
- Transport
- Responding to incidents

The most updated version of this resource can be downloaded from the AOY website [www.cam.org.au/youth/Child-Safety](http://www.cam.org.au/youth/Child-Safety). There are also easy-to-download templates for you to use in creating your own forms and codes of conduct. Please contact the AOY if you have any questions or require more information.
Free Youth Ministry Resources

**Hiring a Youth Minister**

Some parishes employ a youth minister with the specific skills and talents needed to help the parish in its mission of ministering to young people. The “Hiring a Youth Minister” resource provides guidance around planning for, hiring, and supporting an employed youth minister to most effectively engage with the young people in your community.

**Ministering at Mass**

To better engage young people in the life and mission of our Church, it is helpful to make sure our liturgies are the best they can be. The “Ministering at Mass” resource provides guidance for these involved in coordinating Masses and practical tips for each ministry role involved in the liturgy. The resource includes planning sheets and checklists. Ecclesiastical approval has been obtained from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

**Fundraising Pack**

There are so many amazing projects to raise funds for - from World Youth Day to new youth group resources, to helping out with a Winter Appeal! For big projects, the key is to start fundraising early.

This resource provides you with a few tested ideas and hints to help you on your way and includes a sample 12 month fundraising plan.

**Promoting Your Youth Group**

There are a few things that you will want to keep in mind when promoting your youth group or a specific event you are planning. This short resource provides some ideas and suggestions to help you with your promotions. Even a flourishing youth ministry should always be thinking about how they can reach out to new young people in their mission.

**Young People and Mental Health**

Mental health is one of the main challenges facing young people today. In this Year of Youth the Archdiocese of Melbourne is determined to help our young people discover the right help, and point others who need help in the right direction. Our resource “Young People and Mental Health” provides a brief introduction to mental health, and suggestions for how to approach mental health issues with young people.

**Starting a Youth Group**

This resource was created a few years ago to assist parishes with both the logistics and deeper considerations when thinking about starting a youth group. It includes practical points such as what youth groups do, target ages, when and how often the group should meet, as well as questions for reflection such as what is the purpose of your group.

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Other Resources

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference resources for the Year of Youth**


This website contains background information, resources and other national announcements about the Year of Youth in Australia.

**Year of Youth Ambassadors Facebook group**

This group is an opportunity to network with Year of Youth Ambassadors across the country to share ideas, seek support, gather resources and keep up-to-date with information from the ACBC Office for Youth. Search for “Year of Youth Ambassadors” on Facebook.

**Monthly Webinars**

Throughout the Year of Youth the ACBC Office for Youth will be hosting monthly webinars for Year of Youth contacts, ambassadors and all leaders of youth ministry and those who work with and for young people. Each webinar will contain a different opportunity for personal formation, professional development, planning or sharing with others around the country.

**National Resource Coordinator**

Rachelle Smith
Mobile: 0435 652 745
E-mail: resources.youth@catholic.org.au

**Pope Francis Speaks to Young People**


**Vatican website for the 2018 Synod**

This 3min video introducing the Year of Youth can be watched via YouTube on the acbyouthchannel. Simply search “Year Of Youth 2018” on YouTube.
In July 2018 we will celebrate 10 years since Australia hosted the XXIII World Youth Day and Melbourne celebrated Days in the Diocese. This was a wonderful moment in our Church’s history. It is fitting to take some time to remember how your Parish celebrated this event. Did you host the WYD Cross and Icon as it travelled around Melbourne? Did you host pilgrims from other countries? Did you participate in the Mass at the then “Telstra Dome”? Did your Parish take a group to Sydney?

In this Year of Youth we are striving to recapture the joy, enthusiasm and hope of WYD08. Here are some ways your parish may like to commemorate this anniversary:

- Put together an exhibition of photos and souvenirs from DIDs and WYD and display in your church foyer.
- Have a reunion event and particularly invite past hosts, pilgrims and parishioners who were involved in celebrating WYD. In the background play footage from the official videos of the key events (also available on YouTube!)
- Get a past pilgrim from your parish to write a reflection 10 years on and publish it in your parish newsletter.
- Play the WYD08 theme song at Mass on Sunday 15th July.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses”

ACTS 1:8

Did you know?

- 20,000 international pilgrims came to Melbourne for the Days in the Diocese
- 30,000 pilgrims participated in the Mass at the “Telstra Dome” in Melbourne
- Over 170 nations were represented at World Youth Day Sydney 2008
- Pope Benedict spent eight days in Australia, with five of them taken up by World Youth Day activities
- In excess of 400,000 people attended the Final Mass at Southern Cross Precinct (Randwick)
- WYD08 events were watched live by an estimated international TV audience of 500 million, with TV and internet audiences combined reaching 1 billion
- 1,000 priests heard confession during the WYD08 week
- 100,000 pilgrims slept in 400 schools and parishes
- The Journey of the Cross and Icon travelled more than 80,000km around Australia and visited over 900 Australian communities during the 12 month pilgrimage

In January 2019, Pope Francis will gather with the youth of the world in Panama to celebrate the 32nd World Youth Day. The Melbourne Archdiocese is organising a pilgrimage for young adults. For more information contact the Archdiocesan Office for Youth or visit www.cam.org.au/wydvictoria.
About the Archdiocesan Office for Youth

“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” John 10:10

The Archdiocesan Office for Youth (AOY) is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Our mission is to inspire and engage young people in the life and mission of the Catholic Church, and we aim to do this through initiating, supporting and encouraging youth ministry in Catholic parishes, schools and organisations. We support youth ministry that ministers to secondary school aged young people and young adults.

Our guiding principles are based on the eight focus areas of Anointed and Sent, the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Conference vision for Catholic youth ministry, which are: prayer and worship, evangelisation, catechesis, pastoral care, community life, justice and service, leadership development, and advocacy. We seek to encourage all youth ministries to incorporate these areas into their activities.

The AOY provides support and comprehensive information about youth ministry activities in the Archdiocese of Melbourne through a number of ways:

- AOY staff members are each dedicated to a geographic region of Melbourne, and can assist you in starting or maintaining a youth ministry. Contact us for details and support.
- Our website www.cam.org.au/youth provides all the information about AOY-run events, as well as acting as a means for promotion of local events through our events calendar, and a youth group search and interactive map. We also have plenty of downloadable resources, job opportunities, ACYF information, WYD information and Year of Youth information.
- The Youth Leader Update and The Word are two monthly subscriptions that provide email updates about what is going on in and around the Archdiocese. You can subscribe online on our website.
- The AOY works with the National Evangelisation Team (NET), a team of young enthusiastic Catholics, to reach schools and youth groups across Melbourne. If you are interested in having NET come and visit your group, find out more on our website.
- We run a number of events that people from all over the diocese can get involved in, from our weekly Holy Hour of Adoration to leaders retreats and various formation opportunities.
- We regularly post on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The Official Prayer for the Year of Youth

Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland
Inspire our entire faith community,
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.

Come Holy Spirit of Youth
Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ.
Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth.
Guide us together, as we strive to offer God’s mercy to those who feel abandoned or outcast.

Come Holy Spirit of Faith
Empower our community to be courageous.
Unite your people as witnesses of love.
Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship,
Accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.

Come Holy Spirit of Vocation
Stir within young people an awareness of God’s call.
Reveal to us the graces of young people.
Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices To build a civilisation of love.

Amen

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,
Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
friend of the young, pray for us.