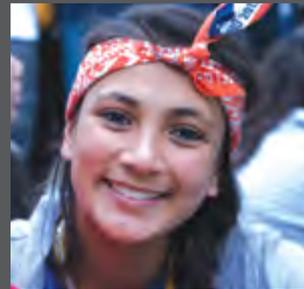
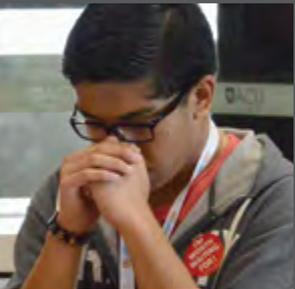




# anointed & sent.

an australian  
vision for catholic  
youth ministry.



“the **Spirit of the Lord** has been given to me, for he has **anointed** me. he has **sent** me to bring the **good news** to the poor, to proclaim **liberty** to captives and to the blind **new sight**, to set the downtrodden free, to **proclaim** the Lord’s year of favour.”

(luke 4:18-19)



1

to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.



2

to draw young people into responsible participation in the life and mission of the catholic faith community.



3

© Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

GPO Box 368, Canberra ACT 2601  
t: (02) 6201 9865  
e: youth@catholic.org.au  
w: www.catholic.org.au

First Edition Printed: July 2009  
Second Edition Printed: September 2014

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the Publisher. Scripture quotations are from the Jerusalem version of the Bible. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

All images used with permission.  
Photography – Elroy Aguiar, Fiona Basile, Mark Crocombe, Benita De Vincentii, Alphonsus Fok, Daniel Hopper, Nicky Milan, Peter Melville and Tristan Velasco.  
Design: thorleyCREATIVE

ISBN: 978-0-646-92708-4

*The purchaser of this resource may make copies for local use only.*



# anointed & sent.

an australian  
vision for catholic  
youth ministry.

to empower  
young people to  
live as disciples  
of Jesus Christ  
in today's world.

foreword	4
introduction	5
guiding text: luke 4:18-19	6
ministry in the australian context	7
a safe environment	8
comprehensive youth ministry	9
goal one	10
goal two	12
goal three	14
eight focus areas	16
prayer and worship	18
evangelisation	19
catechesis	20
pastoral care	21
community life	22
justice and service	23
leadership development	24
advocacy	25
conclusion	26
how to use this document	27



# foreword



***The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for He has anointed me*** (Luke 4:18). As Jesus said of Himself in the synagogue, so it is true for our young people. The Spirit of the Lord is conferred upon them at Baptism and Confirmation; is renewed in them every time they pray, hear the Word of God, or receive the precious sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion; and inspires their hearts and minds as they take Christ to our world. The Church is challenged to walk beside these Spirit-anointed young people, to help them identify God’s presence in their lives, and to enable them to grow every closer to Christ and His Church.

*Anointed and Sent* is a common vision of the Australian Catholic Bishops for animating and nurturing the spiritual life of young people. It addresses young people themselves as the future – but also as the part of the present – of our Church. It addresses all those who seek to minister to young people by drawing them into the life of the Catholic community and engaging them in the Church’s mission. And in addresses the whole Church as it seeks to connect better with young people and to ensure they encounter Jesus Christ in and through them.

Just as St Mary of the Cross MacKillop reached out to and addressed the needs of young people in her own time, and as many have done since, so must we today. In partnership with Christ, we see our young people as a fertile field for calling, conversion and catechesis, as worshippers of God “in Spirit and in truth”, as partners in evangelising our world and making it a more just and peaceful place, and as saints-in-the-making.

This new edition of *Anointed and Sent* calls faith communities proactively to engage with young people as they grow in faith and help grow the faithful. It proposes three challenging goals and eight ‘focus areas’ or fields of endeavour for youth ministry today. By opening our hearts and doors to young people and responding to the voice of the Spirit within them, the Church is continually re-animated for her mission.

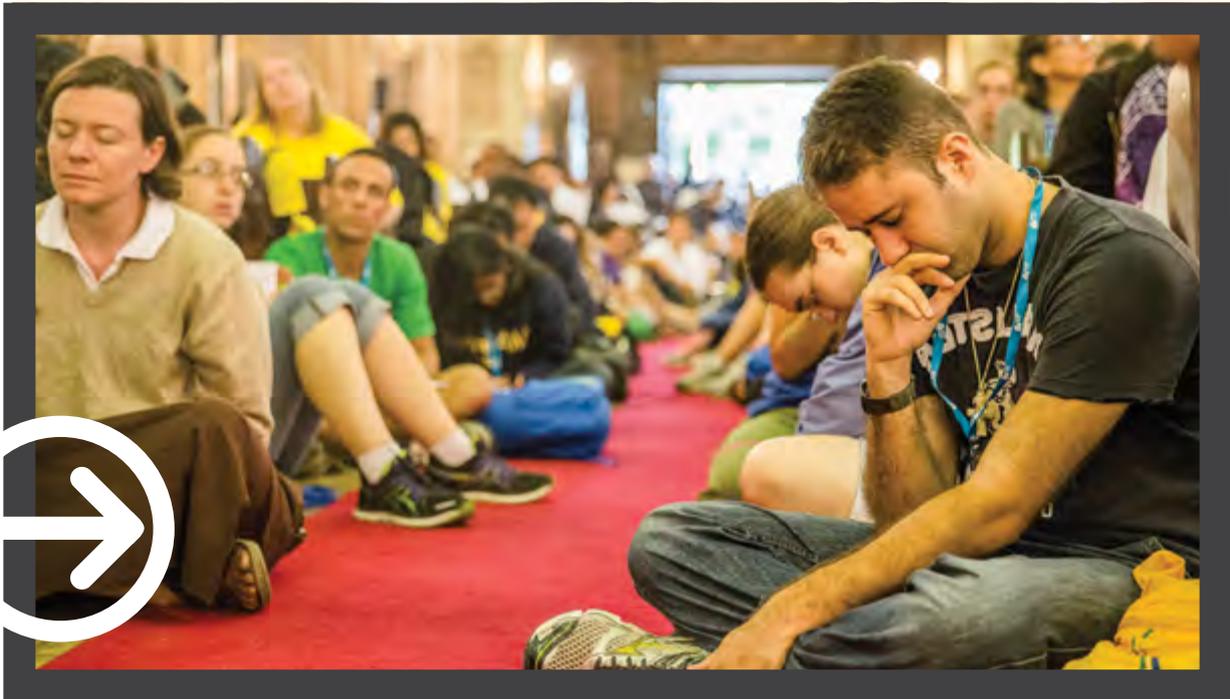
I encourage you to use *Anointed and Sent* as a source of inspiration to shape and guide your local response to young people. On behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops I thank all those engaging in youth ministry so generously and faithfully. With all the bishops I declare my great confidence in the contribution young people can and will make to our Church today.

Your sincerely in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Anthony Fisher OP  
Bishops Delegate for Youth

the synod fathers wanted to assure the youth of the Church in oceania that they are called to be “salt of the earth and light of the world” (Mt 5:13,14). the bishops wished them to know that they are a vital part of the Church today.

St John Paul II  
*Ecclesia in Oceania* #44



**Anointed and Sent** provides a vision for ministry with young people aged 12-30 in the Catholic Church in 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.

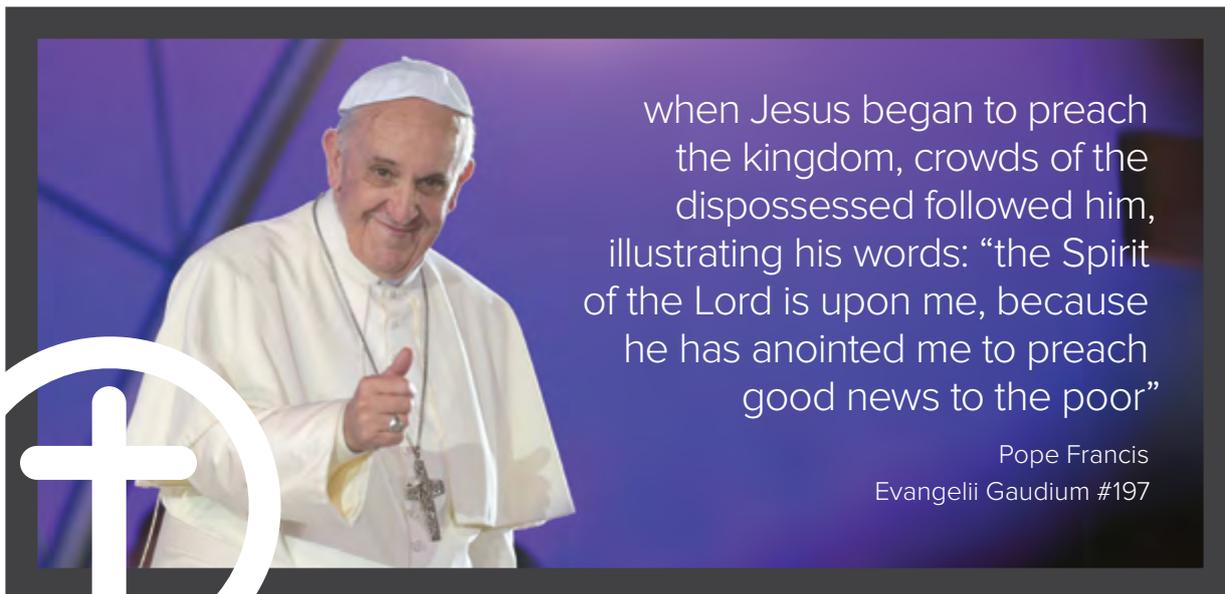
*Anointed and Sent* focuses on "Why?" we engage in ministry with young people more than "How?", offering a context for existing youth ministries and a rationale for establishing new ones. It offers a comprehensive vision for the holistic development of maturing disciples.

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.



# guiding text: luke 4:18-19



**As we reflect** on our ministry with young people, we draw inspiration from the young Jesus' programmatic announcement in the Synagogue:

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)

The Spirit that anointed Jesus for this mission also came to the Church at Pentecost anointing her to continue his mission. Every dimension of youth ministry must be inspired by that same Spirit.

As we discern the different kinds of poverty, imprisonment, blindness and oppression that young people may experience in their lives, we are called gently yet boldly to proclaim the new freedom, vision and hope that Christ offers to all. Young people must be not only the recipients of the Gospel but also its agents, and so are empowered by the Spirit to be witnesses and apostles. They share in the liberating mission of proclaiming the Lord's favour to their contemporaries.

This rich scriptural passage animates our vision for Catholic youth ministry in Australia.

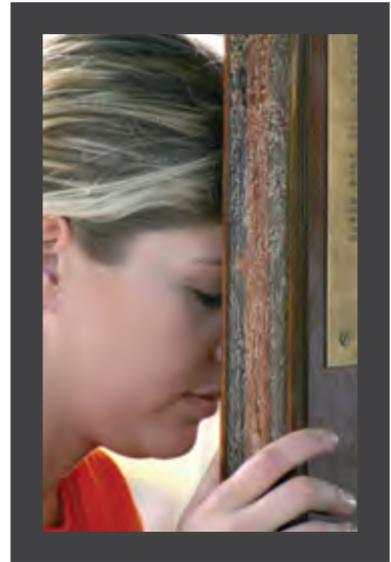
show, by your life, that it is worth giving your time and talents in order to attain high ideals, it is worth recognising the dignity of each human person, and it is worth taking risks for Christ and his gospel.

Pope Francis

Farewell, WYD Rio de Janeiro, 2013



# ministry in the australian context



Though youth ministry is a universal need and project of the Church, it also has local dimensions. The Catholic Church in Australia has a rich history of ministry with young people. Our first saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop, devoted much of her life and energy to young people; her congregation and many others did likewise. From at least the 1950s, different models of youth ministry were explored and those engaging in youth ministry today stand on the shoulders of those ministries.

Since that time the Church has also come to appreciate more deeply the richness of indigenous spirituality, the contribution of various migrant cultures, the vast contrasts between rural and urban centres, and the unique mix that has been created in Australia. Alongside a predominantly Christian population there are now growing numbers from other faith traditions and powerful tendencies to secularisation. Many young people are missing or alienated from institutions such as the Church. New media and technologies, economic and cultural trends, the struggles of contemporary family life – all contribute opportunities and challenges.

In this context the Church in Australia continues to proclaim the Gospel to young people. Many dioceses and parishes, religious orders and ecclesial movements, schools and Church organisations now

have dedicated roles and strategies for evangelising and engaging young people.

Building upon the vision in *Anointed and Sent* and the advice of the ACYC, the Bishops have established a national Office for Youth to provide advice and support in youth ministry. National events such as the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention and Australian pilgrimages to international World Youth Days continue to build identity and diversity in youth ministry in Australia.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church in Australia journeys forward together, sharing the signs of hope in our ministry with young people.

**the spirit's gifts working within us give direction and definition to our witness. they call us to active and joyful participation in the life of the Church: in parishes and ecclesial movements, in religious education classes, in university chaplaincies and other catholic organisations.**

Pope Benedict XVI  
Vigil, WYD Sydney, 2008



# a safe environment



**Ensuring a safe environment** for young people is an essential requirement of any ministry initiative. A safe environment is one where young people are protected from physical, emotional and spiritual harm.

*Anointed and Sent* must be understood and enacted within the context of two documents endorsed by the Australian Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes. *Integrity in Ministry* establishes principles and standards for Catholic clergy, religious and seminarians in Australia. *Integrity in the Service of the Church* establishes principles and standards for lay workers and volunteers of the Catholic Church in Australia.

All Catholic youth ministry in Australia must accord with the principles and standards set out in these documents, ensuring a safe environment for young people at all times. Clergy, religious and lay ministers (paid or volunteers) should be familiar with these documents and abide by them.

All youth ministry must likewise adhere to civil and ecclesiastical laws. Local dioceses, parishes, religious orders or communities may also have codes of conduct and policies for youth ministry and these should be sought and applied by those engaging in ministry in these contexts.

we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their [young people's] full development; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living.

Pope Francis

Welcome Address, WYD Rio de Janeiro, 2013

# comprehensive youth ministry



*Anointed and Sent* sets **three goals** for Catholic youth ministry:

- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person
- To draw young people into responsible participation in the life and mission of the Catholic community
- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world

These goals are advanced in **eight focus areas**:

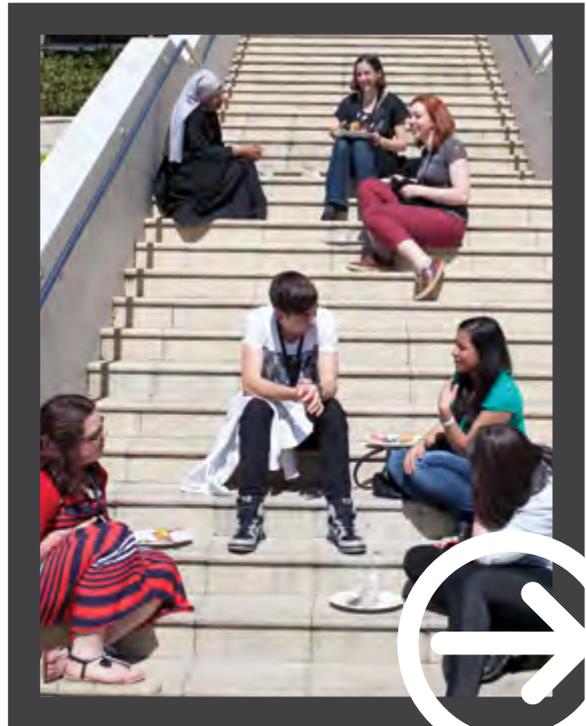
- Prayer and Worship
- Evangelisation
- Catechesis
- Pastoral Care
- Community Life
- Justice and Service
- Leadership Development
- Advocacy

This comprehensive approach is flexible and inclusive, and designed to affirm existing models of youth ministry, provide direction and encourage local creativity.

Youth ministries with people in any situation – indigenous, disabled, homeless, migrant, refugee, isolated and rural, suburban or inner city – should find their ministry reflected in this document and be able to draw from it.

Young people generally live within a family environment, and planning for youth ministry needs to acknowledge and incorporate the significant influence and diversity of families.

Youth ministry must also respond to constantly changing youth culture and environments, generational differences, technological change and new opportunities for ministry with young people.



our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. this is the work of the holy spirit! this is the hope held by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI  
Arrival, WYD Sydney, 2008



# Goal **one**





## Goal **one**

# to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person

**Growth in faith** is a life journey which engages the whole person.

Adolescence and young adulthood are a crucial time in that journey for asking questions and searching for truth and identity. The Church is challenged to foster in young people a sense of Catholic wisdom and identity that will provide a guiding direction for the rest of their lives.

Moral and spiritual growth begins in childhood and continues through the young adult years and beyond. This development does not happen in isolation, and youth ministry needs to be aware of and support other ministry with children, schools, young adults, parents and grandparents, to enable a holistic approach.

Young people need to be nurtured in developing a sense of self-worth, understanding that they are created and loved by God, who has a plan for them. As a faith community we assist this through prayer and example, and providing solid foundations for character and moral development.

People striving towards personal and spiritual growth encounter obstacles and wounds. Through the healing power of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist we grow in relationship with God. The Word of God is also key to fostering spiritual growth as we accompany young people in their joys and sorrows.

Obstacles to spiritual growth may include family breakdown, poverty, discrimination and social injustice, the increasingly secular worldview promoted by the media and popular culture, and the values of a disposable and consumption-oriented society. Ministry with young people needs to address these issues.

The goal of fostering the personal and spiritual growth of young people is that they “may have life and have it to the full”. (cf. John 10:10)

# Goal **two**





## Goal **two**

# to draw young people into responsible participation in the life and mission of the catholic faith community

**If young people are to encounter Christ** and be drawn into his life and mission, they must be immersed in the Catholic community. For most young people this includes the family, home, parish, school, youth groups or movements. In all these arenas young people should be encouraged to discover their Catholic identity and to develop and share their gifts for mission in the local faith community and beyond.

Faith communities should strive to be places that draw in young people, give them a sense of belonging, and offering them opportunities to minister side by side with adults. Young people are more likely to gain a sense of identity in the community when they are fully engaged as members, living their life in Christ. They need to be given opportunities to contribute in areas where they have particular gifts and skills, to be apprenticed in developing liturgical and other parish ministry skills in each of the eight focus areas, and to be assisted to discern their personal vocation.

Young people must be invited into relationships with all generations of the Church, not just their peers, and nurtured in their ongoing relationship with God. In a world where people increasingly compartmentalise their lives, young people should be actively encouraged to draw upon God in word and sacrament, and to live their Christian mission in the world in its personal and the community dimensions.

The Church has a mission beyond that of the gathered worshipping community. Young people must be encouraged to develop their skills and passion as agents in sharing God's mission in the wider world.



Goal  
**three**  
▶▶▶





## Goal **three**



# to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world

**Discipleship** – following Jesus – is at the heart of the Church's mission. All ministry with young people needs to be directed towards developing their personal relationship with Jesus, fostering an understanding of the Good News he offers, and inspiring them to embrace the adventure of discipleship towards Eternal Life.

All Christians are called through Baptism, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to life in Christ. This takes place within a supportive community, as members of the Body of Christ. We are called to reach out to young people, welcome them, help them find their place in the Church, and accept and encourage the gifts they bring to the whole community. Without young people, the Body of Christ is incomplete.

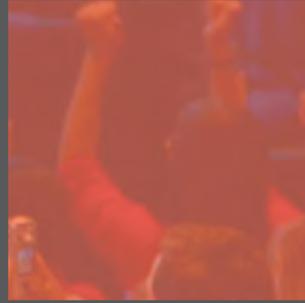
The Church invites young people to see the Christian faith as a way of life that provides meaning and direction in their lives.

Discipleship calls us to live our Christian lives in the broader world. Young people must be formed to make a difference in their local, national and international communities. They must be offered concrete experiences of the adventure and demands of discipleship, stretched in their understanding and skills, and encouraged to deepen their understanding and practice of true Christian discipleship.



**prayer & worship**

**catechesis**



**community life**



**leadership development**

**justice and service**



evangelisation



# eight focus areas



**The three goals** of youth ministry are expressed and evaluated in particular focus areas. These are eight dimensions of the mission for which Jesus and his disciples are anointed and sent (cf. Lk 4:17-19). They are the critical arenas in which to proclaim the new freedom, vision and hope Christ offers the young people of Australia. They also provide a context in which to identify strengths and weaknesses in our current youth ministries.

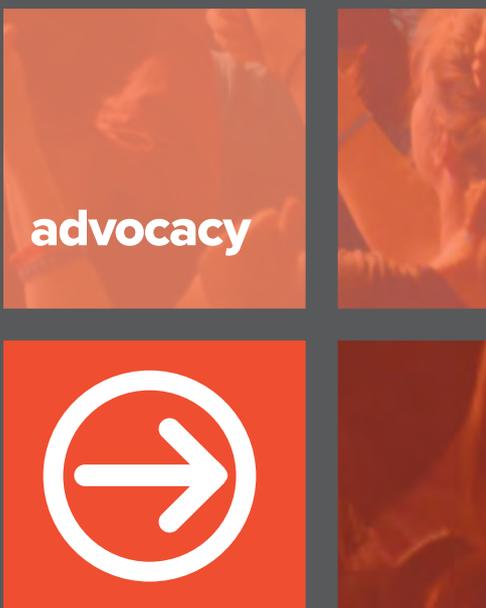
While all eight focus areas are indispensable dimensions of ministry with young people, different communities will naturally have particular emphases and strengths as they seek to incarnate the Gospel in their time and place. ‘Grace builds on nature’ and thus God inspires people to lend their particular personalities, histories and passions to the task. In practice this means a particular community is likely to emphasise one of the focus areas such as prayer and worship, evangelisation or justice, more than the others. But every community will benefit from critical reflection and intentional engagement with all eight of the focus areas.

Ministry in each of the eight areas can be in a gathered format, where people come together for a set program or event, or in a non-gathered format, where resources are provided for individual reflection or action or through individual mentoring or engagement activities. They do not assume exhaustive resources in personnel, volunteers or finances. Involvement can lead towards greater contribution to the faith life of the family, parish, school, group or movement, or encourage young peoples’ participation in the wider community as Christian disciples.

pastoral care



advocacy



today, we need a Church capable of walking at people’s side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey... but we need to know how to interpret, with courage, the larger picture.

Pope Francis  
WYD Rio de Janeiro , 2013



# prayer and worship

**Prayer and Worship** deepen young people's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. They include the celebration of liturgy, communal and personal prayer.

Through Prayer and Worship, young people's awareness of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives is awakened and they are incorporated more fully into the sacramental life of the Church. Prayer and Worship nurture the personal prayer life of young people, their families and the whole community.

In this focus area the Church invites young people to discover the joy and sacredness of Divine Liturgy, encouraging "full, conscious and active participation in the Eucharist... the source and summit of the whole Christian life" (Vatican Council II, *Sacrosanctum concilium* 10,11,14,19; *Lumen gentium* 11). Here young people repent of their failings, are challenged by the Word of God proclaimed and preached, offer themselves with the gifts, and are immersed in the mystery of communion with Christ.

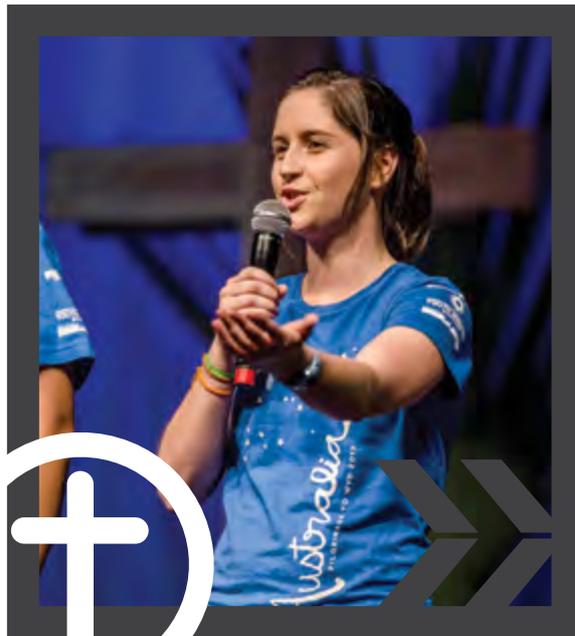
Encouraging and forming young people in service roles in the liturgy is an important part of youth ministry. These will include teaching them how to engage well in ministries of music, welcome, multimedia and serving, in accordance with liturgical norms and with respect for the presence of members of the community older and younger than them.

prayer is pure receptivity to  
God's grace, love in action,  
communion with the spirit who  
dwells within us, leading us,  
through Jesus, in the Church,  
to our heavenly father.

Pope Benedict XVI  
Final Mass, WYD Sydney, 2008

all depends on prayer.  
begin with it and end with it.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1890



As youth ministry opens up various forms of prayer to young people, there should be opportunities to engage their personal experiences and integrate active listening and responding to the Word of God.

In Prayer and Worship we stand tall on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, marked with sign of faith. It introduces young people to classics of spiritual reading and to saints they can model their lives upon. It explores traditions of devotion such as Eucharistic adoration, the Divine Office and the Rosary, various forms of prayer, and sacramentals such as icons. It offers opportunities such as retreats. It encourages young people to find their own way to pray, recognising that each must find their path to holiness. The expression of prayer may include music, art, dance and drama.



**Evangelisation** calls young people to a personal and life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ through the Church. It encourages them to hear the Gospel and deepen their understanding of the teachings of the Church, to apply that wisdom to lives of Christian witness, and in turn to evangelise those around them and the culture in which they live.



it is imperative that the Church proclaim the gospel to the young in ways that they can understand, ways that can enable them to grasp the hand of Christ who never ceases to reach out to them, especially in their dark times.

St John Paul II  
Ecclesia in Oceania #44

evangelisation means bearing witness to the personal love of God... it is serving by bending down to wash the feet of our brothers and sisters as Jesus did.

Pope Francis  
Final Mass, WYD Rio de Janeiro, 2013

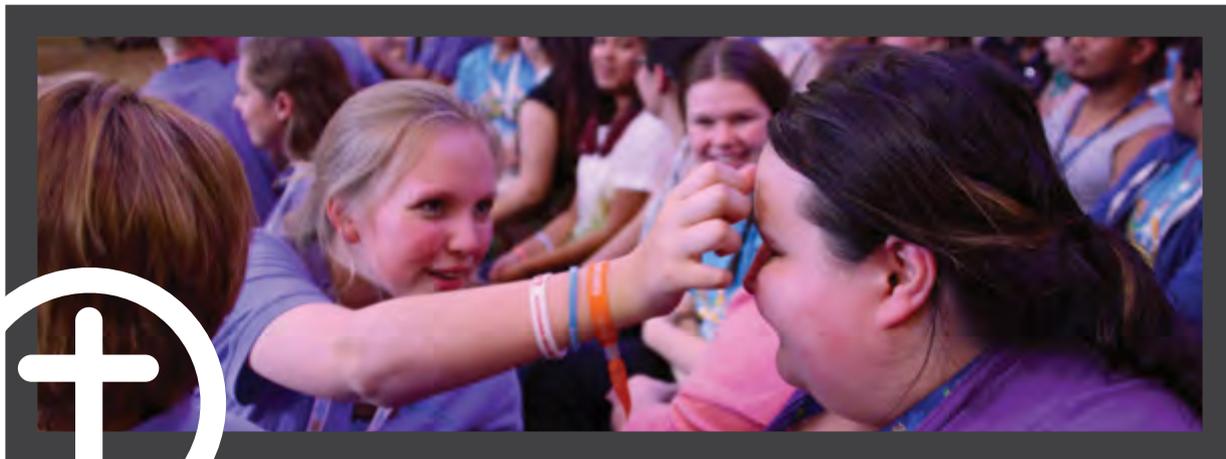
Evangelisation reaches out to young people 'where they are', physically and in their life situation, and responds to their yearnings. It provides hospitable spaces and opportunities to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, to uncover and name the experience of a God already active and present in their lives, and to draw them into a fuller discipleship.

Youth ministry today must be animated by the call of recent popes to a "new evangelisation" – of persons and groups formerly or formally Christian but often living at some remove from the life of the Church. It thus requires a language and methods appropriate to contemporary times. Youth ministry must be concerned to engage with the large numbers of young baptised Catholics who do not identify with the Church or practice their faith. We are called to find new and creative ways of reaching out to these young people, inviting them to encounter Christ and to become his disciples.

Young people are called to be agents of evangelisation, working in collaboration with their local community, to reach out and witness to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. They are to be encouraged and assisted to use many creative means to bridge our ancient faith and the contemporary world, the tabernacle and the street.



# catechesis



**Catechesis** aims to help young people deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming more fully his disciples in the Catholic community. It is an apprenticeship in Catholic faith which recognizes that people of all ages and stages of faith are on a journey together. The catechesis process relates the Gospel to questions in the minds and yearnings in the hearts of young people.

Catechesis is about informing our faith more fully and developing a way of life that enacts that faithfully. It therefore seeks to initiate young people into the believing, celebrating, living and praying Catholic community.

It is through faith communities such as families, parishes, schools, groups and movements that young people are formed in what it means to be Catholic, at the levels of head, heart and hands.

it is essential that Church leaders study the culture and language of youth, welcome them and incorporate the positive aspects of their culture into the Church's life and mission.

St John Paul II  
Ecclesia in Oceania #44

on the lips of the catechist, the first proclamation must ring out over and over: Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day...

Pope Francis  
Evangelii Gaudium #164.

Those who evangelise and catechise young people must be authentic disciples themselves. "People listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* #41).

Sound catechesis requires awareness of the lives of those in whose footsteps we follow, from Christ and his saints to ordinary members of our faith community, who are models of fidelity to God.

It includes praying the Scriptures, celebrating the sacraments, deepening appreciation of Catholic teaching, reflecting on daily life in the light of the Gospel and growing in the life of Christ, who dwells within all the baptised.



bear one another's  
burdens, and in this  
way you will fulfill  
the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

**Pastoral care** is fundamentally a relationship: a compassionate presence, modelled on Jesus' care for people, especially those hurting and in need, and nurturing their growth toward wholeness. Young people need such care and are in turn called to actively care for others. This requires a higher order of authentic relationship and maturity.

Pastoral care guides young people in their emotional-spiritual development and accompanies them as they build moral character and discern their vocation. It equips them to deal practically and prayerfully with life situations, fostering the link between faith and decision-making. It promotes life-giving choices, including those around sexuality, relationships, life-plans and problem-solving.

Pastoral care involves compassionate outreach, loving each individual in their situation. It requires personal support, for and by young people, especially listening in a spirit of companionship. It requires regular access to sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Pastoral care creates networks of support for young people in times of crisis and beyond. It provides direct aid to youth at risk, promotes development of communication and other life skills, and links services in the wider community.

if we have love in our hearts,  
we shall have God with us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1890





# community life



**The good news** of Jesus Christ is realised when it is lived out in relationships and community.

It is through loving relationships, lived out truthfully and authentically, that we discover ourselves and the mystery of others in God. Only in and through community can we be fully alive.

Community life flows out of who we are, how we interact, and whether we are open to inviting others in. Young people value building community within their peer groups. Building Christian community is integral to youth ministry.

love one another,  
and let charity guide  
you in all your life.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1909

the whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

Acts 4:32

A visible presence and active engagement of young people with their peers but also with other generations allows the whole community to value and benefit from young people. It also gives young people insight into the gifts of those older and younger than them, and into the integral role they can play in the Christian community, as relationships of mentoring and discipleship develop.

Youth ministry flourishes best when the wider faith community is welcoming and all members – regardless of age – know that they are valued and their presence and contribution appreciated.



i tell you solemnly, in so far  
as you neglected to do this  
to one of the least of these,  
you neglected to do it to me.

Matthew 25:40



**Reverencing every human being** as the image of God and based on the social doctrine of the Church, young people seek to promote the inalienable dignity and rights of every human being, to serve those in need, to advocate for change in situations of injustice, and to pursue peace.

Our call to justice and service is Christ-centred. We are formed through Christian living to bear witness to Christ in everyday life.

A focus on justice and service can be an entry point for some young people to encounter

Christ, drawing them into relationship with God and the Christian community.

Formation in Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching also enables young people to question what is often taken for granted in our society, to expose the root causes of injustice and to live justly amidst the complexities of our world.

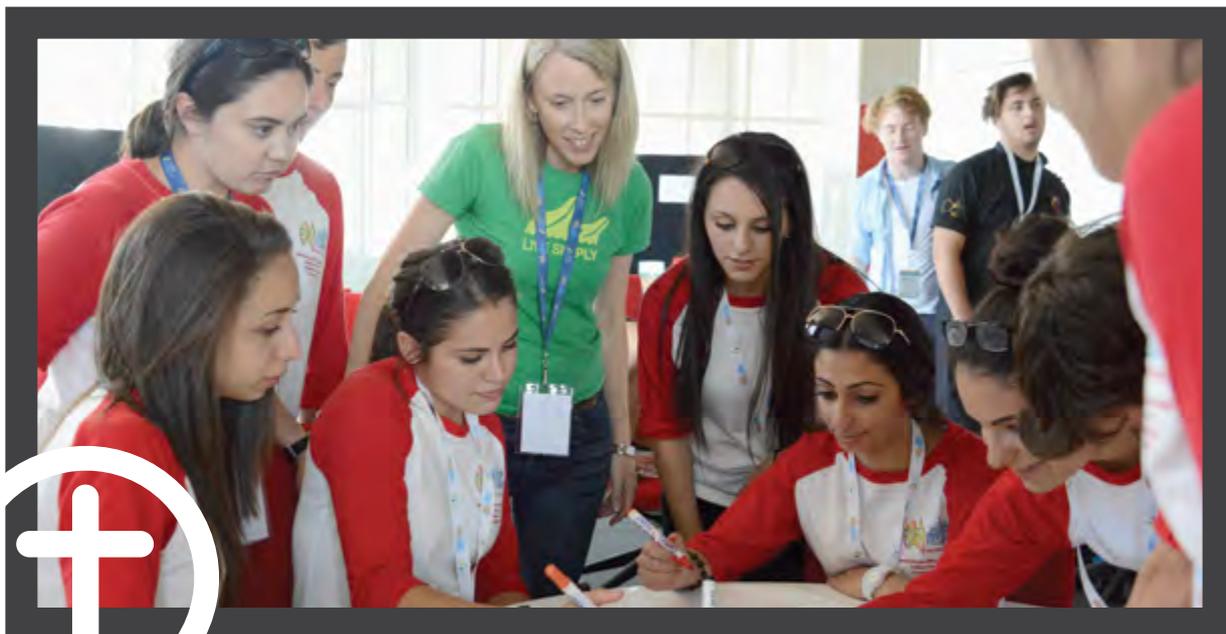
Direct service opportunities enable young people to make a difference in our world and to apply principles of justice in their personal and professional lives.

the bishops were quick to applaud young people for their acute sense of justice, personal integrity and respect for human dignity, for their care for the needy and their concern for the environment. these are signs of a great generosity of spirit which will not fail to bear fruit in the life of the Church now, as it has always done in the past.

St John Paul II  
Ecclesia in Oceania #44



# leadership development



**Ministry leaders** are shepherds first and foremost: though skilled in organisation and administration they are spiritual leaders before being managers and they are participants alongside their flock in journeying with Christ. Leadership development encourages collaborative ministry and seeks at all times to cooperate with God's grace.

Leadership development in youth ministry calls forth the gifts of young people, empowering and supporting them in ministry to their peers and the wider community. It also provides opportunities for adults to gain skills and experience in mentoring youth.

Jesus said to simon peter,  
“simon son of john, do you  
love me more than these?”  
“yes, Lord,” he said, “you know  
that i love you.” Jesus said,  
“feed my lambs... take care of  
my sheep... feed my sheep.”

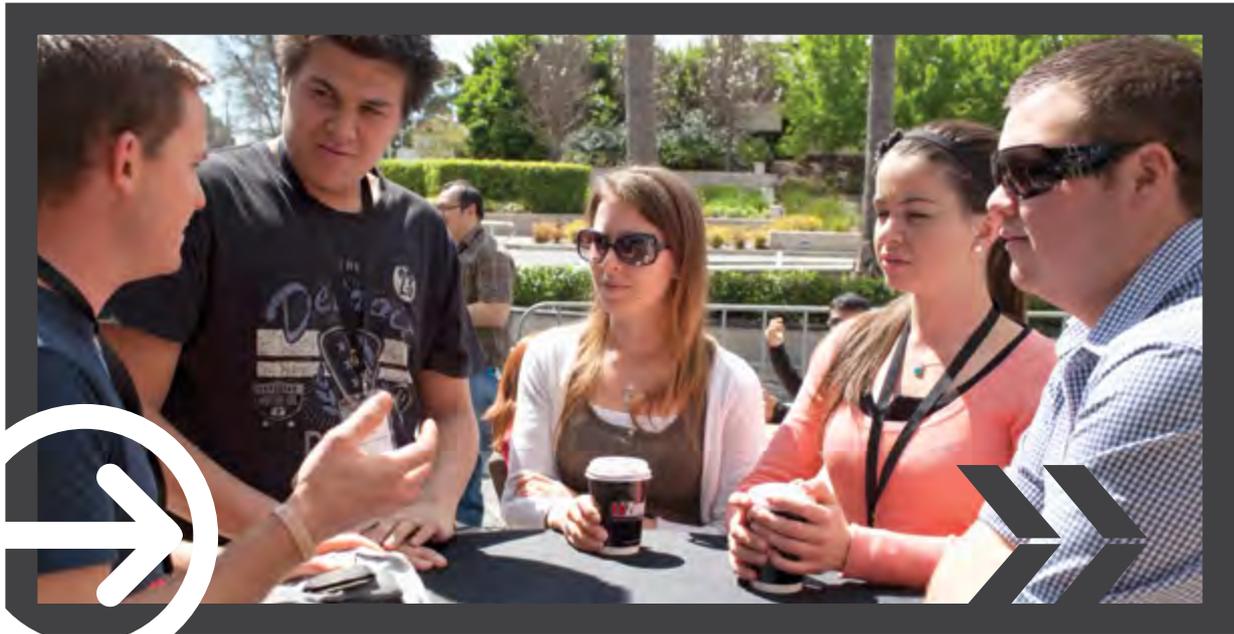
John 21:15-17

Church leaders are keen to find ways to involve young people more fully in the Church's life and mission. young catholics are called to follow Jesus: not just in the future as adults, but now as maturing disciples.

St John Paul II  
Ecclesia in Oceania #44

Leaders for youth ministry need to be encouraged and formed to discern their gifts and calling. This is vital for determining appropriate leadership roles, whether as paid staff or as volunteers. Youth leaders must also be equipped with appropriate theological understandings and relational skills, and enabled to develop proficiencies in ministry and organisation.





**Advocacy** has three dimensions: advocacy for the place and importance of young people within the Church; advocacy for young people who are marginalised within society; and providing opportunities for young people to be involved in advocacy themselves.

The Church today is challenged to examine its priorities and practices to ensure that young people are heard and fully integrated into the identity and mission of the Catholic community. We need to create opportunities for listening to young people and for fostering dialogue, so that young people feel encouraged to advocate for themselves and others.

Jesus does not say “no” to the authentic demands of the heart, but only a clear, loud “yes” to life, to love, to freedom, to peace and to hope. with him no goal is impossible and even a small act of generosity grows and can lead to great change.

St John Paul II  
Letter to the young people of Rome, 1997

it is the young who want to be the protagonists of change. please, don't leave it to others to be the protagonists of change. you are the ones who hold the future! you... through you the future is fulfilled in the world

Pope Francis  
Vigil, WYD Rio de Janeiro, 2013

The Church must also stand up for young people and beside them, especially those who are voiceless or powerless in society. This includes addressing issues of importance to young people such as education, housing, employment, health and safety. Good youth ministry enables young people to become Christian advocates for themselves and others.

For advocacy to be truly effective the whole Church community, not only young people, must be active in issues affecting young people in the Church and the world.



# conclusion



the Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

(Luke 4:18-19)

Those who engage in youth ministry in Australia are anointed and sent to proclaim this Good News of liberation and joy to all, but especially to the young. Our dioceses, parishes, religious orders, ecclesial movements and others are privileged to accompany young people as they are formed for Christian discipleship.

Young people themselves are also anointed and sent to proclaim the freedom and elation of the Gospel to their peers, and indeed to all.

*Anointed and Sent* is our national vision for ministry with young people in Australia. All ministry to young people should seek to realise the three goals outlined in this document in the eight focus areas.

As the Catholic Bishops of Australia propose this vision for youth ministry they confidently entrust its implementation to the Australian Catholic Youth Council, the Office for Youth and the diverse youth ministries at a local level. They thank all those engaged in youth ministry for their faithful collaboration in this exciting project.

For practical strategies and resources in youth ministry contact your local youth ministry coordinator or visit [youthministry.catholic.org.au](http://youthministry.catholic.org.au).

to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

to draw young people into responsible participation in the life and mission of the catholic faith community.

to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world.

# how to use this document



## a living document

*Anointed and Sent* is intended to be a living document: do not let it collect dust on the shelf! Pick it up periodically and let it challenge your ministry to youth. Breathe life into the goals as you reflect upon your encounter with Christ through young people.

Practical suggestions:

- Underline the parts that speak to or challenge your thinking. Write your ideas in the margin.
- When planning youth ministry make sure you are in dialogue with the young people you are serving. What you do must be grounded in their realities.
- Incorporate *Anointed and Sent* in the induction of all any staff and volunteers

## theological reflection

In ministry we can be consumed by the practicalities of programs and events. It is important to ground what we do in the Church's overall identity and mission. A simple method of theological reflection can assist to link our practice of ministry with the vision contained in *Anointed and Sent*.

1. Reflect upon your current needs and/or youth ministry programs. What are you currently doing?
2. Read through the goals and focus areas of *Anointed and Sent*. How does what you are currently doing connect with one or more of the goals and focus areas? Can you identify the gaps in your program in light of *Anointed and Sent*?
3. Brainstorm new ways to address the gaps and enhance your current initiatives.

Practical suggestions:

- Select a page and reflect upon it at the start of your meetings. Gradually make your way through the booklet over the course of several meetings.
- Encourage individual ministries to reflect on how they engage with the vision in *Anointed and Sent*.
- With the guiding text of Luke 4:18-19, reflect on how you your inspiration for ministry with young people.

## a planning and evaluation tool

In your planning use *Anointed and Sent* as your guide to develop a more comprehensive approach, mindful of all three goals in all you do. Aim to expand your activities to include more of the focus areas in your program over time.

*Anointed and Sent* can be used as a tool to review your program from last year or your last event. It can help you to be attentive to the areas of your ministry that are flourishing and identify aspects in need of development.

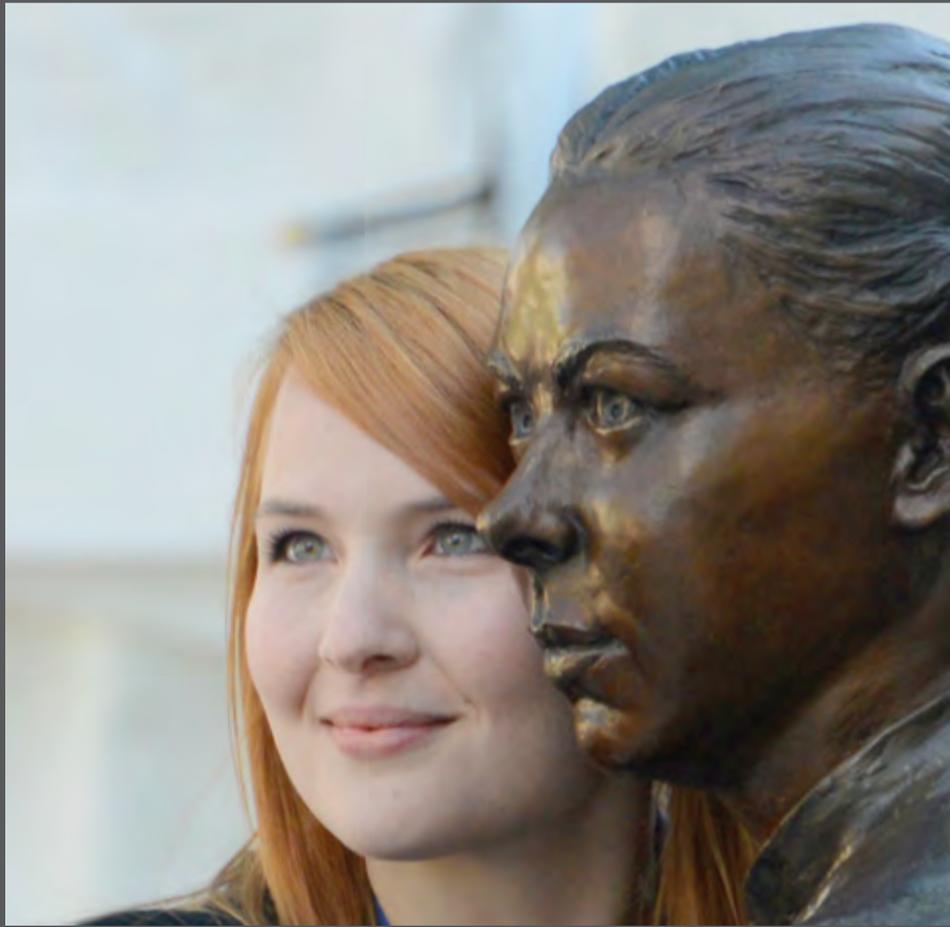
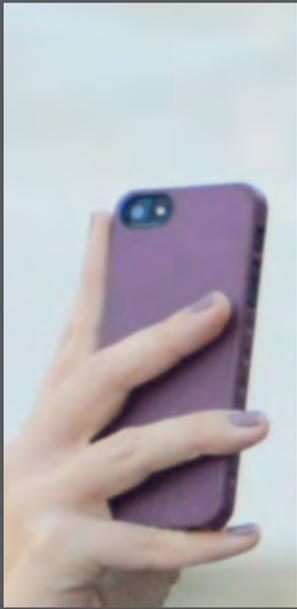
Practical suggestions:

- Reflect on your existing strategies in light of the three goals and eight focus areas to identify strengths and challenges.
- Does your budget and the way to expend your finite energies reflect your *Anointed and Sent* priorities?
- Use the eight focus areas to map out current youth ministry initiatives and brainstorm new projects.
- Use *Anointed and Sent* to help identify the support you need. Seek advice if needed.
- Identify partnerships and collaborations with neighbouring communities in addressing the concerns in *Anointed and Sent*.
- Identify your present response to *Anointed and Sent* and outline goals to increase your response in the future.

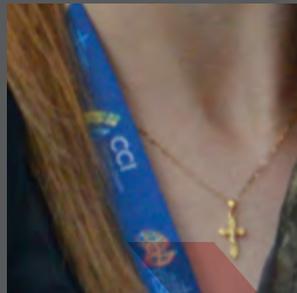
we pray that with the whole Church that we can meet the challenge of providing coming generations with reasons for living and hoping.

Gaudium et Spes #31  
Vatican Council II





*Anointed and Sent* provides a vision for ministry with young people aged 12-30 in the Catholic Church in 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.



**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

Office for Youth

GPO Box 368, Canberra ACT 2601

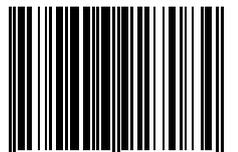
Phone: (02) 6201 9865

Email: [youth@catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@catholic.org.au)

Website: [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)



ISBN 978-0-646-92708-4



9 780646 927084 >