



Youth and Young Adult Ministry Resources

The resources below are available to help our parishes develop vibrant youth ministry programs and outreach to our youth. If you have other suggestions, please let us know and we will add them to this resource list.

A. One Time Events

These events can be attended by any group of youth, with or without an organized Small Youth Group. They provide an excellent opportunity to invite new members into a formed Small Youth Group, or to discover youth in your parish or deanery who might want to be involved with a Small Youth Group.

Office of Catholic Formation Pilgrimages:

The Office of Catholic Formation organizes pilgrimages to enable youth from your parish to deepen their faith while having an incredible experience outside of Vermont.

March for Life – Washington D.C. – www.marchforlife.org – around January 22nd each year

Mount 2000 – Mt. St. Mary's Seminary – www.mount2000.org – weekend in early February

National Catholic Youth Conference – www.nfcym.org – every two years in November (the next: Indianapolis, 2017)

One-Time Activities:

Resources from these activities are plentiful.

CRS Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services – www.crs.org

Souper Bowl of Caring – www.souperbowl.org – several Vermont parishes now participate



Possible Pilgrimage Sites for a Small Youth Group:

These trips require planning, but can be very fruitful. Be mindful of safe environment practices while providing transportation and during the pilgrimage.

St. Anne's Shrine – Isle La Motte, VT – www.saintannesshrine.org, open May - October

St. Joseph Oratory and other sites – Montreal, Quebec – www.saint-joseph.org, open all year.

Our Lady of LaSalette – Enfield, NH – www.lasaletteofenfield.org

National Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha – Fonda, NY – www.katerishrine.com

National Shrine of Divine Mercy – Stockbridge, MA – www.marian.org/shrine/

Retreat Centers

Again, these trips require planning, but can be very fruitful. Be mindful of safe environment practices while providing transportation and during the pilgrimage.

Mellos Retreat Center – Jacksonville, VT – <http://www.mellosretreatcenter.com>

The Mary Theokotos Center – West Burke, VT – <http://marytheotokos.blogspot.com>

Bethany Birches Camp – Plymouth, VT – <http://www.bethanybirches.org>

The Round Hearth at Stowe – Stowe, VT – <http://www.roundhearth.com>

B. Icebreakers/Fun and Games

The Source For Youth Ministry tons of free youth ministry tips, ideas, reading material, links, and other resources - <http://www.thesource4ym.com/>

C. Websites

- **Media**

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – www.usccb.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington – www.vermontcatholic.org

Catechism of the Catholic Church: <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>

Vatican website: <http://www.vatican.va>

Vatican News: <http://www.news.va/en>



Please note: The following listings are opportunities to explore and engage topics in the Catholic Church. While acceptable for these purposes, please reference the sites listed above for official teachings and news of the Church, as some of the following sites can contain public discussions and contributions of theological opinion.

Mass Times – www.masstimes.org

Catholic Answers – www.catholic.com

EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) – www.ewtn.org

Spirit and Song Radio (Catholic Music Stations) – www.spiritandsong.com

- **Vocations** <http://vocationnetwork.org/> - This website provides an abundant amount of tools used to discern individual vocations.

www.sistersoflife.org

- **Fund-raising** www.totallycatholicfundraising.com - Through this website, the youth of the parishes are provided the unique opportunity to fundraise with Catholic jewelry and rosaries, as well as many other Catholic items.

D. Publications & Publishers

Ascension Press – www.ascensionpress.com

Ave Maria Press – www.avemariapress.com

Ignatius Press – www.ignatius.com

One Rock Magazine – www.onerock.com

Pauline Books & Media – www.pauline.org

St. Mary's Press – www.smp.org

YM Central – www.ymcentral.com



E. Programs

Life Teen – www.lifeteen.org – Life Teen is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through a vibrant Eucharistic spirituality and by creating widespread opportunities for teens to grow in their faith.

Programs/Resources for Teen Bible Studies

T3 (The Teen Timeline) from Ascension Press: Dynamic teen presenter Mark Hart makes the Bible come alive for Catholic teens. T3 teaches teens the Bible by showing them the “big picture” of salvation history. When young students of the Bible first understand the “story,” they are eager to learn more.

LifeTeen.com: LifeTeen.com contains a variety of Bible Study topical options for you to use in your parish ministry. Topics include: chastity, depression, Eucharist, God’s Time (dealing with being busy), humility, the Mass, temptation, and vocations.

FORMED – <https://formed.org/>

DECISION point – <http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/>

Catholic Lectionary/Schedule of Readings Online

Choose “Readings” at www.usccb.org (US Catholic Bishops) for the calendar of readings used in the Catholic Church. Be mindful that they give the standard readings for the Mass of the day, which excludes local feasts and memorials of saints.

Bible Text Online & Searching Biblical Text

Choose “Bible” at www.usccb.org (US Catholic Bishops) for the actual text of the New American Bible, but you cannot search the text (good for “cut and paste” rather than retyping).

Congregation for the Clergy – www.clerus.org – This website provides biblical text as well as a tremendous amount of Church documents, query from the homepage with the “search” box.

Bible Gateway – www.biblegateway.com – This resource is from Gospelcom, a non-denominational Christian organization. You can do a keyword, passage, or topical/subject search in many translations (not NAB or NRSV). This can be useful for doing searches of biblical text, but be mindful that different translations use different keywords.

Choosing a Bible



Although there are many Bibles from which to choose, most of them are not Catholic. Even with those approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), you may find some slight variations from the lectionary text. Bibles are now printed with many additional features, such as Bible Study features and other in-text aides, especially those aimed at teens. For more information regarding how to choose a Bible,

<http://www.catholic.com/search/content/library%20Bible%20Translations%20Guide>

Here are the most common translations:

New American Bible (NAB) (Contains language used in the Lectionary)

Revised Standard Version (RSV) (More literal translation)

New International Version (NIV) (Common in ecumenical settings)

Devotional Bibles – many translations, with daily/weekly devotions contained within the pages of the Bible itself; devotions geared toward many subjects

Social Justice Group

The Catholic Church, through religious communities, missionary work, and the Church's teaching on social justice, has provided for the needs of the world through generations. The individual needs of your parish and community will vary from others, so the possibilities of Social Justice Small Youth Groups are as plentiful as the needs in which they serve. Many youth, teens, and adults come into the faith through the Church's actions to serve those in need.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have summarized all of the Church's Social Teachings (CST) and divided most of the teachings into the following "Key Themes". Social Justice Small Youth Groups will be connected to one or more of these Key Themes:

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Pro-Life Group Activities (advocacy, education, etc.)
- Vermont Teens for Life: www.teensforlifevt.com
- Students for Life: <http://studentsforlife.org/prolifefacts/prolife-movement/>
- Teens for Life : www.teensforlife.com/
- Generations for Life: <http://generationsforlife.org/>

2. Call to Family, Community and Participation

- Visiting a Nursing Home
- Voter education

3. Human Rights and Responsibilities

- Fair Trade advocacy & education

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Community Volunteer group (thrift store, soup kitchen, etc.)

5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Anti-sweatshop advocacy & education

6. Solidarity



- Community Fasting activity & education

7. Care for God's Creation

- Environmental activism (recycling), advocacy & education

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Generations for Life: The Generations for Life Pro-Life Curriculum provides all the tools needed to form, maintain and mobilize a pro-life club in any school, church or youth group – or to revitalize an already established club. The Curriculum covers everything from constituting the club and recruiting members to making each meeting throughout the year purposeful and fun. Go to www.generationsforlife.org

Call to Family, Community and Participation

Faithful Citizenship: The topic of politics is engaging. Young people can learn about the current issues in an election through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' publication, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (Nov. 2007), is more than an election year guide to the most prominent issues. It also is a resource from the US Bishops for children and youth. The website contains a simple curriculum for a Small Youth Group, suggestions such as holding a mock election and discussion group questions. The most basic principal is that the Church is not partisan, it considers the issues involved as they relate to Catholic Social Teaching. Go to: www.faithfulcitizenship.org

Human Rights and Responsibilities & The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

CRS Fair Trade: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has developed learning modules for middle and secondary school classrooms to explore the principles of CST in the context of Fair Trade. They are full of background material, interactive lesson ideas, and useful class assignments. Educators can use the eight modules as a complete unit or choose the ones that work for them (many of these units were developed by Eileen Harrington of the Diocese of Madison).

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable & Solidarity

Personal: A service project can be as simple as asking someone in parish leadership if they know someone who could use assistance, such as an elderly person who needs basic chores done (raking leaves, snow removal, running errands, or other home maintenance).

Local: Many communities have non-profit organizations who need volunteers to serve others. These can be independent, locally-based organization, or national organizations with local chapters such as Habitat for Humanity. Names and phone numbers can be found under areas such as "Charitable and Service Organizations". Asking parish leadership for assistance in choosing these organizations is suggested. These organizations often collaborate with one



another, and can recommend further opportunities if requested. Some examples of this type of service include working at a food pantry or second-hand store. Contact the United Way, the Red Cross, your local hospitals and nursing homes to get started.

National: For the high school graduate looking to travel away from Vermont, one excellent resource is the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service. Their website (www.cnvs.org) lists many organizations, as does their annual publication *Response*. The website allows a potential volunteer to create a profile that is sent to specific organizations who match specific query options. Many nationwide organizations are available.

Apps

Catholic Words & Games App – good app, but really from www.catholicwords.com

Confession app – <https://catholicapptitude.org/confession-apps/> \$1.99

The app has three parts.

The first is an examination of conscience that's designed to help Catholics prepare for confession before stepping into the confessional

The second part features step-by-step instructions for what to do inside the confessional.

The last part is a space to record any absolution or penance from the priest.

CRS Rice Bowl – Lenten app - free <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/crs-rice-bowl/id783579588?mt=8>

Decision Point – from <http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation> - Confirmation program

Evangelizo – daily readings – free <http://evangelizo-daily-gospel.soft112.com/>

iPieta – daily readings, all books of the Bible, etc. - free <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ipieta-catholic-teaching-calendar/id311106959?mt=8>

laudate - #1 free Catholic app - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/laudate-1-free-catholic-app/id499428207?mt=8>

the Mass explained – “As the title suggests, the *Mass Explained* iPad app is a multimedia learning experience focusing on the Catholic Mass—more specifically, the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite, the Mass with which most Catholics are familiar.” <http://www.massexplainedapp.com/>

Missio – social outreach app - <https://missio.org/>

The Pope App 2.0 – official Pope Francis app –



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pope-app-official-pope-francis/id593468235?mt=8>

Roman Missal – Catholic reference - <http://www.imissal.com/>

Rosary App – mobile app, free download - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/family-rosarys-mobile-rosary/id476564520?mt=8>

Sinner2Saint App: Personal Trainer for the Soul – helps increase virtues –
<http://www.sinner2saintapp.com/>

The Truth and Life Bible App – audio and study Bible (CNA) –
<https://www.truthandlifeapp.com/>

USA Catholic Church app – helps build a church app - <http://customchurchapps.com/>

Oneparish app – helps develop and grow church/parish community - <http://oneparish.com/>