

A PRIMER ON YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

FOR PARISHES, PRESENTED BY COALITION WITH YOUNG ADULTS



WHO ARE YOUNG ADULTS?

- In our country, young adults are 18-40 year olds (Born 1977-1999), according to the USCCB
- Globally, the Church defines young adults as between the ages 16-29
- Very diverse stages of life and transitions: single, engaged/married, young parents, consecrated
- Young adults are busy, constantly using technology, and longing for connection and community.

WHAT IS YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY?

- Young adult ministry is *NOT* youth ministry
- Young adult ministry is evangelization - it is outreach *AND* integration into parish life
- Young adult ministry should be focused on people, not events or programs
- Young adult ministry is “tuned in” - what are the desires of young adults in your parish?
- Young adult ministry is organic and flexible
- There is no one model of young adult ministry. It can include service, faith sharing, sports, social, scripture study, speakers, advocacy, devotions, and/or much more.
- Young adult ministry is inclusive

HOW TO CONNECT WITH YOUNG ADULTS:

- Young adults are diverse; they are so much more than liberal or conservative or any other labels.
- Reach out with joy, not judgment – Don’t be jerks for Jesus.
- Acknowledge that everyone is on his/her own unique faith journey. Meet people where they are.
- Service is a proven touch point for many young adults
- Maximize other touch points with young adults: marriage, baptism, Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday
- Word of mouth is the best marketing tool
- You need to be online!
- As a parish, do what you’re already doing, but with intentionality towards young adults.

WHO IS COALITION WITH YOUNG ADULTS (CYA)?

- CYA is a Catholic network for people in their 20s and 30s and a catalyst for young adult ministry.
- CYA employs one full-time staff person, with an intergenerational Advisory Board.
- CYA is a trusted partner of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Cleveland.
- CYA collaborates with a variety of parishes, religious congregations, diocesan offices, and young adult leaders.
- CYA is funded through donations, grants, and the generosity of volunteers.

WHAT DOES CYA DO?

Our work:

- Curating – spreading the word about young adult events and ministries
- Resourcing – supporting ministries in their evangelization work
- Developing – promoting young adult ministry as an evangelization priority in our Church

Our online presence:

- Website: cyacleveland.org
- Bi-Weekly e-newsletter with upcoming events
- Crowd-sourced event calendar on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)
- Facebook and Twitter pages
- High SEO in NEO (search engine optimization in Northeast Ohio)

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. In the next 24-72 hours, share this knowledge with just *one* person (co-worker, family member, or young adult parishioner)
2. Be on the lookout for young adults at mass. Introduce yourself, and form relationships.
3. Start with inviting more young people in your parish to be lectors, EMs, and ushers
4. Evangelize! Form intergenerational relationships
5. If you do not have young adult offerings, advertise CYA’s website in your bulletins
6. Donate to CYA or connect Catholic philanthropists to this important organization

COALITION WITH YOUNG ADULTS

A growing Catholic network for people in their 20s and 30s in Northeast Ohio

WWW.CYACLEVELAND.ORG