

Helping Young People Become Disciples of Jesus: The Parish Responds



**A Planning Guide for Parishes and Schools
Archdiocese of Santa Fe**

Introduction

Welcome to *Helping Our Young People Live as Disciples of Jesus—The Parish Responds*, a planning guide designed to assist parishes and schools in assessing and planning their ministry to, with, by, and for young people. This guide was developed by a committee of ministers and teachers who work with youth in parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and was inspired by the recent research into the faith and faith practices of young people. The work of the National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis (NIAC) has guided the development of this guide. For more information, see <http://adolescentcatechesis.org/>.

Helping Our Young People Live as Disciples of Jesus—The Parish Responds is based on the systematic and integrated approach to youth ministry that is outlined in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' document *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* (1997). See <http://www.nccbuscc.org/laity/youth/rtvcontents.shtml>.

The comprehensive framework for ministry with adolescents described in *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* is designed to:

1. *Utilize* each of the Church's ministries—advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, prayer and worship—in an integrated approach to achieving the three goals for ministry with adolescents;
2. *Provide* developmentally appropriate programs and activities that promote personal and spiritual growth for young and older adolescents;
3. *Enrich* family life and promote the faith growth of families of adolescents;
4. *Incorporate* young people fully into all aspects of church life and engage them in ministry and leadership in the faith community;
5. *Create* partnerships among families, schools, churches, and community organizations in a common effort to promote positive youth development (RTV, 20).

Helping Our Young People Live as Disciples of Jesus—The Parish Responds is a parish planning guide and also an assessment tool. Parishes and schools are invited to follow a systematic process which includes these steps:

1. Profile the adolescents in your parish.
2. Parish Assessment:
 - a. Review the eight components of comprehensive ministry to youth described in the Preface to the guide.
 - b. Choose which component you will work on first as a parish or school;
 - c. Work as a parish group to read each of the "Indicators" for the chosen component;
 - d. Describe how you are fulfilling each indicator currently and what the challenges are;
 - e. Choose one indicator to work on first as a parish, and then
3. Develop Action Steps—create a plan for the chosen indicator, detailing who will do what and by when. (See pages

GOALS FROM RENEWING THE VISION

The U.S. Catholic Bishops give three clear and rich goals for comprehensive youth ministry in *Renewing the Vision*:

1. To *empower* young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today (p. 9).
2. To *draw* young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community (p. 11).
3. To *foster* the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person (p. 15).

The first goal emphasizes the need for young Catholics to become Christian disciples and answer with authenticity Jesus' invitation to "Come, follow me" (Mark 10:21). The second goal stresses the importance of Christian responsibly and participation in the life of a parish-community and local church (diocese). RTV states, "The ministry of community life is not only *what* we do (actively), but *who* we are (identity) and *how* we interact (relationships)" (34). The third goal accentuates the holistic nature of the young person and addresses teenage spiritual needs.

THEMES FROM RENEWING THE VISION

There are seven themes that are to be integrated into comprehensive youth ministry in Catholic parishes and schools. The seven comprehensive themes that merit attention and should be part of Catholic youth ministry are: (1) developmentally appropriate, (2) family friendly, (3) intergenerational, (4) multicultural, (5) community-wide collaboration, (6) inclusive of leadership development, and (7) flexible and adaptive programming (RTV, 22-25).

Developmentally Appropriate

Human development and growth in faith is a lifelong journey. Effective ministry with adolescents provides developmentally appropriate experiences, programs, activities, strategies, resources, content, and processes to address the unique developmental and social needs younger and older adolescents (RTV, 20). Youth programs, events, and strategies should meet the maturity level and faith and moral developmental stage of the adolescent. This is the reason that RTV separates faith formation and ministry initiatives into two categories: younger adolescents (11-14 years old) and older adolescents (15-18 years old). Thus, pastoral activities with youth are to be age-appropriate.

Family Friendly

The "domestic church" or Christian home is the first and most important influence on a young person and on society. Ministry with adolescents recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for the faith formation of young people and that parish youth ministry and Catholic schools only share in that vital formation (RTV, 21). Hence, ministry with adolescents ought not take teenagers away from their family, but rather help to foster family dynamics and life.

Intergenerational

Ministry with adolescents recognizes the importance of the intergenerational faith community in sharing faith and promoting healthy growth in adolescents. Ministry with adolescents can incorporate teenagers into intergenerational opportunities already available in the parish community, identify and develop leadership opportunities in the parish for young people (RTV, 22). Intergenerational ministry with young people helps in facilitating experiences that share programs that include children, youth, young adults, adults, and elderly adults.

Multicultural

Ministry with adolescents is multicultural *only* when it focuses on a specialized ministry to youth of particular racial *and* ethnic cultures and promotes multicultural awareness among youth (RTV, 22). Youth ministry *must* recognize, value, and respond to ethnic diversity. Youth ministry *needs* to incorporate ethnic traditions, values, and rituals into ministerial programming. Being a multicultural church-community means that all adolescents belong equally to the universal church and should relate to one another as sisters and brothers from the same family of God.

Community-wide Collaboration

Ministry with adolescents involves creating healthier civic communities for all young people. Community-wide collaboration means building partnerships among families, schools, churches, and organizations that mobilize the community in a common effort to build healthier community life and to promote positive adolescent development (RTV, 24). Therefore, the parish-community is not alone in its efforts in working with adolescents; community collaboration involves sharing resources and information, supporting and sponsoring events, and developing youth advocacy support-systems and efforts.

Inclusive of Leadership Development

Parish coordinators of youth ministry (CYM's) are in leadership positions based purely on their status within the parish, school, and local Church. Youth ministers are coordinators and have a central role in facilitating young people, programming and outreach, and resources of the faith community on behalf of a comprehensive ministry effort with adolescents (RTV, 24). Quality leadership for youth ministry animates, orchestrates, and mobilizes the entire parish or school community to get behind youth ministry, which draws forth the community's gifts and resources.

Flexible and Adaptable Programming

There are many types of programs and initiatives within youth ministry; therefore, a comprehensive approach must be flexible and adaptable offering: a diversity of program settings, age-appropriate programming, a balanced mix of programs, activities, and strategies that address the eight components of comprehensive youth ministry, small-group processes, home-based initiatives with parent involvement, social justice and service projects, and one-on-one mentoring and discipleship (RTV, 25). There is no single program, approach, strategy, or model for youth ministry; conversely, parishes and families will need to be dynamic and changing in their ministry efforts with young people.

COMPONENTS FROM RENEWING THE VISION

Eight components provide a framework for the Catholic community to *respond* to the needs of young people and to involve young people in sharing their unique gifts with the larger community. They provide a structure for the Church's ministry with adolescents, while encouraging local creativity in developing programs, activities, and strategies for each component. Each ministry component supports and enhances the others. A comprehensive ministry with adolescents provides balance among all eight components. This balance can be achieved throughout a year or a season of programming. Even a single program or strategy can incorporate several of the ministry components, as in the case of a retreat program (p. 26).

The eight components for a Catholic comprehensive youth ministry are important and merit deeper introspection. A Catholic youth ministry must strive to offer a balanced approach which integrates the following ministry components: (1) advocacy, (2) catechesis, (3) community life, (4) evangelization, (5) justice and service, (6) leadership development, (7) pastoral care, and (8) the prayer and worship. RTV suggests that each component be implemented over a season or year of youth ministry (p. 26). A description of each of these components is listed below in alphabetical order, not by importance because all eight components are important and are interdependent and connect with each other (RTV, pp. 26-47).

Advocacy

“The ministry of advocacy struggles against economic and social forces that threaten adolescents and family life, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of access to affordable health care, lack of decent housing, and discrimination. The ministry of advocacy supports policies and programs that support and empower adolescents and their families and works to overcome poverty, provide decent jobs, and promote equal opportunity. In all advocacy efforts we must remember to focus on adolescents and families with the greatest need. As a Church, we need to provide strong moral leadership; to stand up for adolescents, especially those who are voiceless and powerless in society. We call upon all ministry leaders and faith communities to use the resources of our faith community, the resources and talents of all our people, and the opportunities of this democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of adolescents and their families.”

Catechesis

“The ministry of catechesis helps adolescents *develop* a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community, and *increase* their knowledge of the core content of the Catholic faith. The ministry of Catechesis also helps young people *enrich* and *expand* their understanding of the Scriptures and the sacred tradition and their application to life today, and *live* more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, especially through a life of prayer, justice, and loving service. Genuine faith is a *total* response of the whole person—mind, heart, and will. The ministry of Catechesis fosters growth in Catholic faith in all three dimensions—trusting (heart, knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will). The goal is to have *all* Catholic youth involved in some program of catechesis.” (p 29) Adolescent catechesis supports the entire youth ministry because it is rooted in Jesus Christ. In a real sense, if there is no catechesis, there is no youth ministry.”

Community Life

“The Catholic Church is a large faith-community and is comprised of children, adolescents, young adults, adults, and the elderly, and of various ethnicities and diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. Community life is nurtured when the *atmosphere* is welcoming, comfortable, safe, and predictable—one in which *all* adolescents know that their presence is welcomed, their energy is appreciated, and their contributions are valued. Community life is enhanced when leaders promote and model an *attitude* that is authentic, positive, accepting, and understanding—assuring *all* young people that they are valued and cared for as gifted individuals. Community life is encouraged when our *actions* are inviting, supportive, and gospel-based. Community life is created when *activities* build trust and encourage relationships, and are age-appropriate.”

“Community life is one of the core elements of youth ministry because it is in the youth community and parish community that adolescents first encounter the Church. Community life is also the litmus test for whether or not good environment and fruitful relationships take place within youth ministry. It is in community that catechesis and discipleship take place and get handed down from one generation to another.”

Evangelization

“Evangelization is the energizing core of all ministry with adolescents. All of the relationships, ministry components, and programs of comprehensive ministry with adolescents must proclaim the Good News. They must invite young people into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus and empower them to live as his disciples. Catholic evangelization in general and Catholic evangelization for youth ministry in particular includes four distinctive elements. First, evangelization is always invitational; we need to be invited to share our faith with another person. Second, evangelization is always operative in the life of a Catholic; God is constantly working in the life of a person, there is no exact moment of evangelization. Third, evangelization is communal in nature; the response to God is always communal because Christians live their lives in a faith community. Fourth, evangelization cannot be contained in a single program or strategy; there are many models and methodologies for evangelization and no one church or denomination has claims to the process of evangelization.

Justice and Service

“The ministry of justice and service *nurtures* in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; *empowers* young people to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and *infuses* the concepts of justice, peace, and human dignity into all ministry efforts.”

“The Church increasingly views itself as a people set aside for the sake of others—a community that stands in solidarity with the poor, that reaches out in service to those in need, and that struggles to create a world where each person is treated with dignity and respect. We are called as a Church to respond to people's present needs or crises, such as homelessness or hunger. We are also called to help change the policies, structures, and systems that perpetuate injustice through legislative advocacy, community organizing, and work with social change organizations. Direct service needs to be coupled with action for justice so that adolescents experience the benefits of working directly with those in need *and* learn to change the system that keeps people in need. Justice and service are central to who we are as God's people and to how we live our faith at home, in our communities, and in the world.”

Leadership Development

“The ministry of Leadership Development *calls forth, affirms, and empowers* the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents. Leadership roles in adolescent ministry are key. Leaders must be trained and encouraged. This approach involves a wide diversity of adult *and* youth leaders in a variety of roles. Many will be involved in direct ministry with adolescents; others will provide support services and yet others will link the ministry effort to the resources of the broader community.”

“We strongly encourage all ministry leaders and communities to call forth the gifts of all young people and empower them for ministry to their peers and leadership in our faith communities. We need their gifts, energy, and vitality.”

Pastoral Care

“The ministry of pastoral care is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus' care of people, especially those who were hurting and in need. The ministry of Pastoral Care involves *promoting* positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive (preventive) strategies; *caring* for adolescents and families in crisis through support, counseling, and referral to appropriate community agencies; *providing guidance* as young people face life decisions and make moral choices; and *challenging* systems that are obstacles to positive development (*advocacy*). Pastoral care is most fundamentally a relationship—a ministry of compassionate presence. This was Jesus' caring stance toward all people, especially those who were hurting or in need. Pastoral care enables healing and growth to take place within individuals and their relationships. It nurtures growth toward wholeness, and it provides guidance in decision making and challenges obstacles to positive development.”

Prayer & Worship

“The ministry of prayer and worship *celebrates and deepens* young people's relationship with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer and liturgical experiences; it *awakens* their awareness of the spirit at work in their lives; it *incorporates* young people more fully into the sacramental life of the Church, especially Eucharist; it *nurtures* the personal prayer life of young people; and it *fosters* family rituals and prayer.”

Youth ministers may find it helpful to provide an array of opportunities for adolescents to pray and in order that they encounter meaningful and intentional prayerful activities.

Helping Our Young People Live as Disciples of Jesus—The Parish Responds is designed to assist parishes in offering effective ministry in all eight components of parish life so that young people will experience the fullness of life in Christ. **The following pages (7, 8, 9) provide step by step directions for using this planning guide as a tool for your parish to decide which of the eight components to focus on first.**

Steps for Planning: *Helping Young People Become Disciples of Jesus—The Parish Responds*

Step 1: The Profile of Adolescents in our Parish: Who are we? (page 8)

In order to effectively plan for ministry with adolescents in the parish, parish leadership should have a clear picture of the youth of the parish. Completing the Profile sheet as accurately as possible will help develop this clear picture.

Step 2: Parish Assessment: How well are we ministering to, with, by and for our youth? (pages 10-39)

Once the parish leaders have a clear picture of the adolescents in their parish, they can begin to assess the effectiveness of their current ministry to young people using the eight components of comprehensive youth ministry. These eight components are described in the document *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, promulgated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1997. They flow from the description of the normal activity of Roman Catholic parishes listed in Canons #528-530, here applied to ministry with youth.

A parish assessment regarding adolescent ministry asks the question: “Which are the areas of strength in our inclusion of youth in our parish life and which areas present a challenge?” The following pages offer eight lists of **indicators**, one for each of the eight components of comprehensive youth ministry that can be reviewed by an individual or ideally, by a group involved in youth ministry and parish leadership.

Each sheet also provides an area to note **evidence** that this priority is occurring as well as the **challenges** the parish faces in fully implementing this component. Discussion around these lists of evidence and challenges can help the pastor and parish leadership decide which of the eight components the parish needs to focus on first.

Step 3: Developing Action Steps (page 9)

Once the pastor and the parish leadership have surfaced the one or two of the components that the parish will work on over the next year or two, they can create a plan of action for getting things done.

Using the **Action Steps Work Sheet** found on page ____, the pastor and parish leadership can write exactly how they will go about making a difference. The action steps of planning are unique and very specific to the local parish and will vary according to creative input, volunteers, staff and available resources found at each parish.

Step 4: Evaluation of Action Steps for Parish Objectives

As action steps are completed, parish leaders should periodically evaluate the progress of their plan. Benchmarks for evaluating specific Action Steps should be set at the time the objectives are determined. A more general evaluation of the overall mission and goals should take place every few years.

DEVELOPING a PROFILE of ADOLESCENTS in the PARISH
FACTS SHEET

Providing this information will help create a picture of the current number of adolescents in the parish and the degree to which they are involved in the life of the parish.

Name of Parish Deanery	
Size of Parish staff	
Number of registered families	
Number of registered individuals	
Average Sunday Mass attendance	
Number of adolescents age 13-18 in registered families	
Average number of adolescents attending Sunday Mass	
Number of adolescents participating in liturgical ministries in the parish	
Number of adolescents participating in Confirmation preparation	
Number of adolescents participating in catechesis other than Confirmation preparation	
Number of adolescents participating in other youth activities in the parish	
Number of adolescents participating in other ministries of the parish	
Number of adults involved in some form of ministry with youth in the parish	
Number of adults who have received training for ministry with youth in the parish	

Writing an Action Step

Component of Comprehensive Youth Ministry _____ Indicator# _____

Write the action step (a statement of what you will accomplish):	
By what date will it be accomplished?	
Whom will you need to consult or involve?	
What are the materials/ resources/supplies that you will need?	
What will be the cost ?	
Who will be the lead person responsible for making sure this action step is accomplished?	

Component of Comprehensive Youth Ministry _____ Indicator # _____

Write the action step (a statement of what you will accomplish):	
By what date will it be accomplished?	
Whom will you need to consult or involve?	
What are the materials/ resources/supplies that you will need?	
What will be the cost ?	
Who will be the lead person responsible for making sure this action step is accomplished?	

1. The Component of Community Life

Vision: “The [component] of **community life** *builds* an environment of love, support, appreciation for diversity, and judicious acceptance that models Catholic principles; *develops* meaningful relationships; and *nurtures* Catholic faith” (Renewing the Vision page 34).

The Indicators of **Community Building** with Adolescents as found in Renewing the Vision Framework, are as follows:

<p>1a. “<i>Create an environment characterized by gospel values that nurtures meaningful relationships among young people and between adolescents and adults:</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want a safe place to gather with their peers where the teachings of Jesus Christ are the primary model. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to make, develop, and nurture healthy friendships among themselves and mentors. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>1b. “<i>Develops the friendship-making and friendship-maintaining skills of young people grounded in Christian values:</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to learn life skills that are founded on Christian values and will help them in their daily lives. ❖ Young people need and want to meet other young people who share their Catholic faith and are cool (comfortable) with it. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>1c. “<i>Enriches family relationships through programs, activities, and resources to improve skills such as family communication, decision-making, and faith sharing:</i>”</p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be part of a loving and united family where they can be themselves and contribute positively. ❖ Young people need and want to participate in family activities that are provided by the parish and that nurture the whole family. 			
<p>1 d. <i>“Provides opportunities for multicultural community building that promote respect for young people’s racial and ethnic cultures and develop skills for communication and understanding:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to express their unique personal story and roots, and to learn about those of their peers. ❖ Young people need and want to learn and practice skills for respectfully getting along with people who are different from themselves. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>1 e. <i>“Engages adolescents in the life, activities, and ministries of the parish in meaningful and age-appropriate ways:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to feel invited and considered active and important members of the parish life. ❖ Young people need and want to participate and make a meaningful contribution in the ministries of the parish. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>1 f. <i>“Provides avenues for adolescents to participate as members of the faith community and opportunities for the faith community to acknowledge, celebrate, and value its</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p><i>adolescent members:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want for the parish community to notice, value, and appreciate their unique gifts ❖ Young people need and want to be included in groups that advise, plan, and guide parish life. 			
<p>1 g. <i>“Guides adolescents in developing an understanding of Jesus’ call to ‘love your neighbor as yourself’:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to learn skills that develop and promote positive and healthy interaction with others. ❖ Young people need and want to live with a Christian attitude of welcoming and acceptance within healthy and faith-filled communities. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

2. The Component of Pastoral Care

Vision: “The [component] of **Pastoral Care** is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus’ care of people, especially those who are hurting and in need. The [component] of Pastoral Care involves *promoting* positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive (preventative) strategies; *caring* for adolescents and families in crisis through support, counseling and referral to appropriate community agencies” (Renewing the Vision page 42).

The Indicators of **Pastoral Care with Adolescents** as found in Renewing the Vision Framework, are as follows:

<p>2 a. <i>“Develops the life skills of adolescents, such as relationship building, assertiveness, nonviolent conflict resolution, decision making, and planning:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want hands on activities to practice these life skills. ❖ Young people need and want to be helped and challenged to use the skills they have learned in real life situations. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 b. <i>“Guides young people in making important life decisions, such as career and college choices, and discerning their particular Christian vocation:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be prepared for their future and to be inspired and encouraged by good role models. ❖ Young people need and want honest information and opportunities to learn about the Christian vocations of marriage, ordination, religious life, single life. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>2 c. <i>“Fosters the spiritual development of young people and the healthy integration of their sexuality and spirituality:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be holy and to know how they can stay faithful to Christ in a world that often is not. ❖ Young people need and want to understand the connection between their relationship to God and their physical nature. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 d. <i>“Create networks of care and support for young people and their families:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to know that the parish is a safe place to seek help and support when they need it. ❖ Young people need and want to know that when they or their families need help, the parish has the necessary connections to community resources to address their needs. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 e. <i>“Provides programs and resources for parent education and skills for effective parenting that incorporates understanding of adolescent development and family life cycle tasks:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want their parents/guardians to be equipped to be good parents who understand them and lovingly guide them. ❖ Young people need and want their parish to promote opportunities to learn good parenting skills. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 f. <i>“Strengthens family life by assisting families to improve family skills; such as communication, decision making, problem solving, and reconciliation:”</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be part of families that know how to communicate well, forgive one another, and solve problems effectively. ❖ Young people need and want to be heard and valued within their families. 			
<p>2 g. <i>“Provides and connects adolescents and families to support services, referral resources, and self-help groups to promote healing during times of loss, sudden change, unexpected crises, problems and family or personal transitions:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want effective help during times of crisis. ❖ Young people need and want to know that their parish will help them and their families get the help they need in a non-judgmental way. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 h. <i>“Provides support and enrichment for adolescents and parents experiencing divorce, separation, or family problems; and connects them to appropriate counseling resources:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want understanding and compassion, especially during times of loss. ❖ Young people need and want to know that the ministries of the parish are a comforting place in times of loss. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>2 i. <i>“Collaborates with the wider community in providing direct aid to youth-at-risk in the form of programs, services, and counseling:”</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Young people need and want youth ministers who understand youth-at-risk issues and are willing to seek solutions. ❖ Young people need and want youth ministers who are familiar with and connected to community agencies who have the skills to effectively help at-risk youth.			
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3. The Component of Evangelization

Vision: “The [component] of **Evangelization** facilitates peer ministry by sharing the Good News of the reign of God and inviting young people to hear about the Word made Flesh. This incorporates several essential elements: witness, outreach, proclamation, invitation, conversation and discipleship” All aspects of comprehensive ministry to youth must “invite young people into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus and empower them to live as his disciples.” (Renewing the Vision 36-37).

Indicators of the **Component of Evangelization** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are described below.

Evangelization with adolescents:

<p>3 a. <i>“Proclaims Jesus Christ and the Good News so that young people will come to see in Jesus and his message a response to their hungers and a way to live:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to experience the love and acceptance of Jesus in their daily struggles and joys. ❖ Young people need and want to understand that God became human to show his great love for us and to help us overcome sin and temptation. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>3 b. <i>“Witnesses our faith in Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives – offering ourselves and our community of faith as living models of the Christian faith in practice:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to see that adults are authentic, that our actions match our words and beliefs. ❖ Young people need and want to know adult role models whose faith in Jesus guides their entire lives. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>3 c. <i>“Reaches out to young people by meeting them in their various life situations, building relationships, providing</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p><i>healing care and concern, offering a genuine response to their hungers and needs, and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus and the Christian community:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want relationships with adults in the Catholic Christian community who genuinely care about helping them and are available to them. ❖ Young people need and want the Catholic community to be involved in the events, activities and issues that are important to youth. ❖ Young people need and want relationships with Catholic adults that invite and challenge them to be followers of Jesus and active members of the parish and school community. 	now?	difficult?	
<p>3 d. <i>“Invites young people personally into the life and mission of the Catholic community so that they may experience the support, nurture, and care necessary to live as Christians:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be personally invited to serve as fully contributing members of the parish, doing their part to fulfill the mission of Christ. ❖ Young people need and want to experience the support and care that comes from working with the parish community in the mission of Christ. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>3 e. <i>“Calls young people to grow in personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to make his message their own, and to join us in the continuing process of conversion to which the Gospel calls us:”</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to know Jesus personally and deeply, and to share his message with their peers and other people they meet. ❖ Young people need and want to belong to a community of disciples of Jesus within the universal Church, who are always growing in their commitment to follow him more fully. 			
<p>3 f. <i>“Challenges young people to follow Jesus in a life of discipleship – shaping their lives in the vision, values, and teachings of Jesus and living his mission in their daily lives through witness and service:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to follow Jesus as his disciples by seeing as he sees and choosing as he chooses. ❖ Young people need and want to know the life and teachings of Jesus so they can talk about him and live as he lived. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>3 g. <i>“Calls young people to be evangelizers of other young people, their families, and their community:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to share the Good News of Jesus with other young people so they can know Jesus too. ❖ Young people need and want to share the Good News of Jesus with their families and in their schools and neighborhoods and in places of darkness. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

4. The Component of Advocacy

Vision: “We seek to shape a society – and a world – with a clear priority for families and children [adolescents] in need and to contribute to the development of policies that help families protect their children’s lives and overcome the moral, social, and economic forces that threaten their future. . . .The ministry [component] of **advocacy** engages the Church to examine its priorities and practices to determine how well young people are integrated into the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Community” (Putting *Children and Families First*; qtd. In Renewing the Vision, page 27).

Indicators of the **Component of Advocacy** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are as follows:

<p>4 a. <i>“Affirming and protecting the sanctity of human life as a gift from God and building societal respect for those who most need protection and support – the unborn, the poor, the disadvantaged, the sick, and the elderly:”</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to know that they have a voice in their communities to help the unborn, the poor, the disadvantaged, the sick and the elderly. ❖ Young people need and want to learn how to help the unborn, the poor, the disadvantaged, the sick and the elderly 			
<p>4 b. <i>“Standing with and speaking on behalf of young people and their families on public issues that affect their lives, such as support for education, quality housing, employment opportunities, access to health care, safe neighborhoods, and availability of meaningful community activities and services. We can help lift up the moral and human dimensions of public issues, calling the faith community to informed participation in the political process. We need to find ways to influence the political arena without being partisan: joining legislative networks, community organizations, and other</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p><i>advocacy groups. In election years, we can sponsor educational programs and forums to involve and inform others. Adolescents cannot be heard in the clamor of political and community debate and thus need strong champions for their interests:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want youth ministers who advocate for them and are willing to be bridges between the youth and adult leaders within the community ❖ Young people need and want youth ministers who will support them especially when they encounter problems within the community, church and home. ❖ Young people need and want faith-filled adults who know, understand and model Catholic Social Teaching to educate and inform them on how to become “faithful citizens.” <p><i>Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States, 2009</i></p>			
<p>4 c. <i>“Empowering young people by giving them a voice and calling them to responsibility and accountability around the issues that affect them and their future. This involves education, leadership training, skills building, and organization to mobilize young people for action:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want leadership training and skills-building to help them participate effectively in the public arena. ❖ Young people need and want contact with adults who are networked with their community in such a way that the youth can be empowered to participate in community, government and private agencies that address youth and 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

family issues.			
<p>4 d. <i>“Developing partnerships and initiatives with leaders and concerned citizens from all sectors of the community to develop a shared vision and practical strategies for building a healthy community. These partnerships also create opportunities for community-wide initiatives to address critical issues affecting adolescents and their families:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be involved with adults in the discussions and decision making processes in the community for issues involving youth and their families. ❖ Young people need and want Youth Ministry that facilitates relationships with their schools and other public and private institutions. ❖ Young people need and want Youth Ministry that brings in mentor speakers and role models to address their future needs, such as career coaches, teachers, clergy, community leaders, etc. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

5. The Component of Catechesis

Vision: “The [component] of **Catechesis** helps adolescents *develop* a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community, and *increase* their knowledge of the core content of the Catholic faith. The [component] of Catechesis also helps young people *enrich* and *expand* their understanding of the Scriptures and the sacred tradition and their application to life today, and *live* more faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily lives, especially through a life of prayer, justice, and loving service. . . . The [component] of Catechesis fosters growth in the Catholic faith in all three dimensions – trusting (heart), knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will). The goal should be to have all Catholic youth involved in some program of catechesis” (Renewing the Vision page 29).

Indicators of the **Component of Catechesis** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are as follows:

5 a. <i>“Recognizes that faith development is lifelong and therefore provides developmentally appropriate content and processes around key themes of the Catholic faith that are responsive to the age-appropriate needs, interests, and concerns of young and older adolescents:”</i>	Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?	Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?	Future plans What will we work on next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to learn about the Catholic faith in ways that connect with their lives. ❖ Young people need and want to know what the Church teaches and why, especially about issues that most concern them. 			
5 b. <i>“Teaches the core content of the Catholic faith as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church – the profession of faith, celebration of the Christian mystery, life in Christ, and Christian prayer – in order to provide a solid foundation for continued growth in faith:”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to continue learning about the breadth of Catholic teachings. 	Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?	Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?	Future plans What will we work on next?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to understand the Creed, the Sacraments, the Mass and other Catholic ways of praying, and the teachings of the Church about moral living. ❖ Young people need and want meaningful Liturgies, retreats, and other spiritual experiences 			
<p>5 c. <i>“Integrates knowledge of the Catholic faith with the development of practical skills for living the Catholic faith in today’s world:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to witness examples of HOW to do what Jesus asks of them in their own neighborhoods, homes and schools. ❖ Young people need and want to see other good people in action, living their Catholic faith and modeling how to be a follower of Jesus in daily life. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>5 d. <i>“Utilizes the life experience of adolescents, fostering a shared dialogue between the life of the adolescent – with its joys, struggles, questions, concerns, and hopes – and the wisdom of the Catholic faith:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to share with other young people and with caring adults about their own struggles and questions, joys and hopes. ❖ Young people need and want to hear what the wisdom of the Catholic faith can offer them in understanding their lives, their struggles and questions, joys and hopes. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>5 e. <i>“Engages adolescents in the learning process by incorporating a variety of learning methods and activities</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p><i>through which adolescents can explore and learn important religious concepts of the Scriptures and Catholic faith. A variety of learning approaches keeps interest alive among adolescents and responds to their different learning styles:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be taught using a variety of creative learning methods and activities. ❖ Young people need and want the adults who teach them to spend time preparing their sessions, and to try different ways of making learning applicable to them. 	now?	difficult?	
<p>5 f. <i>“Involves group participation in an environment that is characterized by warmth, trust, acceptance, and care, so that young people can hear and respond to God’s call. This fosters the freedom to search and question, to express one’s own point of view, and to respond in faith to that call:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to learn and talk about their relationship with God in an atmosphere of trust, with others who obviously care about them. ❖ Young people need and want to feel free to ask questions about their faith and their relationship to God, and to explore the ways that God calls them to follow him. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>5 g. <i>“Provides for real-life application of learning by helping adolescents apply their learning to living more faithfully as Catholic adolescents – considering the next steps that they will take and the obstacles that they will face:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to talk about how their faith is lived out in their real-life situations. ❖ Young people need and want to consider examples of how to respond as a disciple of Jesus in the challenges they face every day. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to learn how to discern God’s will in their daily lives. 			
<p>5 h. <i>“Promotes family faith development through parish and school programs by providing parent education programs and resources, by incorporating a family perspective in catechetical programming, and by providing parent-adolescent and intergenerational catechetical programming:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want their parents/families to have opportunities to learn and grow in their faith with them. ❖ Young people need and want to learn and share the faith traditions and stories of the family. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to participate as a family in learning and living the Catholic faith, willing to sacrifice their time to be with their children in Church activities. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>5 i. <i>“Recognizes and celebrates multicultural diversity by including stories, songs, dances, feasts, values, rituals, saints, and heroes from the rich heritage of various cultures:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to see their own culture actively, meaningfully, and respectfully represented in the Church. ❖ Young people need and want to experience the cultural faith practices of people who are different from them. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>5 j. <i>“Explicitly invites young people to explore the possibility of a personal call to ministry and the beauty of the total gift of self for the sake of the kingdom.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to know adults who are committed to the Church and who have answered Christ’s call to ministry ❖ Young people need and want to be invited to share in the ministry of Christ in the world, to learn about the many different kinds of ministry available to them ❖ Young people need and want to discern their baptismal call to ministry as a priest, deacon, religious, married person, single person, lay ecclesial minister. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

6. The Component of Justice and Service

Vision: “The [component] of **justice and service** *nurtures* in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; *empowers* young people to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and *infuses* the concepts of justice, peace, and human dignity into all ministry efforts”
(Renewing the Vision page 38).

Indicators of the **Component of Justice & Service** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are as follows:

<p>6 a. <i>“Engages young people in discovering the call to justice and service in the Scriptures, in the life of Jesus, and in the Catholic social teaching:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to impact and improve people’s lives as a response to their faith in Christ, their knowledge of Scripture, and their familiarity with Catholic Social Teaching ❖ Young people need and want to be educated about topics related to justice. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>6 b. <i>“Involves adolescents, their families, and parish communities in actions of direct service to those in need and in efforts to address the causes of injustice and inequity:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want direct hands-on experience of volunteer service together with others from their parish communities. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to defend human rights and promote social justice – to make a difference in the world. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>6 c. <i>“Develops the assets, skills and faith of young people by</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish</p>	<p>Challenges in the</p>	<p>Future plans</p>

<p><i>promoting gospel values in their lifestyles and choices; by increasing positive self-esteem, self-confidence, and moral reasoning abilities; by building leadership and social skills; by helping them learn that they can make a difference in the world and receive recognition by the community for their contributions”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to develop life skills that increase their self-esteem, build their confidence, and prepare them to lead others. ❖ Young people need and want to be recognized for their commitment to others and their contributions to their communities. ❖ Young people need and want to develop moral reasoning abilities based on gospel values and the teachings of the Church. 	<p>or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>What will we work on next?</p>
<p>6 d. <i>“Incorporates doing the right thing with attention to why and how we do what we do (Four elements guide adolescents in moving from awareness to action on issues of justice. <u>Involvement</u> helps adolescents connect with justice issues personally and experientially. <u>Exploration</u> helps adolescents understand the causes, connections, and consequences of justice issues – expanding their knowledge and moving them toward action with a stronger background and motivation to work for real change when faced with injustice. <u>Reflection</u> helps adolescents utilize the Scriptures, Catholic social teachings, and the lived faith of the church community to discern a faith response to justice issues. <u>Action</u> helps adolescents respond to injustice through direct service or actions of social change locally or globally, short or long term :)”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want educational opportunities that lead them through the process of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) becoming involved in human rights and social justice issues; b) studying the underlying causes and 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>consequences of these issues c) connecting the issues to Scripture, Jesus, and Catholic Social Teaching, and d) taking direct action to bring about social change from a faith based position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want justice, service, and Catholic Social Teaching to be a core part of their faith formation. 			
<p>6 e. <i>“Involves a supportive community that builds a sense of togetherness, nurtures a life of justice and service, works together to serve and act for justice, and provides support and affirmation.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be members of a community that supports lives of integrity, compassion, responsibility, and concern for others. ❖ Young people need and want to experience true community and solidarity with all of God’s people, especially the most vulnerable. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>6 f. <i>“Nurtures a lifelong commitment to service and justice involvement. This includes providing opportunities, support, and follow-up to help the young people reflect on their experience. People who learn to serve when they are young are more likely to be service oriented throughout their lives.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want direct hands-on experiences of bringing the Good News, liberty and new sight to a world in desperate need of justice and peace. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to process and reflect on their service experiences so they will continue a life of service. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

7. The Component of Leadership Development

Vision: “The [component] of **Leadership Development** *calls forth, affirms, and empowers* the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents” (Renewing the Vision page 41).

Indicators of the **Component of Leadership Development** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are as follows:

<p>7 a. <i>“Utilizes adult and adolescent leaders in a variety of leadership roles necessary for comprehensive ministry. These roles include, but are not limited to, ministry coordinators in parishes and schools, school teachers, ministry program leaders and planning teams, overall ministry coordinating team, and support staff.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be mentored, trained and chosen for leadership roles alongside adults. ❖ Young people need and want to have a voice and to be valued leaders, especially in their faith community 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>7 b. <i>“Develops a leadership system that invites, trains, supports, and nourishes adult and adolescent leaders and provides for the coordination of leaders throughout a comprehensive ministry.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want well-trained and certified youth and adult leaders. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to participate in a systematic process for youth and adult leadership development. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>7 c. <i>“Develops and nurtures adult leaders of lively faith and maturity with solid theological understandings, relational and ministry skills, and organizational ability appropriate to</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p><i>their particular role in ministry with adolescents:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want adult leaders who have a solid theological understanding of the faith and are eager to share the Catholic faith. ❖ Young people need and want dependable adult leaders who have developed skills for effective youth ministry. 			
<p>7 d. <i>“Empowers all young people for leadership and ministry with their peers – in schools, parishes, and civic communities – by affirming their gifts, equipping them with skills for leadership and ministry, and by placing them in leadership roles or giving them leadership opportunities where they can make a contribution:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be ready and equipped with skills to lead in different situations. ❖ Young people need and want to be given opportunities to lead as role models and to minister to their peers. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

8. The Component of Prayer and Worship

Vision: “The [component] of **prayer and worship** *celebrates* and *deepens* young people’s relationship with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer and liturgical experience; it *awakens* their awareness of the spirit at work in their lives; it *incorporates* young people more fully into the sacramental life of the Church, especially Eucharist; it *nurtures* the personal prayer life of young people; and it *fosters* family rituals and prayer” (Renewing the Vision page 44).

Indicators of the **Component of Prayer and Worship** as found in the Renewing the Vision Framework are as follows:

<p>8 a. <i>“Promotes the authentic participation of youth in liturgy (Parishes and schools can acknowledge adolescent faith issues at all liturgies in ways appropriate to the rites, provide opportunities for young people to be trained as liturgical ministers, schedule periodic youth event liturgies that are prepared with young people’s input and assistance, and invite young people to help prepare the community liturgies):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be adequately trained and involved in the preparation and celebration of the liturgy. . ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to provide input and assistance for community liturgies. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>8 b. <i>“Attends to the diversity of cultures and ages in the assembly. (All liturgy takes place within a cultural milieu and context. Respect for cultures and inclusion of native art, music, and expressions are visible components of vibrant worship. The rites need to reflect cultural diversity through the use of symbols, traditions, musical styles, and native language. Parishes and schools can provide opportunities for liturgical celebrations in which young people of different ethnic groups express their faith in their own language, symbols, and tradition. Parishes and schools can also provide experiences of other cultural worship styles and multicultural liturgies that bring people from all ethnic</i></p>	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

backgrounds together to celebrate. Adolescents reflect a distinct age group and "culture" within our society. Their language expressions, musical styles, and ways of life are often quite different from those of older generations. Those who prepare the liturgy need to find appropriate ways to incorporate the world of young people into worship, remembering that the "pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be heightened if the texts of the readings, prayers, and songs correspond as closely as possible to the needs, religious dispositions, and aptitude of the participants" (GIRM no. 313). Parishes and schools can explore new music and song texts being composed for liturgy, and invite youth to act as cultural resources—letting the individuals or group know about current trends and expressions that may be reflected in the prayers, songs or rituals.);

- ❖ Young people need and want to experience liturgies that express their own cultures, languages and symbols and those of other cultural groups in their parish or school.
- ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to help prepare liturgies that reflect who they are, both in the environment and in the music and symbols that are used.

<p>8 c. <i>“Provides opportunities for creative prayer with adolescents in peer, family, and intergenerational settings. (Ministry with adolescents fosters and promotes the development of a personal prayer life in young people and celebrates the ritual moments of their daily lives in prayer. The symbols and rituals of liturgy become more meaningful for young people when they draw from their experiences of private prayer. Likewise, private prayer is revitalized by meaningful experiences of the liturgy. Ministry with adolescents also promotes opportunities for communal prayer. The liturgy of the hours, liturgies of reconciliation and healing, ethnic rituals and celebrations, and other ritual devotions allow for creativity and adaptation to the life issues and cultural expressions of young people. Communal prayer provides opportunities for young people of different ethnic cultures to express their faith in their own language, symbols, and traditions, and for young people to experience multicultural prayer that brings people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds together to celebrate. Parishes and schools can schedule seasonal prayer experiences for and by youth for the parish community, involve young people in the preparation of prayer experiences for their peers, provide prayer resources, include personal prayer time within programs, and provide prayer mentors for young people. Parishes and schools can provide prayer and ritual resources for home settings that address the unique needs of families with adolescents, the calendar and church year celebrations and rituals, and family rituals, rites of passages and milestones:”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to pray and to learn different ways of praying, both alone and with others, to awaken and deepen their relationship with God. ❖ Young people need and want to be taught about the liturgy so they can participate fully, consciously and actively. ❖ Young people need and want their own personal prayer life to be nourished and enriched by both private and communal prayer experiences. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>8 d. <i>“Promotes effective preaching of the word. (Parishes and schools can invite young people to reflect on the seasonal readings and to offer suggestions to the homilist for connections to young peoples’ lives, provide regular opportunities for adolescents to study the Scriptures, encourage those who preach to use current examples and storytelling techniques, and investigate the development within culture for their impact on the ‘vernacular’):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to provide input to the homilist regarding topics to be preached, so that the Word can be effectively connected to their unique life experiences as adolescents. ❖ Young people need and want opportunities to study the Scriptures and to hear the Word proclaimed using methods conducive to their learning styles. ❖ Young people need and want to hear homilies that are relevant to their lives and meaningful to them. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>
<p>8e. <i>“Allows music and song to express the vitality of young people. (The music of the young brings freshness and variety to our current musical genres and can perform the same infusion of energy and vitality to sacred music. Music is a significant part of personal expression for young people and that desire carries over to their participation in liturgy. Parishes and schools can incite adolescents to participate in the choirs and musical assemblies, explore contemporary accompaniments and focus on the song and pace of the music, expand the local repertoire of hymns and songs to include songs that young people would select, and encourage singing by the whole assembly so that adolescents feel more comfortable in adding their voices):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to worship through liturgical music that reflects the freshness and variety of youth and to learn the value of music as a means of worship. ❖ Young people need and want to be invited to participate 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>and give their input in liturgical choirs, and to feel comfortable worshipping through song together with the community.</p>			
<p>8 f. <i>“Prepares the symbols and ritual actions with particular care for their visual dimensions. (Today’s young people have been educated through multimedia. Their visual sense is one of their primary ways of learning and responding to the environment. Parishes and schools can invite adolescents to assess the visual dynamics of the rituals and symbols prepared for liturgy, provide visual aids to encourage young people’s participation, and explore the appropriate use of multimedia at liturgy):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be a part of the planning and setup of environments that are used in liturgies and prayer services. ❖ Young people need and want to provide feedback regarding the sensory dimensions of the liturgy. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>
<p>8 g. <i>“Develops the interpersonal and communal dimensions of the liturgy. (Parishes and schools can focus on the hospitality provided at liturgy, encourage young people to attend liturgy with their friends, build a sense of community among young people prior to liturgy, minister in a personal way, and affirm the presence of young people whenever possible):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be welcomed and 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>encouraged to attend the liturgy, and to be affirmed in their decision to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to build a sense of community with their peers and invite friends to share in their parish’s liturgical life. 			
<p>8 h. <i>“Provides adolescents with effective and intentional catechesis for liturgy, worship, and sacraments. (Young people are catechized by their participation in the liturgy; therefore, care must be taken to ensure that their experiences lead them to greater faith. Adolescents need catechesis for liturgy and the sacraments, but are also catechized by their experiences of liturgy. Through immersion in the symbols, stories, and rituals of the communal prayer life, adolescents gain not only a knowledge but an appreciation of the power of the sacraments. A specific objective of intentional catechesis for liturgy is to assist adolescents in exploring how liturgical symbols and rituals celebrate their experiences of God and life events. Parishes and schools can provide opportunities for intergenerational and family-centered catechesis for liturgy and can offer experiential, liturgical catechesis for young people):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to be effectively and intentionally catechized for and by the liturgy itself. ❖ Young people need and want to gain a deeper knowledge of and appreciation for the symbols, stories and rituals of communal prayer life. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>

<p>8 i. <i>“Apprentices adolescents in liturgical ministries. (Ministry with adolescents can advocate for youth involvement in liturgical ministries and connect young people with established liturgical ministers for training and experience of actually performing liturgical ministry):”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Young people need and want to serve as liturgical ministers and to be properly trained to confidently carry out their ministry. ❖ Young people need and want to solicit the participation of other youth and to foster the involvement of their peers in the liturgical life of the parish. 	<p>Evidence in the parish or school How do we do this now?</p>	<p>Challenges in the parish or school What makes this difficult?</p>	<p>Future plans What will we work on next?</p>