

Youth Ministry through Athletics and “Renewing the Vision”

Goals of Youth Ministry

- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Components of Youth Ministry

Advocacy	Advocate for the rights of children; advocate for the rights of the marginalized; advocate for the rights of young people to be recognized as part of the leadership of the parish community; advocate for safe environments for young people.
Catechesis	Sacramental life of the young person; grounding catechetical lessons into daily life experiences and sporting events; team chaplain; team discussions and reflections; participation by team members in parish catechetical programs.
Community Life	“Team” as community; “team” as a part of parish life; intergenerational activities; the “Catholic community” as a part of the local community
Evangelization	How we play reveals our values; <i>“Preach the Gospel always – if necessary use words”</i> St. Francis of Assisi
Justice and Service	Team service projects; joining in parish service opportunities; learn about community programs.
Leadership Development	Rotating team captains to share leadership; youth leadership in school and parish life; recognition that the gifts and talents of all aids the team; players are comfortable in contributing ideas to the team.
Pastoral Care	How the team responds to winning and to losing; not running up scores; how we treat others in the game; coaches concerned with the total development (not just athletic talent) of all
Prayer and Worship	Prayer at practice; prayer before and after games; reflections; ritual; parish CYO Mass; team attendance at Mass and parish liturgical events.

Source: “Renewing the Vision; A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry” National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997.