

## Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies Course Descriptions

### Year One Courses

**Principles of Youth Ministry** presents the foundational understandings and principles for developing effective, comprehensive ministry with young and older adolescents. It examines the dynamics of promoting healthy adolescent development and faith growth, presents the vision and principles for comprehensive youth ministry and promotes a model for developing youth ministry which incorporates developmentally appropriate youth programming, strengthens family life, involves young people as integral members of the faith community, and collaborates with civic organizations in a common effort to promote positive youth development.

**Practices for Youth Ministry** explores the development of comprehensive youth ministry through the collaborative sharing of the resources in the community. Rooted in a theological and pastoral vision of community life, this course develops foundational understandings that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry with youth. This will include skills for advocacy, planning and organizing youth ministry efforts. Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams will also be developed.

**Foundations for Ministry Leadership** explores the theology, principles, and practices of effective leadership in Christian ministry. Content includes current leadership concepts and approaches, Christian perspectives on leadership and empowering individuals and teams of leaders for ministry with youth. The course combines theory presentation with experiential learning as participants explore (a) leadership theory and an assessment of styles for effective leadership; (b) theological and pastoral foundations for understanding leadership and empowerment; and (c) processes and tools for inviting, preparing and nurturing adult and youth leaders in ministry.

**Skills for Christian Leadership** addresses the theories and skills needed for principle-centered leadership in ministry. Participants will develop a practical, working understanding of leadership processes and skills and the experiential ability to use the skills. The training stresses the application of leadership skills to various ministry settings, problems, and issues.

### Year Two Courses

**Justice and Service** explores the foundations for fostering a justice and service consciousness and spirituality in youth drawn from: Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, adolescent development, and contemporary catechetical principles. It develops skills for

creating integrated, action-learning models for the justice and service component of a comprehensive youth ministry.

**Prayer and Worship** investigates the foundational role that prayer and worship have in fostering the spiritual growth of youth. Participants develop understandings and practical skills necessary for: (a) preparing liturgy and worship experiences, (b) fostering the prayer life of youth and preparing prayer services, and (c) understanding the role of youth retreat experiences. Participants will apply these understandings by developing a realistic and integrated approach to worship within a comprehensive ministry to youth.

**Evangelization and Catechesis** develops the foundations and practices for nurturing faith growth and Catholic identity in young and older adolescents. Participants will: (a) explore a variety of ways to learn of and from Jesus, and how to promote a living relationship with Jesus in the lives of adolescents; (b) examine a contemporary approach to developing Catholic identity and Catholic practices in the lives of adolescents today; (c) experience and analyze the “postmodern” culture and develop strategies for faith formation with adolescents in a postmodern world; (d) learn creative approaches for evangelization and catechesis and develop skills and methods for evangelizing and catechizing adolescents.

**Pastoral Care** explores the principles and methods of caring for young people from various cultures and their families. The course develops an understanding of the breadth and depth of pastoral care. This includes exploration of family systems, adolescent development and the role that cultural identity plays in the development of adolescents. The goal is two-fold: (a) to promote healthy adolescent development from a pastoral care perspective, and (b) to develop preventative interventions for families with adolescents.