

Purpose of the Guidelines

Guidelines for Catholic Youth Ministry are needed in the Dallas Diocese in order to:

- Ensure that a comprehensive approach to serving youth is effectively promulgated and understood within the parishes of the Diocese;
- Provide norms against which the progress of parish youth ministries toward implementing a comprehensive youth ministry can be measured; and
- Manage risk effectively and minimize the liability of parishes and the Diocese.

The publication of this guide represents an important step. Many parishes/youth ministry leaders already employ the strategies noted here, but at the very least, this guide will affirm the good work that is being done.

This guide should be a source of help in the preparation for the work you do with youth. This is a living document with the full intent of periodic revisions to meet the needs of a changing world and always to respond with the deepest care of our youth.