

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Parish Catechetical Leader of Youth's Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct

The following code of ethics is for all Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization requires all Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth to acknowledge this code by signing, dating, and placing it in their personnel file at the parish with a copy placed in the files within the Archdiocesan Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization. This code of ethics is intended for Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth regardless of employment status within the church.

Ministerial Role

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth work collaboratively with the pastor (and/or other supervisors) and associates in ministry.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth faithfully represent the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action.
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are competent and receive education and training commensurate with their role(s) and responsibilities (231, Code of Canon Law).
4. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth respect the diversity of spiritualities in the faith community and will not make their personal form of spirituality normative.

Inclusion

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth recognize the dignity of each person and refrain from behaviors or words that are disrespectful of anyone or any group.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth serve all people without regard to gender, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political beliefs.
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth ensure that all persons have access to the resources, services, and opportunities they require with particular regard for persons with special needs or disabilities.

Accountability

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are accountable to the pastor or other duly appointed representative, under the authority of the Archbishop.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are called to serve the faith community, carrying out their ministerial functions "...conscientiously, zealously, and diligently" (231, Code of Canon Law).
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth exercise responsible stewardship of resources while holding themselves to the highest standards of integrity regarding the fiscal matters placed in their trust.

Confidentiality

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth respect confidentiality, yet are not held to confidentiality in the same way as ordained ministers and licensed, certified counselors.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth adhere to civil and ecclesial law concerning the reporting of neglect, abuse or when physical harm could come to the person or a third party.
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth support the rights and roles of parents while ministering to the needs and concerns of adolescents.

Conduct

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are aware they have considerable personal power because of their ministerial position. Therefore, they will sustain respectful ministerial relationships, avoiding manipulation, and other abuses of power.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth maintain appropriate professional boundaries (e.g. physical, sexual, relational, and emotional). Romantic, dating, or sexual relationships with adolescents are inappropriate and unethical.
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth model healthy and positive behaviors with adolescents.
4. Procuring, providing, or using alcohol and/or controlled substances for or with adolescents is inappropriate and unethical.

Referrals and Intervention

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are aware of the signs of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and neglect.
2. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are aware of their limitations with respect to paraprofessional counseling and make appropriate referrals.
3. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth adhere to civil and ecclesial law, policy and procedure for reporting abuse, suspected abuse, or neglect.

Parish/Archdiocesan Policies

1. Parish Catechetical Leaders of Youth are aware of and comply with all applicable parish, organizational and/or Archdiocesan policies with special attention to sexual misconduct, safety, transportation, parental permission, and medical emergency policies.

I have read & understand the above code of ethics and commit to uphold this code in my ministry & the policies of the handbook.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Parish: _____

Date: _____