

YOUTH COUNCIL



PURPOSE

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) works to foster personal and spiritual growth in each young person of the diocese. It also seeks to draw young people toward responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community.¹

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee Youth Council exists to:

1. Promote comprehensive youth ministry at both the diocesan and parish levels as found in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*.
2. Provide a balance of diocesan youth programs and events based on the components of youth ministry in *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*.
3. Share their gifts as well as their youthful energy and enthusiasm with the church.
4. Provide representation at all deanery and diocesan youth activities.
5. Provide opportunities for youth to voice their needs and concerns at the diocesan level.

STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

The council will have eight (8) representatives selected by a diocesan committee of adults and former youth council members.

Western Deanery
Eastern Deanery

West Central Deanery
East Central Deanery

Due to the special circumstances created by Covid 19, prospective youth council members will be interviewed using an online platform.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Youth Council will include the following:

1. Two (2) members discerned by a diocesan committee of adults and former DYC members.
2. Additional deanery members as needed and appointed by the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry
3. Additional at-large members as needed and appointed by the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry
4. Director, Office of Youth Ministry
5. Other adults as needed
6. Diocesan Bishop (ex-officio member)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Diocesan Youth Council members will:

1. Represent the youth of their deaneries on the Diocesan Youth Council
2. Stay active in their youth groups
3. Promote and coordinate a comprehensive program of social, educational, spiritual, cultural and community service activities for the youth of the diocese
4. Attend at least six meetings per year for the purpose of planning specific diocesan youth events – at least four of these meetings will be online meetings. Other meetings may take place in person

¹ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* (Washington D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997) 11-15.

depending on Covid 19 restrictions.

5. Communicate with the youth in their deaneries about the work of the Youth Council and the importance of youth developing becoming leaders in their parishes
6. Be present and assist at diocesan youth events as determined by the Director of Youth Ministry

MEETINGS AND DIOCESAN EVENTS

Youth Council members are expected to attend all meetings and diocesan events as listed below. There are seven meetings during the term of service on the council. **The in-person meetings may change to online meeting depending on the Covid 19 guidelines. Diocesan youth events also have the possibility of being virtual events.**

Meeting Dates *

August 22 - online
September 12 - online
October 24 - online
December 5 - online
January 9, 2021 – in person
February 20 – in person
April 3 – to be determined

Diocesan Events (none of these events will require an overnight stay)

November 7, 2020 – High School Rally @ Camp Timpoochee
February 6, 2021 – High School Youth Conference
March 6, 2021 – Middle School Retreat

***In-person meetings usually take** place at St. Margaret's in Defuniak Springs.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Selected and appointed members:

1. Are Catholic
2. Should be active in the parish and parish youth group during their term on Youth Council
3. Must have the support of parish priest(s) and youth minister
4. Are in high school during the term
5. Have consent and support of their parents
6. Are 15 years of age by the time they join Youth Council
7. See this position as a main priority in their schedule
8. Are able to attend at least six meetings per year – online or in-person

TERM

1. The term will be one year from July 1 to June 30.
2. The term is renewable one time.
3. If a member is not able to serve the full term, the Diocesan Youth Director along with the youth and advisors from that deanery will select a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Deadline to apply – July 17, 2020