



Date: August 27, 2020
To: Parishes and Staff of the Archdiocese of Portland
From: Jason Kidd, Department of Pastoral Ministries
Re: Re-Imagining Youth Ministry

These are trying times, yet the light shines brightest when things are dark. God is still moving and invites all of us into His mission. Yet, the church is also very concerned about the growth of the “nones” and the increasing number of young people who are walking away from the faith... despite our youth receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in High School and our best efforts of youth ministry.

Many parishes are looking at more fruitful ministry when it comes to sacramental prep and engaging our teens. This includes focusing on listening, reaching out, ongoing accompaniment, and starting with the Kerygma or the proclamation of the Gospel, followed by catechesis.

As the church looks at mission, **we encourage pastors, coordinators of youth ministry, and volunteer leaders to think outside the box and be open to where the Holy Spirit is leading (Joy of the Gospel 33).**

A few recommendations for Archdiocese parishes include:

- Expanding small groups for teens as a normative way of youth ministry
- Building and forming a Core team of adults to disciple youth
- Discipling a focused group of teens, to share their faith with their families and peers (mustard seed principal)
- Introducing personal testimonies as a witness to God work into weekly ministry
- Empowering and equipping parents (the first teachers of the faith) to pray, talk and live out the faith with their teens
- Mobilizing youth for the works of mercy in their community
- Accompanying middle school youth as they transition into high school
- Investing in a two year accompaniment for Confirmation prep
- Encouraging a more active role for Confirmation sponsors with their Confirmandi

As parishes embrace the New Evangelization **in this particular time and place, we are called to embrace St. John Paul II’s call for new ardor, new methods, and new expressions.**

Please check out a few resources to help your parish stay on mission with your teens:

- Youth Ministry Handbook ([Feed My Sheep](#)) - Archdpx
- Vatican’s [Pastoral Conversion of the Parish](#) - Rome
- [Re-Imagining What a Catholic Parish Can Be](#) – ACTS XXIX
- [Always Connected – Planning for Fall Ministry](#) - Archdpx