"Renewing the Vision"
Document on Youth Ministry Summary

The following information is taken from the “Renewing the Vision”: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, approved and authorized for publication by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on June 20, 1997. To order the full document in English or Spanish or any other USCCB documents, call 800 235-8722 or go to the US Bishops internet site at www.usccb.org.

Goals for Youth Ministry:

**Goal 1:** To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

**Goal 2:** To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

**Goal 3:** To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

**Comprehensive Ministry with Adolescents – It Takes a Whole Church:**
The comprehensive approach is not a single program or model of ministry, it is a way of integrating ministry with adolescents and their families into the total life and mission of the church. The comprehensive approach uses all of our resources as a faith community – people, ministries, and programs – in a common effort to promote the three goals of the Church’s ministry with adolescents.

**Components of a Comprehensive Ministry:**

**Ministry of Advocacy:** The ministry of advocacy encourages the Church to examine its practice of fully integrating adolescents into the life of the Church.

**Ministry of Catechesis:** The ministry of catechesis fosters growth in Catholic faith in all three dimensions; trusting (heart), knowing and believing (mind), and doing (will). The ministry of catechesis recognizes that faith development is a lifelong process.

**Ministry of Community Life:** Community life is nurtured when the atmosphere is welcoming, comfortable, safe, and predictable—one in which all adolescents know that their presence is welcomed, their energy is appreciated, and their contributions are valued.

**Ministry of Evangelization:** The ministry of evangelization incorporates several essential elements: witness, outreach, proclamation, invitation, conversion, and discipleship. The ministry must invite young people into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and empower them to live as his disciples.
Ministry of Justice and Service: Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. The ministry of justice and service nurtures in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; empowers young people to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and infuses the concepts of justice, peace and human dignity into all ministry efforts.

Ministry of Leadership Development: The ministry of leadership development calls forth, affirms, and empowers the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents. Leadership role in adolescent ministry are key. Leaders must be trained and encouraged.

Ministry of Pastoral Care: The ministry of pastoral care is a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus’ care of people, especially those who were hurting and in need. The ministry of Pastoral care involves promoting positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive (preventive) strategies; caring for adolescents and families in crisis through support, counseling, and referral to appropriate community agencies; providing guidance as young people face life decisions and make moral choices; and challenging systems that are obstacles to positive development (advocacy). Pastoral care is most fundamentally a relationship—a ministry of compassionate presence.

Ministry of Prayer and Worship: The ministry of prayer and worship celebrates and deepens young people’s relationship with Jesus Christ through the bestowal of grace, communal prayer and liturgical experiences; it awakens their awareness of the spirit at work in their lives; it incorporates young people more fully into the sacramental life of the Church, especially Eucharist; it nurtures the personal prayer life of young people; and it fosters family rituals and prayer.