Appendix A
Course Descriptions and Objectives

Course numbers, descriptions, and objectives are drawn from the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers (See Appendix G). Courses are intended to meet all requirements laid out in these standards for those serving as Youth Ministry Leaders, including Pastoral Juvenil Hispana.

Youth Ministry Leader Courses (YML)

Course YML 1.0: Introduction to Catholic Youth Ministry
YML 1.0: “A youth ministry leader/pastoral juvenil Hispana leader will:
Demonstrate an understanding of the history, mission, vision, goals, principles, themes, components, and dimensions of Catholic youth ministry and pastoral juvenil Hispana (PJH) as outlined in the U.S. bishops’ pastoral plans and related Church documents.”

Objectives:
1.1 Growth and development of the Church’s Ministry with adolescents; Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry (pages 3-8); a brief overview of PJH
1.2 Guided by the Goals for Ministry with Adolescents (RTV pp. 9-17)
1.3 Themes of a comprehensive vision for Catholic Youth Ministry (RTV pp. 19-25)

Course YML 2.0: Adolescent Development and Youth Culture
YML 2.0: “A youth ministry leader/pastoral juvenil Hispana leader will:
Demonstrate an understanding of the developmental needs of youth and young adults in the U.S. context, with its particular popular, ethnic, and family subcultures, as appropriate to the faith community being served.”

Objectives:
2.1 Understanding adolescent development; physical, cognitive, and spiritual needs of youth.
2.2 Understanding the developmental needs of youth within the context of popular, ethnic, and family subcultures.
3.3 Understanding the role of faith in the lives of youth and young adults; looking at the research especially the National Study on Youth and Religion to track the indicators.

Course YML 3.0: Application and Methodology
YML 3.0: “A youth ministry leader/pastoral juvenil Hispana leader will:
Be capable of applying the theories, models, processes methods, resources, and best practices of Catholic youth ministry and/or PJH as appropriate to the ministry setting.”

Objectives:
3.1 Youth Ministry- a team effort: Utilizing leadership skills of collaboration, visioning, planning, communication, decision-making, delegation and conflict management. (From Core 4.5)

3.2 Settings for ministry: gathered and non-gathered; employing the use of modern means of communication technology to proclaim the Gospel (From Core 4.4)

3.3 Curating and utilizing resources for ministry; for teens, families and parents, and for the parish community.

Course YML 4.0: Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation
YML 4.0 “A youth ministry leader/pastoral juvenil Hispana leader will: Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with the faith community in planning, implementing, and evaluating outreach to and pastoral ministry for young people, utilizing the components of Catholic youth ministry and/or mission and principles of PJH as appropriate to the ministry setting.”

Objectives:
4.1 Integration of youth into the life of the parish while creating a youth friendly parish; involving whole parish in care and formation of youth in the parish and the larger community.
4.2 Overview of Components: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, and Evangelization
4.3 Overview of Components: Justice/Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, and Prayer/Worship

Course YML 4.1.1/4.1.3: Evangelization and Catechesis
YML 4.1.1 “Utilizing the aims, principles, processes, and methods of catechesis with youth in implementing faith formation.”
YML 4.1.3 “Inviting youth to and facilitating opportunities for youth to grow in intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and empowering them to live and witness as disciples in today’s world.”

Objectives:
4.1.1 Ministry of Catechesis: identifying and utilizing key core documents and resources to build an effective catechesis with young people. Identifying ways of connecting the life experiences and stories of young people to our Catholic faith story; shared praxis.
4.1.3 Ministry of Evangelization: Proclaiming Jesus Christ and the Gospel so that young people will come to see in Jesus and his message a response to their hungers and a way of life; Meeting young people “where they are” and inviting them to look more closely at the message and life of Jesus; Recognizing ways that young people can be evangelizers of their peers, families, and the community.
Course YML 4.1.2/4.1.6: Prayer and Community
YML 4.1.2 “Facilitating the development of community among youth, their families, and within the Church and society, including the development of small faith communities by youth from different cultures, spiritualities, or pastoral models.” Assisting parents in their role as the primary Christian educators for their children.
YML 4.1.6 “Empowering youth to celebrate and deepen their relationship with the triune God through individual and communal prayer and participation in the liturgical and devotional life of the Church.”

Objectives:
4.1.2 Ministry of Community Life: Creating an environment characterized by Gospel values that nurtures healthy and meaningful relationships among young people and between adolescents and adults.
Involving young people in the life, activities, and ministries of the parish in meaningful and age-appropriate ways.
4.1.6 Ministry of Prayer and Worship: Creating opportunities for prayer with adolescents in peer, family, and intergenerational settings.
Helping adolescents explore different prayer styles and making prayer an integral part of everyday life.
Advocating for youth involvement in liturgy and properly forming them to appreciate and participate in the liturgical life of the parish.
Understanding the importance of youth retreats and other deeply spiritual opportunities as ways to deepen faith life and one’s relationship with Jesus.

Course YML 4.1.4/4.1.5: Catholic Social Teaching and Pastoral Care
YML 4.1.4 “Engaging youth in the social mission of the Church in accord with Catholic social teaching.”
YML 4.1.5 “Fostering healing and promoting healthy growth and development in youth and in their relationships as a vital part of their human and Christian maturity process.”

Objectives:
4.1.4 Ministry of Justice and Service: Engaging young people in discovering the call to justice and service in the scriptures, in the life of Jesus Christ, and in Catholic social teaching.
Helping young people to discover the richness in Catholic Social teaching through the documents of the Church and through opportunities to serve.
4.1.5 Ministry of Pastoral Care: Promoting positive adolescent and family development through a variety of positive (and preventive) strategies.
Identifying ways to develop the life skills of adolescents, such as relationship building, nonviolent conflict resolution, decision-making, and personal safety.
Recognizing the warning signs for professional help and offering resources and referrals for youth at risk and families in need.

Course YML 4.1.7/4.1.8: Youth Advocacy and Leadership
YML 4.1.7 “Engaging the Church and the broader community in voicing and addressing the rights, responsibilities, and needs of youth.”
YML 4.1.8 “Affirming and calling forth the unique gifts of youth and the adults serving them by providing opportunities for their ongoing spiritual growth, leadership development, and vocation discernment.”

Objectives:

4.1.7 Ministry of Advocacy: Identifying ways to stand with and speak on behalf of young people and their families on public issues that affect their lives and within the Church promoting their fullest participation and representation in the faith community.
Empowering young people and giving them a voice on their own behalf and calling them to speak for others, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.

4.1.8 Ministry of Leadership Development: Recognizing the need to develop and nurture adult leaders with solid theological understandings, relational and ministry skills, and organizational ability appropriate to their particular role in ministry with adolescents.
Describing ways to empower all young people for leadership and ministry with their peers.

Pastoral Juvenil Hispana Courses (PJH)

Course PJH 4.2.1-4.2.5: Unity in Communion
PHJ 4.2.1-4.2.5 “Be capable of implementing the mission and principles of PJH with young people”

Objectives:

4.2.1 Facilitating the development of a personal and communal relationship between the young people and the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4.2.2 Drawing young people into a deeper communion and participation in the life and evangelizing mission of the Church as missionary disciples of Christ, especially with respect to their peers.

4.2.3 Fostering a “pastoral de conjunto” across organized ministries and PJH committees (i.e. catechesis, sports/recreation, prayer, Scripture study, choir, drama, dance, prevention, intervention, academic assistance, etc.) geographies (intra-parish, inter-parish, diocesan, regional, national, international) groups, communities, and movements.

4.2.4 Recognizing and fostering the gifts and protagonism of adolescents and jovenes in PJH and in the mission of the Church in their homes, neighborhood, and wider community.

4.2.5 Implementing holistic faith formation processes that include: vocational discernment, continuous conversion, catechesis, liturgy, personal and communal prayer, and popular piety.

Course PJH 4.2.6-4.2.11: Culture and Tradition
PHJ 4.2.6-4.2.11 “Be capable of implementing the mission and principles of PJH with young people”

Objectives:
4.2.6 Nurturing the preservation of the Spanish language and cultural traditions, values, and customs in order to promote a sound Latino-integrated-with-Catholic identity through an evangelizing process of inculturation.
4.2.7 Creating pastoral models and open ecclesial spaces that are linguistically and socioculturally appropriate for Latino and adolescents of diverse backgrounds, based on a pastoral plan that responds to their needs, in a Church that is a community of communities with shared leadership and vision.
4.2.8 Taking the personal, sociocultural, and religious reality of the young people as a starting point for ministry and utilizing the pastoral circle methodology to engage them in a critical analysis that leads to finding ways to build the Reign of God in their own surroundings.
4.2.9 Promoting academic education among Latino young people; offering means to help them reach a high school diploma, decreasing the high level of Latino drop outs, increasing attendance in higher education, and guiding young people toward greater personal and professional achievement.
4.2.10 Prioritizing service and outreach to young people who find themselves in situations of poverty, loneliness, crisis, marginalization, and discrimination.
4.2.11 Accompanying the young people in their development as whole persons through processes that integrate all the dimensions of life and faith, as they move from preadolescence to adolescence and young adulthood.

Core Competencies Courses (CC)

Course CC 1.0: Human

CC 1.0: “Lay ecclesial ministers demonstrate the qualities of human maturity needed for fruitful ministry with the people of God.”

Objectives
1.1 Appreciate and affirm the dignity of the human person and the positive values of diverse cultures, races, and socioeconomic groups within their respective self understandings.
1.2 Identify personal gifts and limitations through self-reflection, collaboration with others, peer feedback, supervisory assessment processes, and/or spiritual companioning.
1.3 Engage in programs or practices of continuing ministerial formation and lifelong personal growth.
1.4 Recognize both the reality of sin with its personal and social consequences and the power of forgiveness and reconciliation to heal persons and relationships.
1.5 Maintain a healthy lifestyle and a reasonable balance among the legitimate claims of family, community, personal relationships, and ministry.
1.6 Manifest “psychological health, marked by integrity, appropriate interpersonal boundaries, and the ability to honor and safeguard the trust that people place in them as Church ministers” (Co-Workers, p. 36).

1.7 Understand the power inherent in positions of pastoral leadership and be diligent in the responsible exercise of such power regarding, for example, sexuality, confidentiality, supervision of others, and decision making.

Course CC 2.0: Spiritual

CC 2.0: “Sharing in the common priesthood of all the baptized, a lay ecclesial minister demonstrates Christian spirituality as foundational to ministry, integrated in service with the people of God, and possessing a sacramental view of the world that recognizes the world can be a vessel of God’s presence and God’s transforming grace.”

Objectives

2.1 Give witness to an integrated spirituality formed by Scripture, theological reflection, sacramental celebration, communal worship, and active participation in parish life.

2.2 Live a life of private and communal prayer that is both formed by and reflective of the breadth and depth of the Catholic spiritual tradition.

2.3 Bear witness to the profound significance of Eucharist in one’s own life, in the life of one’s parish, and in the life of the whole Catholic community.

2.4 Demonstrate sensitivity to the spirituality of the sacred arts, i.e., art, music, and architecture, and the value of their expression in liturgical and communal prayer.

2.5 Honor the call to ministry that is rooted in one's baptism by developing ministerial goals that flow from one’s spirituality and reflect an integration of Gospel values.

2.6 Demonstrate an ability to discern the “signs of the times” and address current realities in the Church and the world in light of the Gospel.

2.7 Accept and articulate one’s ministerial vocation as coming from God and confirmed by the ecclesial community.

2.8 Display openness to ecumenical prayer, work, and practices that promote Christian unity, and acknowledge the gifts afforded the human community from the various world religions.

2.9 Model the spirit of Jesus in one’s life and identify with and promote the universal Church and its global mission so that all prayer and ministerial activity flow from that mission.

2.10 Develop a spirituality sensitive to diverse cultural expressions based on conversion, communion, mission, and solidarity.

Course CC 4.0: Pastoral

CC 4.0: “A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates a range of leadership and pastoral skills needed for functioning effectively in ministry.”

Objectives

4.1 Exercise sound practices of compassionate pastoral care.
4.2 Foster a pastoral ministry that empowers people to inculcate the Gospel in their own culture and to foster unity in diversity in the Catholic Church by utilizing human, spiritual, theological, and pastoral approaches proper to each culture.

4.3 Implement the principles and processes of evangelization and faith formation as outlined in national and universal Church documents.

4.4 Employ the use of modern means of communication technology to proclaim the Gospel.

4.5 Work effectively with others through utilizing leadership skills of collaboration, visioning, planning, communication, decision making, delegation, and conflict management.

4.6 Exercise effective supervision of employees (part-time or full-time) and volunteers.

4.7 Continually seek opportunities to improve skills.

4.8 Develop and nurture the prayer life of the community in which one serves.

(Content for the Core Competencies 3.0: Intellectual is covered in completion of the Advanced Catechist Certification)