

PREFACE



This manual contains the policies and guidelines for the youth ministry programs of the Diocese of Columbus. The policies are directives for discretionary action approved by the Bishop of Columbus. These policies are binding upon the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the pastors, coordinators of youth ministry, and the staff responsible for youth programs in the Diocese of Columbus. These policies take precedent over locally developed policies. Guidelines are specific recommendations issued by the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry as best practices in the Diocese of Columbus. Each sheet is clearly marked to indicate whether it is a policy or guideline.

All of our parishes comply with applicable civil and canon laws. Therefore, requirements that simply restate the substance of law are not included in this manual. Diocesan personnel procedures already addressed in other diocesan materials are also not included.

The manual is produced in loose leaf form to make it easy for you to keep the book current as changes in policies or guidelines occur. It will also enable you to include any policies adopted by the local administration (pastor, coordinator of youth ministry).

These policies and guidelines are a reflection of the shared vision of those who share in the Church's ministry with youth in the Diocese of Columbus.

Mark Butler
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Lucia D. McQuaide
Episcopal Moderator for Education

September 2008