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POLICY

GUIDELINE

ADMINISTRATION

TEEN PREGNANCY

Given our current circumstances, it is possible that a participant in a parish youth ministry program may face the challenges related to teen pregnancy.

Any determination concerning the continuing participation in youth ministry activities by a pregnant youth shall be made by the youth and their parents in consultation with the youth minister and pastor. Written notice of a doctor's determination concerning participation shall be provided upon request to the coordinator of youth ministry.

The religious instruction given in a youth ministry program should make clear that any act involving procreation is the exclusive right of those who are married. Likewise, catechesis on the Church's consistent stand in defense of human life must also be incorporated.

If, in the case of an unmarried youth, the youth ministry team has an attitude of compassion rather than approval, and if the youth ministry program offers appropriate religious instruction, there is every reasonable hope that the attitude of the youth participants will, likewise, be a rational and Christian one.

At this time in their lives, youth involved in a pregnancy need Christian acceptance, compassion and counsel. It is the Christian community's responsibility to give support and aid to those involved. Professional counseling for the expectant parents is strongly recommended.