

# Ideas for Building a Youth-friendly Parish

## INFORM: Provide Good News about Youth

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- ✓ **Create a bulletin board in the vestibule.** Post pictures and good news stories about individual youth who are providing service, leadership and community involvement. Post notices about school achievements and events. Post pictures from youth ministry programs, including service events, retreats and prayer services.
- ✓ **Create a Youth *Good Newsletter* as an insert into your parish bulletin.** Publish the newsletter quarterly as a way to let the community know the achievements and services involvements of youth in your community.
- ✓ **Make presentations at parish organization meetings.** Create a team of youth from the parish youth ministry to present the parish youth ministry through pictures, stories, music and drama.
- ✓ **Involve the parish community in praying for youth events.** When preparing for key youth events such as service trips or retreats, compose petitions to be included in the prayers of the faithful during parish liturgies.

## TRANSFORM: Structures, Policies, Relationships

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- ✓ **Involve youth in key committees and councils of the parish.**
- ✓ **Provide community building at parish events.** At the beginning of parish events such as a parish mission, service day or social function, include introductions and a brief community builder. This will help youth and the adults in the community to get to know each other.
- ✓ **Provide youthful hospitality at parish-wide events.** Create a variety of refreshments and decorations at parish celebrations that will appeal to people of all ages. This can be as simple as including soda and chips along with the donuts and coffee.

## SHOW: Potential for Youth Involvement

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- ✓ **Involve the parish in supporting service projects.** Invite sponsors and prayer support from the parish community.
- ✓ **Create intergenerational service and learning events.**
- ✓ **Involve youth in leadership and ministry.**