

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana Diocesan Youth Council (DYC)

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) shall in all respects work together in a Catholic, Christian atmosphere, seeking to maintain unity and friendship toward others for the betterment and success of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. DYC should reflect all that is good in youth, so as to be an example for others.

DYC shall also strive to be a working example of the ideals of Youth Ministry set forth in the document, "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry." DYC is established firmly on the principle that Youth Ministry is to, with, by, and for young people.

DYC is a ministry involving openness to the will for God and willingness to grow in faith. Both youth and adults are enriched by this bond in such a way that the team's witness to the risen Christ vitalizes the Diocesan community.

PURPOSE

It is important for young people to see themselves as a valuable part of both the local and larger church ministry. The purpose of the DYC will be to provide:

- 1) An avenue for young people to have a voice within the diocese through the Pastoral Office for Catechesis;
- 2) A means of communication between the diocesan parishes and secondary schools and Bishop via the Pastoral Office for Catechesis.
- 3) Decisions regarding activities for membership should be a collaborative effort between the adults and the youth, and should include but not be limited to:
 - a. *Annual Retreat* – The retreat should be held when new members join the group.
 - b. *Leadership Development* - This should include servant leadership, retreat facilitation, use of skits, and small group facilitation. Training for leadership should be done with the goal of sending the students back to their parishes better able to take leadership roles.
 - c. *Diocesan Event* – The Diocesan Youth Board should be actively involved in Diocesan Events that are currently underway.
 - d. *Summer Service Project* – This should be held in conjunction with the annual retreat.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

As the DYC is comprised of representatives of the Catholic parishes and secondary schools of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, all members of DYC are expected to actively practice their Catholic faith. Further, realizing the necessity for team members to have a working knowledge of youth ministry, all members are expected to be familiar with the document "Renewing the Vision".

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of DYC will be to:

1. Empower diocesan young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today;
2. Foster the personal and spiritual growth of Diocesan Youth;
3. Support the growth in total or comprehensive Youth Ministry within all Diocesan parishes and secondary schools;
4. Involve all young people in the life, mission and work of the Diocesan faith community through diocesan, deanery and parish activities.

DYC is comprised of individuals whose personal and spiritual growth should be enhanced by their involvement at the Diocesan level. An important element of this growth is the development of leadership qualities. DYC members, therefore, should participate in a leadership training experience and a discernment process at the beginning of each team's term.

NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of the organization shall be the "Diocesan Youth Council," referred to as "DYC."

DYC is an advisory body responsible to the Pastoral Office for Catechesis in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

STRUCTURE

MEMBERSHIP

DYC shall consist of high school juniors and seniors representing the diocesan high schools and parishes, two parish or high school youth or campus ministers, a priest to serve as Chaplain for the team, and the Associate Director for Youth Formation. The Associate Director and/or other members of the Pastoral Office for Catechesis staff will act as ex officio members of DYC.

EXPECTATIONS

Individuals will be considered for DYC upon nomination from the local level. In order for one to represent a Parish on DYC, the pastor and / or Youth Ministry Coordinator must review and make nominations to the Pastoral Office for Catechesis. In order for one to represent a Catholic High School on DYC, the Campus Minister and / or School Principal must review and make nominations to the Pastoral Office for Catechesis.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Pastoral Office for Catechesis and final selection would be discerned in cooperation with the Diocesan Advisory Board for All Catechesis (DABAC).

Nominations will be accepted through March 15.

Interviews will take place in April.

Discernment for membership would take place at the May DABAC meeting.

Discernment of Officers will take place at the August DYC Meeting.

DYC members should plan to participate in a leadership training experience and a discernment process at the beginning of each team's term.

The Annual Retreat would be scheduled for early Fall and include an installation ceremony.

DYC will plan, organize, and facilitate a diocesan service project for diocesan youth.

REPRESENTATION

There shall be no more than two youth from any diocesan parish or secondary school. Each youth member of DYC will have one vote in DYC business.

MEETINGS

It is expected that all members be present at each DYC meeting. Any members missing two meetings will be subject to review by the Associate Director of Youth Formation to determine continuance on the Team, or other action as deemed appropriate. Any team member who knowingly will be absent from any meeting must notify the Pastoral Office for Catechesis prior to the meeting. Members are also expected to participate in Diocesan events.

Meetings will typically be held on the second Sunday afternoon in the months of August/October/November/January/February and April.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Members will:

1. Act as a center of information on Youth Ministry activities and matters of interest to youth in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana;
2. Communicate information between the diocesan parishes and secondary schools and Bishop via the Pastoral Office for Catechesis on matters pertaining to youth;
3. Assist in the evaluation, planning and implementation of the offerings for youth in the various deaneries throughout the diocese.

The primary role of the Chaplain, two youth ministers, and the Associate Director for Youth Formation is to support and assist the youth with the operation of the team.

OFFICERS

All officers of the DYC will be selected from the youth members of the team.

The Associate Director of Youth Formation will act as an advisor of the officers.

Officers will consist of a president, a vice-president, two recording secretaries and three other members, each representing two deaneries. They would comprise the Executive Board.

The president must have served at least one year on the team prior to the selection.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

The president of DYC is responsible for the preparation of the team's meeting agenda in collaboration with the Associate Director of Youth Ministry. The president will facilitate the team meetings.

The vice-president will be responsible to run the meetings in the absence of the president and assume the presidency should the president vacate his/her position.

The secretaries will be responsible for keeping minutes at each of the meetings and sending the minutes to the Associate Director of Youth Formation in a timely fashion.

The deanery representatives will be responsible for representing their communities at each meeting.

TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for each officer will be one year with a second year possible, except for the office of president. The term will begin immediately following the discernment of officers and will run until the following discernment of officers.

In the event an officer vacates the team or his/her position on the team, the position will be replaced by appointment of the Diocesan Associate Director of Youth Formation in collaboration with the Chaplain and Youth Ministers on the team.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers will be selected through a process to take place prior to the beginning of each new term.

AUTHORITY

The Associate Director of Youth Formation through the Pastoral Office of Catechesis will act as final power on decisions and issues related to DYC and recommendations made by DYC in collaboration with DABAC.