

Comprehensive Themes for Adolescent Catechesis

What are the comprehensive ministry themes of Renewing the Vision and what assessments and action plans are necessary for the parish community to consider? Many of these themes are already embedded in great catechetical programs, but there are some minor adjustments that may need to be considered for adolescents.

- Developmentally Appropriate – recognizes differing needs, skills, experience, and aptitude of younger and older adolescents assessments are vital for the catechetical leader, youth ministers and volunteers to know before they ever enter the program
- the RCIA interview model is a great
- assessment to discover where each student is at regarding knowledge of the faith and beliefs of the faith
- remember that this is not a catechetical session or an opportunity to indoctrinate, the team is trying to discover where each person is at in her/his faith journey
- Family Friendly—see parents as allies in youth ministry, and incorporates parents in youth ministry communication and activities (when appropriate)
- assessments for the family is equally as beneficial as any of the sessions you will have for the students
- The RCIA interview model, perhaps at the same time you are with the student, is very helpful
- ask about times that are helpful for them for formation (pass this on to your adult formation leader/team), family and event scheduling, openness to being a volunteer (have Virtus and background screening forms available), and how they prefer to receive periodic updates about their child and the process
- Intergenerational – connects youth to the broader church community, fosters relationships between younger and those more seasoned in their faith
- o assess the parish community to find out those organizations or individuals who would be open to helping young disciples apprentice in the mission of the Church or who would like to work with youth in small group sessions (mentoring)
- Multi-Cultural – recognizes, incorporates, and attends to the differing needs of youth and families from all cultures within parish, sensitizes the entire parish to the multicultural reality of the parish and greater community
- o assess the parish community to find those organizations or individuals who would be open to helping young disciples apprentice in the mission of the Church
- o this also includes those who have a disability or special needs of any form
- Community-Wide Collaboration – understand the context in which youth live—the community—seeks to partner with agencies (schools, other faith traditions, neighborhoods, police, hospitals, and youth-serving agencies, etc.) to meet commonly held goal of positive and healthy youth development
- assess the community to find organizations or individuals who would be open to helping young disciples apprentice within the larger community
- Leadership – fosters (calls forth, trains, and supports) both youth and adult leadership within youth and parish ministry
- assessment of parish, school, diocesan or community leadership opportunities which helps the young disciple grow their leadership skills
- assess the volunteers to find out what skills and resources they need to help young disciples grow in leadership – it does no good for the pastoral council to have a high school member if no one give that young person any responsibility
- Flexible/Adaptable Programming – utilizes various methods, formats, activities, and schedules (days of the week, time of day, time periods, classroom model, retreats, online discussion, Internet, gathered groups, activities at the parish, activities off-site, variety of leaders, various prayer styles, music, and

educational materials, etc.) to meet the needs of the youth and parents in the parish.

- assess schedules of students, volunteers, school activities parent's schedules and church schedules to offer flexible opportunities for delivering outstanding faith formation.