



Welcome to the latest edition of the
Diocesan Young Adult Newsletter

What's happening in YA Ministry



It's February - it brings back some happy memories of junior high dances on Valentine's Day, treats, homemade valentines and just a way to forget that winter is still here! In the Christian life - we know that love is something more. It is lasting, it is powerful and it is unconditional. **A project for each of us** this month is to take a look at all the ways we are loved. List them. Then pray a prayer of thanksgiving for each item on your list. Then the challenge for us is to reach out to those around us in **love**. People we know, strangers, family, co-workers, classmates, and even those we don't like so much.

How can we offer a glimpse of the Love God bestows on us with those around us? "**Spread love everywhere. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.**" St. Teresa of Calcutta

Some of the things we have discovered - volunteers and passionate young adults have made things happen in their parishes and are making a difference. Coffee house nights, Adoration, Bible study, service events and casual dinner gatherings to meet new friends are happening all around the Diocese. As we listen and learn how to make the most out of our new regional model - **we would love your input, ideas, suggestions and help!** Jane Angha, your Diocesan Consultant is just a text, email or Facebook message away!

Growing Ministry With Young Adults

Consultation - We know how hard it is to start up a new ministry and Young Adult ministry might just be the toughest. The ages range from 18-39 and among those- married, single, in college, in the military, working, married with children, divorced, dating and a million other stages of life.

It makes this area of ministry difficult to define and seems overwhelming to even try. But we can help! Contact Jane Angha to chat and see where you might begin, or grow your ministry to this incredible group. They are passionate, spiritual, busy, saavy and ready to be a part of something meaningful!



1. Young adults are looking for a place to be welcomed - right where they are. They hunger for the holy, community and belonging. So, how do you welcome young adults in your parish? Who knows their needs? Who invites, tends and nurtures relationships with young adults in your parish or ministry? If no one is assigned to this - that is the place to begin. Notice them - welcome them and invite them into parish life.

2. Young Adults are busy. They want to use their time wisely. When your parish invites them to something - is it well done? Is it well planned, does it begin and end on time? Is the meeting necessary, life-giving, a way to make connections and friendships? Is technology used well? Is there food or good coffee? **Take a look at the events young adults attend in your setting** - do a very thorough examination of it and **focus on hospitality**, purpose and invitation.

3. Lead with Beauty - Bishop Robert Barron speaks of this often. If we can touch hearts, souls and imaginations - we are doing well as a church. The Catholic Church is beautiful in ritual, devotion, sacrament, celebration, liturgy and art and the written word. Do we use this amazing heritage to touch the hearts of our young adults? If not - put that at the top of your list. We all hunger for beauty in our lives - and it has the power to touch and transform lives.

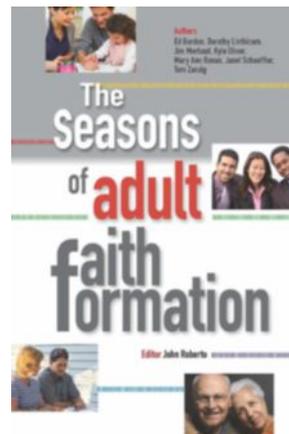
4. Hospitality is contagious. When we have been the recipients of lavish hospitality, it moves us to share from our full hearts. Time spent on this is never wasted, never a bad idea even if it costs.

The key here is really to get to know the young adults in your parish and to commit to making the church a home for them. **For a deeper look at Young Adult Ministry** - look on a bookshelf in the parish office for "Sons and Daughters of the Light" - the USCCB original document on Young Adults - and the next book, "Connecting Young Adults." Dust them off, take a fresh look at how you can better serve this amazing group!

Learning

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation
By John Roberto.

This book takes a long look at how faith communities approach adult ministry - and divides adults into four categories Young adults being one. Roberto looks at the person of the young adult, culturally, spiritually and practically giving sound advice on how to reach this demographic and the reality churches face today with this group being absent from the pews or more discerning in their commitments. A must for your bookshelf!



[Amazon - Seasons-Adult-Faith-Formation](#)

I Came to You Late - St. Augustine of Hippo

LOVE
MORE.

I came to You late, O Beauty so ancient and new. I came to love You late. You were within me and I was outside where I rushed about wildly searching for You like some monster loose in Your beautiful world. You were with me but I was not with You.

You called me, You shouted to me, You wrapped me in Your Splendour, You broke past my deafness, You bathed me in Your Light, You sent my blindness reeling. You gave out such a delightful fragrance and I drew it in and came breathing hard after You.

I tasted, and it made me hunger and thirst. You touched me, and I burned to know Your peace.

And finally a little invitation for Single Catholic Women - you are invited to Seeing with the Eyes of St. Francis, a retreat lead by Sr. Anne Marie Lom, March 3-5, 2017 at the Holy Family Convent in Manitowoc, Wi. The experience will include St. Francis' discernment wisdom, prayer, reflection, and interaction with the Sisters.

STAY CONNECTED



"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do." St. Teresa of Calcutta

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