

OLA Youth Ministry Mission Statement

“With the acceptance and support of all members of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Latham, New York, our youth Ministries will strive to reach out and encourage youth to develop opportunities for active growth within our Catholic faith community. Walking together, in faith and friendship, we will participate in service which reflects the mission of Jesus and enhances our love of God and neighbor. While appreciating each other, our youth will be invited to enjoy both greater responsibility and the fun that a life of faith can bring.”



Our Lady of the Assumption Youth Ministry

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Empowerment Participation Growth



O u r L a d y o f t h e A s s u m p t i o n Y o u t h M i n i s t r y

Est. January 2001



What Is Comprehensive Youth Ministry?

At World Youth Day 1995, Pope John Paul II called for the church to become a “traveling companion of young people”. In response to that request, parishes all over the country have embraced a document called Renewing the Vision published in 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference Department of Education. That document outlines an approach to Catholic Youth ministry that is a response of the Christian Community to the needs of young people and the sharing of their unique gifts with the larger community. The three main goals are:

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.



How Do We Do That?

We support the idea of using eight components which interact with each other in our approach to satisfying the needs of youth and adult members of the church. Those components are listed as: **Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, and Prayer and Worship.**

We have established a **Core Team** of adults, and youth who, working with the pastor, coordinate the activities and growth of the ministry to youth in this parish. We meet monthly to plan, and discuss the opportunities that we feel youth have within the parish faith community and the larger community as well.

We have at this time launched four sub-committees to coordinate and oversee the development of activities. **Community Life** brought about activities such as Pancake breakfasts, Winter snow tubing, Senior Friendship Luncheon, and Family Game Nights, just to name a few.

Prayer and Worship has presented Youth Stations of the Cross during Lent for many years now, and has held various prayer services reflecting the feasts of the liturgical calendar. They also facilitated the planting of daffodils in the cemetery of the Provincial House in memory of the departed sisters.

Justice and Service which will often joins activities with our parish Human Concerns Committee to help with the Angel Tree collection, food drives, donations for Ronald McDonald House, and service projects such as the annual Relay For Life supporting the local American Cancer Society, and the H2O Project to help provide safe water to the Third World.

Evangelization sub-team plans and coordinates retreat experiences for the junior and senior high including off premise overnight retreats, and mini-retreats during the year to encourage personal faith growth and deepening relationships with the Lord and each other.

There are also wonderful opportunities through the diocese to enhance the **leadership** skills of youth through events such as The Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) held twice annually, and S.A.L.T. (Service Action Learning Teams) held twice during the summer months, and the pilgrimage experience of traveling to the National Catholic Youth Conferences held bi-annually across the country.

More sub-committees will be created in the future when membership and interest flourishes.

Come be a part of it all!

Help us with something you're interested in:

- Community Life Team activities
- Prayer an Worship Team activities
- Justice and Service Team activities
- Evangelization Team (retreats)
- Fundraising

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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IF INTERESTED: Please fill out the form above, and return to us by either placing it in the collection basket or bringing it to faith formation classes. Thanks for your interest!