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Let's start with the title for tonight ..
 "Engaging Parents in Youth Ministry"

"Engaging"



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Let's Discuss First...

Your Experience with Parents in Youth Ministry or in Your Parish Setting has been, or is ...




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So, For Tonight ...

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Partnering With Parents



- **Minister to Parents**
- **Connect Parents with other Parents**
- **Partnering with other Family Leaders in your community**
- **Handout**



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Accompanying Parents




- **Get your Team on board**
- **Share your resources**
- **Encourage Parish Involvement**




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Communicating with Parents



- **Figure out BEST Method**
- **Consider Reaching out Individually**
- **Don't be afraid to overcommunicate**
- **Practice, Practice, Practice!**



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Communicating with Parents



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Alright.. Enough of me yapping...

- What is one thing you are doing for parents (could be a program, a practice, etc.) that is working well for you?
- What are some of the hang ups or reasons that incorporating parents into your ministry has been difficult to achieve ?
- How do you think church members/ parents perceive your ministry?
- Is there a program or practice that you currently offer just for teens that you could modify to include parents or even families?

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Incorporating Parents into Ministry

**** All of this now will be with the understanding that all Parents/Adults must follow all Diocesan Safe Environment Guidelines**



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Incorporating Parents into Ministry

“It takes a village to raise a child”

Renewing the Vision
A FRAMEWORK FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

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Incorporating Parents into Ministry

- Most Volunteer Jobs aren't clearly defined
- Tradition often squelches new & creative ideas
- A lot of lay leaders are poor delegators
- The jobs to be filled often receive more attention than the people filling them

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Incorporating Parents into Ministry

- How will their teens react?
- Clearly define leadership roles
- Help people use their gifts
- Let people be
- Find new ways of inviting people to share their gifts
- Delegate
- Pay attention to parent volunteers
- Let no job be a life sentence
- Training and Formation

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Important Ministry Roles for Parents



The Ministry of Leadership Development


The ministry of Leadership Development *calls forth, affirms, and empowers* the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents.



The Ministry Coordinator
A Coordinating Team
Program Leaders
Support Staff


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Support Staff




Assist the Coordinator, Coordinating Team or Program Leaders by

- Driving to events
- Shopping, set up, clean up
- Helping Chaperone events or trips
- Data Entry, etc.
- General support




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Program Leaders



Program Leaders would be responsible for

- Developing plans for specific program or event
- Promote the program or event
- Implementing the program or event
- Evaluate the program or event



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Coordinating Team






The Coordinating Team would work with the Coordinator to

- Plan the overall ministry
- Develop a leadership team
- Identify resources of the parish community
- Connect youth ministry with the other ministries in the parish

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Coordinator of Youth Ministry






Every parish needs someone to coordinate youth ministry, although this is not always a paid position. The coordinator has the primary responsibility for

- Planning
- Administration
- Recruit parents/ adult leaders
- Develop a leadership system
- Advocating for youth

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Let's Talk Reality

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Let's chit chat a bit on...



- What do you do **BEST** to connect/incorporate parents in your parish into your ministry?
- What do you need to **WORK ON** to connect/incorporate parents in your parish into your ministry?
- What do you need to **START DOING** to connect/incorporate parents in your parish into your ministry?



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Parents can be mean and scary!



- Recognizing and realizing there is a bigger story
- Align and be partners with parents – not enemies!
- Investing in their relationship with Christ

- What do you do **BEST** to connect with parents
- What do you



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Next Time We Gather ...

January 3rd ...Training Teens to be Leaders in Youth Ministry




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Ways to Partner with Parents

Host Meet & Greets, or Orientations with parents before special events.

Do a family survey to determine what families need and which families are engaged.

Set a monthly time to have parent “office” hours, where parents can meet with you and discuss anything.

Create a parent consulting board with key influential parents that you trust.

Create and or share monthly Parent emails, social media posts, or newsletters that inform, equip, and encourages parents

Create a Parent Facebook page, webpage or other social media for your ministry. Use it for parent-to-parent connection, discussion, and training.

Use MailChimp or Constant Contact to measure which parents are opening emails and learn how to better manage your communication.

Host a parent open house to help your small group leaders connect with parents of students in their group, cast vision about your ministry, and allow parents to see your environment in action.

Send a welcome video to all rising 9th grade parents.

Develop a fundraising & scholarship plan to ensure that all parents can send their teenagers to special events.

Host a parent breakfast with a speaker.

Develop a Christian counselor network that can provide support and family counseling.

Do a family together event that enables teens and parents do something fun and meaningful with each other.

Coordinate a student ministry cookout for parents, leaders, and teens.

Pray for families three times a week.

Be humble and willing to listen to parents’ needs and feedback.

Be organized at all event registrations.

Train leaders to regularly connect with parents.

Create events that honor family rhythms and schedules, even if that means doing fewer events.

Create an info sheet with community resources/ contacts for parents