

Pastoral Plan
 St. Mary's Basilica
 Franciscan Young Adults (YouFra)

A partnership with the Order of Friars Minors (Franciscan Friars) of the Province of Saint Barbara at St. Mary's Basilica, Order of Franciscan Seculars of the St. Francis Fraternity in Phoenix, Arizona and the parish of St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix, AZ

Dedication:

It is with humility that St. Mary's Basilica, the Franciscan Friars, the Secular Franciscans, and our Young Adult Commission entered into conversation with our own young adult community to form a pastoral plan. We desired to hear their life stories, their reasons for disaffiliating from the Church, their needs, struggles, and joys in their own words—directly, candidly, and without filter. We desire to acknowledge that behind every life story is a person—a unique individual—with a name who desired to have their story heard. We dedicate this document to them.

Introduction to the Pastoral Plan:

Our pastoral plan is our attempt to support young adults in every way we can, even as we acknowledge that this support has not always been present. Our pastoral plan is also our attempt to ask young adults to expand their own leadership role in welcoming their peers and witnessing to the Good News.

The pastoral plan for young adult ministry wishes to accomplish three things:

1. To state firmly that we, as members of the Church and the Franciscan Family, must actively invite and welcome young adults into the life of the Church.
2. To describe briefly the life situation of young adult so the Church and the Franciscan Family can respond effectively to their needs and concerns.
3. To develop a comprehensive and workable plan of action for ministering with people in their late teens, twenties, and thirties based on the five goals of connecting young adults with Jesus Christ, the Church, the mission of the Church in the world, a community of their peers, and the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition.

We begin by asking the following questions to define young adulthood:

Who are young adults?

Young adulthood refers to people in their late teens, twenties, and thirties; single, married, divorced, or widowed; and with or without children.

The above definition is from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's document *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults* published in November of 1996.

What are the tasks of young adulthood?

As in any relationship, we need to know each other, therefore we identified the tasks and issues concerning young adults. During our meetings, young adults spoke of many concerns, which can be grouped into four key areas: personal identity, relationships, work, and spiritual life. While these concerns are not new to young adults, life today is different in two ways: these tasks are undertaken over an extended period of time, for some, into their thirties; and there is a lack of family, civic, and pastoral institutions to support them.

The following are the fundamental tasks of young adulthood:

- **Developing a Personal and Catholic Identity**
- **Developing Relationships**
 - Making Friends and Developing Intimacy
 - Developing and Supporting Multicultural Relationships
 - Reordering of Relationships within the Family of Origin
 - Integrating Sexuality into Life
 - Choosing to Marry
 - The Single Life
- **Developing a Meaning of Work**
 - Work as Functional
 - Work as Meaningful
- **Developing a Spiritual Life**
 - Grappling with questions about the purpose of life and what it means to be a good person in today's society.
 - Appropriating and internalizing the gift of faith and a religious tradition.
 - Finding an adult faith community in which to live.
 - Developing an "inner life" to correspond to an "outer life."
 - Developing their personal vocation.

Note: Our Young Adult Ministry wishes to support young adults in discovering their personal vocation, especially in the light of the message of St. Francis of Assisi. We wish to help young adults learn the art of discernment.

The Young Adult Commission has provided a separate document on their shared reflections on the tasks of young adulthood based on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*.

**Now we offer a plan based on the understanding
of young adults and rooted in a vision of faith.**

What is young adult ministry?

Young Adult Ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young adults, and the sharing of the unique gifts of young adults with the larger community.

Young Adult Ministry is **to** young adults – responding to young adult’s varied needs.

Young Adult Ministry is **with** young adults – working with others to fulfill their common responsibility for the Church’s mission.

Young Adult Ministry is **by** young adults – exercising their own ministry to others: peers, community, and world.

Young Adult Ministry is **for** young adults – interpreting the needs of young adults, especially in areas of injustice and acting on behalf of or with young adults for a change in the systems, which create injustice.

The above statement is adapted from the Department of Education of the United States Catholic Conference document *A Vision of Youth Ministry* published in September of 1976.

What are the goals of young adult ministry?

Four interdependent and equally important goals guide the Church’s ministry with young adults. These goals state what it means for the Catholic community to respond to the needs of young adults and to involve them in sharing their unique gifts with the larger community.

Goal One: Connecting Young Adults with Jesus Christ.

Goal Two: Connecting Young Adults with the Church.

Goal Three: Connecting Young Adults with the Mission of the Church in the World.

Goal Four: Connecting Young Adults with a Peer Community.

The following goals are from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s document *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults* published in November of 1996.

The Franciscan Friars of the Province of Saint Barbara at St. Mary’s Basilica and the Secular Franciscans of the St. Francis Fraternity in Phoenix, Arizona added a fifth goal of equal importance, which will guide this outreach.

Goal Five: Connecting Young Adults with the Franciscan Intellectual and Spiritual Tradition.

The Rule of the Order of Franciscan Seculars and the *Rule of the Order of Friars Minor* will serve as inspirational documents in guiding this fifth goal.

What are the components of young adult ministry?

Ministry with young adults utilizes each of the Church's ministries – advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, prayer and worship – in an integrated approach to achieve the five goals of Young Adult Ministry.

Definition of Ministry Components:

- **Advocacy** - interpreting the needs of young adults and their families, especially the social problems facing them and acting with or on behalf of young adults and their families for change in the systems, which create or contribute to the social problems.
- **Catechesis** - promoting a young adult's growth in Christian faith as a living reality through the kind of teaching and learning that emphasizes understanding, reflection, and transformation; fostering in young adults a communal identity as Catholic Christians within the intergenerational community of faith and helping them to develop their own personal faith identity. This is accomplished through systematic, planned and intentional programming.
- **Community Life** - creating an environment, which nurtures meaningful relationships characterized by Gospel values among young adults and between other generations; helping young adults feel like a valued part of the church; providing opportunities for social interaction and meaningful participation in the church and civic community.
- **Evangelization** - proclaiming through word and witness the Good News of the Gospel to young adults who have not yet heard or seen it and inviting them into relationship with Jesus Christ and the community of believers; reaching out to young adults who are uninvolved in the life of the community as the faith community attempts to live out the Gospel with such authenticity that the faith of all the members is sustained and nourished. Evangelization is the energizing core of all the components of ministry.
- **Justice and Service** - guiding young adults in the development of a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service grounded in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures and in the Catholic social teaching; empowering young adults and their families to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering, to serve those in need, to pursue peace, and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all people; infusing the concepts of justice and peace into all ministry efforts.
- **Leadership Development** - recruiting, training, and supporting young adults and Franciscan animators and spiritual assistants in young adult ministry; empowering young adults for leadership and ministry with their peers, in their schools, in their places of work, in the church, and in the civic community; developing a leadership team of young adults and Franciscan animators and spiritual assistants to organize and coordinate a ministry with young adults.
- **Pastoral Care** - promoting positive young adult and family development through a variety of preventative strategies; caring for young adults and their families in crisis through support, counseling and referral to appropriate community agencies; providing guidance as young adults face life decisions and make moral choices.
- **Prayer & Worship** - assisting young adults in deepening their relationship with Jesus through the development of a personal prayer life; and providing a variety of prayer and worship experiences with young adults to deepen and celebrate their relationship with Jesus in a caring Christian community; involving young adults in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

The above ministry components are taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's document *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* published in 1997.

How will young adult ministry be implemented?

The U.S. Catholic Bishops remind us, “We have learned that no one strategy, activity, or program is adequate to the task of promoting the goals for ministry with young adults and that families, parishes, and schools cannot work in isolation if the Church is to realize its goals.” Our own Young Adult Commission stated, “Because of the diversity of these realities [young adults], our pastoral plan cannot simply be a young adult group or program.” Our efforts call for a comprehensive approach that will utilize the eight components of ministry, which supports and enhances each other, and provides a balance among all eight components.

This balance will be achieved throughout a year or a season of programming and recognizes that every single program or strategy can incorporate several of the ministry components, as in the case of a retreat program. This approach encourages creativity in developing programs, activities, and strategies for each component.

“The YouFra adapts itself to the needs of the youth through its method and contents of formation.” – A Way of Franciscan Vocation

How should we minister to young adults?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ document *Our Hearts Were Burning within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States* provides us with the familiar story of Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-35), in which we find the model for outreach to young adults.

To be effective ministers for young adult we will first, like Jesus, join people in their daily concerns and walk side by side with them on the pathway of life. We will ask them questions and listen attentively as they speak of their joys, hopes, griefs, and anxieties. We will share with them the living word of God, which can touch their hearts and minds and unfold the deep meaning of their experience in the light of all that Jesus said and did. We will trust the capacity of prayer and sacrament to open their eyes to the presence and love of Christ. We will invite them to live and share this Good News in the world.

How should we catechize young adults?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ document *National Directory for Catechesis* also states “Effective young adult catechesis follows the way of Jesus when it engages the head (the cognitive or believing part of the person), the heart (the trusting or affective part), and the hands and feet (the doing or active part).” This statement provides us with a model of catechizing young adults.

What types of formats will be used in young adult ministry?

Our efforts will require a variety of programming formats to implement the eight components of ministry in an integrated way to achieve the five goals of young adult ministry; to connect young adults with Jesus Christ, the Church, the mission of the Church in the world, a peer community and the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition.

- A diversity of program settings.
- Specific programs for the varied life situations of young adult (late teens, twenties, thirties; married, single, divorced or widowed; with or without children).
- Family-centered programs for young adults with children.
- Intergenerational programs.
- A balanced mix of programs, activities, and strategies that address the eight components of comprehensive ministry described in the above section.
- Small-group programs and small ecclesial community experiences.
- Home-based programs, activities, and resources.
- One-on-one and mentoring programs and activities.
- Independent or self-directed programs.
- A variety of scheduling options and program settings to respond to the reality of the busy lives and commitments of young adults and their families.
- Use of current technology to facilitate communication, program development and facilitation.

What is the name of our outreach to young adults?

Our Young Adult Ministry will be called YOUFRA, which is an inverted acronym for FRANCISCAN YOUNG ADULTS. It refers to a group of young people who feel called to follow Christ in the example of St. Francis of Assisi. They are “Franciscans” to the extent that they are attracted to St. Francis and have chosen him as a model, guide, and patron. Its meaning is not the same as YOUNG FRANCISCAN, which implies profession in the Franciscan Order.

Who will provide animation and spiritual assistance to YouFra?

Being a part of the Franciscan family, the YouFra needs animation and spiritual assistance to guarantee its fidelity to the Franciscan charism, its communion with the Church, and its union with the Franciscan family. The Order of Franciscan Seculars (OFS) of the St. Francis Fraternity in Phoenix, AZ will provide animation and the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscan Friars) of the Province of Saint Barbara at St. Mary’s Basilica will provide spiritual assistance. In addition, YouFra will be the official young adult ministry of St. Mary’s Basilica.

Order of Franciscan Seculars (OFS):

The OFS will seek to foster the vitality and increase of the YouFra; it shall stand by the side of the young adults to encourage them, and shall provide for them all possible means to help them advance in their journey of human and spiritual growth.

Order of Friars Minor (Franciscan Friars):

The Franciscan Friars will provide witness of Franciscan spirituality and communicate the fraternal affection of the religious towards young adults. In addition to helping them in their vocational journey, the Spiritual Assistant will:

- Accompany young adults in their continuous conversion required by the Gospel.
- Enter into a personal dialogue with young adults, to know how to listen, to wait, to be patient and, most of all, to love.
- Cooperate in forming young adults in fulfilling their mission in the Church and in society.
- Accompany young adults in their vocational discernment.

St. Mary’s Basilica:

YouFra will be the official young adult ministry at St. Mary’s Basilica and will coordinate YouFra’s outreach with the SFO and OFM. St. Mary’s Basilica will insure compliance with the Diocese of Phoenix’s policies and procedures (Safe Environment Training, Volunteer Background Checks, Transportation Policies, Insurance, etc...).

How will YouFra support young adults who wish to follow Christ more closely in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi and his followers?

A community will be formed for those young adults who wish to discern following Christ more closely in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi and his followers. They will enter into a time of formation and discernment to reflect on the various states of life in the Franciscan family, which include the First Order of Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor), the Second Order of Franciscans (Poor Clares) and the Third Order of Franciscans (Secular Franciscans). The OFS documents on YouFra will guide this time of formation and discernment.

How will YouFra be organized?

A council of young adults, a fraternal animator, a spiritual assistant and a pastoral staff member of St. Mary's Basilica will organize and provide leadership for YouFra. The YouFra council will organize the Church's ministries – advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, prayer and worship – in an integrated approach to achieve the five goals of Young Adult Ministry. To help organize the church's ministry to young adults the *Wedge Model* will be utilized.

The Young Adult Commission has provided a separate document outlining YouFra's Leadership Council and a definition of the *Wedge Model* to be utilized in organizing the ministry.

What are the guiding documents for YouFra Leadership?

YouFra will primarily be guided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Son and Daughter of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adult*. This document provides an outline of who young adults are, a vision of faith for young adults, and a plan for ministry with young adults. The document also provides goals, objectives, and strategies. Secondly, the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order's National Youth and Young Adult Commissions documents will guide YouFra on Franciscan Youth (YouFra).

The following documents provide direction for young adult ministry:

- *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*
Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.
Published 1996
- *Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes: Best Practices in Catholic Young Adult Ministry*
Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.
Published 2010

- *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us:
A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*
Committee on Education
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C
Published 1997
- *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*
Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.
Published 1997
- *National Directory for Catechesis*
Committee on Catechesis
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C
Published 2005
- *General Director for Catechesis*
Congregation for Clergy
Holy See
Published 1997
- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*
Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.
Published 2006
- *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*
Order of Secular Franciscans
- *The Rule of the Order of Friars Minor*
Order of Friars Minor
- *Franciscan Youth (YouFra) Documents*
Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commission
National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

What are the three-year priorities of YouFra?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults* provides four interdependent and equally important goals to guide the Church's ministry with young adults. In addition to a fifth goal of connecting young adults with the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition. All five goals will be a priority for each (3) academic year with special attention given to the following goals with accompanying strategies listed in the USCCB's document *Sons and Daughter of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*.

Academic Year 2018-2019

Goal Four: Connecting Young Adults with a Peer Community

To help young adults develop relationships with peers who share similar values and beliefs which nurture and strengthen their faith, thereby creating communities of support.

Listed below are the objectives of this goal:

1. *Forming Faith Communities of Peers:* To provide opportunities for young adults to find among their peers the necessary support and encouragement as they journey through life and fulfill their mission to the world.
2. *Developing Peer Leadership:* To help young adults become leaders, not only among their peers but also within the larger community.
3. *Identifying a Young Adult Team:* To urge each parish, movement, organization, and campus to identify a team to respond to the needs of young adults.

Academic Year 2019-2020

Goal One: Connecting Young Adults with Jesus Christ

To foster the personal and communal growth and education of young adults toward a relationship with Jesus Christ leading to Christian maturity.

Listed below are the objectives of this goal:

1. *Spiritual Formation and Direction:* To help young adults develop their spiritual life rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their redeemer and savior.
2. *Religious Education/Formation:* To help young adults appreciate the teachings and traditions of the Church through catechesis, religious education, and pastoral care.
3. *Vocation Discernment:* To help young adults understand vocation as primarily a call to holiness and Christian maturity lived through single or married life, the priesthood, the diaconate, or religious life.

Goal Two: Connecting Young Adults with the Church

To make contact with young adults and to invite and welcome them to participate in the life and mission of the Christian community, which proclaims Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel.

Listed below are the objectives of this goal:

1. *Evangelizing Outreach:* To identify places where young adults gather and to connect them personally with the Church by listening to their concerns, hopes, and dreams and by welcoming them into a community of faith.
2. *Forming the Faith Community:* To invite, empower, and enable young adults to participate in the life of the Church through worship, community life, small faith communities, and evangelizing efforts, and on committees, in ministries, and in Catholic movements and organizations.
3. *Pastoral Care:* To provide activities, visitations, and counseling opportunities that respond to the spiritual and developmental needs of young adults and their families.

Academic Year 2020-2021

Goal Four: Connecting Young Adults to the Mission of the Church in the World

To invite young adults, through healthy relationships, work, and studies, to embrace the mission of Christ to promote the building of the kingdom of God in the world today, thereby bringing about the transformation of society.

Listed below are the objectives of this goal:

1. *Forming a Christian Conscience:* To help young adults form their conscience based on the Gospel and on the Church's moral and social teachings.
2. *Educating and Working for Justice:* To provide educational and service opportunities for young adults to practice the gospel values of justice and peace and to care for the less fortunate in the workplace, at home, and in the local community.
3. *Developing Leaders for the Present and the Future:* To invite, train, support, and mentor young adults to be leaders in society and church life.

How will YouFra be evaluated?

YouFra will undergo an annual evaluation. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults* provides goals, objectives, and strategies that will be utilized in the evaluation of YouFra and how effective it has been in providing opportunities for young adults to grow in the five goals of young adult ministry; to connect young adults with Jesus Christ, the Church, the mission of the Church in the World, a peer community and the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition.

Closing Thoughts and Prayer:

We now wish to invite all who read this pastoral plan to encourage them to recognize, support, and motivate ministry to, with, by, and for young adults. We invite you to enter into conversations with the young adults in your own life. Hear their life stories, their reasons for disaffiliating from the Church, their needs, struggles, and joys in their own words. Hold them and their stories in prayer. Pray that our young adults also become Sons and Daughters of the Light and be bearers of the Light to all they encounter.

“You have so many gifts to offer the Church: your faith, your desire to serve, your spiritual hunger, your vitality, your optimism and idealism, your talents and skills. We can all learn from you, so we ask you to expand your leadership role in witnessing to the Gospel...” – A Letter to College Students from the Catholic Bishops of the United States

Lastly, we place this new outreach under the patronage of Our Lady of the Angels. Her feast is celebrated on August 2nd. A small chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels was very dear to St. Francis of Assisi. He referred to it as the Portiuncula (or the Little Portion) and it is considered the cradle of the Franciscan Order. May our efforts under her patronage become the cradle for new generations to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

Final Prayer

Gracious and Loving God,
 Help these young men and women to be a light for all the world to see,
 in all the places they live and work.
 Let their light shine for all peoples:
 for their families
 for their church communities,
 for their cultures and societies,
 for the economic and political systems,
 for the whole world.
 Coming into the room where the disciples were gathered after the resurrection,
 "Jesus, your son, said: Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:21).
 Make these men and women bearers of Christ's peace.
 "Blessed are the peacemakers,
 Teach them the meaning of what was said on the mountain:
 for they shall be called sons and daughters of God" (cf. Mt 5:9).
 Send them, Father, as you sent your son:
 to free their brothers and sisters from fear and sin.
 We ask this of you, in Christ's name. Amen.

Adapted from the Papal Homily for WYD 1995, Manila