

# **A Summary of the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers and the Specialized Competencies for Youth Ministry Leaders**

## **Core Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers**

These standards are for all lay ecclesial ministers, including coordinators of youth ministry/youth ministry leaders.

- 1. Personal and Spiritual Maturity:** *A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates personal and spiritual maturity in ministry with the people of God.*
- 2. Lay Ecclesial Ministry Identity:** *A lay ecclesial minister identifies the call to formal and public ministry as a vocation rooted in baptism.*
- 3. Roman Catholic Theology:** *A lay ecclesial minister integrates knowledge of Roman Catholic faith within ministry.*
- 4. Pastoral Praxis:** *A lay ecclesial minister engages in pastoral activity that promotes evangelization, faith formation, community, and pastoral care with sensitivity to diverse situations.*
- 5. Professional Practice:** *A lay ecclesial minister provides effective leadership, administration, and service, in the spirit of collaboration.*

## **Specialized Competencies for the Youth Ministry Leader**

The competencies for the youth ministry leader all fall under Core Certification Standard Four: Pastoral Praxis. The youth ministry leader demonstrates competency in the following areas. The youth ministry leader shall:

- 4.7 YML Demonstrate an understanding of the history, vision, goals, themes, and components of Catholic youth ministry as outlined in the U.S. bishops' pastoral plan and related church documents.
- 4.8 YML Utilize theories, models, processes and methods of Catholic youth ministry.
- 4.9 YML Demonstrate an understanding of adolescent developmental needs within the contexts of youth and popular cultures.
- 4.10 YML Model for and collaborate with the faith community in implementing the components of Catholic youth ministry by:
  - 4.10.1 Utilizing the aims, principles, processes, and methods of adolescent catechesis in implementing adolescent faith formation.
  - 4.10.2 Facilitating the development of community among youth, families, church and society.
  - 4.10.3 Inviting young people into intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and empowering them to live and witness as disciples in today's world.
  - 4.10.4 Engaging youth in the social mission of the church in accord with Catholic social teaching.
  - 4.10.5 Enabling healing, growth and healthy development of youth in their relationships.
  - 4.10.6 Enabling young people to celebrate and deepen their relationship with the Triune God through individual and communal prayer and participation in the liturgical life of the church.
  - 4.10.7 Engaging the church and broader community in voicing and addressing the rights and needs of youth.
  - 4.10.8 Affirming and calling forth the gifts of youth and adult leaders and providing opportunities for their ongoing spiritual and leadership development.

**NOTE: Since all coordinators of youth ministry are catechetical leaders, they need to pay attention to the specialized competencies for parish catechetical leaders.**