

Youth Ministry Certification

The Office for Evangelization offers the Youth Ministry Certification program to provide formation for youth workers in the Diocese of Richmond. This in-depth program will offer presentations that are practical, academic, theological, and spiritual. All youth ministers who serve on parish staff are encouraged to participate in the program. All youth workers who serve as catechists are also invited to participate. This formation program will be held during one academic year. Upon completion, students will receive a Certificate in Youth Ministry that is validated through the Catholic Diocese of Richmond and Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The Diocese of Richmond and Franciscan University are committed to assisting in the preparation of men and women who have responded to the call of catechesis within youth ministry. Christ commissioned his disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) after preparing them for this mission through his life and ministry. The Church needs well-formed, knowledgeable adults to continue this mission to young people. The Youth Ministry Certification program will offer formation to these adults so that they may be effective witnesses of Christ to young people.

The Youth Ministry Certification program will include five key components in order to obtain the Certificate in Youth Ministry:

- 1. Attending four diocesan sessions.**
- 2. Completing a required amount of online video classes.**
- 3. Participation in mentorship meetings.**
- 4. Completing required readings.**
- 5. Completing a ministry assignment.**

Important Dates

Participants in the Youth Ministry Certification program will be required to attend three in-person seminars and one retreat. The seminars will be held at the Pastoral Center in Richmond and live-streamed to Saint Andrew in Roanoke and Jubilee Retreat House in Abingdon. The sessions will begin at 9:30 am and end at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

September 23, 2017

In this first session, Dr. Bob Rice will begin with details about the certification program. He will also cover the following topics: Vision of Effective Youth Ministry, Engaging Youth Culture, and Partnering with Families.

December 2, 2017

Jim Beckman will discuss: Personal Spirituality, Forming Disciples, Incarnational Ministry, and Methods and Practical Skills.

April 13-14, 2018

Youth Workers' Retreat: Speaker and location, TBD.

May 5, 2018

Kristen Witte will cover topics of Adolescent Development and Pastoral Care. Dr. James Pauley will discuss Effective Catechesis for Youth Ministry and the Sacramental Nature of the Church.

Registration

All interested youth workers are asked to register online for the certification program.

The cost to participate is \$600 and includes all aspects of the program.

All registered students will gain access to more than 100 online video resources that may be used by any parish leader throughout the year.

* There will be options to attend each individual diocesan session apart from pursuing the Certificate in Youth Ministry.

For more information on the Youth Ministry Certification program, please contact the Office for Evangelization at evangelization@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5159.