Region XI Formation Guidelines for a Specialization in Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis

In the 2009 Guidelines for Obtaining the California Catechist Certificate and the California Master Catechist Certificate, the Bishops of California called for catechetical formation pertinent to particular specializations for all those who engage in the ministry of catechesis in diverse settings (page 9). The content areas outlined below satisfy only the specialization phase of catechist certification for individuals who regularly teach the Catholic faith to adolescents in groups and movements. Such individuals may include, but are not limited to: parish directors and coordinators of youth ministry, high school Confirmation catechists, religion teachers in Catholic high schools, youth ministry presenters and core team members, retreat speakers, youth camp directors and leaders, quinceañera coordinators and catechists, adult leaders in youth-serving migrant ministries, grupos juveniles, apostolic movements and groups, and others who catechize adolescents. Implementation of these guidelines is the responsibility of the diocesan office of youth ministry, with oversight from the local ordinary.

Content

I. Life of a Teen/Adolescent Development
   A participant will:
   A. Be able to name generational attributes of today's adolescents [RTV: 20]
   B. Be able to name developmental changes of adolescents [RTV: 20]
   C. Be able to name developmental needs of older and younger adolescents [RTV: 20]
   D. Have an overview of Search Institute's Developmental Assets [RTV: 54-58]
   E. Have an understanding of faith development of adolescents [RTV: 29]
   F. Have an understanding of the needs and aspirations of Hispanic adolescents [Encuentro Conclusions, Ad-10 to Ad-13]

II. Relational Ministry
   A participant will:
   A. Have a basic understanding of good communication skills [RTV: 25]
   B. Have knowledge of skills for building relationships with adolescents [RTV: 25]
   C. Have an understanding of lifelong learning and continued spiritual growth [RTV: 24]
   D. Have a general understanding of the ministry of hospitality [RTV: 34]
   E. Express how relational ministry is key for outreach to young people [RTV: 34]
   F. Have an understanding of ministering in a culturally diverse community [RTV: 22-23]
   G. Have an understanding of what it means to be part of a universal Church and embrace a wide scope of spiritual diversity and ministry approaches, including collaboration with apostolic movements and groups [RTV: 25]
III. Comprehensive Youth Ministry

A participant will:

A. Have a general understanding of Renewing the Vision [RTV: 3-8] and of the Conclusions of the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry

B. Have a clear understanding of the goals for ministry with adolescents [RTV: 9-18]

C. Be able to name the difference between comprehensive youth ministry and “youth group” [RTV: 19-25]

D. Have an understanding that fostering vocational discernment is integral to the “essence” of ministry with adolescents [RTV: 26 and Conclusions Ad-20]

E. Have a clear understanding of the eight components [RTV: 26-47]

1) Advocacy [RTV: 26-28]
   i. Be able to name methods for advocacy
   ii. Be able to show ways the parish can advocate for young people
   iii. Understand the importance of advocacy for academic education and facilitating access to Catholic schools for Hispanic adolescents [Conclusions Ad-12 and Ad-25]

2) Catechesis [RTV: 28-34]
   i. Have a clear understanding of Faith Themes for Adolescents and the six themes from the U.S. Bishops’ Adaptation document
   ii. Have an understanding of Shared Christian Praxis and other teaching/learning styles
   iii. Have an understanding of the eight Outcomes of Adolescent Catechesis [from NIAC]
   iv. Understand the mutual relationship between continuous conversion, frequent reception of the sacraments, and catechesis for the moral development of adolescents [Conclusions PJ-22.5, Ad-12, and Ad-20]

3) Community Life [RTV: 34-36]
   i. Have an understanding of features that give direction to community life programming
   ii. Be able to name ways of integrating community life into all aspects of ministry with young people
   iii. Have an understanding of pastoral de conjunto and how it applies to the diversity of youth ministry programming and engaging adolescents in the parish, with neighboring parishes, in apostolic movements and groups, and in the larger church community [Conclusions PJ-24.7]

4) Evangelization [RTV: 36-37]
   i. Have an understanding of essential elements of the ministry of evangelization
   ii. Be able to develop the basic format for an evangelization session in ministry
iii. Understand the role of adolescents in the evangelizing mission of the church among their peers [Conclusions Ad-20 and PJ-22.3], always starting with a profound personal and communal encounter with Jesus [Conclusions PJ-22.1]

iv. Have an understanding that the religious development of young people in linguistically and culturally appropriate settings, building on the cultural and familial traditions of popular piety, is integral to the evangelizing task of inculturation [Conclusions 15, Ad-11, Ad-13, Ad-20, and Jo-26]

5) Justice and Service [RTV: 37-40]
   i. Have a basic understanding of Catholic social teaching
   ii. Be able to incorporate an understanding of justice along with the need for service
   iii. Have an understanding of the importance of local and global solidarity
   iv. Have an understanding of the pastoral circle as a methodology to engage young people in analyzing and transforming (with God’s grace) their personal, sociocultural, and religious reality, thus exercising their protagonism in building the Kingdom of God in their own surroundings [Conclusions Ad-20 and PJ-22].

6) Leadership Development [RTV: 40-42]
   i. Understand the importance of developing a leadership system that invites, trains, supports, and nourishes adult and adolescent leaders
   ii. Have a basic understanding of servant leadership
   iii. Have an understanding of the protagonism of the young person—with developmentally appropriate support and expectations—as a fundamental element of the pedagogy, methodology, and organization of pastoral juvenil hispana [Conclusions PJ-22.3]

7) Pastoral Care [RTV: 42-44]
   i. Understand the importance of community support for pastoral care
   ii. Understand the difference between ministry and counseling and know the proper channels for helping a young person
   iii. Have a basic understanding of how to help young people who engage in high-risk behaviors that endanger their own health and well-being
   iv. Understand the importance of pastoral planning to address the most urgent pastoral issues facing young people in the community, in the context of a deepening personal and communal relationship between them and the Triune God [Conclusions PJ-22.1-2, PJ-23.1, and Ad-25]

8) Prayer and Worship [RTV: 44-47]
   i. Have a basic understanding of the movements of prayer and liturgy
ii. Understand basic guidelines for using popular media in prayer
iii. Have basic knowledge and skills for making prayer youth-friendly
iv. Understand that ministry with adolescents fosters their deeper participation in the sacramental life of the community, especially the Eucharist [Conclusions 54, 60, and Jo-31]

IV. Leadership Development for Youth Ministry

_A participant will:_

A. Have an understanding of different leadership styles [RTV: 24]
B. Have an understanding of the qualities of an effective leader [RTV: 24]
C. Have an understanding of the importance of the different roles for youth ministry [RTV: 40-41]
D. Have an understanding of the importance of recruiting and training adult leaders who reflect the racial/ethnic diversity of the community to serve as mentors and role models of Christian living and cultural integration [RTV 23 and Conclusions Ad-10 and Ad-13]
E. Understand how to use and support young leaders within the ministry [RTV: 41]

V. Youth Ministry Structure

_A participant will:_

A. Understand the importance of developing a leadership system [RTV: 24]
B. Understand the importance of job descriptions in youth ministry [RTV: 24]
C. Have basic skills to plan, implement, and support programs within the ministry [RTV: 41]
D. Have an understanding of continued growth as a leader within the ministry – both in skills and in faith formation [RTV: 41]
E. Have an understanding of the importance of connecting families to all aspects of youth ministry [RTV: 11-12, 21]
F. Have an understanding of the importance of connecting young people to the wider Church community and beyond. [RTV: 12-15, 22-24]
G. Have an understanding of the development of linguistically and socio-culturally appropriate programming for young people of particular cultures in a diverse community [RTV: 22 and Conclusions Ad-11, Ad-20, and PJ-24.3]
H. Be able to integrate an understanding of cultural diversity into the ministry [RTV: 23]
I. Have an understanding of flexible and adaptable programming [RTV: 25]
J. Have an understanding of the importance of evaluation [RTV: 41]

VI. Calendarizing and Planning

_A participant will:_

A. Be introduced to a variety of formats for youth ministry [RTV: 25]
B. Be able to support a coordinator in planning a season of ministry [RTV: 41]
C. Have an understanding that the pastoral needs of the young people in the parish are the starting point for pastoral planning and program development,
with priority given to the vulnerable, marginalized, poor, and at-risk [RTV: 27 and Conclusions Ad-25, PJ-22.2, and PJ-23.6]

C. Be able to incorporate an understanding of parish, family, diocesan, and civic community opportunities into the planning of youth ministry [RTV: 20-25]

D. Have a basic understanding of how the liturgical year should be incorporated into the planning of youth ministry [RTV: 44-47]

E. Recognize the importance of incorporating school calendars into the planning of youth ministry [RTV: 25]

F. Be introduced to ideas for balancing their personal life and ministry [RTV: 24]

VII. Group Dynamics

A participant will:

A. Be introduced to basic communication skills and ideas for interaction with young people [RTV: 16-17]

B. Be able to lead small group discussions with basic skills [RTV: 16-17]

C. Understand positive methods for disciplining young people [RTV: 42-43]

D. Understand the dynamics of leading large group activities [RTV: 16-17]

E. Have a basic understanding of the need to embrace a wide variety of ministry styles and processes [RTV: 16-17]

F. Have an introduction to Multiple Intelligences

VIII. Resources

A participant will be introduced to:

A. Church documents appropriate to ministry with young people, including those that address the needs of various cultural groups

B. The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and its documents

C. The National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana and its documents

D. National, regional, and diocesan resources for Youth Ministry

E. Appropriate resources for building and enhancing Youth Ministry

F. Appropriate media resources for building and enhancing Youth Ministry