

What's Happening in Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston?

The following is a summary of thoughts presented by representative young adult leaders at a meeting on January 31, 2006.

How do you start a young adult group?

- Get a small core team of committed people
- Get the support of someone on staff
- Have initial social event with food to get an idea of what people are interested in
- Build around a regular, consistent event
- Seek a balance of spiritual, social, and service activities
- Plug into city-wide events.
- Don't get discouraged!

Communication

- Everyone agrees it's hard to get "pulpit time" for oral announcements at mass.
- Young adults don't tend to read the bulletin, even if you are able to get something in it.
- Groups agree that e-mail lists and webpages (along with personal invitations) are the best way to get the word out.

What are people doing that works?

- S³—A combination of spiritual, social, and service activities
- Weekly young adult mass, followed by a speaker, and then dinner – (St. Vincent de Paul does this every Tuesday night)
- Socials to meet new folks – (St. Michael's has events like Welcome Wednesdays and Thirsty Thursdays).
 - St. Anne's notes that social events serve as an attraction to introduce people to the group, particular younger young adults just out of college; they may start with the Pub Crawl and then get into Small Faith Communities
- Bible studies
- Volunteering (with youth, with Catholic Charities, with Habitat)
- Sports – Softball, Flag Football & Volleyball

Citywide Resources

- **Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry**
 - Café Catholica (each summer)
 - Theology on Tap (with Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral)
 - Bayou Awakening retreat
 - Into the Deep retreat
 - Advocacy and training
 - Website: <http://youngadultholics.net>
- **PACCO (Parish Activities for Catholic Communication Organization)**
 - Service, Spiritual, Sports and Social events throughout the year open to all young adults in the Archdiocese.

- New leadership team, Anna Kickirillo president.
- Meetings every month of parish representatives – all are invited
- Website: <http://www.rc.net/galveston/pacco/index.html>
- **Opportunities for Service Projects**
 - Casa Juan Diego
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Catholic Charities (there are 12 ongoing programs in which volunteers are always needed)
 - Houston Food Bank
 - Emmaus Ministries

Ideas for future

- Archdiocesan wide Community Project – preferably one each month where groups can schedule time or individuals that are unable to attend one month can come another.
- It was suggested that we have an event to learn ways to promote vocations. The Vocations Office of the Archdiocese has an annual “Vocations Expo” at St. Mary’s Seminary. Details: <http://www.archgh.org/VocationOffice/vocexpo.htm>

Other

- Rosemarie Philip is in charge of HIV/AIDS education for Catholic Charities. She has resources available (including a CD-ROM with PowerPoint presentations) and can come out to your group for any length presentation. There is an HIV/AIDS “state of emergency” in Houston, and sexually active young adults are at high risk.

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