

# Stages of Development for 6th-12th Grade Parish Youth Ministry



*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5*

## 01

### Initial Growth

**Defined by:** Growing interest in youth ministry, sporadic attendance at youth gatherings, stand-alone events not sustained by a consistent program or calendar, limited parish support.

**Signs of Growth Into the Next Stage:** Intentional outreach, emerging leadership roles, pathways to foster faith identified, intentional discernment of spiritual needs and desires of youth.

## 02

### Organic Expansion

**Defined by:** Increased outreach to teens and adults, increase in opportunities to encounter Christ, intentional accompaniment begins oftentimes in small group settings.

**Signs of Growth Into the Next Stage:** Specific needs of youth identified, equipping and training of youth and adult leaders, hiring a youth minister is encouraged, adult leaders begin taking ownership of their own formation, clear job descriptions for adult volunteers, youth serving in various roles at the parish, adoption of ministry programming may occur e.g. LifeTeen, EQ Saints, etc.

## 03

### Structural Development

**Defined by:** Clear chain of command within the ministry, calendar of events made available, specific purpose for each youth gathering communicated, adult leaders receiving ongoing formation, support and presence of pastor, coordinator of youth ministry focuses on: training leaders, advocating for ministerial and financial support at the parish, ministry programming, and communication.

**Signs of Growth Into the Next Stage:** Parish culture that welcomes young people is more evident, vision of youth ministry is understood by the parish staff, intentional engagement and presence of pastor and other clergy, adult parishioners advocate for and support the ministry, young adults plugged into Newman post-graduation.

## 04 Parish-Wide Shared Responsibility

**Defined by:** Youth and adult leaders take an active role in the parish, youth minister continues to focus on training youth and adult leaders, communication, programming, and advocating for financial needs and resources, youth are seen as a gift and parishioners encourage and welcome youth participation, parishioners are aware of ministry calendar and make an intentional effort to support the ministry in some way, young adult gatherings may be hosted by the parish and new graduates are plugged into their respective Newman Centers or young adult ministries.

