Comprehensive Youth Ministry
Parish Self-Assessment Tool

The prerequisite for parishes to begin celebrating the sacraments of initiation in their original order is to implement comprehensive youth ministry. This assessment tool will help you identify areas of strength and areas for growth in your parish's youth ministry and help you discern whether your parish will join Transition Group 1, 2 or 3 for moving to original order of the sacraments of initiation.

Instructions:

The Pastor, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Director of Religious Education and anyone directly involved with catechesis of young people in grades 6 – 12 should meet *together* to discuss which option best characterizes your parish for each of the eight areas. Completing the assessment will give you an idea of how close your parish is to offering comprehensive youth ministry.

For example, if your group chose '*we do this well'* for more than half the statements, your parish should consider choosing Transition Group 1 as you are close to offering comprehensive youth ministry. If your group chose '*this needs growth'* for more than half the statements, your parish should consider being in Transition Group 2 or 3.

For questions regarding the assessment, please contact Lisa Gomes at lgomes@rcchawaii.org or (808) 203-6743. When your parish team has completed the assessment, please contact Deacon Modesto Cordero at mcordero@rcchawaii.org or (808) 585-3342 with your preferred Transition Group choice no later than December 30, 2015.

NOTE: This assessment tool <u>DOES NOT</u> need to be returned to the diocesan offices. It is for each parish's self-assessment. The diocesan offices only need to know which Transition Group you think you should be in.
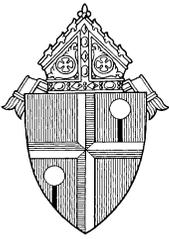
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Your parish will address each of these elements of comprehensive youth ministry in a unique way, based on your past experiences, the resources available to you at the parish, the resources you choose to use, and the strength of your parish community.

For each statement, check one of the three options:

This needs growth – Your parish may or may not be engaging with this area at this time. This is an area the parish would definitely like to see strengthened.

We try to do this – Your parish is making efforts regarding this area but believes more can be done to strengthen this aspect of your parish youth ministry.

We do this well – While improvements may always be made, this youth ministry element is a current area of strength for your parish.

1. **Regular pattern of gathering**:
   - Weekly or bi-weekly
   - Youth need to know that they can count on the gathering, and parents make it part of their family schedule
   - Middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) meet as separate groups
   - This structured gathering should have a clear focus and a structured way that youth interact with each other and the adults present
   - Timeframe for gathering – middle school: 60-90 minutes; high school: 90-120 minutes

   We have **regular pattern of gathering** with our youth.

   ☐ *This needs growth*   ☐ *We try to do this*   ☐ *We do this well*

2. **Special events**:
   - Any gathering outside of the regular pattern of gathering
   - These can include day-long events, evening programs on a different day, extended programs, weekend events, or longer trips (examples include retreats, service experiences, gender-specific programs, social activities (dances, sports, etc.), leadership training events, advocacy events (i.e., March for Life), and others

   We provide a variety of **special events** within which youth can participate.

   ☐ *This needs growth*   ☐ *We try to do this*   ☐ *We do this well*
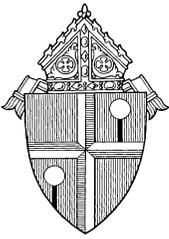
3. **Intentional catechesis**:
   - Use of a curriculum/resource for catechesis
   - Faith formation must be a part of what is done with and for youth
   - Leaders capitalize on informal, teachable moments and infuse faith conversations and modeling into all programs, regardless of their primary focus
   - For catechesis to be effective, it must be planned for and intentional

We provide **intentional catechesis** for adolescents.		
☐ *This needs growth*	☐ *We try to do this*	☐ *We do this well*

4. **Ways for youth to grow deeper in faith**:
   - Provide opportunities for youth with different interests
   - Provide opportunities for older youth who have a more mature faith
   - Examples: Bible study series, discipleship groups, faith mentors, special retreats, vocations exploration, etc.

We provide a variety of **ways for youth to grow deeper in faith**.		
☐ *This needs growth*	☐ *We try to do this*	☐ *We do this well*

5. **Non-gathered ways to connect:**
   - Non-gathered strategies communicate care and concern for youth, regardless of their participation in events
   - Be present where youth are – supporting them in their everyday activities
   - Highlighting youth for the parish community
   - Use of technology (i.e., social media)
   - Other examples: send greeting cards, newsletters and letters of invitation, cards of congratulations (i.e., sports, plays, etc.)

We deliver ministry through a variety of **non-gathered ways to connect** to youth.		
☐ *This needs growth*	☐ *We try to do this*	☐ *We do this well*
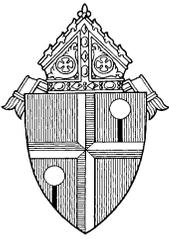
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6. **Connect youth to the parish:**
   - Help youth participate in the sacramental life of church
   - Provide ways for youth to participate in faith formation, community and service as part of the parish
   - Plan for youth participation – welcomed, included, and respected – this may mean that adults need to be prepared for their participation as well

   We **connect youth to the parish**.

   ☐ *This needs growth*   ☐ *We try to do this*   ☐ *We do this well*

7. **Connect with families of youth:**
   - Consider the impact of youth ministry on family life
   - Communicate with parents about youth ministry – this includes information to help parents engage their child when he/she returns from retreats, service experiences, youth night, etc.
   - Provide programs/resources to support families at home – i.e., links to helpful websites, book recommendations, newsletters, etc.
   - Provide occasional gatherings for families of youth – both with their youth and adults-only events

   We **connect with families of youth**.

   ☐ *This needs growth*   ☐ *We try to do this*   ☐ *We do this well*

8. **Involve youth in leadership, ministry, and service:**
   - Provide opportunities where young people are able to use their gifts
   - Assist youth in being evangelizers in their schools, jobs, sports activities, and peer groups
   - Include youth in leadership roles within liturgical and catechetical ministries
   - Provide ways for youth to share leadership in youth ministry and in parish life
   - Provide service involvement for youth beyond the parish boundaries – opportunities that engage youth in discovering the call to justice and service in Catholic Social Teaching; where youth develop the assets, skills, and faith by promoting gospel values in their lifestyles and choices
   - Nurture a lifelong commitment to service and justice involvement

   We **involve youth in leadership ministry, ministry, and service**.

   ☐ *This needs growth*   ☐ *We try to do this*   ☐ *We do this well*

*Adapted for use in the Diocese of Honolulu from **Eight Elements for Dynamic Youth Ministry Assessment Tool** by the Center of Ministry Development.*

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