

FOUNDATION MINISTRY

The 'Why':

Love is the proper foundation of child and youth ministry. No matter which type of ministry your parish chooses to pursue, it must be grounded in genuine love for children and youth. Some ministries are motivated by obligation, reputation or survival – but not love. Some ministries are led by a small group of people who are motivated by love – but the majority of the church family is fearful, apathetic or resistant. The best way for churches to minister to children and youth is to cultivate a foundation of love.

The Practice:

The parish undertakes to cultivate a foundation of love through activities that **educate, intrigue and encourage empathy.**

- Invite speakers to talk to your congregation about children and youth in your community
- Start a study group in which adults investigate youth culture: movies, TV shows, magazines, songs, books, websites that are popular with youth. Study and discuss these elements of youth culture; compare and contrast with the culture of their youth; learn about their media, messages and opinions of the world
- Commit to pray daily for the children/youth in your community
- Commit to volunteer at an event for children/youth
- Have a book study in which adults read books about Youth Culture, Youth Ministry, and Communicating With Youth
- Challenge parents and grandparents to deepen their relationships with the children/youth in their lives
- Bulletin and Newsletter stories about what other churches are doing to minister to children/youth, or what Christian youth are doing in the world.

The Goal:

If your parish undertakes a Foundation Ministry, you may discover...

- Some great ideas about how to start a youth ministry in your parish
- Some great ideas about how to help teens in your community
- People who have gifts for leading a youth group or mentoring youth
- Parents and grandparents who have a better understanding of their children and youth
- Adults who love the children/youth in their church and community
- Adults who have finally made peace with their difficult teen years
- People who are dedicated to praying for teens in the church and community
- People who are willing to assist with youth ministry organizational matters, such as planning or driving car pools
- Connections between the parish and people in the community who work with teens, or other Christian youth ministries

The Plan for our Parish...

What motivates our ministry to children and youth?

Why does our parish struggle with child and youth ministry?

What can we do to build a foundation of love for children and youth in our parish?

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