

**Session 8: Regional/Deanery Cooperation (Young Adult Ministry)**

**Proposition Definition:** Recognize that vibrant young adult ministry is difficult for any individual parish to create and sustain and consider a move toward a model of regional collaboration.

- Parishes within deaneries work together to provide social and faith-based events to help young adults encounter Jesus Christ, be formed in the faith and find meaningful Christian friendship. (A deanery is a geographical grouping of approximately 10-15 parishes.)
- The Archdiocese supports regional young adult ministry efforts, including coordinating with apostolates.
- Send young adults back to their parish to engage in its life and mission.

**Other Key Points:**

- “The community has an important role in the accompaniment of young people; it should feel collectively responsible for accepting, motivating, encouraging and challenging them. All should regard young people with understanding, appreciation and affection, and avoid constantly judging them or demanding of them a perfection beyond their years.” (Christus vivit 243)
- In this archdiocese, the work of St. Paul’s Outreach and NET Ministries cannot and should not be overlooked.
- For more than 40 years National Evangelization Teams, or NET for short, has sent missionaries to middle- and high-schools across the country to offer retreats and witness to young people the love of Jesus Christ. But first it forms young adults as those missionaries, relying heavily on the working of the Holy Spirit and a firm foundation in practical theology and scripture.
- Saint Paul’s Outreach, or SPO, is similar, but with a focus on college students. SPO sends its missionaries directly to college campuses, where young people are invited to live in community, participating in a holier lifestyle rooted in prayer and a life in the Spirit.
- We need bold and creative initiatives for inviting our young adults to experience the joy of belonging to and being loved in Christ’s Church.
- “There is also a special need to accompany young men and women showing leadership potential, so that they can receive training and the necessary qualifications ... Some young women feel that there is a lack of leading female role models within the Church and they too wish to give their intellectual and professional gifts to the Church. We also believe that seminarians and religious should have an even greater ability to accompany young leaders” (Christus vivit 245).
- It’s important to remember what Christ himself prayed at the Last Supper: “I pray ... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us...” (Jn. 17:21)

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How might you support or elevate the organizations that exist in our archdiocese committed to young adult formation and ministry?
2. What are your “bold and creative” ideas for inviting young adults?
3. How might our archdiocese continue to unify efforts to make young adults feel welcome in our parishes/deaneries/archdiocese?