CALLED TO ACCOMPANY

PILLAR III: ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PASTORAL CARE

"Young people call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future."
Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 108

INTRODUCTION TO PILLAR III

Relational ministry is at the heart of accompaniment. As we accompany young people, we must keep in mind the various stages of physical and spiritual child development. There are variations in normal and abnormal adolescent behaviors. Young people experience many changes and face many challenges. A basic understanding of teen development can help you distinguish between normal and at-risk behaviors and help you to know when to refer a youth in crisis for help.

STEP 1: OPENING PRAYER

Lead all participants in the following prayer. At the end, spend a few moments in silent prayer.

Lord Jesus, [...] your Church turns her attention to all the young people of the world. We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness.

Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others. Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from you. May they be witnesses to your Resurrection and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen. [1]

STEP 2: WATCH THE VIDEO ENTITLED "RELATIONAL MINISTRY"

Encourage the participants to take simple notes during the video.

STEP 3: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lead the participants in a group discussion:

- What is relational ministry?
- What are some specific ways to build a ministerial relationship with youth?
- How does one distinguish between normal and abnormal adolescent behaviors?

[1] https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/prayers/documents/papa-francesco_preghiere_20170408_giovani.html

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STEP 4: WATCH THE VIDEO ENTITLED "PASTORAL CARE"
Encourage the participants to take simple notes during the video.

STEP 5: REFLECTION QUESTIONS
Lead the participants in a group discussion:

- What is pastoral care?
- Name some of the issues youth are facing today.
- What does it mean to provide pastoral care for youth?

STEP 6: CLOSING PRAYER
Lead all participants in the following prayer:

Lord you left your Mother in our midst that she might accompany us. May she take care of us and protect us on our journey, in our hearts, in our faith. May she make us disciples like herself, missionaries like herself. May she teach us to go out onto the streets. May she teach us to step outside ourselves.... May she, by her meekness, by her peace, show us the way. [2]

Lord, we entrust to you our work in Youth Ministry. May the youth see and experience the Christ in each of us. May we decrease so that you may increase. May you be glorified.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

[2] https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130725_gmg-argentini-rio.html