

571053

ADY 3786

WHAT IS A PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL



Youth Series No. III Price 5¢

**A DESCRIPTION; DEFINITION,
AND SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION
FOR A PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL**

Glossary of Terms

YOUTH BOARD—A youth board is composed of adult men and women representing adult organizations sponsoring youth work.

SUGGESTED PATTERN—It is laboring the obvious to insist that the Youth Department cannot impose a rigid organizational pattern on any youth group. The Ordinary of a diocese alone possesses that right.

APPROVED PLAN—The approval given the plans herein outlined by the Bishops implies nothing other than that they are good and workable. It does not mean that even essential variants may not be introduced when responsible local ecclesiastical authorities deem it proper.

YOUTH COUNCIL—A council embraces all the youth of the individual groups affiliated with the council.

DELEGATES—The parish youth council functions through delegates. Each constituent youth group comprising the parish youth council elects two delegates to the parish youth council.

DEANERY YOUTH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—A deanery youth council embraces all the youth of the constituent affiliated groups. Obviously such an enormous number could not transact affairs efficiently. Therefore the deanery youth council functions through an executive committee comprised of two young men and two young women from each parish youth council. It is advisable to require a minimum age of 18 for those selected by the parish youth council as their representatives on the executive board of the deanery council.

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—A diocesan youth council embraces all the youth of the constituent affiliated groups. Obviously such an enormous number could not transact affairs efficiently. Therefore the diocesan youth council functions through an executive committee comprised of two young men and two young women from each deanery council. It is advisable to require a minimum age of 20 for those selected by the deanery council as their representatives on the executive committee of the diocesan youth council.

OFFICERS—Each executive committee selects a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer from its own membership. The parish youth council does the same from the personnel of its delegates.

WHAT IS YOUR PARISH CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL?

I—Definition

A Parish Catholic Youth Council is a federation of the approved Catholic youth groups within a parish. It is a coordinating device whose primary purpose is to unify and strengthen youth's forces within the parish. It is not a separate or competitive organization designed to destroy or absorb existing parish youth organizations.

A parish youth council, therefore, makes no provision for individual membership. The only way in which a young man or lady can secure membership in the youth council of his or her parish is by joining a parish youth group that is affiliated with the council.

The objective of the parish youth council is to provide a medium of collaboration with the youth of other parishes in the diocese; to supplement by advice, suggestions, and cooperative projects, the existing parish youth groups. This means that these groups continue to use other services; for example, a Sodality will continue using its own program; a Scout troop continues the use of the scouting program, etc. There are certain projects however on which all the youth of a parish may profitably collaborate.

II—Sphere of Activities

The activities of Parish Catholic Youth Councils will by necessity differ from each other because the circumstances and needs of each parish differ. Here are a few useful fields for federated youth activity:

- 1) Membership campaign: The parish youth

2 WHAT IS A PARISH CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL?

council can help all its constituent organizations secure new members. In most parishes the majority of the youth belong to no particular youth group. The youth council may be used to inform youth, parents and others of existing organizations.

- 2) Providing apt program materials: The exchange of experiences among the leaders of the various parochial youth groups will suggest certain courses of action on common problems. The youth council can arrange for the provision of facilities needed by all groups—a common library, a reading room, a pamphlet rack, movie projector, etc.
- 3) Organizing youth forums: There are many problems of interest to all youth. The council provides an ideal agency for conducting open forums, conferences, and discussion clubs for the youth on these questions.
- 4) Analysing and evaluating non-Catholic youth movements, organizations and agencies functioning within the parish boundaries: This scrutiny should include not only local organizations but the branch agencies of state or nation-wide youth organizations as well. Catholic youth are attracted to the YMCA, YWCA, Allied Youth Posts, and many other of the more than 400 national non-governmental youth or youth-servicing agencies in the U. S. today. Many of these organizations are laudable; but many are actively propagating a social philosophy hostile to Christ. The critical evaluation of the local youth agencies would not only be of assistance to pastors but would furnish

excellent practical training for the youth apostolate.

- 5) Acting as the representative of all the youth of the parish: There are public or civic occasions, such for example as a general campaign for decent literature, clean movies, better community recreational facilities for youth, when the youth council will be most useful.
- 6) Publishing a special youth bulletin or youth articles in the parish magazine: The special bulletins of particular youth groups, the Sodality for example, reach only their own membership; produced on a national scale they cannot very well take into account the peculiarities of each parish. The parish bulletin can particularize and adapt such materials as well as open a medium of communication between all the youth of the parish and all the parishioners.

III. Leadership Training

The Catholic youth apostolate envisions the formation or education of youth apostles of youth; leadership training in the various phases of youth activities is therefore of its very essence. Here again the youth council lends itself readily to the accomplishment of specific youth-training objectives.

- 1) Religious life: corporate acts of worship, retreats, holy hours and other religious activities in which it would be desirable to have all the youth of a parish participate can be fostered by the youth council. Thus for example the youth council could aid the liturgical movement in a parish by securing

4 WHAT IS A PARISH CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL?

inexpensive Missals, sponsoring a common course on the liturgy, perhaps even learning the simpler Gregorian chants, how to participate in a "Missa recitata" etc.

- 2) Family education: the decay of Christian family life in modern society is self-evident; the need for the clear exposition of the Christian ideal is likewise apparent. And it is youth and not age that needs this representation of a great ideal. Great practical good can be achieved by having all the youth of the parish sponsor a series of lectures and discussions on the Christian family.
- 3) Citizenship training: In our materialistic age the idea of the totalitarian state flourishes because men have forgotten the nature of man. Catholic doctrine on the nature and function of the state must be understood by youth if the fallacy of the totalitarian state is to be seen. Democracy is an idle word if the inherent dignity of human nature due to man's immortal soul and its redemption by Christ is not explicitly understood.
- 4) Cultural training: In this field the parish council can be of great assistance by cooperatively planning study and reading materials, lectures, movies, etc.
- 5) Vocational guidance and training: It is not the primary function of Catholic youth groups to serve as vocational guidance agencies; yet the far-reaching maladjustment of our economic life which denies gainful employment to more than a third of American youth for a period of almost three years

after leaving school makes it imperative that we do all in our power to equip youth to recognize and use opportunity when it presents itself, and even to seek it out. All the youth of the parish can collaborate on this subject.

- 6) Recreation: Each constituent unit of the parish council will organize its own recreational program; the council can be of assistance, however, by setting up certain minimum standards; the conditions of intra-parochial competition in the fields of sports, dramatics, music, etc. The council can also act as the intermediary with other parishes in setting up standards and conditions of competition in inter-parochial contests in the deanery or diocese.
- 7) Catholic Action: Catholic youth groups in the Church fulfill their highest destiny only when they become active forces in the apostolate of youth to youth. The present deplorable and irresponsible use of the term Catholic Action to justify things that are not Catholic Action can best be corrected by the thorough education of youth in the precise meaning and scope of the lay apostolate in the Church. In this field the youth council can render invaluable service by aiding its constituent members to understand clearly their respective roles and possibilities in this great modern renaissance of Catholicism.

The promotion of activities such as those mentioned above and others similar may be entrusted by the parish youth council to specific commissions, which automatically expire when their objectives are

6 WHAT IS A PARISH CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL?

achieved. It should be clearly understood that such commissions function for and through the particular parish youth groups which are the real cells in which Catholic youth work is carried on.

IV: Suggested Constitution of the Parish Youth Council

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1: The title of this parochial federation
Name shall be the Parish Youth Council of
Saint Parish.

ARTICLE II: *Nature and Purpose*

Section 1: The Parish Youth Council is a federa-
Nature tion of all the approved youth groups
in the parish regardless of their labels
and particular objectives.

It respects the autonomy of the various parish youth organizations. These groups maintain their traditional organizational set-up and carry out their particular program in keeping with their special objectives.

Section 2: The Parish Youth Council serves the
Purpose following purpose:

a. To unite in a federation all the Catholic youth groups working in a parish, in order to promote and intensify parish spirit;

b. To coordinate activities and to conduct common projects; to assist, strengthen and coordinate the work of the diocesan youth groups so that they may more effectively promote the spiritual and material welfare of their members;

c. To assist the various youth groups affiliated with the Parish Youth Council by exchanging experiences, and by suggesting programs and material in the field of Catholic youth work;

d. To represent all the Catholic youth of the parish when it is necessary for them to function on the basis of a united front. This representation might be strictly on a parish basis or it may be on a city-wide or community basis. It may also be on an inter-parish basis, both on the deanery and the diocesan levels. There are occasions when Catholic youth has a right and a duty to express its views collectively;

e. To encourage its members to participate in the work of Catholic Action in the parish.

ARTICLE III: *Relationship to Diocesan Youth Council*

The Parish Youth Council is the parish unit of the Diocesan Youth Council. It furnishes the liaison both as regards the Deanery Youth Council set-up and the Diocesan Youth Council set-up. Through the Parish Youth Council the organized youth of the parish are officially represented in the Deanery and Diocesan Youth Council.

ARTICLE IV: *Membership*

Section 1: The constituent units of the Parish Constituent Youth Council are the approved parish Units youth groups or organizations.

CHART SUGGESTING ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM AND

ORDINARY

DIOCESAN Y

Contacts various youth organizations and youth serving agencies in the Diocese

DIOCESAN CENTRAL OFFICE

(Staffed as Diocesan ch

ARRANGES AND DIRECTS

ORGANIZES

PROGRAMS

CONFERENCES

COURSES

DIOCESAN Y

GENERAL

SPECIAL

RELIGIOUS (Activities)

SCOUTS

CULTURAL (Activities)

SODALITY

GUIDANCE (Activities)

4-H CLUB

SOCIAL (Activities)

ET CETERA

RECREATIONAL (Activities)

SERVICE (Activities)

ATHLETIC (Activities)

Annual Conference or Congress of Diocesan Youth Council

Leadership Training Courses:
1. For adult leaders
2. For youth leaders

DEANERY Y

PARISH YO

PARISH Y

SODALITY

HOLY NAME

YOUTH OF

N.C

SPONSORSHIP OF A DIOCESAN YOUTH APOSTOLATE

THE DIOCESE

YOUTH DIRECTOR

DIOCESAN YOUTH BUREAU *Contacts Youth Bureau of N.C.W.C. and relays materials to Deaneries and Parishes (where circumstances allow)*

AND DEVELOPS

TRAINS LAY ADULT MEMBERS

YOUTH COUNCIL

ADVISORY BOARDS

YOUTH COUNCIL

YOUTH COUNCIL

YOUTH GROUPS



	Diocesan	Deanery	Parish
CLERGY	<i>Diocesan Youth Director</i>	<i>Deanery Youth Director</i>	<i>Parish Youth Director</i>
MEN	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men (or its equivalent).</i>	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Deanery Council of Catholic Men (or its equivalent).</i>	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Parish Council of Catholic Men (or its equivalent).</i>
WOMEN	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.</i>	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Deanery Council of Catholic Women.</i>	<i>Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Parish Council of Catholic Women.</i>
YOUTH	<i>Elective Officers of the Diocesan Youth Council</i>	<i>Elective Officers of the Deanery Youth Council</i>	<i>Elective Officers of the Parish Youth Council</i>

Y.C.

10 WHAT IS A PARISH CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL?

Section 2: Direct personal membership in the Parish Youth Council is impossible. Catholic young men and women, particularly those between the ages of 16 and 25 wishing to be represented in the Parish Youth Council must hold membership in one of the youth groups affiliated with the Council.

If there is only one Catholic youth group operating in the parish, this group fulfills the function of the Parish Youth Council.

Section 3: Each approved Catholic youth group in the parish is entitled to two delegates on the Parish Youth Council. These delegates are elected by their respective groups to serve for a term of one year; their participation must be approved by the Spiritual Director of their particular group.

ARTICLE V: *Government*

Section 1: The Pastor or his representative is the Spiritual Director of the Parish Youth Council.

Section 2: The officers in the parish Youth Council are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected by the official delegates for a term of one year. These officers should be equally divided between the young men and young women and may not succeed themselves.

Section 3: The Pastor shall appoint a parish youth board composed of adults (both men and women) interested in youth

and representing adult organizations in the parish, sponsoring youth work. This adult youth board would function as an Advisory Board for the Parish Youth Council.

ARTICLE VI: *Meetings*

Section 1: The Parish Youth Council meets once every two months. When so desired, the meeting of the Parish Youth Council may be followed by a joint meeting of the Youth Council and the adult parish Youth Board.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Parish Youth Council may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Council after consultation with the Spiritual director.

Section 3: The officers of the Parish Youth Council together with the Spiritual Director, should meet at regular intervals, subject to call by the Chairman.

Section 4: All decisions made by the Parish Youth Council require agreement on the part of the majority of the members of the Council, and also approval of the Spiritual Director.

ARTICLE VII: *Commissions*

Section 1: The Parish Youth Council may create special commissions in order to accomplish particular objectives or to conduct some special project. Such commissions could provide literature for study plans, etc., in order to further the study of particular problems in the light of parish conditions, especially in the field of re-

ligious, cultural, social, and recreational activities.

Section 2: Such commissions may be entrusted to one or several persons. They may be chosen from the representatives of the various youth groups, from the membership of the adult parish Youth Board or from the general membership of the various constituent units of the Parish Youth Council. Where such Commissions are set up, the Chairman should attend Council meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: *Conferences*

Section 1: The Parish Youth Council should sponsor a youth leaders' training course. It should be designed for the young men and young women in the parish active in youth work or interested in becoming leaders.

Section 2: The Parish Youth Council should cooperate with the adult parish youth Board in the development of an adult youth leaders' conference.

Section 3: Once a year the Parish Youth Council shall sponsor a parish youth conference. This conference should follow a well-planned agenda taking into consideration the interests of the young people in the parish and the activities being conducted under the auspices of the various parish youth groups.

Section 4: The Parish Youth Council may sponsor a youth forum. The planning and the conduct of the program of the youth

forum would be in the hands of the young people themselves, but it should be planned in such a way as to warrant the inviting of adults in the parish.

Section 5: The Parish Youth Council in cooperating with some constituent units may sponsor special conferences for particular purposes. These special conferences would depend on the needs and the conditions in the individual parish and should not in any way interfere with the program or projects of the individual groups.

ARTICLE IX: *Amendments*

Section 1: Amendments to the present Constitution may be voted by a two-thirds of the delegate members of the Parish Youth Council.

Section 2: Any amendments to the Constitution of the Parish Youth Council must have the approval of the Spiritual Director.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT, N. C. W. C.

I. Authorization

At the Bishops' Meeting, held November 13 and 14, 1940, in Washington, D. C., the recommendation of the Administrative Board regarding a Youth Department was approved and the Administrative Board was authorized to establish it. The new Department was created by the Administrative Board of the N.C.W.C. at its regular meeting, on November 15, 1940.

II. The Need

Youth organizations and youth-serving agencies.

are not new. Today, however, the trend in the field is assuming a new direction toward greater coordination of youth work and the unification of youth's forces. The Federal Government has set up the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The activity and the scope of the Children's Bureau and the United States Office of Education have increased. The American Council on Education, through its endowed American Youth Commission, has made extensive studies and recommendations on the problems and needs of youth. There are now existing some 400 national, non-governmental youth or youth-servicing organizations in the United States. The Church must deal methodically with these new trends and organizations, evaluate them, oppose them when necessary, and collaborate with them when desirable.

III. *Status*

The Youth Department is one of the eight Departments in the N.C.W.C. and it functions under the Chairmanship of the Most Reverend John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo, a member of the Administrative Board of the N.C.W.C. Like all Departments within the Conference, it operates as the agency created by the Archbishops and Bishops to serve them in the national field. It executes, under the direction of its Episcopal Chairman, the policies agreed upon by the Bishops.

IV. *Its Purposes*

The youth Department has three main objectives:

- 1) To facilitate the exchange of information regarding the philosophy, organization, program-content and methods of Catholic youth work.
- 2) To promote the National Catholic Youth

Council as the federating agency for all approved Catholic youth groups.

3) To contact and evaluate all national, governmental and non-governmental youth organizations and youth-serving agencies.

V. *Its Functions*

Since the Youth Department is a servicing agency, it must be clear that it is not a youth movement nor a super-authority imposed on existing youth groups or organizations. It does not dominate or control agencies set up by Bishops in individual dioceses, nor does it propose to divert the interests of our Catholic youth from local and diocesan projects to works of national significance.

On the contrary, the Youth Department provides the framework in which coordination of all Catholic youth work can be achieved. It helps Catholic youth leaders and young people better to understand the problems centering about youth; it furnishes information and documentation adequate for the interpretation of youth work both Catholic and non-Catholic, private and governmental, youth-led and adult-sponsored, domestic and foreign. Finally, it develops, under the Hierarchy, the National Catholic Youth Council.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL

I. *Authorization*

The National Catholic Youth Council was initiated by the Administrative Board, N.C.W.C., in April 1937. It was approved at the General Meeting of the Bishops in November 1937.

II. *What is the N.C.Y.C.?*

The N.C.Y.C. is a federation of all existing approved Catholic youth groups in the United States. It was instituted to promote, under ecclesiastical supervision, interchange of information and serv-

ices as well as unity and cooperation. This new development does not necessarily imply changes in existing Councils and organizations, but it does provide a framework whereby such existing Councils and organizations can be unified on a voluntary basis.

The National Catholic Youth Council is so constituted that it leaves unhampered the autonomy and initiative of its affiliated membership and reserves to each Ordinary full authority over the youth of his diocese. Its underlying principle is substantially that on which the National Councils of Men and Women have been developed. On a national scale there is "need for orderly and united action, the opposite of more individualist and separatist action in things that concern the common good of Church and country." (N.C.W.C. Manual)

III. *Relationship between Youth Department and National Catholic Youth Council*

While they are separate and distinct entities, one is the complement of the other. Both are sponsored by the Hierarchy. The Youth Department is the official agency of the Hierarchy in the field of youth work; the N.C.Y.C. is the federation of all existing approved Catholic youth groups. The N.C.Y.C. has its national headquarters in the Youth Department, and is subject to the direct control of the Hierarchy represented by the Episcopal Chairman of the Youth Department.

IV. *Constituent Units of the National Catholic Youth Council*

According to the approved plan, the N.C.Y.C. makes provision for two sections—the Diocesan Section, and the College and University Section. The Diocesan Section is designed to include the respective Diocesan Youth Councils which voluntarily associate themselves with the National organization. The College and University Section makes provision for two national student federations, the National Federation of Catholic College Students and the Newman Club Federation.

The Youth Department, as a part of the National Catholic Welfare Conference works in sincere collaboration with other divisions of the Welfare Conference whose activities touch youth, notably the Youth Committee of the National Council of Catholic Women, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Social Action Department. Each of these have literature and aids most useful to all engaged in Catholic youth work.

I. NCCW Youth Publications. Youth Committee, NCCW,
1312 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D. C.

Youth Leader's Handbook	\$.25
White Book-Policies Standards and Training .....	.10
The Role of Leaders .....	.10
The Whole Youth .....	.05
Eternal Heroines .....	.25
Youth Today and Tomorrow, I .....	.10
Youth Leadership and Catholic Action II .....	.10
Call to Youth III .....	.10
Call to Youth IV .....	.10
Call to Youth V .....	.25

Activity Aids:

The Handcraft Notebook	1.00
The CYC Song Book .....	.25
Parliamentary Procedure .....	.15
Quantity Prices—25c booklets: 50, \$10.00; 100, \$15.00; 200, \$25.00. 10c booklets: 50, \$4.50; 100, \$8.00; 200, \$15.00. 5c booklets: 50, \$2.00; 100, \$3.75; 200, \$7.00.	

II. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

A Holy War for Knowledge (Fr. Cleary) 2 copies .....	.05
Parts I and II The Life of Christ .....	.25
Part III The History of the Apostolic Church .....	.25
Church History Through Biography .....	.30
Ethics of Christianity .....	.30
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass .....	.50
How to Organize and Conduct a Discussion Club .....	.05
Suggestions for Discussion Club Leaders .....	.02

III. The Social Action Department, NCWC, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

CATHOLIC ACTION PROGRAM SERVICE, Per Year \$5.00
(Suggestions for class and club program activities on a different social subject each month. Includes a subscription to CATHOLIC ACTION and to pertinent pamphlet material).

Toward Social Justice .....	.15
The American Labor Movement .....	.10
The Obligation of Catholics to Promote Peace .....	.10
Pope Pius XII and Peace .....	.10
Patriotism, Nationalism and the Brotherhood of Man .....	.10
Citizen, Church and State .....	.10
Making Democracy Work .....	.10
Preparation for Catholic Family Life .....	.30
Rural Catholic Action (Diocesan Director Series No. I) .....	.10

Youth Department, N.C.W.C.
1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C