

ARCHDIOCESE OF BATIMORE



Parish Young Adult Process

**for the Implementation of Objectives of
Goals I & II of the Strategic Plan**

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7/8/2010

Content

| | |
|---|------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Young Adult Meeting with the Pastor / Pastoral Life Director (PLD)..... | 4-5 |
| Parish Process..... | 6-8 |
| Appendix..... | 9-19 |



Introduction:

The [Hispanic Young Adult Strategic Plan](#)¹, launched in October 2010, sets a common vision for Hispanic young adult groups within parish communities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. It serves as an impetus for parishes desiring to begin their young adult initiatives.

It is proposed that each young adult group or parish community complete a parish process reflecting on *Sons and Daughters of the Light* (the USCCB document on young adult ministry) which will end in an Archdiocesan Young Adult Event.

The Archdiocesan event marks the implementation of the objectives of **Goal I / Pastoral de Conjunto** (Communion in mission)² and **Goal II / Liturgy and Prayer Life**³ of the Strategic Plan. The process aims to help young adults foster relationships with parish leadership and build a sense of community among other young adults of the parish. This stems from the Bishop's recognition of young adults' desire to gather with their peer groups with whom they share values and beliefs.⁴

Goal and Purpose of Parish Process:

To have young adults from the entire parish community gather and reflect on the tasks of young adulthood (developing personal identity, relationships, work, and a spiritual life) that the U.S. Bishops have written about in their document, *Sons and Daughters of the Light*. The parish process will culminate in a Archdiocesan young adult event in October 23, 2010 at St. John Evangelist Parish in Columbia, MD.

Proposed Time-line of Parish Implementation:

- Hispanic Young Adult Council meets and gets briefed on process—June 16, 2010
- Young Adults meet with pastors and PLDs to propose parish process—July & August 2010
- Young Adults run parish process—September 2010
- Culmination of parish process at Archdiocesan Young Adult Rally—October 23, 2010

¹ Found at: <http://www.archbalt.org/youngchurch/young-adults/upload/HispPlanENGLISH.pdf>

² To put into practice a collaborative model of ministry that stems from the experience of young adults. This model is developed through communication and participation of the ministers (clergy and lay).

Objective: To promote a dialogue between young adults (Spanish and English speaking) and parish leadership that will foster ownership of the projects and activities of the community.

³ To reflect a model of Church that celebrates the religious traditions of Hispanic young adults, allowing them the expression of their faith in their own language and culture.

Objective: To motivate and support that (with the collaboration of other parish ministries and with the approval of their pastors) Hispanic young adults coordinate and carry out parish-wide events that are bilingual and multi-cultural thus promoting communication and interaction between communities.

⁴United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1996), 36.

Young Adult Meeting with Pastor/PLD

Goals of Pastor/PLD Meeting:

- 1) Young adults initiate a relationship with the Pastor/PLD by officially introducing themselves
 - 2) Young adults share objectives of the Strategic Plan and present the proposed parish process for implementation in the parish
 - 3) Young adults and Pastor/PLD resolve to meet again to follow-up on parish process implementation
-

AGENDA

Introductions Young adults introduce themselves, where they are from, how long they have been in the parish community. Pastor/PLD should have opportunity to do the same.

Who are Young Adults? Young adults share their love of the Church and their desire to contribute to the mission of Christ.

Young adults show short witness video. If video is not available, young adults should share the following key points the video addresses:

- The importance of hospitality that draws young adults to the parish. (What makes young adults feel welcome to the parish?)
- The importance young adults place in being part of the parish community. (Why is it important for young adults to be part of the parish life?)
- A description of specific talents and gifts young adults bring to the parish community. (What are the talents and gifts Hispanic young adults offer the parish-wide community?)

Presentation of Strategic Plan Objectives and Parish Process Young adults give a brief overview of goal I and II of the Strategic Plan and propose implementation of the parish process. Use the following talking points:

- The Archdiocesan Strategic Plan for Hispanic Young Adult Ministry was launched in October 2009. It is a versatile plan inclusive of all young adults.
- Two of the goals can be accomplished by a parish process that will end in an Archdiocesan event for young adults in October 2010.
- The two goals of the Strategic Plan that are covered by the parish process are: **Goal I / Pastoral de Conjunto** (Communion in mission)⁵ and **Goal II / Liturgy and Prayer Life**⁶.

⁵ To put into practice a collaborative model of ministry that stems from the experience of young adults. This model is developed through communication and participation of the ministers (clergy and lay).

Objective: To promote a dialogue between young adults (Spanish and English speaking) and parish leadership that will foster ownership of the projects and activities of the community.

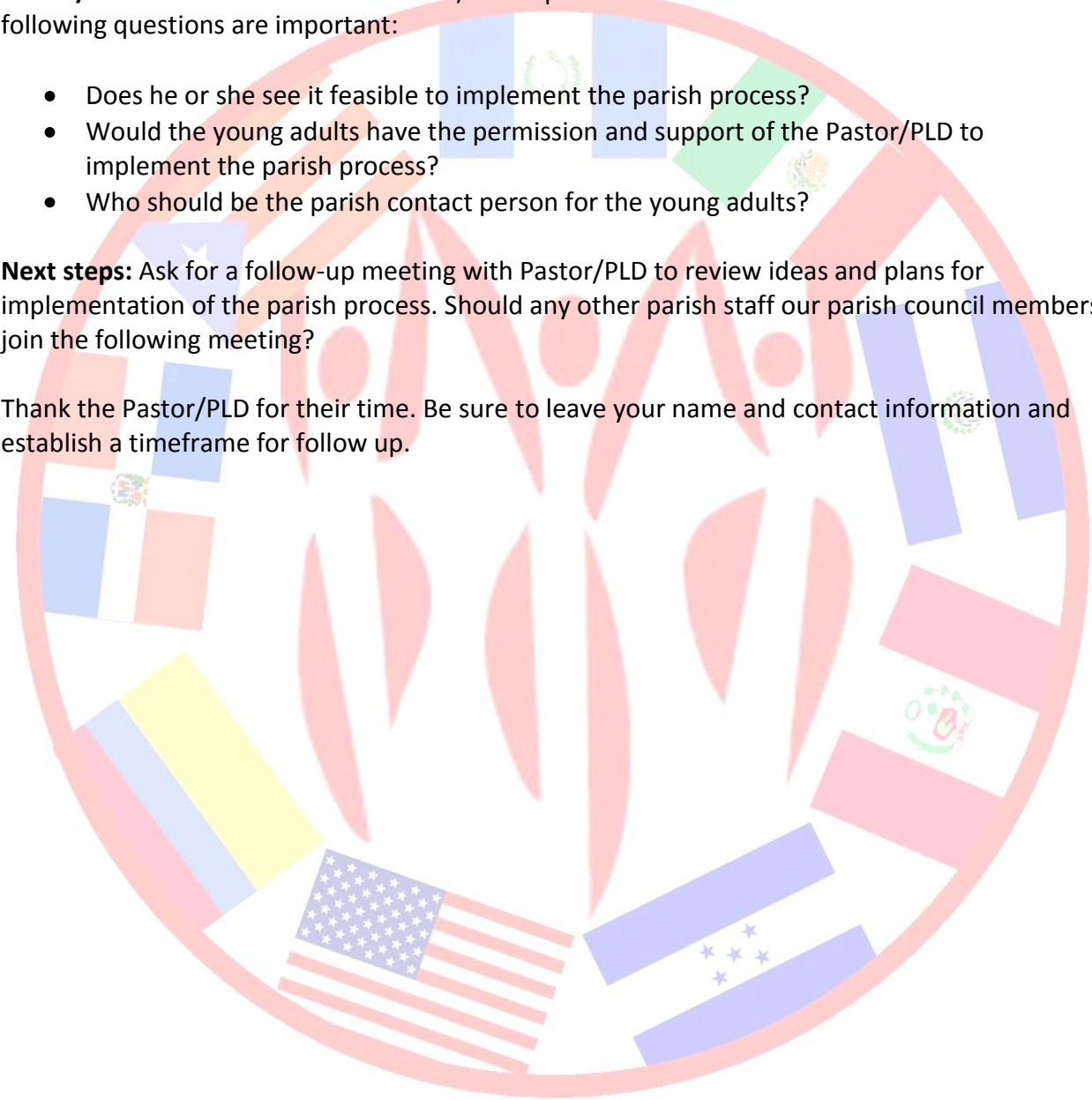
- The parish process aims to help young adults foster relationships with parish leadership and build a sense of community among other young adults of the parish.
- The parish process can be done in two hours with all young adults from the parish (See agenda for parish process. These handouts can be presented to the Pastor/PLD.)

Pastor/PLD feedback Ask for the Pastor/PLD's questions and feedback. Answers to the following questions are important:

- Does he or she see it feasible to implement the parish process?
- Would the young adults have the permission and support of the Pastor/PLD to implement the parish process?
- Who should be the parish contact person for the young adults?

Next steps: Ask for a follow-up meeting with Pastor/PLD to review ideas and plans for implementation of the parish process. Should any other parish staff or parish council members join the following meeting?

Thank the Pastor/PLD for their time. Be sure to leave your name and contact information and establish a timeframe for follow up.



⁶ To reflect a model of Church that celebrates the religious traditions of Hispanic young adults, allowing them the expression of their faith in their own language and culture.

Objective: To motivate and support that (with the collaboration of other parish ministries and with the approval of their pastors) Hispanic young adults coordinate and carry out parish-wide events that are bilingual and multi-cultural thus promoting communication and interaction between communities.

Outline of Parish Process:

The themes to be developed are the four tasks of young adulthood that the U.S. Bishops have grouped into four areas in the document *Sons and Daughters of the Light*: personal identity, relationships, work, and spiritual life.

All four areas can be developed in a two hour gathering but can also be explored in two sessions or gatherings (two themes per session).

Gathering Schedule:

Ice-breaker (15 min.)

Opening prayer (15 min.)

Small group process of four tasks of young adults (*developing personal identity, relationships, meaning work, and the spiritual life*) (30 min.)

Young adult tasks in light of Scripture (25 min.)

Break (5 min.)

Large group plenary / Conclusions (20 min.)

Final prayer (5 min.)



Parish Young Adult Process

Objectives:

- To share and reflect on the four tasks of young adulthood identified by the U.S. Bishops in their document, *Sons & Daughters of the Light*
- To brainstorm ideas at the end of the session to come together more regularly as a young adult community
- To prepare to attend the Archdiocese of Baltimore Young Adult Gathering Event on October 23, 2010

Preliminary Reading: *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, p. 8-15 “Tasks of Young Adulthood.”

Materials need: Process handout, copies of handouts including summary of young adult tasks, questions, and scripture passage, opening and closing prayer, newsprint, markers, pens, paper, and bibles (English and Spanish)

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

Share that the reason for gathering is to come together as a community of young adults. The purpose is to get to know each other better and start building a sense of community among each other.

Ice-Breaker (15 min.) *Not included in packet*

Opening Prayer Based on Good Shepherd (See appendix) (15 min.)

Small Group Process (See appendix, handouts on four tasks of young adulthood) (30 min.)

Divide young adults into small groups. Each group should be given a handout/s of one of the tasks of young adulthood. A small group facilitator should be chosen to read the summary of the “task” aloud or prompt everyone to read it in silence.

After the summary is read (aloud or individually), participants will have two minutes to individually review and answer the questions pertaining to the task. When everyone is finished answering the questions, the small group facilitator will open the dialogue where all participants can share their thoughts. Once each participant shares their thoughts, the group can continue to talk or discuss the questions or the task.

Young Adult Tasks in Light of Scripture (25 min.)

After discussing the questions of the task of young adulthood, each group will read the corresponding passage of the bible assigned to their task.

Identify someone within the group to facilitate and record the discussion. Individually at first and later as a group, the questions pertaining to the passage will be answered.

By the end of the discussion, someone in the group will summarize the group's answers on a piece of newsprint.

Large Group Plenary / Conclusions (10 min.)

Small groups share with each other their views of the tasks they discussed. Each small group will also share about the passage they were given and the wisdom the passage shed on how to live out the task of young adulthood. After all groups have shared, a designated person leads the large group discussion.

Large Group Process (10 min.)

The large group facilitator asks the following questions and jots down answers on a piece of newsprint.

- What did you learn from each other?
- What things did you have in common, in what areas were there differences?
- After learning a little about each other, what might be some activities that can help develop some of the tasks of young adulthood discussed?

After ideas are written down facilitator asks, "From these ideas where is there more interest?"

Once an activity or activities are identified, facilitator should ask who would be interested in helping run such activities. Participants should be notified that they will be contacted in the near future. (Review "Follow-up Ideas" sheet)

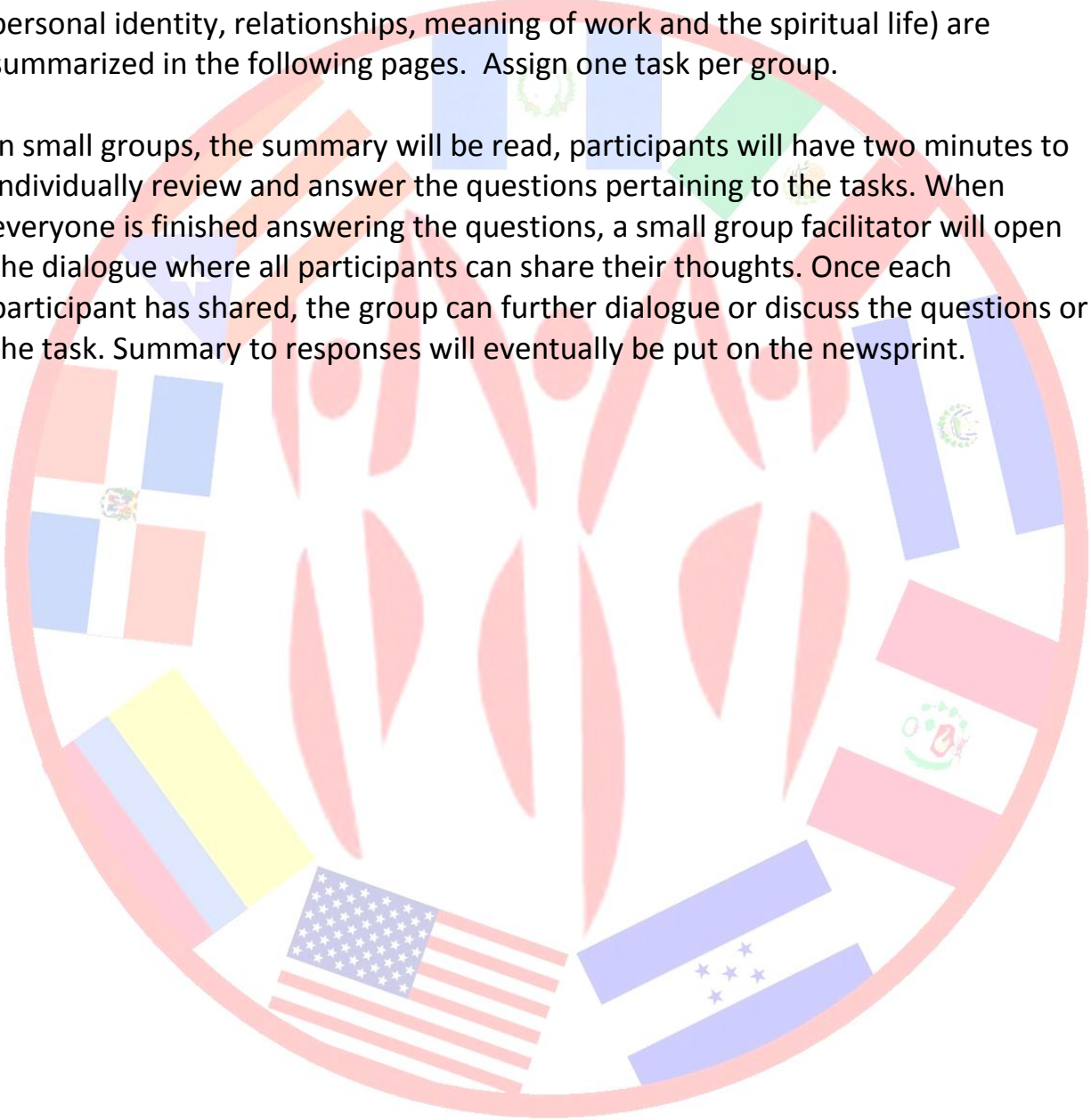
Closing Prayer (See appendix) (5 min.)

Appendix

Handouts on Summary of Tasks of Young Adulthood

There are four “tasks” of young adulthood as presented in the U.S. Bishops’ document, *Sons and Daughters of the Light* (p. 8-15). These (development of personal identity, relationships, meaning of work and the spiritual life) are summarized in the following pages. Assign one task per group.

In small groups, the summary will be read, participants will have two minutes to individually review and answer the questions pertaining to the tasks. When everyone is finished answering the questions, a small group facilitator will open the dialogue where all participants can share their thoughts. Once each participant has shared, the group can further dialogue or discuss the questions or the task. Summary to responses will eventually be put on the newsprint.



Developing Personal Identity

Young adults are constantly developing their Personal Identity. Developing the task of Personal Identity means:

- Discovering the purpose of life and seeking answers to existential questions such as: Who am I? Where am I going? Why am I here?
- New experiences help develop personal identity (e.g. employment, changes in relationships with family, friends, moving from one place to another)
- Acting on personal values that give meaning to life
- Exploring and developing one's ethnicity in multi-cultural environments
- Becoming comfortable with one's culture of origin and understanding its history

Reflection Questions on Developing Personal Identity

1. What experiences in your life have contributed to developing your identity (e.g. employment, changes in relationships with family, friends, moving from one place to another)?
2. How do you describe your culture or your ethnicity?
3. What personal values give meaning to your life?

Developing Personal Identity in Light of Scripture

After having discussed the questions based on the task of young adulthood, read the corresponding passage of the bible assigned to your "task."

Jesus' Identity—Mt. 16: 13-17

1. What might the passage teach us about developing our own identity?
2. Who is Jesus for me? Who do I say that he is?
3. Is Jesus part of your identity? In what ways?

By the end of the discussion, someone in the group will summarize the group's answers on a piece of newsprint.

Developing Relationships

Young adults are constantly developing their relationships. Developing this task means:

- Childhood or adolescent relationships have changed—some have deepened others have faded
- Coming to understand parents, appreciating them as role models or mentors or coming to understand the destructive patterns of behavior that affected childhood and teenage years, or becoming the economic and emotional support for parents
- Single young adults make friends at work, church or other places of recreation (e.g. the gym, sports, etc.)
- Young adults who are married or have children form small communities for support and information
- Some young adults develop friendships with among people of diverse cultures
- Discerning how values and religious beliefs should inform decisions around sexuality
- Discerning a vocation to marriage and finding a suitable partner
- Discerning a vocation to the religious life and going through the process
- For those who are single or called to be single, identifying what gives meaning to life that is different from those who are married or have a religious vocation

Reflection Questions on Developing Relationships

1. What are some of the most important relationships in your life and how have they changed or evolved?
2. How do some of your new relationships positively contribute to your life?
3. What tools in your life do you use or can you use to discern or make the most important decisions in your life (i.e. relationships, discerning vocations, etc.)?

Developing Relationship in Light of Scripture

After having discussed the questions based on the task of young adulthood, read the corresponding passage of the bible assigned to your “task.”

True family of Jesus—Mt 12:46-50

1. How does the Scripture passage challenge our own ideas of who family is?
2. What can we learn from the passage about how to develop our own relationships?
3. How does the passage shed light on the young adult task of developing relationships?

By the end of the discussion, someone in the group will summarize the group's answers on a piece of newsprint.



Developing a Meaning of Work

Work influences a young adult's identity and self-concept. Developing a meaning of work during young adulthood means:

- Work might be a prime place where friendships and other relationships develop
- Work meets practical needs and can cause concern about unemployment or job-related stresses
- Work can give meaning and fulfillment as it can provide an opportunity to spread the Gospel through a specific vocation
- Work includes not only what one does to earn a living and support a family but also countless hours and energy spent volunteering one's time and talent within the social, civic, and church community
- Discerning God's call and making one's life a response to His call

Reflection Questions on *Developing a Meaning of Work*

1. What are the greatest concerns you have about your work?
2. How might you be able to develop meaning in your work?
3. What are the opportunities and challenges exist in the workplace?

Developing Meaning of Work in Light of Scripture

After having discussed the questions based on the task of young adulthood, read the corresponding passage of the bible assigned to your "task."

1 Timothy 4:6-12

1. What can we learn from the passage about how to develop meaning in our work?
2. How does this passage encourage you?
3. How does the passage challenge you?

By the end of the discussion, someone in the group will summarize the group's answers on a piece of newsprint.

Developing a Spiritual Life

Young adults can often experience a tension between the values of society and the desire to live a life according to God's will. Developing a spiritual life means:

- Seeking answers to the questions: "What is the purpose of my life?", "What do I live for?", "What does it mean to be a good person?"
- Asking questions and seeking answers about Church concepts?
- Internalizing and make the faith and religious traditions one's own
- Finding a young adult faith community to pray with and accompany on life's journey
- Developing a stronger relationship with Jesus through different types of prayer experiences

Reflection Questions on Developing a Spiritual Life

1. What does it mean to me to develop a spiritual life?
2. What are some of the opportunities in my life that can aid in developing my spiritual life?
3. What challenges do I face in developing a spiritual life?

Developing a Spiritual Life in Light of Scripture

After discussing the questions based on the task of young adulthood, read the corresponding passage of the bible assigned to your "task."

Acts 2:42-43

1. What can we learn from the passage about how to develop a spiritual life?
2. How does this passage encourage you?
3. How does the passage challenge you?

By the end of the discussion, someone in the group will summarize the group's answers on a piece of newsprint.



Prayer Service for Parish Young Adult Process

“The Good Shepherd Tends His Flock”

Art Print by Alfred Soord

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are the Good Shepherd. Guide as we gather as a community of young adults to demonstrate compassion and care for each other. Tonight we embark on a journey of faith to learn from each other and to discern the ways you have called us to serve you and your Church. May we open our hearts and have the courage to hear your voice as you call us to join together and help build your kingdom here on earth. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel (34:11-16)

For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the stray. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

The Word of the Lord
Response: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: (To be shared in small groups of two or three)

What part of the Scripture passage inspires you the most and gives you hope?
What part of the Scripture passage do you think that young adults, in general, can relate to the most? Why?

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Intercessions:

Leader: Gathered here as the family of God, let us recognize the circles of love and service that are gathered in this church, and call ourselves forth to widen those circles. Our response is Lord, hear our prayer. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI and all of our Bishops and leaders, who walk with us in the family of God with humility and boldness in the name of the Lord. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: We seek to better practice forgiveness so that we might reopen the lines of communication and restore any broken relationships within our community. Empower us Lord to truly and openly forgive each other, we pray. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Open our vision so that we might better see your presence and enjoy your grace in both the familiar faces of family and friends and in the face of the stranger we meet. Let us not forget that you are present in every person, we pray. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Grant us boldness to show others a love that is more generous, a commitment that is easily seen, and faithfulness that is dependable, we pray. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: We remember those who are lost sheep in our society, especially those who are young adults. That we as a parish community can provide intentional outreach to all those struggling to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, we pray. **Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Adapted from A Jubilee Mass For Families: Suggested General Intercessions)

Closing Prayer

Great Shepherd of the sheep, we are your flock, and we bring to you gifts and offerings of our hearts and lives. Be our Shepherd always, and send us faith that we might bring others the message of your love. **Amen.**

Oración Final / Final Prayer

Adapted from *the final prayer, Prophetic Voices, 1986*

Here we are! Present!

O Lord, you are the master of all!
We, the young adults of this parish,
conscious of being a people with
our own identity
born of common and diverse roots,
cultural traditions and
language, and united in our
diversity and faith, we direct this
prayer to you:

Here we are! Present!

Master and Lord of history,
We, your people who experience
hunger and suffering,
Recommit ourselves to a
preferential option for the young
and the poor,
And we rise up in solidarity with
the humanity that suffers
Responding to your invitation on
this day.

Here we are! Present!

Of your creative love we were
born,
we are your family, your faithful
people.

In his moment of grace
We hear your call to take up your
prophetic mission.
We work as a team, participate in
community,
and speak in your name to the
Church and to society.

Here we are! Present!

Walking as one people
And ready to become the authors
of our own history,
We walk with hope in a continuous
process.

Together we contribute to the
coming of the Kingdom of God here
and now,
struggling to establish a new
society whose economy,
relationships, and values are based
on the love and justice of your Son.
In the company of Mary, Mother of
all believers,
we ask that you help us in the task
you have entrusted to us. Amen.

Aquí estamos, ¡presentes!

¡O Señor! Que eres el amo de todo.

Nosotros, jóvenes adultos de esta parroquia,
conscientes de ser un pueblo de identidad propia
nacidos de unas raíces, tradiciones culturales,
y lenguas comunes y diversas y unidos en esta
diversidad y fe

te dirigimos esta oración:

Aquí estamos, ¡presentes!

Amo y Señor de la historia,
nosotros, tu pueblo que experimenta hambre y dolor,
reforzamos nuestra opción preferencial
por los jóvenes y los pobres,
y nos erguimos en solidaridad con la humanidad que
sufre
respondiendo a tu invitación en este día.

Aquí estamos, ¡presentes!

De tu seno creador hemos nacido,
somos tu familia, tu pueblo creyente.

En este momento de gracia
sentimos tu llamado a seguir tu misión profética.
Trabajamos en equipo, participamos en comunidad
y hablamos en nombre tuyo a la Iglesia y a la
sociedad.

Aquí estamos, ¡presentes!

Caminando como pueblo

y dispuestos a ser autores de nuestra propia historia,
caminamos con esperanza en un proceso continuo.
Juntos contribuimos a la venida del reino de Dios
aquí y ahora,

luchando para establecer una nueva sociedad cuya
economía,
relaciones y valores se basan en el amor y la justicia
de tu Hijo. En compañía de María, Madre de los
creyentes,
te pedimos nos ayudes en la tarea que nos confías.
Amén.

Follow-up Ideas Post-Young Adult Gathering

After the Parish Young Adult Gathering is over you want to take concrete steps to move towards accomplishing any ideas that arose from the gathering. This should include at least one official meeting with your Pastor/PLD or parish leaders as a follow- up.

Immediately after the Young Adult Gathering

- 1) Gather names and contact information of all who participated.
- 2) Collect newsprints and type them out in a document in order to present young adult work to Pastor/PLD or parish staff at a later time.
- 3) Write a short note to participants thanking them for their participation. Remind them to save the date for the Archdiocesan Young Adult Gathering Event on **Saturday, October 23, 2010** at **St. John Evangelist Parish in Columbia, MD**. You might want to include a contact name and number for the young adult.
- 4) Schedule a meeting with the Pastor and other key staff members (Youth and Young Adult Minister, young adult contact, associate priest, deacon, or whoever is the parish liaison to young adults) to give them an overview of the Young Adult Gathering and share with them some of the thoughts and ideas that came out of the gathering.

Meeting with Pastor/PLD or parish liaison to young adults

- Thank the Pastor/PLD for the opportunity to have done the Young Adult Gathering at the parish.
- Share with him or her any new insights or thoughts from the Gathering. Use the summary of newsprint to present to the parish leaders.
- What are the new parish activities that the young adults seemed most interested about? Do any of them already exist and can the young adults become active participants in them?
- How can the parish leadership assist the young adults in moving forward with ideas and interests?
- Should the Pastor/PLD ask for a proposal for an idea or activity, use the “Program Planning Template” on page 19 of the Hispanic Young Adult Strategic Plan.

Five weeks prior to Archdiocesan Young Adult Gathering on October 23, 2010

- Decide a time and location to gather and carpool to the Archdiocesan Young Adult Gathering.

- Place announcement into parish bulletin e.g. *“Archdiocesan Young Adult Gathering: Be part of something bigger and represent! **Saturday, October 23, 2010 9AM to 3PM.** Meet at _____ to carpool. For more information contact _____.”*

No less than three weeks prior to the Archdiocesan Young Adult Gathering on October 23, 2010

- Contact participants and encourage them to meet at designated time and place to carpool to event.

