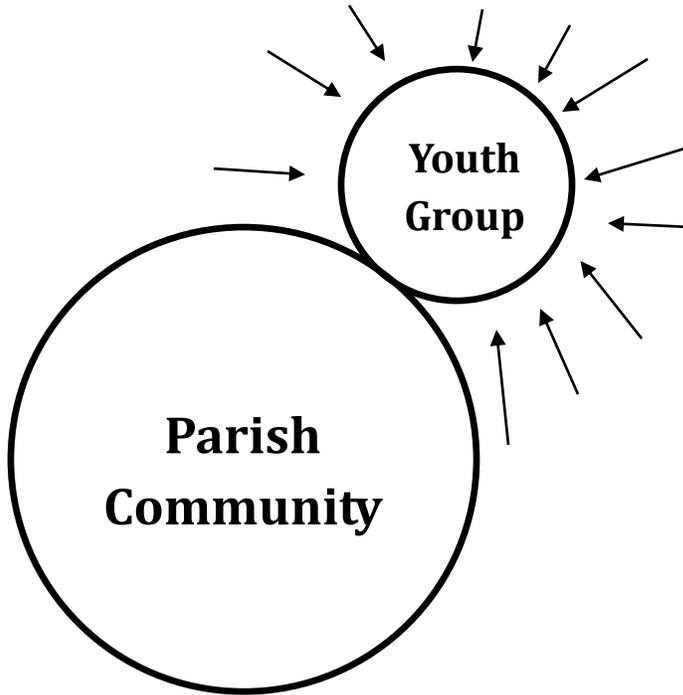


## Group Ministry VS Comprehensive Ministry



### **Group Ministry**

Start with a group and ask other to join.

Assumes:

- That youth needs are similar
- That youth like to join groups
- That youth are available at the same times
- That one or a few adults can meet the needs of the groups



### **Comprehensive Youth Ministry**

Begins with a team of adults and youth formed for ministry.

Assumes:

- That youth have different needs
- That youth like to choose how to be involved
- That youth have hectic schedules
- That many people doing a little can get a lot accomplished
- That young people benefit by having variety of adults to relate to

# Developing a Youth Ministry Mindset

## Older Approaches

- Program is made up of many seemingly unrelated activities without a clear mission or purpose
- It is often unclear what to do in the program that will make a difference in youth's lives.
- The focus is primarily on youth-to-youth relationships
- Children and youth in the congregation are the responsibility of the youth leader, volunteers, and parents
- Parents are only superficially involved in the youth program
- Energy is consumed by reacting to youth problems after they occur.
- The focus is almost exclusively on building the congregation's own youth program
- The youth worker is primarily a program leader, planner and a mentor for the youth in the congregation.

**Focus:** The emphasis is on gathered youth-only programs at the parish, often focused on a single group.

## A Comprehensive Approach

- The comprehensive model helps to integrate diverse activities into a larger framework that is goal directed
- The comprehensive model gives concrete things the congregation can do to make a lasting difference for youth.
- The focus broadens from youth only to building intergenerational community
- Everyone in the congregation recognizes his or her responsibility for children and youth—and his or her power to promote their faith growth.
- Parents are active partners in the youth ministry through family activities at home and in the parish, and through parent education.
- Energy is put into nurturing skills and values that help avoid problems before they start.
- Congregations become committed to cooperating with others in the community.
- The youth minister also serves as a community organizer, networker, and a voice for youth in the community.

**Focus:** The emphasis is on positive youth development and the parish community as a rich resource. There is a variety of approaches and programs to address the needs of the youth and the families.