



# YOUTH Co-leadership Protagonism Initiative

## Empowering Young Protagonists for Mission-Driven Change

### WHAT IS YCOPI?

**Youth Co-leadership Protagonism Initiative (YCOPI)** is a transformative initiative equipping youth to lead **Youth Mission Initiatives (YMI)** in their parishes. Grounded in our partner, [Goodfaith's](#) ministry model and the Gospel call to service, YCOPI fosters protagonism, spiritual formation, and intergenerational collaboration through structured learning, mentorship, and real-world application.

### OUR VISION

YCOPI envisions parish communities where youth and adults grow together as missionary disciples, with youth confidently living their Baptismal Call as protagonists of faith-driven action.

### OUR MISSION

To form youth and adults in missionary discipleship, empowering youth to be agents of change within their faith communities.

### CORE OBJECTIVES

- **Equip youth** to imagine and lead a YOUTH MISSION INITIATIVE (YMI)s in their respective communities.
- **Deepen youth delegates' skills and spirituality**
- **Empower adults** through the skills of accompaniment

### PROGRAM TIMELINE

#### Phase 1: DISCOVERY (July 2026–September 2026)

- Virtual *Orientation and Introductions* (July 23)
- In-person *Discovery and Discernment Immersion Week* (August 1-5)
  - Youth are required to participate for the full week.
  - Accompanying adults are required to participate August 1 and 2.
  - Although the weekend is the only required portion for the accompanying adults, they can choose to stay for the full week. See associated costs further below.
- Virtual *Unpacking the Immersion Week* (September 3)

#### Phase 2: FORMATION (October 2026 – February 2027)

- In-person *Deep Dive Mission Workshop* (October 3)
- Virtual *Catholic Charities of Philadelphia Presentations* (November 5)
- Virtual *Prepping for the "Pastor Pitch"* (December 3)

222 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

[PhillyOMY@archphila.org](mailto:PhillyOMY@archphila.org) | 215.587.3714 | [www.phillyomy.org](http://www.phillyomy.org) |    @PhillyOMY | #PhillyOMY

- Virtual *Individual Consultations* (January 2027)
- In-person *Commissioning* with Archbishop Pérez at the Philadelphia Catholic Youth Conference (PCYC) Closing Mass (February 20, 2027)
  - YCOPI participants will also co-lead elements of the day.

### Phase 3: MISSION (March 2027)

- Youth Mission Initiative (YMI) Kick-offs (March 2027)
- Virtual *Mission Launch Check-in* (April 1, 2027)
- In-person *Presentation Symposium* (June 26, 2027)

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

**Youth Delegates** (Grades 9–11 in 2026-2027 school year)

Characteristics: Spiritual, passionate, team player, compassionate, available, committed.

### Adult Accompaniers

Characteristics: Supportive, creative, empowering, spiritual, flexible, compassionate, *not parish staff*.

### KEY EXPERIENCES & COSTS

\*Participants should plan to cover at least a portion of this cost. Pending additional funding, the Office for Ministry with Youth (OMY) will work to subsidize costs as much as possible.

- In-person *Discovery and Discernment Immersion Week* (August 1-5)
  - Estimated at \$650 for the full week (August 1 to 5)
  - Estimated at \$260 for only the weekend (August 1 to 2)

There are no other costs associated with participation in the 2026 YCOPI Cohort.

\*Although not a requirement, we highly encourage YCOPI participants to **join our Archdiocesan delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)** in Indianapolis at the end of November 2027. It is a transformative experience that can powerfully stir the Holy Spirit, further strengthening the Baptismal Call in each participant. Details will be available in January 2027.

### IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Parishes may nominate 1 to 3 youth. Youth can then select their accompanying adult(s).
- Youth delegates and adult accompaniers are required to participate in all gatherings.
- Each parish will need a Parish Liaison to be the “connecting” resource between the youth/adult team and the pastor and parish. They are not required to attend the formation gatherings.
- **The YCOPI 2026 Cohort is limited to 10 parishes.** Registrations will remain open until all the spots are filled or until June 30, 2026, whichever comes first.

### HOW TO REGISTER

- Complete the [YCOPI Sign Up Form](#). The OMY will then send you the registration forms.

For more details and testimonials, visit the [YCOPI page at PhillyOMY.org](#)

222 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

[PhillyOMY@archphila.org](mailto:PhillyOMY@archphila.org) | 215.587.3714 | [www.phillyomy.org](http://www.phillyomy.org) |    @PhillyOMY | #PhillyOMY