



YOUTH Co-leadership Protagonism Initiative

Empowering Youth Protagonists for Mission-Driven Change



2026 YCOPI Cohort TIMELINE and DETAILS

Phase 1: DISCOVERY (Fall 2026)

- **Virtual *Orientation and Introductions* (September 24, 2026, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - This session is to introduce key concepts, nurture peer relationships, and plant seeds for Youth Mission Initiatives (YMI)
- **In-person *Discovery and Discernment Retreat* (October 3 at 9AM to October 4 at 3PM at the Mother Boniface Spirituality Center in Philadelphia)**
 - An overnight experience that fosters encounter, accompaniment, protagonism, and spiritual imagination, inviting young people to explore the relationship between the Eucharist and their call to mission through prayer, reflection, and community.
 - The experience includes an introduction to the discernment process of St. Ignatius of Loyola, to help cohorts reflect on their unique gifts and deepen their awareness of God's call in their lives.
 - *This is the only experience with a cost to participants *not* to exceed \$100 per person. We will update everyone as we finalize details with our host.

Phase 2: FORMATION (Fall 2026 - Spring 2027)

- **Virtual *Baptismal Call to Action* (November 4, 2026, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - Training in core competencies and skills and exploration of where the Holy Spirit is leading youth to live out their Baptismal Call through reflection on community needs, Catholic Social Teaching and the Works of Mercy to begin developing a Youth Mission Initiative (YMI) idea.
- **In-person *Deep Dive Mission Workshop* (December 5, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Philadelphia)**

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- Day devoted to YMI planning. Youth will reflect on the needs of their communities and receive training in core competencies and skills.
- **Virtual *Catholic Charities of Philadelphia Presentations* (January 6, 2027, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - Introduces Cohort participants to the Catholic Charities of Philadelphia network. Youth will present their YMI and receive feedback and potential resources from a representative of Catholic Charities of Philadelphia.
- **Virtual *Prepping for the “Pastor Pitch”* (January 27, 2027, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - Youth will be guided in preparing a presentation of their YMI to their pastor and parish pastoral staff.
- **Virtual *Individual Consultations* (throughout February 2027)**
 - Youth and adult accompaniers receive individual coaching to prepare them for Pastor Pitch and YMI launch.
- **Virtual *PCYC Prep* (February 11, 2027, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - Youth will be guided in preparing a presentation of their YMI to their pastor and parish pastoral staff.
- **In-person *Commissioning with Archbishop Pérez at the Philadelphia Catholic Youth Conference (PCYC) Closing Mass* (February 20, 2027, 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM)**
 - Celebrate and strengthen the Spirit for mission beyond the formation portion of the “initiative” and commission participants to engage their YMI’s in their parish communities.
 - Cohort participants will also lead presentations and co-lead a service opportunity.

Phase 3: MISSION (Spring 2027)

- **Youth Mission Initiative (YMI) Kick-offs + Immersion Experiences (March 2027)**
 - The youth, with the support of their accompaniers, will launch their YMIs in their respective parishes.
- **Virtual *Mission Launch Check-in* (April 1, 2027, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)**
 - Participants will share their YMI launch experiences, celebrate initial successes, troubleshoot challenges, and receive guidance and support for the next steps as needed.
- **In-person *Presentation Symposium* (June 26, 2027)**
 - Youth will present their YMIs to their families, pastors, parish liaisons, and other parish leaders and organizations to inspire future YCOPI participation and support.

INFORMATION and REGISTRATION

- [Click here](#) for our YCOPI web page or scan the QR code.

