

## The Saint John Bosco Project

The Saint John Bosco Project is an initiative to help parishes and parish clusters grow youth and young adult ministry in their local communities. The basic process of the Saint John Bosco Project is as follows:

1. Initial meeting with pastor and/or pastoral staff explaining St. John Bosco Project.
2. Explain basic process to everyone in the parish (through pulpit announcement and/or letter) and have every adult and young adult in the parish fill out the parish and personal survey/questionnaire (this can be catered to your specific situation). Diocesan representative is available for this. We also recommend soliciting feedback from the youth of the parish as well.
3. Parish staff and other key members within parish (in particular, the PCL) complete 'Internal Parish Assessment' to gauge where the parish stands regarding youth ministry and youth discipleship. Through this, the parish will examine what is currently happening in the parish regarding youth/young adults, how they are being served and being asked to serve.
4. Examine and summarize the findings and desires delineated in the survey/questionnaire and prayerfully consider what can be done to augment and better reach the youth and young adults in the parish.
5. Each ministry will be given a ministry template for measurable goal setting over an 18-24 month period, in particular including youth and young adults in their respective ministries. After the 18-24 month period, the parish should examine how and if the goals were met and, if not, what alterations and additional energies can be brought to bring the goals to fruition.
6. The last part of the process – done simultaneously with the aforementioned -- is for the parish (or parishes) to come up with several specific ways in which each member of the parish community can welcome, invite and spread the Gospel to the youth and young adults in their respective areas – namely, those not attending church but within the boundaries of the parish. These evangelization initiatives are meant to be local and organically organized and implemented, addressing local needs, realities and opportunities. They should be organized in such a way that *everyone* in the parish can participate.

The ultimate goal is to include the *entire parish*. We believe only with total parish participation will any new youth initiative be successful. The above avoids a 'Youth Ministry Committee' approach; but instead a comprehensive and collaborative vision that weaves this focus throughout the consciousness of the entire parish.

We are encouraging all participating parishes to consider a catechesis on St. John Bosco so that this outreach can truly be done with the heart of St. John Bosco. Here are a couple of links to get started:

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/astagnaro/the-magic-and-spirituality-of-st.-john-bosco>

<https://www.donboscoyouth.net/don-bosco.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wrCkvgFVDI>