Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia

Vision and Focus Areas

- Junior and Youth Ministry
- Youth Ministers International
- Catholic Leaders Formation Network

Student
Post School Youth Ministers
Teacher and Church Leaders
Dear Friends in Christ,

The gathering of young adults at school level and their teachers to renew their life in Christ and the Church is a wonderful initiative of CSYMA.

Over the years I’ve seen the CSYMA initiative grow. I am delighted to encourage schools and Catholic organisations to think seriously about introducing the wonderful initiatives that come from the genius of CSYMA.

When young people speak to young people about Jesus Christ and their growing love of the Catholic Church it has a very big impact for conversion in young people’s lives. Also the involvement of their teachers as both sponsor and teacher renews their own personal faith life with Christ.

There are many different programs and initiatives available in our Catholic schools to engender faith and trust in God. However, I do feel that CSYMA is “not just another one.” Its initiative is totally Australian and its leaders continually improve on their presentations from year to year.

Having been personally involved with the CSYMA I have seen great conversions to the Catholic Church and a deeper love of the Catholic Church amongst our young people and teachers. Perhaps this might happen with your school and your staff and students?

I encourage you to read carefully what is involved in this booklet and to think seriously about whether you’d like to respond positively to the initiatives showcased.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p. 1</td>
<td>VISION</td>
<td>Aims, Vision and Focus Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 3</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Youth and Junior Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 7</td>
<td>POST SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTERS</td>
<td>Youth Ministers International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 9</td>
<td>TEACHER AND CHURCH LEADER</td>
<td>Catholic Leaders Formation Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 11</td>
<td>SYSTEM WIDE IMPLEMENTATION</td>
<td>Implementing CSYMA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSYMA
CREATING CENTRES OF THE NEW EVANGELISATION

For more information, visit csymi.com
CSYMA VISION

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA) has a vision to inspire and equip our Catholic Schools to become centres of the New Evangelisation.

CSYMA is a professional teacher-centred organisation networking Catholic secondary schools, staff and organisations with the goal of further empowering staff and students in evangelisation.

CSYMA AIMS

1. To help staff develop and sustain a personal living relationship with Jesus and a strong Catholic identity through on-going formation, discipleship and participation in the life of the Church.
2. To develop a vision for a ministry of evangelisation as teachers, and to be committed to sharing the Gospel of Christ in a school setting.
3. To support the development of School faith based formation programs, including the four-phase Youth Ministry model, family retreats, Christian service programs and staff faith formation.
4. To build bonds of communication and foster solidarity amongst Catholic Schools, though inter-school staff and student formation programs at a local and regional level.
5. To build post-school youth formation pathways.
The vision of CSYMA is international. Over the past four years, CSYMA has undergone expansion in Uganda and England.

International cross-cultural missions to Uganda have resulted in the establishment of Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Uganda (CSYMU), which has spread across the Diocese of Masaka. In 2017, the first East African Teacher Formation Conference was held in Masaka, Uganda. This conference brought together hundreds of teachers and leaders to spend time developing their own personal relationship with Christ, but also provided the opportunity to receive training in Youth Ministry and the four-phase model. The conference sparked passion in leaders from across Africa, including Rwanda, who have begun to implement the program.

The cross-cultural mission team to England in 2017 built relationships with multiple Dioceses. In 2018, another mission team will continue to develop strong relationships with England Dioceses, further exploring the implementation of CSYME.
The Four-Phase Model of Student Formation aims to bring about a significant change in the ‘Catholic Faith Culture’ of students and staff, to orient the culture of the school towards faith and a personal connection with Christ.

The Four Phase model is implemented such that Phases 1 – 3 are implemented in the school, and Phase 4 is implemented within the Broader Church.

For further information on the Four Phase Model of Student Formation or the Youth Academy visit csymi.com/youthministry or see the Youth Ministry Vision Guide.

The CSYMA and ACU Youth Academy provides a formal accreditation in Faith and Ministry for students in Years 11 and 12. Upon completion of the program students are awarded 5 Bonus ATAR Points towards a degree at the ACU and the CSYMA and ACU Faith and Ministry Award.

The Youth Academy aims to fill the need to further form and equip senior Youth Ministry teams within schools and to connect these students to the broader Church community. The Youth Academy Program aims to bring together Phases Three and Four of the CSYMA Four Phase model. The program consists of 4 Modules: with one extension unit.

To register your school for the Youth Academy, visit csymi.com/youthministry
**CSYMA Events**

**CATCH THE WAVE**

Catch the Wave Retreats are for year 8 and 9 students and aim to provide students with a personal encounter with Christ and develop an understanding of the core principles of Youth Ministry.

**SHINE GATHERINGS**

Shine Gatherings are aimed at Year 9 and 10 students. The aim is to empower the students in their ministry by forming them further in their faith and giving them an experience of belonging to the broader Church.

**LEAD CONFERENCES**

LEAD Student Gathering target senior Youth Ministry Teams in Years 11 and 12 and aim to equip them with formation and ministry skills that they will utilise in their ministry. Themes explored through a variety of sessions and praise and worship include finding your identity in Christ, the role of Youth in the New Evangelisation, the Vision for the Youth Ministry team and practical skills and action workshops for the teams.

**SPIRIT RETREATS**

The Spirit Retreat is for students in Years 11 and 12 and forms one Module of the Youth Academy program. The retreat aims to gather young people and provide them with an opportunity to deepen their faith.

**RESOURCES**

CSYMA provides students workbooks, journals, multimedia resources and teaching plans for all the curriculum content as well as video series to supplement the regional student gatherings. These comprehensive resources are all available online to member schools for ease of access. You can also order printed workbooks and prayer journals if your school would like to save time on printing. These online resources include:

- a) Multi-media library of examples of effective youth ministry activities (drama, testimonies etc.) and examples of the implementation within individual schools;
- b) Access to the YMI Youth Ministers
- c) Youth Ministry Team T-shirt design;
- d) Practical Skills in Youth Ministry series;
- e) Catch the Wave program; and
- f) A Curriculum Package.

**STAFF TRAINING**

CSYMA offers staff PD workshops to assist in the implementation of the model and understanding the curriculum, as well as growing Youth Ministry in the school. CSYMA offers other professional development and formation through the Catholic Leaders Formation Network.
Implementation of the Four Phase Model

The Four Phase Model is developed within a school as a year level pathway, with Youth Ministry being an elected unit of study. The Youth Ministry streams are displayed in blue below.

Both the Youth Ministry Streams work alongside each other, where the Youth Ministry Leadership stream covers curriculum content and the Leadership and Mission Stream provides extra-curricular formation and Youth Ministry development.

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS YOUTH MINISTRY PATHWAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREAM</th>
<th>MAINSTREAM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</th>
<th>YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP</th>
<th>LEADERSHIP AND MISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td>TERM 3. Prophets and Saints TERM 4. Call to Action</td>
<td>TERM 3. Introduction to Youth Ministry TERM 4. Call to Action</td>
<td>One day retreat OR Liturgy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PLANS

We understand that each school is different. When you become a CSYMA Member and implement the CSYMA curriculum, we will work with you to design an individual school plan that will strategically develop youth ministry and the faith life of your school or diocese within your context.

If you are interested in implementing Youth Ministry in your school, visit www.csymi.com/membership
The success of the Four Phase model in forming students in secondary schools created the need for a Four Phase Model for primary school students. This brought about CSYMA Junior, which has a vision for drawing primary school students into the CSYMA network and into a personal relationship with Christ whilst connecting Catholic secondary and primary schools implementing models of youth ministry.

Students participate in the Journey with Jesus retreat, continue their formation with the prayer Journal Daily Talks with God and form a Junior Youth Ministry Team. Junior provides the opportunity for secondary students to work and mentor the Junior teams and assist in the facilitation of retreats.

THE MODEL

The Junior Model consists of a Journey with Jesus Retreat, Daily Talks with God religious education resource and the formation of a Junior Youth Ministry team that assists teachers in running school liturgies, leading school prayer and in social justice activities.

Secondary schools may work with the primary school to run the Journey with Jesus Retreat and to provide formation opportunities for the Junior Youth Ministry Team.

If you are interested in implementing CSYMA Junior in your school or would like further information visit www.csymi.com/membership
Post-School Youth Ministers

**YMI VISION**

Youth Ministers International (YMI) is a network that forms, equips and resources post-school youth ministers engaged in a year of mission whilst actively participating in the life of the Catholic Church.

Youth Ministers are engaged in a local placement on a part-time or full-time basis within schools, Church communities or Catholic Education Offices. Youth Ministers support the implementation of the CSYMA Youth Ministry model in schools, develop Parish based youth ministry and build pathways for young people to engage with the broader Church.

ACU accredited Signum Fidei certificates are incorporated within the YMI Formation and Mission Pathway.

**YMI AIMS**

YMI was established with the following aims:

1. To provide a pathway for the engagement of young people into the life and mission of the Catholic Church beyond school.
2. To have trained post-school Youth Ministers who support the CSYMA vision to inspire and equip Catholic schools to become centers of the new evangelisation.
3. To provide ‘peer-to-peer’ ministers who can support teachers and leaders in the implementation of Youth Ministry programs including the Four-Phase Model of Student Formation.
4. To establish a discipleship pathway that incorporates young people from School into the life of the Church.
5. To provide cross-cultural mission opportunities.

**YMI FORMATION AND MISSION COMPONENTS**

Youth Ministers International has three key formation components that support the vision of post-school Youth Ministers. These are:

1. **YMI EQUIPPING SCHOOL**
2. **YMI PROGRAMS**
3. **YMI MISSIONS**
A Formation and Mission Pathway

YMI formation and mission pathway is comprised of the following components over a 12 month period. These formation and mission components provide a structured model of formation, training and ministry involvement that supports communities engaging a post-school Youth Minister.

These formation and mission components include:
1. Training received at the YMI Equipping School,
2. Participation in ongoing formation initiatives including the ACU Signum Fidei Program,
3. Ministry Placements (Parish and School),
4. Conducting regional and national Events throughout the CSYMA Network, and
5. YMI Mission opportunities.

WHAT IS SIGNUM FIDEI?

Signum Fidei is a Catholic Schools and Youth Ministry Program for the faith formation of pre-service teachers and ministry leaders in realising the aspirations of the New Evangelisation so as to be prepared to teach or be a youth minister in a Catholic school. Through the YMI Equipping School and ongoing YMI Programs, ACU offers the Signum Fidei Program as formal accreditation for youth ministers and leaders in the broader Church. The face-to-face component of Signum Fidei is completed at the YMI Equipping School. Youth Ministers will be awarded a Certificate upon successful completion of each Module.
The Catholic Leaders Formation Network (CLFN) is a professional formation network of leaders in Catholic schools, Parishes and Ministries engaged in evangelisation (of youth, young adults and adults). The CLFN is run through a partnership between CSYMA and the ACU La Salle Academy.

The works of the CLFN centre around three main professional development areas; renewing faith through retreats, forming leaders and providing opportunities for further leadership development and ministry through the Catholic Leaders Groups Catholic teachers and leaders. Teachers and leaders who are members of the CLFN can choose to participate and utilise any of the aspects of the Network they would like.

1. RETREATS

CLFN members have access to Porta Fidei Retreats and Spirit Retreats run by CSYMA across the country, as well as the ability for appropriate staff to work with CSYMA to run their own Porta Fidei retreats for their School, Parish or Movement.

“A much needed reminder to keep building my relationship with Christ”

2. FORMATION

The CLFN has access to ongoing formation through:

**Weekly Formation and Prayer Resources**

These resources can be used for staff prayer and include scripture, reflection and discussion questions.

**Forming Leaders Series**

The Forming Leaders Series is an ongoing small group program that consists of the Porta Fidei retreat and two video formation programs - Growing Disciples and Missionary Leaders Formation Programs. The series are aimed at different levels of staff and ministry leaders’ formation.

**ACU La Salle Academy Accredited Programs**

CSYMA runs two programs in collaboration with the ACU La Salle Academy, these are the Graduate Certificate in Education: Leading the New Evangelisation AND Signum Fidei

**Catholic Leaders Formation Symposium**

This biannual conference is an opportunity for formation, networking and development.

**Catholic Leaders Formation Journal**

Published annually, the CLFN Journal contains formation articles and academic pieces as well as articles about the works of CSYMA.
3. LEADERS GROUPS

Leadership opportunities are available through the CLFN. Members of the network can be invited into Leaders Groups through the completion of CLFN Formation Programs or equivalent programs within the broader Church.

The Leaders Groups is an ongoing professional network of Catholic leaders involved in the Evangelisation of youth and adults. It helps achieve the aims of the CLFN including acknowledging the contribution of the leader, and providing a vehicle for ongoing support, and development of skills and capacities for emerging and current ministry leaders.

Members of the Leaders Groups commit to:
- sustaining a personal living relationship with Jesus through daily prayer, discipleship and participation in the life of the Catholic Church;
- being active in ministry and the mission of the Catholic Church;
- participating in a Leadership Group focussed on prayer, sharing and professional support, and supporting where possible the conducting of CLFN Programs (e.g., Porta Fidei and Forming Leaders Series).

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION: LNE

The partnership between CSYMA and the ACU La Salle Academy has resulted in the development of The Graduate Certificate in Education: Leading the New Evangelisation (GCLNE) launched in 2017. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

“This is a vital course in ensuring that our schools become a place where the message of the Gospel pervades all areas of the curriculum and school life…”

“It was genuine. It was deep and it had a lot of meaning. It was a safe space.”

If you are interested in the Graduate Certificate in Education: Leading the New Evangelisation, contact peter.woods@acu.edu.au

For further information about the Catholic Leaders Formation Network visit www.csymi.com/catholicleadersformationnetwork
CSYMA’s Youth Ministry, Youth Ministers International network and the Catholic Leaders Formation Network together all form a comprehensive approach to evangelisation. Diocese around the country have chosen to implement all three CSYMA programs system-wide, or across all Catholic schools within their Diocese.

By implementing CSYMA system wide, Diocese are able to gain the full benefits of the model and engage in an effective New Evangelisation strategy. Teachers receive personal formation and are equipped in leadership and evangelisation skills to implement Youth Ministry within their schools. Students are themselves build a personal relationship with Christ, both through their relationships with teachers but also through the retreats, curriculum and junior ministry teams. After school, students may elect to participate in the Youth Ministers International network, where they receive more formation and training and can minister to students themselves.

Each Diocese may roll out the three CSYMA programs in a different manner, and CSYMA will work extensively to create a plan that fits into the strategic direction of the Diocese. Read about the benefits and success that CSYMA has in Diocese that implement the model system-wide.

“Over the past 12 months our Archdiocese in Canberra Goulburn has been involved in a system wide implementation of the CSYMA 4 phase model. It has seen a new level of connection between our parishes and schools in the mission of evangelisation. It has been a great framework to use in engaging our students into the life and mission of the Church. The power of peer to peer witness across our school system and the intentional employment and role of Youth Ministers both in their school and their parish has seen amazing fruit.

Another great dimension of the CSYMA model has been the focus on staff formation and the opportunity for many of our staff to engage in Porta Fidei retreats and in the exciting new course offered at ACU which is focused on Leading the New Evangelisation. We are very blessed and grateful for the fruit from last year’s endeavours and are excited about the growth and continued development we will see this year and in the years to come. CSYMA model has been a real gift to the Church and our Catholic Education system here in Australia.”

Nathan Galea, Catholic Education Canberra and Goulburn

If you are interested in implementing system-wide, please visit csymi.com/membership
If you asked me 5 years ago if I would work as a Catholic youth minister, there is no way on earth I could have believed you. It is so insanely surreal and crazy to see how much my life has changed and flourished in such a short period of time.

Growing up, my family were atheists and so I never understood first hand what having a faith and a relationship with God was like. To put it simply, I thought God was irrelevant in my life.

High School was a massive turning point for me. There’s no denying that I struggled with my identity whilst trying to fit in and make new friends in this unfamiliar environment. But despite these blurred lines I still had this desire to be more and to ultimately have meaning. It was through joining CSYMA in year 9 where I found my identity. Through being apart of CSYMA, I was most definitely pushed out of my comfort zone, I was challenged in my thoughts and actions. But despite all of this I undoubtedly grew in an understanding of myself, God, and my place in the world.

It’s been so awesome to be working back at Mount St Patrick College, Murwillumbah, the place which changed my life for the better!! Journeying with students and nurturing their faith this year has undoubtedly been challenging at times, but so rewarding as well. It has been a blessing being a Youth Minister as I have been able to continue my faith journey where it all began.

God has unveiled so many incredible opportunities for me and has taken me on this crazy journey. Just recently I got the opportunity to travel to Uganda with CSYMA on mission. This was the most awe inspiring experience of my life where I was blessed to immerse myself in a beautiful country and encounter so many people who have changed my life. This opportunity further deepened my love of Jesus as I encountered people who had been faced with unimaginable challenges, but were so fulfilled and content by the love they have for God.

If I could summarise one thing I have learnt from my journey through youth ministry, it would be that despite all the chaos in our lives and in the world that surrounds us, there is peace that exists with having a relationship with Jesus.
Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia

csymi.com

Junior and Youth Ministry
Student

Youth Ministers International
Post School Youth Ministers

Catholic Leaders Formation Network
Teacher and Church Leaders

Creating Centres of the New Evangelisation.
(C) CSYMA 2018.