

PRACTICE OF MINISTRY WITH YOUTH AND YOUTH ADULTS

July 16—August 2, 2018, Monday—Thursday 8:45 AM—11:45 AM

Ministry is most effective when it is mindful of its social and cultural setting. This course helps students recognize the cultural influences in their settings and the developmental capacities of youth and young adults. It also asks them to think theologically about their hopes for this age demographic. By using cultural analysis, developmental theory, and theological reflection this course investigates how best to understand and minister to youth and young adults. It suggests mentoring communities as a ministerial framework; they are settings wherein robust relationships may form and communities can articulate and embody faithfulness.

PRE-COURSE WORK

Read: *Young Catholic America: Emerging Adults In, Out of, and Gone from the Church*. Especially chapters 1, 3, and 4.

Write: Short paper (3 pages/750-1000 words) due first day of class: The Religious Landscape (20% of final grade)

Looking to NSYR study reported on in *Young Catholic America*, choose one idea or finding you find helpful to make sense of your context of ministry.

- Name one insight or perspective from the study that helps you make sense of dynamics affecting your setting.
- Analyze your setting in light of that insight(s).
- Suggest how this insight might help you understand or approach your ministry in your setting.

REQUIRED READING

Parks, Sharon Daloz. *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Emerging Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011. Earlier 2000 edition also acceptable.

Edie, Fred P. *Book, Bath, Table, and Time: Christian Worship as Source and Resource for Youth Ministry*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2007.

Smith, Christian, Kyle Longest, Jonathan Hill, and Kari Christoffersen. *Young Catholic America: Emerging Adults In, Out of, and Gone from the Church*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

All other reading available on *Canvas*.

BOSTON COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

SUMMER AT STM 2018

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Dr. O'Keefe has been teaching in the area of youth and young adult faith, assisting ministerial and educational leaders in that field to read the context of contemporary culture and analyze its impact on their constituencies. Drawing from multiple disciplines her intent is to unpack the complexity of the ministerial setting so that educational and ministerial efforts may be more effectively constructed to enrich the lives of youth and young adults. These areas of study and teaching are informed by her years of service in Catholic schools, parishes, and dioceses across the northeast United States. Dr. O'Keefe currently has a book in press with Paulist Press on a theology of ministry with adolescents and young adults.

EDUCATION

B.A., Religious Studies, University of Toronto
M.Ed., Religious Education, Boston College
Ph.D. Theology and Education, Boston College

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