2020 Young Leaders Initiative

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What is the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG)?

- An annual event in Washington, DC organized through the partnership of 16 national Catholic organizations.
- Rooted in the Sacraments, the Word of God and the Church’s living Catholic social tradition, the gathering builds solidarity, knowledge, and skills among Catholics involved in social ministry. When we gather as one, we animate the Church’s social mission for evangelization in the world.

What is the Young Leaders Initiative (YLI)?

The Young Leaders Initiative invites the participation of colleges and universities in the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering. The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering is a unique opportunity for students to:

- Meet national Catholic social ministry and advocacy leaders.
- Build knowledge of current Catholic social ministry priorities and initiatives.
- Develop advocacy skills to empower students to call for positive change.
- Voice concerns with legislators on issues of human life and dignity in the U.S. and internationally.
- Discover new ways of growth in faith, studies, and future work through Catholic social ministry and advocacy.

Universities and colleges play a vital role in the formation and education of young leaders. We invite institutions and students to participate in this unique and valuable leadership development opportunity.

Past Attendees:

- Australian Catholic University
- Cabrini College (PA)
- The Catholic University of America (DC)
- Chaminade University (HI)
- Clark University (MA)
- College of the Holy Cross (MA)
- College of St. Benedict/St. John's (MN)
- College of St. Scholastica (MN)
- Creighton University (NE)
- Dominican University (IL)
- George Washington U. (DC)
- Georgetown University (DC)
- Kent State University (OH)
- Lewis University (IL)
- Louisiana State University (LA)
- Loyola University New Orleans (LA)
- Loyola House – Clark Atlanta University
- Morehouse College (GA)
- Spelman College (GA)
- Marquette University (WI)
- Maryland Institute College of Art Modesto Junior College (CA)
- Mount St. Mary (MD)
- The Ohio State University
- Our Lady of the Lake College (LA) Purdue University (IN)
- Seton Hall University (NJ)
- Southeastern Louisiana University (LA)
- St. John's University (NY)
- St. Mary’s University (TX)
- Trinity Washington University (DC)
- University of Dayton (OH)
- University of Georgia
- University of Maryland-College Park
- University of Missouri
- University of California-Merced
- University of Notre Dame (IN)
- The University of St. Thomas (MN)
- Xavier University (LA)
Who organizes participation in CSMG-YLI?

Universities and colleges designate a campus coordinator who arranges registration, travel, accommodation and all related funding for their group. Campus coordinators invite participation from a select group of student leaders who have demonstrated interest in Catholic social teaching and ministry (usually 2 to 6 student leaders.)

Since our Church is strengthened and enriched by great diversity, the student selection process is an important opportunity for campus coordinators to identify and foster leaders of diverse cultures and abilities. While CSMG does not require the coordinator to attend, we strongly encourage a member of staff (or graduate assistant) with pertinent experience to accompany undergraduate students.

How will students benefit from CSMG-YLI?

CSMG provides students an opportunity to integrate faith, education, and action in pursuit of a better world. During the three-day gathering, students join a community of professional, dedicated Catholic social ministry and advocacy leaders in their annual gathering to pray, learn, network and advocate for change. The experience has proven transformative for students who have attended in the past, influencing their continuing education and even career choices. Meeting leaders in the field opens doors for future contacts, internships and possible employment. Students can then implement programming on campus which further engage students in justice and peace ministries. Opportunities for follow-up, reflection and action back on campus will include national legislative advocacy in students’ home districts, and participation in local Catholic advocacy programs.

How are CSMG-YLI participants funded?

Coordinators are asked to seek resources on campus allowing students to participate in this unique formative, educational, and professional experience. Possible sources of funding include student affairs, student government, campus ministry or Newman centers, academic departments, experiential or service learning programs, faith and justice centers, and sponsoring religious communities. Campus coordinators need to secure funding from their institution by the time participation forms are submitted (November 21, 2019 deadline) to ensure that registration can be completed by December 31, 2019 and accommodation and travel can be arranged at the most affordable rates.
Suggested Timeline for Participation

Now
- Consider how CSMG can form students on campus for leadership.
- Investigate funding options. Identify others who might want to help.
- The 2020 CSMG will focus on building bridges across ministry areas, and takes place immediately following annual pro-life events. Those working on anti-poverty programs might invite their colleagues working on pro-life programs to collaborate.

Through Fall 2019
- Submit the YLI Interest Form by November 1, 2019 (see form online) to indicate your intent to join us.
- Select student participants (ideally from 2 to 6 students, and with even numbers of men and women students so that rooms can be shared to reduce cost
- Begin preparatory meetings. Use this sample agenda if helpful:
  - Determine if a staff person will accompany students to CSMG.
- Look out for an e-mail from CSMG staff confirming participation in YLI and inviting your group to register. Complete online registration for CSMG by December 31, 2019. It is important that you not register until you have received confirmation of participation and instructions from CSMG staff.*
- Complete hotel accommodation and travel arrangements before the close of the Gathering’s discounted hotel room rate in January (watch for announcement of date on the CSMG web page.)
- Take advantage of informative resources and opportunities to prepare those attending the Gathering.

January 2020
- Attend CSMG (Jan. 25-28) in Washington, DC

February – May 2020
- Bring the experience back to campus!
Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Collaborating Organizations:

- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Climate Covenant
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas
- Catholic Labor Network
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Mobilizing Network
- The Conference of Major Superiors of Men Ladies of Charity, USA
- National Association of Black Catholic Administrators
- National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- National Catholic Rural Life Conference

National Council of Catholic Women
Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Department of Justice Peace and Human Development
- Office of Cultural Diversity
- Department of Catholic Education
- Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
- Department of Migration and Refugee Services

CSMG 2020 Young Leaders Initiative Team:

**Co-Chair:** Samantha Kennedy, University of Dayton, Campus Ministry

**Co-Chair:** Emily Schumacher-Novak, USCCB Dept. of Justice, Peace and Human Development

Barbara McCrabb, USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education

Danielle Roberts, Catholic Relief Services University Engagement

Alyssa Beasley, Creighton University, Center for Social Justice

Fr. Etido Jerome, Xavier University of Louisiana, Campus Ministry

Lindsay McDermott, Fellowship of Catholic University Students

Victoria O'Keefe, St. John's University (NY), Residence Minister for Social Justice Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP, Director of Campus Ministry, Catholic Center at Purdue

*For further information, visit [www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org](http://www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org).*