



Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults (2024)

A Quick Overview of the USCCB Framework Document

Preface Letter, *written directly to youth and young adults*

- The U.S. bishops renew their commitment to pray for and accompany young people.
- “Christ is alive in you... Do not lose hope... You always have a home in the Lord’s house.”

Introduction, *written to pastoral ministry leaders and families*

- The overarching framework is grounded in the biblical story of Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35)
- “We offer this national pastoral framework as a summons” to renew ministry efforts, which begins with families and in the home, “the first place of accompaniment”

“The Catholic Church is called to imitate Christ as she encounters and engages each new generation: to listen, teach, and send every young person in the name of Jesus.”

Part One: Listening

- *Encountering young people* being near to them and be empathetic to their situation
- *Being fully present* accompanying through youth and young adult life transitions
- *Understanding across generations* recognizing their uniqueness and truly hear their stories
- *Healing brokenness* building trust and offering pastoral care, support, and advocacy

Part Two: Teaching

- *Proclaiming Jesus Christ* inviting young people into a kerygmatic encounter with the Lord
- *An evangelizing catechesis* drawing them closer to Christ with heartfelt dynamic formation
- *Sharing the truth in love* guiding them through challenges with humility, clarity, and charity
- *Renewing sacramental life* facilitating sacred experiences of faith in prayer and worship

Part Three: Sending

- *Bold evangelizing witnesses* encouraging youth and young adults to share their faith
- *With charity and justice* equipping them for service and social action in the world
- *Vocational discernment* supporting them as they receive and respond to God’s call
- *Faithful protagonists today* empowering young people as leaders in Church and society

Conclusion

- Each of us was once listened to, taught, and sent forth in our own youth and young adulthood.
- The U.S. Bishops pray for investment and movement in these pastoral ministries and in families, journeying together in a synodal style of *pastoral de conjunto* (one shared mission).

“In writing this framework, we look to local faith communities to apply these broad directives (listen-teach-send) to their specific situation through careful reflection, discernment, and active planning. This simple triptych can be unpacked in ways that respond to the specific realities being experienced by youth and young adults in every community across the country.”