

In the Service of Life and Dignity Toolkit Guide

Suggested Model for Implementing Resources

The following guide is designed to assist youth ministers and teachers in the implementation of the *In the Service of Life and Dignity Toolkit*.

1. Gifts Discernment Guide

Guide youth through the completion of the *Gifts Discernment Guide* and accompanying reflection questions.

2. Parable of Good Samaritan and Vulnerable Population Inventory

After youth have completed and reflected on the results of their *Gifts Discernment Guide*, introduce *The Samaritan Journey*. *The Samaritan Journey* has been created so that youth walk while prayerfully listening to and reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Walking is an added element to help youth enter more fully into the story. If it is not possible to complete the activity while walking, youth can still prayerfully listen and reflect.

After youth complete and debrief *The Samaritan Journey*, the youth minister or teacher will transition to the *Vulnerable Populations Inventory*. It may be helpful to frame the inventory as follows:

Having prayed with the Parable of the Good Samaritan and reflected on the meaning of love of neighbor, particularly those who are most vulnerable, you are now going to have an opportunity to consider who God may be calling you to serve. There are many types of vulnerability that are identified in the story of the Good Samaritan, and many more that we identify in the world around us. Today, we will take some time to discuss these many definitions of vulnerability.

In the intervening time between the completion of the *Vulnerable Populations Inventory* and the creation of an action plan, encourage youth to spend time educating themselves further about the population to which God drew their attention and praying for those experiencing this form of vulnerability. Challenge youth to “listen” to the particular population as much as possible, seeking to understand their experiences, perspectives, and points of view with the desire to see them through God’s eyes.

3. Developing an Action Plan

Guide youth through the prayerful development of an action plan, putting into practice the new insights they’ve received about themselves and who they may be called to serve.

Remind youth that an action plan should provide specific steps that youth can take, either individually or as a group, that would serve one or more of these vulnerable populations. You may encourage youth to think outside the box, and to use the “Two Feet of Love in Action” (see “Helpful Resources”) to think creatively about action related to charity and/or justice.

Helpful Resources

Youth ministers or teachers may find the following resources helpful in preparing to lead this activity:

Three-part blog series, “Engaging Pastoral Creativity” by Megan Shepherd

- Part 1: [“Engaging Pastoral Creativity: Pray, Reflect, Identify”](#)
- Part 2: [“Engaging Pastoral Creativity: Listen and Ponder”](#)
- Part 3: [“Engaging Pastoral Creativity: Respond and Reflect”](#)

[Two Feet of Love in Action](#), USCCB