

The logo is a circular emblem with a light green background. It features a white cross in the center, a white dove with its wings spread to the right, and the letters 'S' and 'M' in a large, white, serif font. The words 'Young Adult Ministry' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font along the bottom inner edge of the circle.

Tips for Launching & Building a Successful Young Adult Ministry

St. Martin of Tours Young Adult
Core Team

Top Ten Tips for a Successful YAM

1. Get support of parish priests
2. Develop a strong, diverse leadership team
3. Be welcoming and engaging
4. Be visible
5. Create signature events
6. Connect intentionally with the parish
7. Create a budget and ask for money
8. Avoid burnout
9. Work with other YA groups
10. Trust God with successes, setback and surprises

Get support of your parish priests

- Priests can help you get your group off the ground or grow an existing group
- They will help you promote events and allow you to make announcements at mass or advertise your events in the parish bulletin and/or website
- You'll need the support of priests if you will be requesting parish funds for your events
- They can help you with your events – early on we had our pastor as a speaker for a discussion night (“Stump the Pastor”) and our priests host an annual dinner for us in the rectory
- Support goes both ways



Develop a Strong, Diverse Core Team

- Difficult for 1 person to run and maintain
- Starting small (2-3 people) is okay, try to add 2-3 additional people each year...if someone steps down you'll still be okay
- Commit to a monthly meetings to plan upcoming events
- Take turns leading/co-leading events and have a back-up for each event
- Create roles and divide responsibilities based on talents and interests
- Develop a vision and mission statement

Important Core Team Roles

- **Promotion/advertising:** email blasts, FB posts, flyers, bulletin board, parish weekly bulletin & website, mass announcements
- **Secretary:** books rooms, monthly meeting agenda and minutes
- **Membership:** sign-in sheet at events, adds new members to our email group, etc.
- **Photography/Videography:** takes photos (videos) at events
- **Finance/Treasurer:** keeps track of budget, collects and submits reimbursement forms, prepares annual budget request
- **Parish Liaison:** main point person between our group and the parish/priests
- **Website/IT:** develops and maintains our website, keeps website current with upcoming events, posts photos of past events
- **Major event leads:** Service events, Monthly hikes, Monthly Tennis, Holy Hour Happy Hour, Movie Nights, Camping trip, etc.

Be welcoming & engaging

- Sounds obvious, but make a conscience effort to greet people attending for the first time
- Have time for fellowship at events
- Core Team members should scatter during events and talk to first-timers
- Have an annual “Meet & Greet” type event

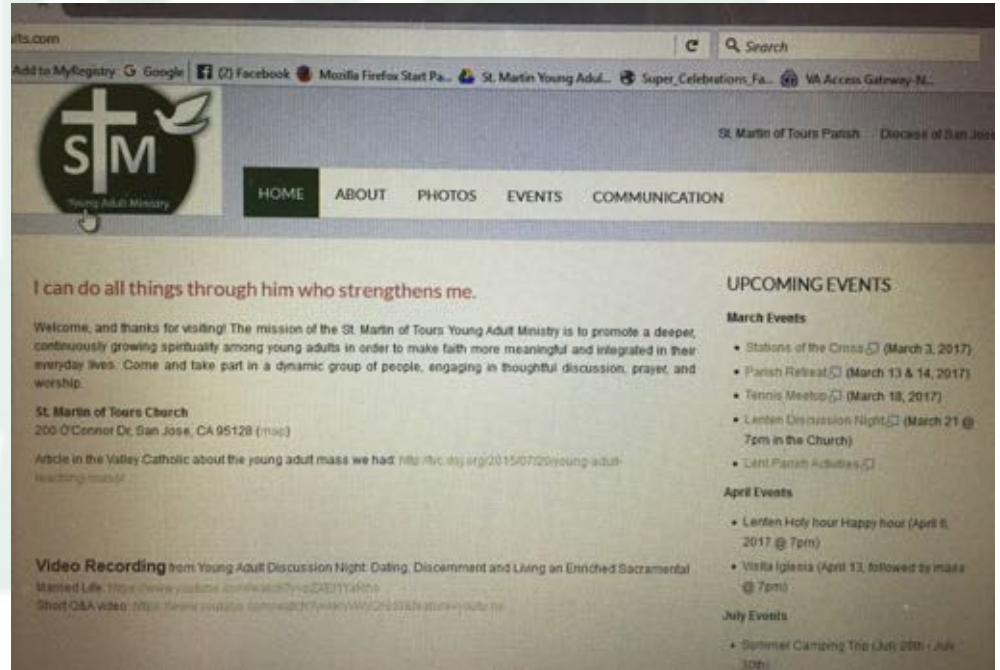


Be Visible

- Promote events in multiple venues: Facebook, email group, do live mass announcements, parish bulletin & website, set up own website or have a dedicated page on the parish website, bulletin board
- Keep your info updated & current!
- Branding: create a logo, print a banner, make shirts or other fun items (water bottles)
- Write-up major events for the Valley Catholic and submit photos of your events for parish bulletin
- Advertise your large events throughout the diocese (at other parishes, Pure Fire, re:Sound, etc)
- Host some events for the entire parish



Talk on "The Sacrament of Marriage" | The Valley Catholic News
 Home Youth & Young Adult Ministry Talk on "The Sacrament of Marriage"
 Local Youth & Young Adult Ministry Talk on "The Sacrament of Marriage" By The...
 THE VALLEY CATHOLIC NEWS



Create Signature Events

- Have a good mix of event types:
 - Spiritual: Discussion Nights, Mass & Dinner, Holy Hour Happy Hour
 - Social: Movie Nights, Game nights
 - Athletic: monthly Tennis
 - Service: Casa de Clara, Village House shelter
- Have a few unique events:
 - End of Summer Beach Bonfire
 - Visita Iglesia/Seven Churches Visitation
 - Meet + Greet + Eat with the Priests
 - Friendsgiving
- Plan a mix of quarterly, monthly and annual events
- Get feedback on what events people liked the best
- Ask for input/suggestions and try at least one new event each year
 - Last year we did our first camping trip and it was a success!



Connect with the parish

- Will increase your visibility and your parish needs you!
- Plan events for the entire parish community
- Soon the priests and parish staff will be coming to you asking for help and to lead events
- In the beginning: Pet Blessing, Visita Iglesia, Teaching Mass
- Before long: Lenten Stations of the Cross, assist with receptions after Christmas & Easter masses, liturgical ministers, Village House Shelter and this year we were asked to organize a two-day Parish Lenten Retreat



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
HOSTED BY
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



PHOTO BY: OLIVER OBUSAN



Create a Budget & Ask for Money

- Early on you probably won't have a big budget so plan accordingly
- Put a donation box out at your events (especially for your parish events, we collect \$100+ at our Annual Pet Blessing)
- Get whatever supplies you can from the parish (plastic tablecloths, paper products, etc.)
- Keep track of all your events and expenses
- Submit a budget request to your parish finance committee
- Consider fundraising



Avoid Burnout

- Spread the work among Core Team members
- Try to schedule events when as many Core Team members are available as possible so the lead can delegate tasks
- Have a kick-off meeting at beginning of year to map out events for entire year
- Have a least one fun team building event for Core Team each year

Work with other Young Adult Groups

- Co-host/co-sponsor an event with another YAM
- You will learn from each other
- Offer to advertise their big events and ask them to help advertise your big events



Trust God

- As your group grows, you will have moments that exceed your expectations, and also moments of discouragement
- There will be surprises, setbacks and difficult situations you may have to deal with
- When those happen gather as a team, pray together, work out a path forward and then look to God to keep working in and through your YAM
- Keep learning and growing together and supporting each other

Do's and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
* Begin and end each meeting in prayer	* Don't schedule more events than your team can support
* Invite people to join your planning team	* Don't allow just anyone to join your planning team **
* Try to have a diverse team, male and female	* Have only one dating couple run everything.
* Dedicate someone to promoting your events	* Don't let one person do everything
* Be comfortable with silence until someone volunteers for a role	* Don't pressure people into taking roles

Do's and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
* Ask for money from your parish	* Don't request way more money than you will use.
* Track spending and event attendance	* Don't request money for a big event and then fail to advertise the event.
* Have a sign in sheet at events for people to join your email list	* Don't pressure people to sign the sheet if they don't want to be on your email list
* Send out a monthly email detailing your events, include other events in the area for YA, or other parish events	* Don't let ppl see all the other emails. Create a list serve or BCC. Only email people who signed up for your emails.
* Reach out and welcome new people at your events	* Don't be a clique


Do's and Don'ts

DO

- * Agree on the next meeting date so majority of people can make it. Pick the next date at the end of each meeting.**
- * Think about other YA events in the area when picking dates for your larger events**
- * Try to host a variety of events (service, fun, active, discussions)**
- * Dedicate a person or 2 to each type of event you host. (primary and backup)**

DON'T

- * Don't set a fixed date each month for meetings. (Although a consistent day of the week and time is helpful)**
- * Don't get anxious about not conflicting with *any* other YA events. Especially of a different parish**
- * Don't have the same person in charge of all of these**



Steps to start and sustain a successful Young Adults Group

- **Mission:** What's the purpose of the group
- **Logo:** Gives an identity
- **The Path:** How do we get there
- **Planning:**
 - Tactical:** Start short term
 - Strategic:** Long term plans
 - Lead:** Each activity had a lead.
 - Back Up Person:** For each Lead there would be a back-up person

- **Planning based on Interests:** Chose activities that the core team members were passionate about
- **Roles & Responsibilities:** Initially three members/founders handled all the responsibilities. As the number of members increased, different people took on different roles and responsibilities.
- **Succession Plan: Camelot style of Management :**
This whole structure has been created based on the Camelot.
That way the group continues to function, no matter what the movements are.