



Partnership with Catholics On Call is open to men's and women's religious communities, college and university campus ministry and vocational ministry programs, full-time volunteer programs, young adult ministry programs and parishes that wish to learn more about supporting young adults in their discernment of vocation.

The Roles of a Catholics On Call Partner

- Actively engage young adults in conversation on a regular basis about all the Catholics On Call programs, including the website, Summer Young Adult Conferences, and the Days of Reflection Weekend Retreat.
- Place information about Catholics On Call in your regular correspondence with young adults, such as email correspondence and weekly bulletins.
- Provide a link from your website to Catholics On Call (www.catholicsoncall.org).
- Write a letter of recommendation for all of your sponsored candidates to the Young Adult Conferences.
- If possible, assist your sponsored candidate(s) with travel expenses to and from the Young Adults Conference and follow-up Days of Reflection Retreat.
- Follow up regularly with the young adults that your community or organization has sponsored for the Catholics On Call Young Adults Conference. This includes, but is not limited to, providing spiritual direction for the participant or helping them find a spiritual director for the year following their participation in the Young Adults Conference.
- Keep the Catholics On Call office informed of any changes in staff, so our records will reflect the current contact for correspondence.

The Catholics On Call Promises to Our Partners

- Catholics on Call will offer dynamic Young Adult Conferences that attract men and women who are considering a life of service in the Church. Through these conferences and the follow-up retreats, Catholics on Call will assist young adults in the process of vocational discovery and discernment.
- The Catholics On Call website will serve the needs of both young adults and our partners. In addition to offering features appealing to young adults, the website will also provide partners with insights into young adult spirituality, societal and cultural trends, and ways to strengthen connections with young adults.
- Catholics On Call will provide links to your ministry sites through our website.
- Catholics On Call will offer the annual Partners Conference, either free of charge or for a nominal fee, for the duration of the grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. We hope to establish the Partners Conference as a valuable time for expert input, networking and dialogue for vocation directors, campus ministers, directors of volunteer programs, and all those who minister to young adults.

How to Become a Partner

Those organizations or communities wishing to become a partner should provide the following information to the Catholics On Call office: contact name, organization/community name (include province if applicable), address, phone number, email address, and a brief description of the community/organization. Prospective partners should reference the following web page for examples: http://www.catholicsoncall.org/who_we_are/our_partners.html.



Catholics On Call is a **national vocations discovery initiative** reaching out to young adults, ages 18-30, through our website (www.catholicsoncall.org), Young Adults Conferences, and Days of Reflection Retreat. These programs are designed to complement the efforts of our partners in their ministry to young adults who are considering a life of service in the Church as a lay minister, religious sister or brother, or priest. Catholics On Call offers a pressure-free environment in which young adults are invited and encouraged to consider a life of service in the Church.

Catholics On Call is a program of the Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and is funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

The Young Adults Conference:

The Catholics On Call Young Adults Conference is a national program bringing in well-known speakers to enrich the lives of young adults in the process of discovery and discernment. The conferences consist of a blend of presentations, shared prayer in various forms, personal reflection and group discussion, interaction with outstanding pastoral ministers and theological reflection on that experience. There are also opportunities for individual meetings with mentors as well as recreation and personal interaction with peers.

Conference topics include:

- "Spirituality of Call"
- "Dynamics of Prayer"
- "What is the Church and Why Would I Want to Serve It?"
- "Religious Life Today"
- "What is Discernment and How Does It Happen?"
- "Lay Ministry in the Church"

Frequent presenters include: Bishop Robert Morneau, Donald Senior, CP, Sheila McLaughlin, Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, RSCJ, and Robin Ryan, CP.

Two conferences are planned for **2009: June 4-7** (extended weekend program) and **August 9-14** (weeklong program).

Young adults are asked to apply for admission to one of the conferences. The conferences are offered free of charge, including room and board. Partners are asked to help their sponsored young adults with travel expenses. Applications are available online at www.catholicsoncall.org.

Conference participants are also invited to attend a follow-up retreat held in the wintertime designed to encourage further reflection on and integration of the summer experience.

Catholics On Call participants are active Catholic men and women, ages 18-30, who are **thinking about** pursuing a life of service in the Church and who are open to meeting a diverse group of peers asking similar questions about the future. It is **not** for those who have formally entered a process of formation for religious life, priesthood, or ecclesial lay ministry. The exception to this principle is a lay minister who is considering religious life or the priesthood.

The Partners Conference:

Every fall Catholics On Call offers the Partners Conference where representatives of religious communities, college and university campus ministry and vocational ministry programs, young adult programs, volunteer programs and others come together to learn and discuss the best practices for supporting young adults in their vocational discernment. This conference is offered at a minimal charge.