

YOUNG ADULTS

Catholics between 18 and 35 want place in church

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Are you too old to join the parish youth group, but far too young to be considered for membership in Catholic Golden Age?

If so, keep reading. In this edition the *Catholic Courier* is inaugurating a new monthly page that just might appeal to your needs as a Catholic reader.

Up until now, the *Courier* has regularly provided feature pages and columns that cater to parents, teenagers, senior citizens and kids. This month, the paper adds young adults to its list of specific groups of readers the *Courier* serves through a special page.

Who exactly is a young adult, you might ask. Well, according to the experts, it seems to be anyone between the ages of 18 and 35, though some 18-year-olds might prefer to think of themselves as teenagers and some 35-year-olds might want to consider themselves beyond young adult concerns.

Robert Gibbons, author of the 1990 book, *Developing Faith in Young Adults*, has described three subgroups of young adults:

"Explorers," between 18 and 25, are generally mobile and in transition from school to work and from living with their parents to living on their own.

"Pioneers," in their mid-20s, move frequently and most change jobs fairly regularly.

"Householders," in their late 20s and early 30s, tend to be more settled, and have taken on greater work, home and community responsibilities.



Whatever group you might belong to, this monthly page seeks to air the concerns of Catholics who are, for the most part, in the first decade or so of their adult journey.

Such Catholics may still be looking for a husband or wife — or not looking at all.

They may be embarking on owning their first home — or opting to rent a studio apartment.

They may be single, married, or even divorced — but, in general, if they have children, it's a pretty fair bet their kids are not teenagers yet.

Young adults may want to find their niche in the church — but wonder where,

exactly, they fit in their home parish.

For the first time in their lives, they may find that their Catholic faith is being seriously challenged by their friends, their co-workers,

and, for that matter, their own doubts.

At the same time, they may have a vibrant faith that is already serving the community in an exemplary manner.

Wherever they are, the *Courier* would like to know what the church's young adults would like to read about on their own page.

And the diocese's young adults should know that the church is working to provide them with a ministry geared to their

needs — just call Karen Rinefierd, diocesan coordinator of Young Adult, Adult and Family Faith Formation at 716/328-3210 for more information.

Do young adults need to know more about what's going on in parish young adult ministry?

Do young adults need tips on how to meet a mate, especially in environments that don't necessarily feature spilled beer and smoke-filled air?

Do young adults need to know how to hold onto precious friendships with recently married friends who seem to disappear from the social radar screen the moment their reception ends?

How are young adults from different racial and ethnic backgrounds in the church relating to one another, given Christ's call for us to embrace each other as brother and sister?

These, and other topics, have been suggested to the *Courier* for this page by a number of young adult ministers throughout the diocese.

But the paper also wants to know what young adults who may not be as active in the church would like to read.

Please send article suggestions to: Catholic Courier Young Adult Page, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624-1899. Or call Rob Cullivan, or Mike Latona at the *Courier* (716/328-4340) on Wednesdays, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If your group, parish or organization is sponsoring an event of interest to young adult Catholics, please send it to the *Courier's* "Calendar" page.

We hope to hear from you!

A new feature appearing the third week of the month

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