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Young Adult

MONTHLY FEATURE



Committee establishes toll-free line

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops' Committee on the Laity has set up a toll-free number to provide information on church efforts for young adults.

The phone number — 888-942-3858 — is just one part of the committee's steps to implement "Sons and Daughters of the Light," the bishops' recently published pastoral plan for young adults.

The committee has also provided training for several men and women, known as the implementation team, to assist dioceses, parishes and campuses and to respond to inquiries about the plan's content and practical implications.

Callers using the toll-free line will hear a taped message and can leave questions on a message line about the plan's content and practical implications such as how to set up young adult ministry programs.

Young adult ministry is intended for single and married persons in their late teens, 20s and 30s and includes prayer groups, study groups and community service to marriage preparation programs and leadership development.

Bishop G. Patrick Ziemann of Santa Rosa, Calif., who is chairman of the Laity Committee, said in a statement that with their pastoral plan the U.S. bishops signaled their commitment to "hear and respond to the needs and concerns of young adults."

"Now we need to move ahead with creative ideas and programs that will attract and keep young adults in the church," he added.

Sheila Garcia, assistant director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, said the committee established the toll-free number because interest in the area of young adult ministry has grown since World Youth Day '93 in Denver, and especially with the publication of the bishops' young adult ministry plan.

"This is a vehicle for church professionals, people seeking young adult ministry programs and those willing to put effort into establishing programs in their area," she said in an announcement about the new toll-free number.

"It's becoming clearer that the church needs to do all that it can for young Catholics who sometimes feel left out of the parish world," she added. "In the last five years, we've seen ample evidence that young adults have much to offer the church and are willing to do so. They also enjoy opportunities to share their faith and life experiences with people of their own age and religion."