



ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH MISSIONARY PROTAGONISM LAB

*AN INITIATIVE OF THE INSTITUTE FOR EVANGELIZATION
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE MARK D. PACIONE FOUNDATION*

Thanks to a grant from the [Mark D. Pacione Foundation](#), the Archdiocese of Baltimore Office of Family, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry is thrilled to share the upcoming launch of a new initiative: the Archdiocesan Youth Missionary Protagonism Lab (AYMP Lab). This initiative is designed to draw forth the "missionary creativity" of young people and help shape the future of youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Regional teams of teens and adult mentors are invited to apply for an intentional process of formation, sacred listening, iterative design and discernment culminating in the opportunity to receive a microgrant in support of a regional ministry initiative. Special consideration will be given to applicant teams from communities without full-time paid youth ministry staff, as well as teams who represent urban, rural, and culturally-shared pastorates.

TEAM QUALIFICATIONS:

AYMP Lab Teams will consist of individuals from the various regions of the Archdiocese (though not necessarily the same parish/pastorate). Applying teams must include:

- **2 to 4 teens** entering grades 10 or 11 in fall 2025*
- **1 to 2** adult mentors of their choosing, who are willing to accompany the teens through the process and assist with the regional "missionary creativity" initiative

*(*Teams which include teens entering grade 12 or grade 9 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)*

Teen participants need not have any prior leadership experience, but must be willing to engage fully in the AYMP Lab process *(and to complete Worthy of the Call training if they have not done so previously)*. The gathering schedule will be finalized based on the availability of selected teams, but it will include a monthly 90-minute virtual meeting and two in-person gatherings, beginning summer 2025 and concluding in early spring 2026.

Adult mentors must be VIRTUS cleared/trained, but otherwise may include any adult Catholic in the community *(including but not limited to the parent of a participant, clergy, parish staff members, ministry volunteers, coaches, scout leaders, teachers, etc...)*. These mentors must commit to accompanying the teen team members throughout the process, including participating in some (but not all) AYMP Lab gatherings, as determined by the AYMP Lab program directors.

Applicant Teams must also submit a signed letter of support from the pastor of the parish/pastorate which will serve as the "home base" for the project. Additional pastor letters from any other parishes/pastorates represented on the team will strengthen the application.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

AYMP Lab applications will be accepted via an online portal beginning March 30, 2025. The application period will close on or before ~~April 27, 2025~~ May 19, 2025. *Note that some components of the application will need to be completed by other team members and sponsoring pastor(s) in advance and attached to the official application.*

The selection committee will review the applications and select up to 10 teams. Applicant Teams will be informed of the committee's decision no later than ~~May 9, 2025~~ May 30, 2025, after which selected teams will work with the AYMP Lab leaders to finalize the virtual and in-person meeting calendar.

COMPONENTS OF THE AYMP LAB PROCESS:

Regional "Missionary Creativity" Initiative

The regional youth-adult teams will be accompanied by the AYMP Lab Co-Directors through an iterative design process of "missionary creativity," resulting in a regional initiative that serves local needs in one or more of the areas of robust formation as articulated in recent Archdiocesan guidance:
Formal Catechesis | Community Building | Prayer & Liturgy | Meaningful Service

Using the network available to OFYYAM, the young people/their mentors will be brought into relationship with other individuals in the wider community who can offer wisdom and best practices in the initiative area, as needed. Special care will be given to ensure the young people and their mentors create sustainable structures so that the regional initiative can "live" beyond the initial cycle and beyond their own direct leadership. Teams will also have the opportunity to apply for a microgrant to help bring their initiative to life.

Synodal-Style Advising

Young people and AYMP Lab Co-Directors will gather monthly via Zoom. Part of the virtual gathering time will be dedicated to working as an advisory council to OFYYAM and other entities as appropriate. Adult mentors will occasionally participate in these virtual meetings as well.

Formation for Missionary Discipleship

Young people will receive well-rounded formation for missionary discipleship via their local mentors, during the virtual meetings, and on two occasions of in-person gathering: a day retreat and a celebratory "sending" liturgy at the close of the AYMP Lab cycle.

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL: https://archbalt.regfox.com/AYMPLab2025 (opens 3/30)
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Questions? Contact Rena Black (*the Coordinator for Missionary Discipleship in the Office of Family, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry*) at rena.black@archbalt.org.