



Youth Ministry in the United States

- 1931 in Chicago
- Bishop was walking home after spending a night praying with an inmate on death row
- He saw some kids and he asked himself how the Church can prevent these kids from becoming like this inmate
- Bishop proceeded to pull youth off the street and formed a boxing club to give the kids a focus and a

purpose

- 1942 CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) formed and it prompted other ways to minister to youth
- 1946 CYO was firmly in place in Baltimore archdiocese
- CYO was a Club: membership dues, membership card, 4 committees, spiritual, social, dance, and athletic
- this was the only form of youth ministry
- 1960s CYO lasted with Breakfast Champions (winning CYO teams), jackets with parish names on them
- Monsenior O'Dwyer visited a CYO dance and the kids weren't dancing, so he brought in a singer so they could come and see her
- 1960s and 1970s teens thought that parents didn't understand their needs and didn't see the Church as relevant. CYO began to deteriorate.
- Cardinal Shean put together a commission on youth ministry. The question posed was: "What can the Church do to help young people?" It was here that "youth ministry was formed"
- "Youth Ministry" was thus coined
- youth ministry is more than a club - it is to, with, by, and for the youth
- it made retreats and sacramental preparation a priority
- SEARCH was a new retreat model
- 1976 Vision of Youth Ministry document written

Given by Dr. Scott Miller at <http://www.slideshare.net/catholicYMblog/history-of-catholic-youth-ministry>