

## Directions for Applying to the 2015 Young Adult Conference

We welcome your application for the Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference, August 4-8, 2015.

Helping young adults discern their vocation and discover how God might be speaking to them is the heart of our mission. The conference is designed to provide a pressure-free environment in which young adults will have the opportunity to explore their desires, dreams and concerns about pursuing a life of service in the Church. The registration fee for the conference is \$100 and includes room and board. You will be asked to pay the fee in your confirmation letter if you are selected to attend the conference. If you are associated with a partnering organization, they might be able to help with travel.

The Young Adult 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, personal reflection and group discussion, interaction with outstanding pastoral ministers and theological reflection on that experience. There will also be opportunities for individual meetings with mentors as well as personal interaction with peers. Activities for exploring the great city of Chicago are planned too.

Qualities we are seeking in our conference participants:

- Men and women, ages 18\*-30, who are *thinking about* pursuing a life of service in the Church as priests, religious sisters or brothers, or lay ecclesial ministers;
- Active Catholics involved in university/college ministry or their local parish;
- People open to exploring God's call in their own lives, as well as learning about the vocational desires, dreams and concerns of a diverse group of people;
- This conference is *not* for those who have formally entered a process of formation for religious life, priesthood, or ecclesial lay ministry, with the exception of a lay minister who is considering religious life or the priesthood.

*\*Although there are some high school seniors who are 18, we recommend waiting one year before applying to the program.*

We will accept 40-45 young adults for each conference. Normally, Catholics on Call participants are associated with one of the partnering organizations; however, all young adult Catholics who are considering a life of service in the Church are encouraged to apply. If you are associated with one of the partnering religious communities, campus ministry programs, or organizations, one of your personal references needs to come from a representative of that community/program. To see if your university, parish or potential religious community is a partner, please see our website: <http://www.catholicsoncall.org/partners>

You can apply to the conference online, download the application form from the website or request one from our office by calling 773.371.5431 or by email: [catholicsoncall@ctu.edu](mailto:catholicsoncall@ctu.edu). If you decide to use the Word document, we would prefer you download the document, resave it and work on it within Word. In addition to the application, a personal statement and two references are required.

Applications must be mailed to the Catholics on Call office within the indicated deadlines. The address is Catholics on Call, 5401 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60615.

The selection committee will start meeting in May, notices of acceptance will be sent to you after the respective meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Birgit Oberhofer at 773.371.5431 or [boberhofer@ctu.edu](mailto:boberhofer@ctu.edu).