

Certificate for youth ministers a first



FOUNDATION PUPILS: (L-R) Diocesan youth ministry development officer Joshua Nash, with Aldo Floreani from the Ministry Formation Program, and Rebecca Beltrame, St Ignatius' College youth minister. Josh and Rebecca are among four inaugural students studying a youth ministry certificate in Adelaide.

A tertiary qualification in youth ministry is being offered for the first time in Adelaide, highlighting the important role such ministers have in the life of the Church.

The Certificate in Youth Ministry was introduced this year by the Adelaide Archdiocese's Ministry Formation Program (MFP) and currently has four inaugural students enrolled.

The course was developed by the MFP and the Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults (COYYA) to provide good quality formation and education to youth ministers working in schools and parishes across the diocese.

"Together we developed a program that is Catholic Youth Ministry specific, something that has never been accessible to South Australians ever before," said diocesan youth ministry development officer Joshua Nash, who is studying the new course.

Mr Nash said the two-year, part-time course included subjects delivered through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, a subsidiary of Dayton University in Ohio, USA. These subjects, he said, were complimented by workshops presented by the MFP and COYYA using local speakers and connecting the online content to a local Australian context. Each student is also expected to complete community placement.

Up until now youth ministers within the diocese received professional development through COYYA.

"We have 16 people working as youth ministers in schools and parishes around the Adelaide Archdiocese, many of whom are trained teachers or youth workers, but now we have the opportunity to provide people with specific youth ministry study and formation," said Mr Nash.

"This is of particular importance to schools and parishes that don't have a youth minister working in their community," he said. "They now have the opportunity to employ a young person and be assured of their qualifications in developing youth ministry, a very crucial ministry that will have great impact on our Church now and in the future."

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