

Resource Register

Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes: Best Practices in Catholic Young Adult Ministry

Hot off the presses in March 2010, this proves to be a valuable book to inspire, highlight and encourage ministry with 20 and 30 somethings. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth commissioned this work to support the US Bishop's document entitled *Sons and Daughters of the Light* and the Center for Ministry Development's *Young Adult Works*. Many years in the making, its contributors explore a comprehensive approach to young adult ministry that stresses parish connection and young adult responsive settings. Ten key areas bring continued attention to the areas of parish life that meet the needs of young adults. Four of these areas that I would like to draw attention to are catechesis, evangelization, discernment & vocation and justice & service because they speak strongly to this generation.

Catechesis

Current surveys, focus groups and parish leaders are reflecting that young adults are looking for ways to understand the Catholic faith at an adult level. Strategies that incorporate large and small settings along with incorporating technology help to point to ways parishes may equip young adults with the "what of the Catholic faith as well as the why behind Catholic beliefs."

Evangelization

Evangelization cannot be separated from catechesis. Highlighting points of entry of young adults in the life of the church is essential, for example, crucial transitions including sending off to college or the military, marriage, welcoming a new child through baptism, or graduating from college. These are evangelization points that can help to focus the parish's message to young adults. The entire community is called to be evangelizers and the examples explored help to reinforce the call and response of all believers.

Discernment & Vocation

"What am I going to do with my life?" This question is often wrestled with during the young adult years. The Church has plenty of tools and mentoring relationships to offer young adults as they work through this question. Parishes can help to focus the question and help young adults figure out God's call.

Justice & Service

How can parishes engage young adults in the works of justice and service that the Church promotes? Parishes and campus ministry centers play a key role in the formation of young adults. Effective strategies are shared that help young adults incorporate Catholic Social Teaching and offer ideas for lifestyle changes.

The resources found within this publication are especially valuable because they provide a place for idea sharing and templates that can be adapted to the uniqueness of each parish. This would be a great addition to your cadre of resources in young adult ministry.

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