

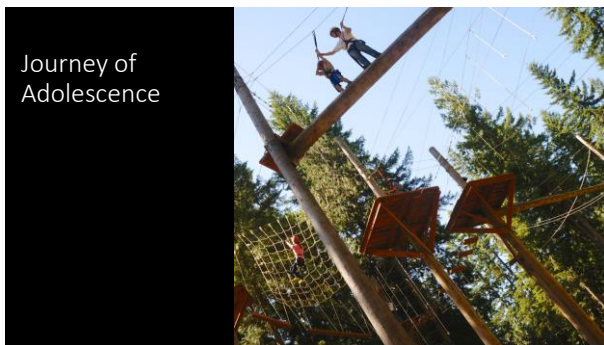


1

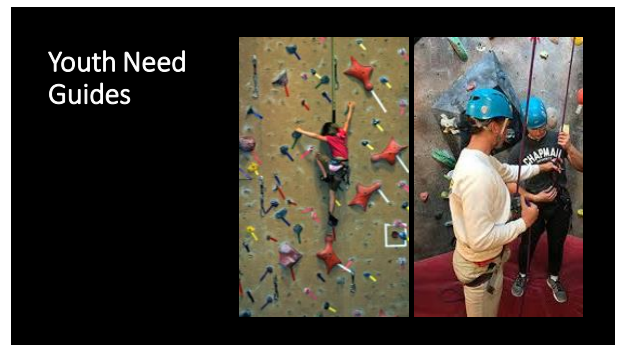
Accompanying Youth

- Provide a way to intentionally accompany young people in faith and life.
- Empower the faith community to pray for, care for, witness to, and accompany their young people
- Provide resources, formation and support for parents and other faith companions for young person in the parish.

2



3



4

Accompany All Young People

...just as our Lord Jesus Christ walked alongside the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35), the Church is also urged to accompany all young people, without exception, towards the joy of love.

Instrumentum Laboris 2018, #1

5

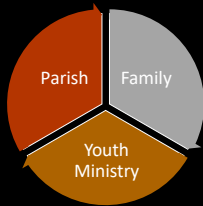
The Parish Accompanies Young People

The community has an important role in the accompaniment of young people; it should feel collectively responsible for accepting, motivating, encouraging and challenging them.

243- Christ is Alive – Christus Vivit
April 2, 2019

6

The Church is Here to Accompany Young People



7



8



Reflection Questions

What do you notice about the faith journey of youth today?

9

Going, Going, Gone...

- The Injured
- The Drifters
- The Dissenters

Going, Going, Gone

The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics

A study by Saint Mary's Press of Hawthorn, Inc.
In collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Americas (CARA)

10

The Injured

- Disruptions in family life
- Witnessing inauthentic or hypocritical expressions of faith
- Feeling forced to participate
- Unanswered prayer



11

The Drifter

- Lack of connection between faith and life
- Lack of companions on the faith journey
- Families with marginal practice of faith
- Unable to answer "so what?"



12

The Dissenter

- Active resistance to the faith, particularly around social issues like same-sex marriage, abortion, and birth control
- Disillusionment and frustration that questions were never answered or heard
- Difficulty in reconciling faith with science



13

Going, Going, Gone...

- The Injured
- The Drifters
- The Dissenters

Going, Going, Gone

The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics

A study by Saint Mary's Press of Minnesota, Inc.
A collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)

14

In such places...the **person-to-person contact indispensable for passing on the message can happen**, something whose place cannot be taken by any pastoral resource or strategy.

218- Christ is Alive – Christus Vivit
April 2, 2019



15



Josh Packard, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Springtide Research Institute

josh@springtideresearch.org
www.springtideresearch.org
@WeAreSpringtide

16

How many meaningful interactions do you have on a typical day?



Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

17



Over 30% of young adults say **NOBODY** knows them well.

Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

18

The spiritual, mental and physical health consequences of this disconnection are severe.



-Springtide

-Cigna

Mushtaq et al. 2014

Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

19



Nearly 40% of young people report that they have no one to talk to and attending religious groups or gatherings does not have any effect. ...unless they have a relationship with an adult who cares.

Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

20

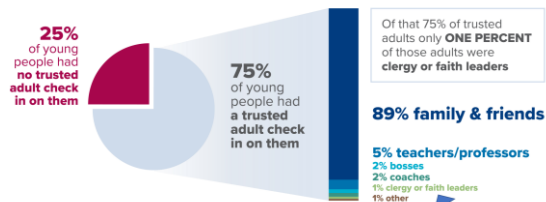
The presence of just one adult relationship in the life of a young person cuts severe isolation by 50%

Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

21

Impact of Trusted Adults Checking In

Nearly 8 out of 10 young adults (18-25 years of age) who have had a trusted adult check in on them report feeling less lonely.

SPRINGTIDE® NATIONAL RESEARCH RESULTS
© 2020 Springtide. Cite, share, and join the conversation.Springtide
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

22

The Current Reality



Many youth feel disconnected from their communities.



Many families are disengaged from the parish and are not empowered to share faith at home.



Many youth do not have anyone to talk to about faith and their lives.



Many youth do not pray regularly; they are often distracted from integrating an experience of God

23



Accompany

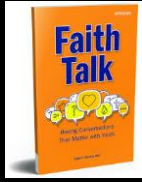
- Walk Side by Side
- Share Bread
- Listen
- Empathize
- Consistency
- Accountability

24

- Create Safe Places
- Hold Questions as a Sacred Trust
- Use Only Love

"We must relinquish any means other than love to persuade young people to the truth of the Gospel and the inherent value of a life lived in service of Christ and neighbor."

Robert J. McCarty, *Faith Talk – Having Conversations that Matter with Youth*, Winona, Minnesota: Saint Mary's Press, 2018, page 42.



Create Space for Conversation

25

26

Relationships

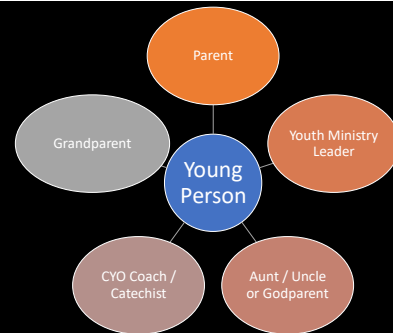
Parents / Family

Sacramental Relationships

Ministry Leaders

Members of the Parish Family

Peers



27

28

Accompanying Youth – Radiating Christ

Three Communities:

- Family
- Ministry
- Parish



Getting Started with Youth

Determine a Ministry Context to Begin Accompaniment

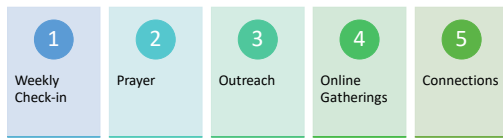
- Youth involved in youth community
- Youth preparing for Confirmation / Sacraments
- Youth involved in leadership and ministries

Divide Youth into Groups for Accompaniment with Two Adults

- 30 youth = 5 groups of 6 = 10 adults = Each adult is lead for 3 youth / Back-up for 3 youth

29

30



Develop a Pattern of Presence with Youth

31

We made a promise to youth and their families.



32

We should take responsibility for forming young disciples.

(This is not something we can delegate.)



33

We need to have a singular purpose.

No Grumpiness.

We are here to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



34

Spiritual First Aid



"If the parish is a field hospital, everyone should be equipped to provide spiritual first aid. We should all be lifeguards, ready to dive in to help our brothers and sisters."

Fr. Abraham Feliciano, SDB

35

Pastors and Parish Leaders

- Promote a culture of welcome and inclusion
- Provide ministry for youth and their families that promote faith sharing relationships
- Know youth and their families in the community
- Understand the dynamics of being an adolescent today
- Consider youth when planning for parish life
- Help to provide access for youth to ministry and leadership roles
- Pray for young people and their families

36

Members of the Parish Community

- Know youth in the community
- Welcome and Include young people
- Acknowledge and appreciate youth's perspective and contributions
- Have conversations with youth in the parish
- Pray for young people and their families

37

Begin with the parish relationship with youth

- Look at the engagement of youth in liturgy, community life, service
- Look for involvement of youth ministries, leadership and decision making
- Look for the engagement of members of the parish community with young people



38

Parish Relationship with Youth

Know

Value

Welcome

Include



39

Connect the Parish with Young Disciples

- Introduce Young People
- Connect Parish Members as Prayer Partners
- Engage Youth in Ministries
- Involve Parish Ministries in Youth Ministry
- Invite Parish Members to Help – Create New Roles



40

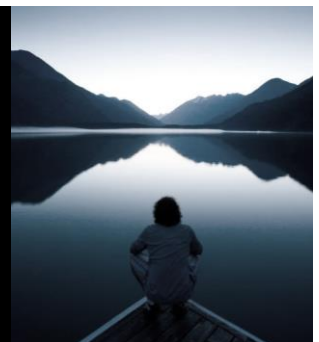
Blessing the Youth Ministry Team



41

Reflection

- How do you see our parish / Catholic school changing and growing to accompany and form young disciples?
- What needs to change and grow in your ministry?
- How do I need to change and grow?
- What's the first step you need to take?



42



43