

Youth Ministry Council
St. Agnes Parish
March 29, 2011

In attendance: David, Ernestine, Paul, Bob, Marissa, Jessica, Kevin Scott, Pat, Samantha, Andrew, Diana

What Caught Your Attention:

- The "sunshine" viewpoint
- Thinking inter generational
- The parent theme, as well
 - having parents come face-to-face with faith matter
 - youth might understand faith as well, sometimes better
- "Re- weird-ify" Christianity (shakes parents up as well)
- Rather deal w/parents over culture issues, but need to also "hit em where they are...." You tube video game
- Most parents get either too involved or not involved at all
- Kids faithful & active often come from families who are faithful & active
 - family catechesis
- How do we jump from parents @ enemy to partners
 - making faith a reality in life
 - Recognizing the some parents not going to church but sending kids
 - How to reach out to parents---kids evangelize them up
- In working with parents, we've got to start w/them @ Elementary & junior high levels
 - Pastor to educate parents
- Underwhelmed with prognostication viewpoints
 - Nothing was too new
 - Felt as if rearranging furniture
 - "New Evangelization" is hitting these same themes

Why are Kids Leaving

- Structure of church is not inclusive towards them
- Adult church perceived as "dry"
- 80% of those who leave are between ages of 15-23
 - There is no sense of a sacramental hook that will ensure their return
- We are not putting our Catholic resources in kids in the parish. 20% of Catholic faith communities have a youth minister, while 44% of protestant communities do

➤ Only half leave because of “the issues,” the others because they are not being fed.

What Feeds Young People

- Is really connecting in with Jesus
- and doing that within the experience of community

Jesus is in the community so how do we, where can we connect

- high school
 - surrounded by peers
 - “we want that radical experience”
 - Retreat//and socials

- Adoration
 - Seriously affected by it they want to get into it

We are individuals but we must be communal

How do we energize the community that is Jesus

- ⓪ projects, program
- ⓪ theology of practice over word

The ones who stay have met Jesus (and Jesus in community)
those who leave likely have a faith that never became their own

What Feeds Young People

- More resources for youth ministry
 - but that does not mean more money
- We need radical witnesses
- We need to equip one another with language for our faith experiences
- Be open to the voices out there [must listen first]
 - The voices of community are different
 - We need an umbrella of volunteers
 - Some parishes have one significant fundraiser for their efforts
 - Again, we need to be involving parents

We must call people into service but not to being stuck in silo, rotate folks in and out of ministries

Why are we taking kids out of parish experience?

The Youth Minister needs to become a “Change Agent” within the parish community, they need to be the chief advocate for youth

Youth perspective: Kids should be pushed more to the parish community

We need to define what our expectations of community are and how Community relates to YM;
How we define community is the key

Concerns:

We are concerned about the 16 to 23 dip in participation

We are concerned about post confirmation dip in participation

We are concerned about how, if we are reaching our Hispanic and African American young people

Recap of key phrases of the evening

- Community
- Pastors
- Radical
- Re-Weird-ify
- Relational
- Personal Invitation
- Witness

Don't equate youth ministry as programs

Response of faith community to her young people

Hungers:

☞ How do we feed hungers for the holy

☞ How do we get meaning

☞ for justice

☞ for connection

☞ you need faith

When I started IN YM, the best way was for me to be there for them but it's not enough

We need to set a higher standard

(Young person) We need to have reasons "for" our church—not equipped to respond to non-Catholic peers

We need to engage their heart to get into heads

We need to offer the Radical, the Noble adventure, of discipleship. The early Christians had the invitation to "Come & follow Jesus... and you may die for it."

We are seeking to set the "Ripken Way" of doing youth Ministry... What will be the ArchBalt Way... What will be our commonly held values?