

## Working Group Results

### 1. Engaging young adults from different cultural backgrounds: What are three practices of reaching out to young adults that you find useful?

1. Engage young adults in project; mentoring leadership – equals
2. Ongoing opportunities for encounters for prayer, social networking, sharing, service programs
3. Provide a listening ear and develop ongoing relationships
4. Music; technology; storytelling (tell your true story); peer mentoring
5. Digital community: How could I use technology? Big challenge in a post-email world
6. Shopping culture: How do we make “the Church” and “vocation” as attractive? We sell a “viable way of life”; 85% engaged in not being engaged
7. Listening – meet needs together; be present and visible in conversation; acknowledging the validity of their experience; clear on the charism on the web; provide structure (service projects) that one may engage in.
8. We are the Church together!  
Ownership/Engagement – Retreats - Spirit & Truth Model - Spiritual Direction - Ministry of Presence
9. Being part of their world (Busy Person Retreats. Kairos. Encounter. Etc.)
10. Visiting alums on college campuses
11. Offering Spiritual Direction
12. Invitation to special prayer experiences (e.g. Taize’, Quiet, Adoration, Praise etc. Followed by Social)
13. Invitation to a variety of social opportunities: “come meet us”; “on tap”; social service events; BBQ etc.
14. Continuing to share charism in former places of ministry
15. Outreach to “neighbors” for prayer with community and invite neighbors to assist with social outreach (e.g. delivering thanksgiving baskets)
16. Talk about our faith life... share with them; walk with them. Build relationships. Non – judgmental, compassionate, being present, being open
17. What has worked: Gift of presence. Persistence. Giving people a chance. Tell the story. Invite them to respond
18. Technology is gateway to community. How do we use it to bring them to God?
19. “Passive filter”: How do I help them discover a sense of clarity/certainty?
20. How do we engage them?  
sense of respect, honor were they are; invite – be hospitable; dialogue/collaboration needed; presence must make a difference; tell true story in safety; differences are gifts
21. Where do we meet them?  
Go where they are. Show concern, love, have fun. Church needs to come to the people.
22. Individual Attention and Relationships. Noticing who is there.

# Catholics on Call Partner Conference 2011

---

23. Being authentic and true to our calling and ministry
24. Social Networking
25. Intergenerational opportunities in parishes
26. Sanctuaries: Create places (geographic). Identify places.
27. Open our doors: physically and attitudinally
28. Podcast/Web presence of “real” homilies
29. YouTube
30. Confession AP
31. Personal Visits
32. Retreats: Life discernment; twilight; Busy Person Retreat
33. Food
34. Finding creative ways to provide sanctuary
35. Finding opportunities to provide service opportunities at the parish level.
36. Develop relationships with young adults *without* agenda – attend *their* events.
37. Seek input from young adults about what they want and need.
38. Inviting young adults to take leadership in activities
39. Create space for: silence; community prayer
40. Technology/Social Media: Engaging for understanding  
Story telling: Building relationships; inviting identity  
Crossing cultural boundaries, including generational boundaries; justice/inclusion  
TECHNOLOGY – STORYTELLING – CROSSING BOUNDARIES
41. Retreats, i.e. Busy Persons; Discernment; Charis
42. Social Media
43. Be present to young adults: give time; honest, respectful dialogue
44. Organized youth activities
45. Create a SPACE (for silence; to be present (to self and each other); to share honestly (without judgment); for community to happen)  
Acknowledge them as ADULTS (allow them to tell their own story (as a peer); don’t let different context, age, reality be a barrier)  
Facilitate their GROWTH (prepare how you will receive them; make time for them; have dimensions of formation in place)

## 2. Best Practices for Creating a Culture of Vocations among Young Adult Catholics.

### What was new for me:

- Affirming of what we know and have experienced
- It invited me to be “impressed” by the young people with whom I have been engaged; “listen” more deeply to what I am hearing
- Authors/Works that have studied “culture” of Church/Young Adults
- The presentation was uplifting and non-ideological
- It wasn’t new, but in reinforced ideas. The more you hear the better to connect.

# Catholics on Call Partner Conference 2011

---

- Seminarians leaving for not being “traditional”
- Surprise: How few young adults are involved in Church. The statistics seem to say something about myself. How am I as a Christian?
- People want to belong/relate and are learning what that means
- How do you understand “pure” Catholic Faith?

## **What can you apply to your ministry with young adults?**

- How can I engage young adults in education on their interests (i.e. prayer, scripture)?
- To be a bridge
- Connect with their hearts
- Discussion on human sexuality (or human relationships)
- Be mindful of negative effects on the emerging adult when we are talking in polarized ways.
- Attitude adjustment/focus: to needs of “other” rather than upon “us”
- Listen, be open, relationships.
- Openness
- Be a passionate and energetic presence
- Non-Judgmental
- Be present to young adults. Be available to young adults
- Be authentic, be real, who you are
- Listen to their stories
- Be a witness
- Each of us can bring a balance. Come from the heart
- Be authentic – Open Mind – Dialogue. Don’t have the answers
- Baby Boomers – WWII Watershed – We had things they don’t have as identity pieces. Third Generation – Today: Remember differences
- Reminded: Formation is ongoing, never finished. Holy Spirit works through process of formation
- Attitude is so important!
- Being authentic – being what we profess
- Clarity of role of ALL in the Church
- Sensitivity to polarization issues
- Respect, honesty, openness
- Our issues should not muddle the discernment process of discerners
- Keep the larger mission of “Church” in mind
- Integration vs. polarization (NRVC papers “Moving Forward in Hope”)

## **Best Practices:**

- Introduction to various prayer forms / styles
- Faith “Formation”
- Provide opportunities for networking among young adults, as well as for/among different congregations (collaboration vs. competition)

# Catholics on Call Partner Conference 2011

---

- Provide “Discernment Skills”
- Creating opportunities to share holistic life of the Church with mutual participation and contribution. Listening stories and finding common understanding and acceptance.
- Mentoring – Getting all community members involved
- Story Telling
- Preferential option for youth
- Need to connect with various ages – regularly
- Stories of sisters offer inspiration to young. Connections need to happen.
- Relationships – simple daily encounters – words of encouragement – offer hope
- Continue to focus energy and resources on young adult ministry: diocesan, parish, congregational level; where young adults are
- Question: How do we reach out beyond the already engaged and engage with “minority”?  
Practice: Invite advisory group of young adults: What do you need or want?
  - Get involved beyond what you perceive as “your lens” and focus on connections
  - Discernment “classes”
- Understanding context of young adult, i.e. need for structure/symbols
- Mentoring is a key piece – make connect wise members (with training) and young adults
- Gather generations to form “Big Tent” of Catholicism
- Create sanctuaries of peace-full dialogue around justice/polar... issues
- Places for peer-sharing and support and mentor/educating on teachings, personhood...
- LISTENING MUTUALLY
- Provide forums/groups where youth can learn “what is” the Church
- Discernment opportunities (skills to learn about life choices)
- Mentoring
- Entering into sacred & meaningful conversation, share vulnerabilities
- Being good mentors and being mentored
- Conversation partners – silence, security, certainty
- Ask young adults to assist us in creating retreats etc.
- Important to name and deal with our discomfort with young adults and their divergent thinking from ours, e.g. religious experience, traditional views...
- BALANCE is key! (of perspectives; ideas; ways of practicing and praying)  
Address concrete NEEDS (debt/loans; free to choose religious vocation/ministry as vocation)  
Peer involvement, combined with a MENTOR  
Use the SAINTS to showcase diversity of what Christian discipleship could look like.  
Acknowledge DIVERSITY among young adults (don’t lump all YA together)