



GROWING HEALTHY PASSION

Effective Ministry Strategies for Today's Culture

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Handout and Small Group Brainstorming

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Part 1: Understanding the Soil of Culture

- ❖ *Community* is the soil of *Identity*: We *internalize* each other.

“We will need to remember that we did not create ourselves, that we owe what we are to the communities that formed us.” R. Bellah, *Habits of the Heart*

- ❖ Two dimensions of *Authority*
 - Authority #1: A firm basis for knowing and acting.
 - Authority #2: The right and power to command and control.
- ❖ Baby Boomers and Generation Xrs reject Authority #2 unless strong Authority #1
- ❖ Millennials (Graduates in the new millennium.)
 - Wanted and Supervised
 - Multicultural/Diverse, limited tribal identity
 - Web 2.0: Connected; Social Networks rule
 - Look for identity (truth, authority) *inside*.
 - Gender issues: an *internal* approach

Strategies for Effective Ministry with Millennials

1. Live Well: Invest in your own *firm basis for knowing and acting* (Authority #1)
 - ❖ Grow healthy passion: Get clear about your calling, your gifts, and what you need to *abide* (John 15).
 - ❖ Become a Millennial's "tour guide" rather than "travel agent"

2. *Begin with the end in view*. What do we want them to know, feel, and do?
 - ❖ Replace *Biological* with *Theological Anthropological* fixed point
 - ❖ Emphasize *Spiritual Theology* over *Moral Theology*
 - Guide them inward: Listen to *spiritual heart* (not feelings)
"Life is rigged to bring us back to God."
 - Guide them *outward*: Grow community, the soil of identity, via moving into the brokenness of world; break internal double binds.
 - Guide them *upward*; Cultivate meaningful worship, liturgy, reconciliation.

Part 2: Wisdom from Small Groups

What follows is simple compiling of the ideas generated at the November 30th conference at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

"Begin with the end in view."

Question 1. When we work to form our youth in Christ-centered sexuality, what is the goal to which we are aspiring. Put another way *what do we want our kids to think, feel, and do when they leave home and head for college?* (Answers remain organized by table; I think that this helps to maintain the big picture each table had in mind.)

- ❖ We want them to be peaceful, filled with gratitude, and humble.
- ❖ We want them to question, know they are a child of God, have high standards, and be proud of and rejoice in their Catholic identity.
- ❖ We want them to have empathy and compassion for others, be well-rounded, have strong value for social justice, and know who they are.
- ❖ Know they are loved unconditionally by their parents, family, people, and God, be capable of making good decisions and use critical thinking; know distinction between love and getting their way or things, and have a sense of self-worth and know that this doesn't come from belongings and/or position.
- ❖ We want kids to have the tools needed to make informed decisions and know skill of discernment; we want them to feel empowered, to know we believe they can make good decisions.

- ❖ We want them to have a network of strong Catholic relationships that they can dialogue with; have a strong sense of Catholic identity, strong conviction, strong foundation of what we believe as Catholic Christians which moves them into relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We want them to have reverence for life (self, others), >image of God, respect; want them to see difference between fake (video) and reality, respect of self, grounding in prayers-established prayer life, to know that they are loved by God and others.
- ❖ We want our kids to have honor, integrity, know they are loved, well-formed conscience, respect for self and others, strength to act on gifts of the Holy Spirit, hope, assurance that god is with them, critical thinking, and grounding in prayer.
- ❖ We want our kids to be loved, to be persons of integrity, to be guided by god in their choices, to be good people, to shape them to know integrity, to make good decisions because of their relationship with God.
- ❖ We want our kids to have the ability to question and then search for answers.
- ❖ We want to prepare our children to make informed choices through modeling appropriate behaviors, not ignoring inappropriate behaviors/situations-instead, discussing situations when they arise and role play, so when they find themselves in these situations, they do not flounder or give in to peer pressures and can be strong in their morals and beliefs without being afraid to admit it; we want them to have the intrinsic motivation and sense to do what is just, seek out situations that involve sharing their faith in positive ways without having us (parents) act as a shield any more.
- ❖ We want our kids to have a deep relationship with god when they leave us – an experiential relationship.

“Be an authority, abiding in Christ.”

Question 2. The second question was aimed at maintaining our sense of “authority #1” which is defined as a “firm basis for knowing and acting.” In other words, *we* must live our lives in such a way that it is obvious that we have something to say that is worth listening to. In order to do this we will need to practice spiritual disciplines that will keep us grounded and abiding in Christ and fresh in our faith. *What spiritual disciplines do you find helpful?* (As before, answers are grouped together as compiled by table.)

- ❖ Eucharist; Psalms while enjoying morning coffee; Make time for self before able to connect with others; Prayer in tough situations and as a reflective rather than a reactive person; Thanks to god for simple signs through creation on a daily basis.
- ❖ Eucharistic Adoration; Pray journal, liturgy of hours, rosary, listening to music.
- ❖ 1. Meditate with music – mantras help to focus. 2. Praying for people who have problems. 3. Weekend liturgy. 4. Go running with the Holy Spirit. 5. Bible/Scripture studies. 6. Staff enrichment/time together.
- ❖ Silence, walks in nature, journaling, prayer/meditation, rest, classical music.
- ❖ Prayer, Nature, Quiet Time, Coffee or Tea Break, Journaling, Common Prayer, Fraternity, Music.
- ❖ Listening to good “message” music, Christian/liturgical; Prayer-spontaneous, silence.

- ❖ Light candles/quiet music→morning meditation; morning drive to work-seeing changes in seasons, breathing exercises.
- ❖ Eucharistic Adoration; Attending liturgy, keep reading-intellectually stimulated, meditation, reflection, daily examination of conscience, focus on present moment.
- ❖ Prayer, Meditation, Soduko, Vacation, Walk in Nature, Listen to the Ocean CD
- ❖ 1. Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. 2. Daily Mass. 3. Bible Studies, 4. A quiet 10 minutes a day listening to God. 5. Eucharistic Adoration. 6. Reading journals of saints (Faustina).
- ❖ Prayer, Meditation, Solitude, Exercise, Rosary, Eucharist, Scripture study, Journaling.