



# The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors (NAVFD)

June 2018

## WE NEED SAINTS...HOW TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE



### WHY SEPARATE MINISTRY MAKES SENSE:

Young people are very attracted to, and comfortable in large group settings. Young people will gather regularly for social, academic and employment reasons. Communication, teamwork and collaboration are all a part of the day to day pulse of youth. An encounter with the sacred, faith formation and vocational discernment often happen outside this realm of normal. Young people need the opportunities to become comfortable in these more intimate faith-based settings.

**Discipleship-shaped Ministry:** Whether it be youth or young adults, this needs to be the new direction of ministry with young people. This is a ministry of apprenticeship - young people take hold of their experience of faith, and learn from the example and wisdom of mentors who invest in their growth.

This type of ministry cannot and should not be done en mass. This is a ministry of small groups, and one on one supports. This is a ministry of presence and a ministry of listening. *see over*

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TIPS AND TOOLS:

#### ➔ 4 Goals for Effective Outreach to Young Adults:

- Connecting young adults with Jesus Christ
- Connecting young adults with the Church
- Connecting young adults with the mission of the church in the world
- Connecting young adults with a peer community

#### ➔ Principles to consider for Young Adult Ministry:

- Put people before programs
- Be empathetic to the realities
- Emphasize the adult
- Presume little; explain lots
- Make ministry accessible
- Preach the God of our everyday lives
- Nurture leadership from within
- Much of YA Ministry is a pilot project
- Never run the same program in the same way
- Meet YAs "where they are at"
- Get connected - don't remake the wheel

#### ➔ Resources:

- USCCB: "Sons and Daughters of the Light" (1996)
- Cusick, J: The Basic Guide to Young Adult Ministry
- Weddell, Sherry A: Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples
- Synod on Youth: [www.synod2018.va](http://www.synod2018.va)

### Contact Us

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### QUALITY VS. QUANTITY:

When engaging in ministry with young people, success is not a numbers game. Small group ministry where youth/young adults feel known, heard and important is sustainable and life-giving to a parish and/or Diocese.

Ministry with youth relies on many servant hearts to reach out to a variety of groups to meet everyone's needs accordingly. Ministry with each group of young people will look very different, and yet, three important questions should be asked to qualify the success of a ministry with youth:

- 1) Are the basic needs of the individual being met?
- 2) Are the needs of the growing disciple are met?
- 3) Is there presence of accountability, mentorship and growth in the ministerial relationship?

Jim Beckman, *Rethinking Youth Ministry: Forming a Parish of Intentional Disciples* (Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 2015), p. 126-127.

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Check out the wonderful programs offered by the National Religious Vocation Conference at [NRVC.net](http://NRVC.net) and by the Religious Formation Conference at [relforcon.org](http://relforcon.org).



We wish to thank the Franciscan Friars Conventual of Canada for their recent generous financial gift to NAVFD in appreciation for fostering vocations in Canada. We also thank again those Congregations who donated so generously at the time of our conference. Your help is truly a blessing.



Let us hold in our hearts and offer prayers for the newer and under 55ish members of our Congregations who will be participating in the retreat with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI from July 17-23 in Saskatoon. The title of the retreat is: *"Searching for a Covenant of Mutual Support - A Deeper Oneness Within the Mystical Body of Christ."*

The Board of NAVFD will be meeting on Sept 19 and 20, 2018 so if there is anything in particular that you think NAVFD ought to be considering, kindly let Sister Nancy Sullivan know at [navfdco@gmail.com](mailto:navfdco@gmail.com) before then. Also, if you would like to add events or happenings in your region, please feel free to contact Sister Nancy for further submissions for future issues of this newsletter.

## LANDSCAPE OF RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN CANADA NEWSLETTER REPORT – JUNE 2018



Dear NAVFD members and friends,

Summer greetings from the team of the “Canadian Vocations to Religious Life” research!

We are happy to report that we have moved into the dissemination phase of our project. Our team is busy finding

ways to make our research results available to our membership, the Canadian Church, and the wider society. In addition to our direct exchanges with religious institutes across Canada, we have approached a number of organizations. Our hope is that research findings can be publicized through word-of-mouth, diverse media outlets, and a number of academic publications.

Based on the final report produced by our partners at CARA, we have developed a number of tools to animate and maintain religious vocations in our country, including a booklet with the Executive Summary of the results. We will also be sharing the materials developed in the context of the *2018 NAVFD Conference: To Accompany in Joy and Hope*.

In the coming weeks, we will be in touch with further information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, or would like to find out more about our research results, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We ask for your prayers and support as we conclude this important project.

Blessings!

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It is our hope that everyone will be able to enjoy a bit of down time at some point this summer and in celebration of this, our next newsletter will be in September 2018.