



**YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY**
Diocese of Gary

BISHOP'S COUNCIL ON YOUNG ADULT EVANGELIZATION
AGENDA: October 2, 2018

6:00 – 6:30 HOSPITALITY

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTIONS & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES

- Name, Parish

- Young adult ministries represented on the BCOYAE give updates on recent happenings

Going around the table for welcomes and updates.

Sophie – St. T's Just started up social again, small attendance and looking for new ideas to invite more people. They are offering adoration nights and the Holy Hops pilgrimage.

Colleen Deegan – SJE - Area Ministry Director for the Chicagoland Suburbs Intersarsity: Was ministry at Louis U, there hasn't been, but working to get it restarted. PNW has a catholic small group. How can intersarsity better reach Catholics?

Valerie K – Holy Name Cedar Lake – Just ended "Harvest" People donate food from their gardens and the church makes a monetary donation for how much they think it's worth and we donate to local charities.

Tori P – Representing herself getting ready for Adoration night was on Promo video. Was involved in similar programs at IU Bloomington, Kevin wants her perspective.

Sean T – St. Matthias, not aware of any Young Adult Ministry that is occurring there.

Melissa – No ongoing YA ministry, and there is nothing happening yet.

Molly – St. Paul Valparaiso, starting a New Young adult group at St. Paul's.

Jason S – Holy Name – Collecting baby bottle money to give to women that choose life. Holy Name is having a ministry fair this weekend, trying to get people to participate in the parish.

Something most effective to Young Adult ministry, is having YA's involved in ministry.

Matt K – Campus ministry at Purdue, Collegiate Catholic Ministry, Adoration Night Chair. Sadly, Collegiate Catholics is temporarily on hiatus, more on Adoration night later.

St. Joanne – CP – Just finished Engaging Young Adults Grant, Center for Congregations, lots of things to go to, bringing in top speakers. St. Mary's will be putting things into motion in December. Trying to get some groups together for YA's in their 30's.

Erin G – Starting at St. Paul's and has nothing started, in the preliminary stages.

Vicky H – Local Camino – wants to start planning the next one. Parish level: Her and her sister will be presenting at Catechesis conference on November 4th. Talk about YA's.

Erika D – Just restarted Theology on Tap and it's been years since St. Mike's had it. Do we want to take it further? We need a committee before we move forward. Had a good mix of parishioners and people from other parts of the Diocese. For SURE, we will continue T.O.T. Want to do more YA stuff... but, need a leader. Committee did not like 3 events, 3 weeks in a row, would change it. Choir Director didn't like it because the younger ones were not at practice.

Emily S – I'm me, yo.

Jessica G – Nativity – Adoration committee and will also talk at the Share Foundation.

Megan H – St. Paul's Valparaiso – Stood in the Narthex with a clipboard signing up YA's and gathering info. Goals for St. Paul's? First goal: Get young adults to meet each other. Here to get ideas on how to start. Went to group in Grand Rapids MI that was doing great things, want to emulate it here.

DIOCESAN, REGIONAL, NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

• First Friday Mass

First Friday Mass: Starting this first Friday (October 5th), until June. 9 months Sacred Heart of Jesus – appeared to St. Margaret Mary. According to Fr. David Kime, St. Francis Xavier Parish is offering it for their parishioners, as well as anyone that wants to join for the devotional for the next 9 months, for the reparation for the victims of sexual abuse in the Church.

• Adoration Night with Praise & Worship, October 6th, St. Bridget • Hobart: committee report

Adoration Night with Praise and Worship St. Bridget's, personal invitation is the best. Will have a welcome table, please bring items you would like to advertise for other young adult ministries – Want to be intentional with the afterward and invite everyone that shows up to be a part of the group. Let's be welcoming and help conversation flow. Try to break up the clicks? Try to include anyone standing/sitting off alone.

Talked about Holy Hops pilgrimage on the same day, Oct 6th. Partnering with Verismo ministries, which help plan pilgrimages, and has coordinated by them. Could be an interesting source for YA ministries?

• *Inheritance 2018*, Milwaukee, Nov. 10 *Inheritance 2018*: See Flyer. Vicky said: Milwaukee didn't want the constraints that Steubenville imposed so they are doing something themselves. If anyone is going, let us know, so that people can carpool and or get a roommate if needed.

• **Camp Sharing Meadows** Jessica G. - Camp Sharing Meadows: Bill came to an old meeting asking for volunteers for the Share Foundation. We go spend a weekend with other-abled adults, being their councilors and cooks. They are asking for volunteers for different weekends. One weekend is Dec. 7th and we want to extend the invite out to all the Young Adults, and do the Christmas themed weekend. Want to see if we can volunteer. We would need to be there for the whole weekend. From Friday night to Sunday morning it's in Rolling Meadows. Any questions, ask Jessica. Missing a pastoral meeting, but it's worth it. Don't need experience as a counselor. There is training involved. How many people needed for one weekend? 15 is a big number... so less than that? They are looking for a nurse for that weekend.

Similar event, The Leprechaun Hunt: more like an Easter egg hunt. Go set up a tent and eat and drink all day, Fr. Blaney to share story of Share Foundation – March there is a big fundraiser. If you volunteer once, you want to go back again.

SMALL GROUP OFFER

• evangelicalcatholic.org/materials/ "Believe" sample of a small evangelical catholic material. Could we do a Young Adult ministry by thinking smarter and smaller? IF YOU ARE WILLING TO START a young adult ministry, we will fund your material. First: pastor is on board. Director of faith formation is on board. And then get something started. Kevin is offering to do the training and to support whoever wants to try something. Find 4 young adults, and do a 6 week series, and who knows what will be planted? Emily talked about her small group. Shared parish group? 2 or 3 parishes working together? Think about it.

What are the barriers to young adult engagement in the Catholic Church?

Went to separate groups to discuss the question:

What are the Barriers to Young Adult Engagement in the Catholic Church?

Break down further: Is there a difference in groups? 20's and 30's? Single? Married? Kids? How is a 32 year old young adult with a husband and problems conceiving different than a 19 yo YA, single with a kid?

Top 3: Themes:

1) Rules, strictness and obligations of the church. YA's feel lonely and intimidated. Not enough understand of their faith. There is a lack of Formation and catechesis.

2.) Single people feel isolated and invisible. It's harder to meet people in a mass setting. No family, no social connections. Big age divide. YA's try to volunteer and their ideas aren't received.

3.) Invitation

Top 3; Don't feel Catholic enough, intimidated

2.) Feel like they are in between. Age wise.

3.) When are the events? People are busy. Are they always in the evening? Always on the weekends? People work.

The groups had their notes switched and have to find ways to fix these things mentioned above. Getting strategies.

One Key insight:

Big discussion: Personal invitations: How do you make a genuine connection and invite people.

"The Preferential option for young adults" looking at every situation and thinking about it from a young adult perspective.

Child care? Timing of such things. Willingness to "walk with them" through different processes and experiences in the church.

15th General Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment

- Series of articles about the Synod:

ncronline.org/feature-series/synod-on-the-youth-2018/stories

Kinda obsessed with the Synod (Vicky) there are two people on twitter: Paul Jazembouski. USCCB. Jonathan Lewis – Delegate from DC area.

NEXT MTG: DECEMBER 4, location TBA



YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY
Diocese of Gary



BISHOP'S COUNCIL ON YOUNG ADULT EVANGELIZATION
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT

A number of parishes have included young adults in their Synod action plans, and others would also like to better engage young adults in the life of their parish.

In an ongoing desire to assist our parishes and better equip them to respond to the needs of young adult Catholics—single, married, college-aged, 20's and 30's—we asked representatives of the Bishop's Council on Young Adult Evangelization to answer these discussion questions. The results of the conversations have been summarized below.

“What are some obstacles to young adult engagement in the Catholic Church?”

(Representatives brainstormed multiple answers, and all answers are listed below, in alphabetical order.)

- A desire for more engaging, thought-provoking, and at times entertaining programming.
- A lack of young adults at church events.
- In general, young adult ministries invite a broad range of aged and life stages, and therefore participants lack things in common.
- Ineffective and inefficient communications: email is increasingly ineffective.
- It's difficult to meet people and reach out of a comfort zone.
- People are stressed, and don't see church as a stress relief.
- Single mothers and young families with children are not made to feel welcome; feel “like a burden.”
- Those who are fresh out of college feel lonely; lack a community.
- Those with children are reluctant to participate because of a lack of childcare, particularly during evening hours.
- Time. Busy lifestyles make scheduling church activities difficult. Young adults don't always work weekday “9 to 5” hours, making even evening and weekend activities challenging.
- Transient young adults who relocate; trying to find a “home parish” isn't easy.
- Websites are not updated frequently.
- Young adult activities seem more geared to singles; families and young married couples left out.
- Young adults feel intimidated. They feel that “aren't Catholic enough.”
- Young adults feel judged.
- Young adults simply don't know their faith.



“What are some intentional strategies that could be used to overcome those obstacles?”

(Of the obstacles brainstormed above, representatives examined the most challenging and discussed possible strategies to address them.)

Young adults feel intimidated. They feel that “aren’t Catholic enough”

- provide a process for mentoring. Eg. Sacramental prep: parishioners walk with young adults during that time of spiritual growth
- network within local communities, share resources, build relationships
- provide evangelization training
- provide information on parishioners to use when contacting people
- improve communications: text and social media are more effective than e-mail
- face-to-face, personal invitations
- examine all methods of communication, marketing, and promotion
- simplify messages
- practice nonjudgmental listening; let’s talk/interact

In general, young adult ministries invite a broad range of aged and life stages, and therefore participants lack things in common.

- parishes should adopt a more intentional outreach when it comes to all aspects of the parish, creating a “preferential option for young adults”
- create a range of options within ministries
- leadership should be aware of the inherent differences in life stages; just knowing the needs of different Catholics will go a long way toward meeting needs
- establish contact/relationship when they are registering, or whenever they visit for various reasons.
- for just-out-of-college-young adults, do things that are unconventional, hold events/meetings away from the church building (eg: Theology on Tap, outdoor events, social outings)

Time. Busy lifestyles make scheduling church activities difficult. Young adults don’t always work weekday “9 to 5” hours, making even evening and weekend activities challenging.

- adopting an attitude of “preferential option for young adults,” make sure that young adults are consulted on matters of scheduling
- there’s never going to be a “perfect time” in this fast-paced culture, so perhaps church activities have to be scheduled with multiple attendance options (just like Mass)
- keep things simple (timing, format)
- build intergenerational bridges between and amongst ministries within the parish; “older” ministries/Catholics support young adults, and vice-versa
- leadership should ask, “Do I know what people are busy with?” and go to where the people are



Young adults simply don’t know their faith.

- meet people where they are, and provide activities and formation in which all levels of faith can participate and feel welcomed
- more catechetical opportunities
- more intentional invitations to young adults to attend existing adult faith formation programs
- “Q & A” with clergy and religious
- expose laity to all forms of vocations discernment and how young people can use their gifts in service to the church; we feel that sisters are barely visible, vocations is for men seeking priesthood only, no attention to single life and/or lay ecclesial ministry

The insights above were recorded during the October 8, 2018 meeting of the Bishop’s Council on Young Adult Evangelization, held at the Diocese of Gary Pastoral Center, Merrillville. The Council consists of representatives from young adult-serving parishes and ministries across the Diocese of Gary. To make sure your parish or ministry is represented, contact Kevin Driscoll at 219-796-8016, kdriscol@dcgary.org, and visit garyoyya.com/bcoyae for more information.



OFFER FOR PARISH/CLUSTER THAT DOESN'T HAVE AN EXISTING YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Many young adults—including many I know who have been active in church ministry at the parish and diocesan levels—have lamented that more parishes don't offer young adult ministry. I agree.

Ideally, a parish would hire a young adult ministry coordinator to lead a comprehensive program of formation events, bible studies, speaker nights, social outings, prayer services, service activities, etc. Don't laugh—that actually happens in some parishes...just none in our diocese.

But anyone in this room can start a young adult ministry. Here's an incentive to do just that. **The first two parishes that come forward will get \$\$\$ to fund a young adult ministry small group!**

START A 6 WEEK SMALL GROUP FAITH SHARING GROUP

YOU:

- Commit to hold a 6 week small group faith sharing group
- Agree to use Evangelical Catholic *6-week Small Group Scripture Discussion Guides* found at: evangelicalcatholic.org/materials or similar
- Agree to meet/consult with Kevin Driscoll to discuss tips promotions, invitation, goal-setting, etc.
- Help secure permission and support from your pastor and/or lifelong formation coordinator
- stop at nothing to invite and encourage other young adults to attend!

THE DIOCESE OF GARY OFFICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

- will pay the expense for up to ten *6-week Small Group Scripture Discussion Guide* participant books (\$100 value)
- will provide assistance, training, guidance, and support as needed before, during, and after your series
- will help secure permission and support from your pastor and/or lifelong formation coordinator



INHERITANCE 2018

STEP INTO THE TRUE, GOOD, AND BEAUTIFUL

| A CONFERENCE FOR ADULTS IN THEIR 20'S & 30'S |

MILWAUKEE, WI | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018

Our world is often marked by pain, heartbreak, and loneliness. It can be difficult as a 20 or 30 something to navigate, while holding down a social life, relationships, and work. *But we believe life is a gift!* At Inheritance 2018, we invite you to step into your inheritance as a son or daughter of God, who loves you and has a plan for you. Inherit the true, good, and beautiful life.

Join us for an opportunity to meet amazing people, to be inspired by national and local speakers, and most of all, to encounter Jesus in a powerful way. It's going to be deep. It's going to be a blast. It's going to be life-changing. We hope you join us.



Archbishop Jerome ListECKI

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI



Matt Fradd HEAD & HEART TRACK PRESENTER

Author, National Speaker, and Podcaster



Ali Hoffman EMCEE

YouTube Famous, Artist, & National Speaker



Damon Owens HEAD & HEART TRACK PRESENTER

International Theology of the Body Speaker



Connor Flanagan EMCEE

National Musician & Speaker



Sarah Kaczmarek KEYNOTE SPEAKER & HEAD & HEART TRACK PRESENTER

Associate Director of Alpha in a Catholic Context



Fr. Luke Strand TEAM PRIEST & ENCOUNTERING GOD SESSION PRESENTER

Vice Rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Director of Vocations



David Kang ENCOUNTERING GOD SESSION PRESENTER

Filmmaker and Brand Producer



Nic & Carolyn Frank
ENCOUNTERING GOD PRESENTERS
National Speakers, Husband & Wife with Three Children



Nick Scanlan & Band
CONFERENCE MUSIC
Professional Musician, Associate Youth Minister at St. Charles Parish in Hartland, WI



Anna Carter HEAD & HEART TRACK PRESENTER
National Speaker, Blogger, & Co-founder of Eden Invitation



Pete Burds KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Speaker, Director of Campus & Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI



Dcn. Henry Reyes
ENCOUNTERING GOD SESSION PRESENTER
Deacon for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI



Margaret Rhody
ENCOUNTERING GOD SESSION PRESENTER
Parish Leadership Consultant for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI



Ben Wagner LATE NIGHT MEET UP MUSIC
Professional Musician



James Carrano HEAD & HEART TRACK PRESENTER
Associate Director of the Evangelical Catholic

9:00am Meet & Mingle

9:45am **MORNING SESSION:** Praise & Worship Music; EmCee Welcome & Introduction; Welcome from Archbishop Jerome Listeki; Keynote from Sarah Kazcmarek

11:00am **Head & Heart Tracks #1:** Choose a topic for a deep dive into the content over three unique sessions throughout the conference: Gender, Attraction, & the Meaning of Life | Anna Carter • Created for Joy: An Introduction to Theology of the Body | Damon Owens • Sharing the Faith with Others | James Carrano • Searching for Purpose: Exploring the Meaning of Life | Sarah Kazcmarek • Why the World Needs St. Thomas Aquinas | Matt Fradd

12:00pm **Encountering God Sessions:** Choose one of these experiences: •Encountering God in Beauty | Dave Kang • Encountering God in Sacred Music | TBA • Encountering God in Vocal Praise | Nick Scanlan • Encountering God in Scripture | Fr. Luke Strand • Encountering God in Silence | Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

12:30pm **LUNCH BREAK** (on own for lunch)

2:00pm **AFTERNOON SESSION:** Praise & Worship Music; EmCee Welcome Back; Keynote from Pete Burds

3:00pm **Head & Heart Tracks #2**

4:00pm **Head & Heart Tracks #3**

5:00pm **Encountering God Sessions:** Choose one of these experiences: • Encountering God in Mental Prayer | Dcn. Henry Reyes • Encountering God as a Couple | Nic & Carolyn Frank • Encountering God in the Rosary | Fr. Enrique Hernandez • Encountering God in Healing Prayer | Margaret Rhody • Encountering God in Silence | Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

5:30pm **DINNER:** Dinner is included in registration.

7:00pm **EVENING SESSION:** EmCee Welcome; Vigil Mass; Homilist: Fr. Luke Strand; Eucharistic Adoration; EmCee Wrap Up