

USCCB Webinar: Implementing *Listen, Teach, Send* in your local Catholic community

USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

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Agenda

- ▶ Welcome to everyone!
- ▶ Opening Prayer
- ▶ Connecting three USCCB documents on youth and young adults: *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, *Renewing the Vision*, and *Listen, Teach, Send*
- ▶ Practical Ideas for Implementing *Listen, Teach, Send*
- ▶ Panelist Discussion
- ▶ Question and Answer
- ▶ Closing Prayer
- ▶ Thank you!

“ Gracious and Loving God, Help these young men and women to be a light for all the world to see, in all the places they live and work.

Let their light shine for all peoples: for their families for their church communities, for their cultures and societies, for the economic and political systems, for the whole world.

Coming into the room where the disciples were gathered after the resurrection, "Jesus, your son, said: Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:21). Make these men and women bearers of Christ's peace.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, Teach them the meaning of what was said on the mountain: for they shall be called sons and daughters of God" (cf. Mt 5:9). Send them, Father, as you sent your son: to free their brothers and sisters from fear and sin. We ask this of you, in Christ's name. Amen.

The Final Prayer from *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, adapted from the Papal Homily for WYD 1995, Manila

Exploring three USCCB
Documents on Youth and
Young Adults: *Sons and*

- ▶ *Daughters of the Light,*
Renewing the Vision, and
Listen, Teach, Send

Sons and Daughters of the Light

- ▶ Published in 1996
- ▶ A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults (those in their late teens, twenties, and thirties)
- ▶ In this document, the Bishops of the United States recognize the gift of young adults in the life of the Church and hope this pastoral plan serves to connect young adults with Jesus Christ and the Gospel.
- ▶ Outlines a five-part pastoral plan for ministry with young adults in the United States with four goals: 1) connecting young adults with Jesus Christ, 2) connecting young adults with the Church, 3) connecting young adults with the mission of the Church in the world, 4) connecting young adults with a peer community

Renewing the Vision

- ▶ Published in 1997
- ▶ A framework for Catholic youth ministry that builds on the 1976 document, *A Vision of Youth Ministry*, and expands to address the call to personal discipleship, evangelization, and leadership.
- ▶ A call to make ministry with adolescents a concern for the entire church community, especially for leaders in parishes, schools, and dioceses.
- ▶ Provides three essential goals in the Church's ministry with adolescents:
 - 1) empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today,
 - 2) drawing young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community, and
 - 3) fostering the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Listen, Teach, Send

- ▶ Published in 2024
- ▶ A national pastoral framework for ministries with youth and with young adults
- ▶ The Bishops of the United States offer this framework to the Church to empower the entire Catholic community to be conduits of the Holy Spirit in sharing the Gospel with all young people to transform the world by Jesus' love.
- ▶ Inspired by *Christus Vivit (2019)* an apostolic exhortation from Pope Francis.
- ▶ A summons to local faith communities across the country to renew their efforts with youth and young adults.
- ▶ Follows the Road to Emmaus story with a three-fold approach to ministry with youth and young adults: listening, teaching, and sending.



In Summary

- ▶ All three USCCB documents work together to provide vision, context, and foundational principles for our ministries with youth and with young adults in the United States.
- ▶ New generations of young people call upon the Church to discern new ways of ministering with them.
- ▶ The Scriptures and Tradition of the Church do not change from generation to generation.
- ▶ We can continue to use a variety of documents and resources from our rich intellectual and ministerial tradition of the Church in our ministries with young people today.

So, what does this
mean for my
▶ ministry?



Questions and Ideas for National Organizations

Schedule time with your leadership team to explore how you currently plan opportunities for young people to voice their needs, concerns, and joys with you.

Evaluate the current resources that you provide to those ministering with young people. Could these resources be updated? Is there anything that should be added to your resources in light of the new *Listen, Teach, Send* Framework?

What is your current approach to forming young people as leaders? Is there a clear path for young people to participate in Catholic leadership formation? Are there more opportunities that could be developed for young Catholic leaders?

Questions and Ideas for Dioceses

Have you shared the *Listen Teach Send* Framework document with your colleagues in the chancery? Do they know that this document has been released and calls upon the whole community to explore how they engage with young people?

Prepare a team day with your youth and young adult ministry staff at the diocese to unpack *Listen, Teach, Send* together and pray about how to serve and equip your parish leaders.

Share all three of the USCCB documents we discussed today with your youth and young adult ministry leaders, catechetical leaders, faith formation leaders, and pastors to encourage them to read or re-read the documents and incorporate young people into their parish planning in more intentional ways.

Create a list of resources and programs that could be utilized by those ministering to youth and young adults in your diocese and reflect the spirit of *Listen, Teach, Send*.

Questions and Ideas for Parishes

- ▶ Have you shared *Listen, Teach, Send* with your pastor, fellow parish staff members, and volunteer ministry coordinators?
- ▶ Do you know the young people who live in your parish boundaries? What percentage of these young people are active in your parish community? What percentage of young people have you never seen or heard from?
- ▶ Are young people actively visible in leadership roles in your parish community?
- ▶ What are the greatest needs of the young people in your community?
- ▶ How can you build a culture of listening and respect for the young people to share openly in your parish community?



Have you shared *Listen, Teach, Send* with your school leadership team, colleagues, chaplain, campus ministers, teachers, staff, and parents?

Do you have established practices for listening to the young people in your school community?

What opportunities are already present for young people to lead their peers in the Catholic faith?

Do you have regular prayer, retreat, and service experiences for faculty, staff, and students in your community?

In what ways can you establish a culture of accompaniment among the adults and students in your school community?

What opportunities for mentorship currently exist in your school community? How can you intentionally build upon these opportunities?

How can our campus ministry efforts better support parishes and parish youth ministers in ministering to and with our mutual young people?

Questions and Ideas for Schools

Welcome to our ▶ Panelists!

Michal Horace, Archdiocese of Louisville

Anna Johnson, Laudato Si Movement

Lisa Gomes, Diocese of Honolulu

Melissa Novak, Diocese of Gary

Discussion with our Panelists

- What excites you about the new *Listen, Teach, Send* Framework?
- What types of conversations are you having with colleagues in your diocese/parish/organization about the new *Listen, Teach, Send* Framework?
- Do you have any advice to offer about how to get started incorporating the new *Listen, Teach, Send* Framework to others in a similar position?



Questions

“ And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

”

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Excerpt from The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:30-35



- ▶ Thank you for joining us today!
- ▶ Thank you for everything that you do for the Lord in your ministries with young people.
- ▶ We are so grateful for you, all those who serve alongside you, all those who support your ministry efforts, and all the young people and their families whom you serve.
- ▶ We are praying for all of you!