

# The Future is Now!

*How to engage young people in your parish*

## Pope Francis

"Young people are the window through which the future enters the world, thus presenting us with great challenges. Our generation will show that it can realize the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space; how to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; **how to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives**; how to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; how to **pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living**; how to give them a transcendent horizon for their **thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good**; how to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and how to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, **sharing responsibility for the future of everyone.**"



## Westerhoff's Four Styles of Faith

1. Experienced Faith
2. Affiliative Faith
3. Searching Faith
4. Owned Faith



Adapted from *Engaging a New Generation* by Frank Marcodante

Consider your own faith journey in light of Westerhoff's styles of faith.

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## Mature Teenage Disciples

- Actively Pursue Spiritual Growth
- Are aware of God's Presence
- Actively Live Their Faith
- Active in the Faith in Community
- Have a Hopeful and Positive Disposition
- Are Active in Service
- Live with Christian Integrity



Adapted from *Engaging a New Generation* by Frank Marcodante

What is the overall focus of your parish? To what extent is the call to discipleship a priority of your parish?

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## Being Church

Pray for one another (James 5:16)  
 Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:24b-25)  
 Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)  
 Encourage & build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)  
 Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)  
 Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)  
 Spur one another toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)  
 Love one another (John 13:34)



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## Intersecting Spheres of Ministry

The Larger Congregation  
 Age-Level Ministry  
 Household Family Ministry  
 Congregational Leadership

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If evangelization is the essential mission of the Church and the Church exists in order to evangelize, how well do you feel your parish is living out its mission?

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## The Cultivation Cycle

Prepare-develop a nutrient-rich soil of leadership that will lead to a future harvest

Sow-foster ongoing conversion

Grow-Nurture faith and spiritual maturity

Reap-Reproduction of new leaders who live the mission of the Church



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## Essential Processes

Meeting Agenda  
 Effective meeting facilitation  
 Decision-making processes  
 Accountability  
 Communication  
 Conflict management

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## Transitioning to Third-Generation Catholic Youth Ministry

Matchmaking Young People to Jesus  
 Matchmaking Young People to the Parish Community  
 Matchmaking Young People to their Vocation

Adapted from Engaging a New Generation by Frank Mercadante

"Leadership is everything." What does this mean to your youth ministry?

Adapted from *Engaging a New Generation* by Frank Mercadante

## Faith Assets

Congregational Faith and Qualities

Youth Ministry Qualities

Family and Household Faith

Leadership

- A. The Pastor
- B. The Youth Minister
- C. Youth and Adult Leadership

Adapted from *Engaging a New Generation* by Frank Mercadante

On a 1 to 10 scale (1 being low and 10 being high), how would you rate the level of youth-friendliness and inclusion of teens in the overall life of the parish? In what ways can teens be made more welcome? In what ministries might teens be invited to greater involvement?

Adapted from *Engaging a New Generation* by Frank Mercadante

## Principles for ministry with young adults in the parish

- ✓ Supportive parish community
- ✓ Similar age group and life experience
- ✓ Message and tradition communicated concrete, understandable and relatable
- ✓ Ownership (participation in planning)
- ✓ Commitment of resources
- ✓ Relevant technology

Adapted from *Sons & Daughters of Light*

- ✓ Personal invitation
- ✓ Assists in their spiritual formation
- ✓ Engages with opportunities to ask and discover
- ✓ Engages in peer ministry
- ✓ Diversity among age group and multigenerational and multicultural nature of parish community
- ✓ Promotes awareness of Catholic social teaching

Adapted from *Sons & Daughters of Light*

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## Resource

*Engaging a New Generation*  
By Frank Mercadante

