

Youth Ministry and the Call to Evangelisation

Quotes

Kym Keady, Ignite Youth

What is the universal call and mission of the Church?

Vatican II's document *Lumen Gentium* (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*.) is clear in its teaching that the foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ himself (LG5). Continuing Jesus' work is the purpose and call of the Church's very existence.

The Church "desires to unfold more fully to the faithful of the Church and to whole world its own inner nature and universal mission." (LG1)

"In engagement with the world, then, the church is both benefactor and beneficiary: the church hears its own good news more fully in proclaiming it and learns the implications of its own preaching by listening to the world." (Jamison, 2013)

What is the call and mission of the Church? Well, to evangelise! 😊

How do we answer this call personally?

Jesus Calls His First Disciples – Matthew 4: 18-22

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

In my experience of evangelisation, both personally and in youth ministry, I found 3 things essential...

1. Need for Encounter w Jesus –

POPE BENEDICT: "Christian faith is not only a matter of believing that certain things are true, but **ABOVE ALL a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is an encounter with the Son of God** that gives new energy to the whole of our existence." (Message for WYD 2010)

Qu: Where in your youth ministry do u have a dedicated, set-aside strategy for your YP to encounter Jesus?

2. Authentic Relationships -

The mission of the young towards their peers -

“In various contexts there are groups of young people, often from ecclesial movements and associations, who are actively involved in the evangelisation of their peers through **a transparent life witness, accessible language and the capacity to establish authentic bonds of friendship**. This apostolate makes it possible to bring the Gospel to people who might not otherwise be reached by ordinary youth ministry and it helps to **mature the faith of those who engage in it**. So it deserves to be appreciated, supported, wisely accompanied and integrated into the lives of communities.”

Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.
Part 1 “He Walked With Them, Chapter IV, Participation and Active Involvement, #56

“Teenagers who have POSITIVE ROLE MODELS have greater self-esteem and perform better in school than teenagers without role models in their lives. Positive displays of sportsmanship, determination, drive and ethics by role models can help children to emulate and adopt these positive attributes.” 1) Source: Steroid Abuse, featured in article livestrong.com

3. Needs to be Culturally Relevant/Accessible

“...the kingdom which the Gospel proclaims is lived by men who are profoundly linked to a culture, and **the building up of the kingdom cannot avoid borrowing the elements of human culture** or cultures. Though independent of cultures, the Gospel and evangelisation are not necessarily incompatible with them; rather they are capable of permeating them all.... **The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time...**” (Paul VI 1975 - EN 20, *Evangelisation in the modern world*)

“An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. **Evangelisers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.**” Pope Francis, EG24 (*The Joy of the Gospel*)

Being a Church for Current Culture –

“Be ready to give an answer to those who ask you.” (1 Peter 3:15)