"The first thing we need to discern and discover is this: Jesus wants to be a friend to every young person."

~ Pope Francis, Christus Vivit

13 years in youth ministry

Bachelor and Masters in Theology from Notre Dame

Grew up at St. Paul’s in Davenport

Live in West St. Paul, Minnesota

But most importantly
Discuss:
What is the point of youth ministry?

We minister to teens in ways that are
1. Faithful
2. Relational
3. Vocational
Discuss:
Why aren’t teens more active in their faith today?

FAITHFUL
If we’re not connected to Jesus, our witness is not authentic
“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”
(Evangelii Nuntiandi)

“Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
(John 8:31-32)

“There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be.”
~ Ven. Fulton Sheen
“One of our great allies at present is the Church itself. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean the Church as we see her spread but through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That, I confess, is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy.”

~ *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis

Discuss:
How have you seen youth become genuinely faithful?
How have you seen attempts fail?
“Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ *vere latitât* — the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.”

~ *The Weight of Glory*, C.S. Lewis
RELATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

They don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Discuss:
How have you seen relationships help youth come to faith? How have you seen isolation keep youth from Jesus?

VOCATIONAL

SOUL SEARCHING
The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Youth

Chadwick Smith with Michael Leopold Jones
“For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John.”

~ The Problem of Pain, C.S. Lewis

THE GOAL IS FOR EVERY SINGLE TEEN YOU KNOW TO BE FAITHFULLY CATHOLIC

“Behold, now is a very acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.”

~ 2 Corinthians 6:2
Discuss:
How have you seen youth respond to God’s call in their lives? How have you seen youth live without listening to God’s call?

Practical Approaches:
1. PRAY
2. Leverage Confirmation
3. Encourage peer ministry
4. Focus on solid mountaintop experiences
5. Develop witnesses & testimonies
6. Always incorporate or point to Sacraments
7. NEVER stop evangelizing