How Stewardship Makes a Difference
Engaging Younger Adults

True or False:
- The spiritual but not religious are not members of congregations
- Most people who identify themselves as spiritual but not religious do not believe in God

A show of hands!

Those who are not religiously affiliated are most frequently found among younger adults
- The unaffiliated are a stable, yet growing segment of the population
Let's Get Acquainted!

The SBNR:

Majority are religiously affiliated

The "Nones"

• 30% of Americans under age 30 are unaffiliated
The view is not quite clear

Of those who were baptized within the Catholic faith:

- 68% are still Catholic
- 10% of Americans identify themselves as former Catholics

"Most who decided to leave their childhood faith say they did so before reaching age 24" Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life: Faith in Flux

The Unaffiliated:

Have the lowest retention rates of any major religious groups

- Most who were raised unaffiliated now belong to some religion. They are:
  - Attracted by religious services/styles of worship
  - Have been spiritually unfulfilled
  - Feel called by God
Why?

Our Desire:
To draw people to Christ through our parish communities, leading them to live as disciples and stewards.

What?
Spiritual dimension
Personal connection
Mission/meaning

“They see spirituality as connected to all of their life, not a compartment within their life. We need bridges between Monday-to-Friday and Sunday.”

David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group
September, 2010 USA Today

Learning from the Spiritual Needs Survey

What helps you grow spiritually?
1. Participation in Mass
2. Daily prayer
3. Belonging to my parish
4. Good friends who share faith with me

What helps you find meaning or purpose in life?
1. Family
2. Faith
3. Friends
4. Reaching out to others
5. My parish

For faith that needs strengthening, you would participate in:
1. A faith mentor
2. Parish gatherings to explore spiritual life

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• Mission/Meaning
  • 85% of Millennials said they are motivated to give by a compelling mission or cause,
  • 56% by a personal connection or trust in the leadership of the organization.
  • 79% of respondents volunteered for organizations in 2010,
  • “Micro-Volunteering”

Millennial Impact Report

How?

Build Bridges!
"The Lord made bridges...Christians who are afraid to build bridges and prefer to build walls are Christians who are not sure of their faith, not sure of Jesus Christ...Build bridges and move forward."

Pope Francis, May 8, 2013

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Bridges Are Built
Person-to-Person

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Welcome
Friendship
Sharing

Community
1. A group helping each other

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"Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent. The ones who quit sometimes do it for reasons that, if properly understood and assessed, can lead to a return. But that takes audacity and courage."

Pope Francis, in interview published September 19, 2013

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Welcome

- Audacious and Courageous Hospitality!
- Who we are, and what we do
- Invite into the family
- 4:1: Build on the already-engaged
- Work with leaders
- Formation for community
- Communion

Friendship

- Relationship within Community
- Person-to-Person
- Life circumstances
- Learning
- Prayer
- Small groups
Form a community of disciples who live as stewards
• Expectation: Discipleship
• Spirituality: Stewardship
• Grow gratitude, Live generosity

Enhance opportunities to give with meaning
• Witness to impact on giver and receiver
• Consider "Micro-Volunteering"

Move to Action
• Discover (Be attentive)
  • What do we do best?
  • Build on current engagement
• Dream (Be intelligent)
  • What might be?
  • What is your vision?
• Discern (Be realistic)
  • What should be?
  • How to begin and with whom?
• Do (Be responsible)
  • What will we do?
  • Plan to build the dream.
Articles:
- Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life
- "Nones" on the Rise
- Growth of the Nonreligious
- Faith in Flux: Changes in Religious Affiliation in the U.S.
- Millennials and the Church
- CARA
- The Impact of Religious Switching and Secularization on the Estimated Size of the U.S. Adult Catholic Population
- American Stateman
- "Spiritual but not religious" becoming more common self-identification
- CNN Belief Blog
- Why Millennials need the church
- Insights into Religion
- Reversing the Exodus: 7 characteristics of congregations that successfully attract young adults

Books:
- Smith, Christian, with Patricia Snell, Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults
- Winsemann, Albert L., Growing an Engaged Church
- Anslinger, Leisa, Turning Hearts to Christ: Forming Generous Hearts
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