

Habit 6: Involvement – Next Steps

Preparation might be coming to an end; however, the journey isn't over.

This session can also be a bit longer, as groups grow closer and speak up more. It's suggested that before this session ends, you collect the last page's interests by your students. Send the names to the Confirmation Coordinator to help get our youth involved here on campus.

What to Do:

- Start out with prayer
- Review your Vision and Values
- Tackle and Explain – SHAPE Profile
- Discuss Life After Confirmation
- Close in prayer (* set a meet up date after Confirmation)

Materials:

- Leader's Guide and Candidate Handout
- Bible (book or app)
- Writing utensil
- Paper
- Your own Vision and Values statement (if you choose to share it with your candidate)

You've spent most of the time reviewing their vision, values and a series of habits to affirm the Christian man/woman God wants them to be. Take this last session to evaluate how far they've come by doing the following exercise.

A good option is to have them fill out the following SHAPE profile to plug into ministry; however, we want to see if what they write in this exercise affirms what they originally wrote in their vision and values. If it does not, tell them not to worry, but to use it as a means of reevaluating what they originally wrote. We might have a good idea of where God wants us to go; however, we can never be too sure. Our vision and values can and will change (*even if it's just a little bit*).

Following the Candidate Worksheet:

SHAPE PROFILE

We want the candidates to discover that God has created them for a unique purpose, with unique gifts and unique passions. The goal of this exercise is to help them:

1. Discover their **S**piritual Gifts
2. Explore what their **H**eart beats for.
3. Examine their God given **A**bilities
4. Look at the beautiful **P**ersonality they can bless others with.
5. Learn how their past **E**xperiences can help others.

...in something we call SHAPE.

There are five steps to this exercise. Each step is meant to help the student discern how God has shaped them. After the process is completed, ask yourself the following questions:

- What does it mean to you to be a church member?
- How do you believe our parish could grow?
- Do you believe you have a role in that growth?

Step 1: Spiritual Gifts *(Read this paragraph to the Students as you discuss):*

In Session 3 we spoke about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Well gifts aren't given just at Confirmation. At Baptism God gave each of us a spiritual gift. A spiritual gift comes from God as part of your personal identity, and it's a gift to use your whole, entire life – not just when you're older or richer – now and always. God gives out these gifts personally, one by one. Remember back in Session 5 we mentioned all the ways to sacrifice, and one was by using YOUR talents & gifts to help the parish community as well as the surrounding communities.

How do you know if you are using your spiritual gift(s)?

1. Other people are helped when you use your gifts.
2. God is honored when you use your gifts (meaning, it not about you getting the credit or glory).
3. You feel good, fulfilled, and employed by God when you direct your gifts to serve others.

With that criteria, review the following list of gifts (listed alphabetically), and name three spiritual gifts you possess:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now take some time with the following question to reflect on your spiritual gifts:

1. Are other people helped when I use my gift?
2. Is God honored when I use my gift?
3. Do I feel fulfilled and employed by God when I use my gift?

If the candidate feels as if the answer is no, tell them not to worry, they may never have viewed their gifts as "spiritual." Have the candidate take another look at the list or think of other gifts and share with you why they feel they have those gifts.

Administration: the gift that allows the believer to formulate, direct, and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose.

Artistry: the gift that inspires the believer to create art that produces a spiritual response of strength and inspiration.

Discernment: the gift that motivates a believer to seek God's will and purpose and apply that understanding to individual and congregational situations.

Evangelism: the gift that moves believers to reach nonbelievers in such a way that they are baptized and become active members of the Christian community.

Exhortation: the gift that moves the believer to reach out with Christian love and presence to people in personal conflict or facing a spiritual void.

Faith: the gift that gives a believer the eyes to see the Spirit at work and the ability to trust the Spirit's leading without indication of where it all might lead.

Giving: the gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously and sacrificially giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure).

Hospitality: the gift that causes a believer to joyfully welcome and receive guests and those in need of food and lodging.

Intercession: the gift that enables a believer to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard and when requests are made, answers will come.

Knowledge: the gift that drives a person to learn, analyze and uncover new insights with regard to the Bible and faith.

Leadership: the gift that gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give direction and provide motivation to fulfill a dream or complete a task.

Mercy: the gift that motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need.

Music--Vocal: the gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing.

Music--Instrumental: the gift that inspires a believer to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument.

Pastoring (Shepherding): the gift that gives a believer the confidence, capability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of believers.

Service: the gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled.

Skilled Craft: the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church.

Teaching: the gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others.

Wisdom: the gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers.

Writing: the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers.

Step 2: Heart

Read to the Student: *As you define your SHAPE you need to look into your heart. What do you really love to do? What brings you the most joy of all? If you "take delight in the Lord... he will give you your heart's desires." We know that's true because Jesus said it in the Gospel of John: "I came that you might have life in its fullest." God wants you to be happy!*

Take some time with the student to discuss the following categories and their questions, have them record this in their handouts.

What Do You Love Doing?

1. What do you really enjoy doing?
2. What thoughts fill your daydreams?
3. What motivates you to want to get off the couch?

Given your answers to the first three questions, how might God use what you love doing to help you serve others?

Whom Do You Love Serving?

1. Who has God brought into my life for a specific purpose?
2. What peer groups do I feel led to serve?
3. How could I serve others in a way that might allow me to use my spiritual gifts?
4. Are there other types of people I might enjoy serving? If so, who?

What Cause Would You Love To Help Conquer?

1. What issues makes your heart beat faster?
2. Where could you make the greatest impact for God?
3. If time were not a concern, how would you like to serve God?

Step 3: Abilities

Read to the Student: *We all have some skill. We're good at certain things from jump roping to needle work to fixing appliances to delivering speeches. But when skill meets God – when skills collide with spiritual gifts – you get an ability, and an ability is an opportunity for greatness.*

The candidate might know their abilities already, or they may have an idea, but if they don't, show them the following list of abilities that we've come up with. Remind them these aren't the only ones that exist. BUT, before you show them the list have them consider three responses they may have when they see each ability:

1. Love It! – You can't imagine life without these activities, they make your day incredible. If you had the opportunity to make this your career you would.
2. Like It! – You enjoy them, but you don't need them to survive or be happy, you basically can take 'em or leave 'em.
3. Live Without It! – You see these actions and you are like, "Forget about it." They leave you tired or exhausted.

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| 1. Adapting | 26. Landscaping |
| 2. Analyzing | 27. Leading |
| 3. Building | 28. Learning |
| 4. Coaching | 29. Managing |
| 5. Communicating | 30. Mentoring |
| 6. Competing | 31. Motivating |
| 7. Computing | 32. Negotiating |
| 8. Connecting | 33. Operating |
| 9. Consulting | 34. Organizing |
| 10. Cooking | 35. Performing |
| 11. Coordinating | 36. Pioneering |
| 12. Counseling | 37. Planning |
| 13. Creating | 38. Promoting |
| 14. Decorating | 39. Recruiting |
| 15. Designing | 40. Repairing |
| 16. Developing | 41. Researching |
| 17. Directing | 42. Resourcing |
| 18. Editing | 43. Serving |
| 19. Encouraging | 44. Strategizing |
| 20. Engineering | 45. Teaching |
| 21. Facilitating | 46. Translating |
| 22. Forecasting | 47. Traveling |
| 23. Implementing | 48. Visualizing |
| 24. Improving | 49. Welcoming |
| 25. Influencing | 50. Writing |

If the candidate circled more than five of the 50 items, have them go back and pick the five that most define them.

I Love and Cannot Live Without These 5 Abilities:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Step 5: Personality

Read to the Student: *Without a doubt, your personality is just as God intended. Sometimes we wish we were more like other people, but the honest truth is: your personality is perfect. God designed it. Personality is how you encounter life and how you express it. It's how you naturally respond to situations and circumstances. Whether you're reserved or outgoing, whether you prefer to plan out your day or have no definite schedule at all, whether you think or feel your way through decisions... your personality was created by God just the way God wanted you to be.*

Before starting the next step discuss:
 How they typically relate to other people?
 How they respond to opportunities?

Have the candidate discern with the following questions. (Note this is not a scientific process, but just to get their minds flowing)

RESPONDING TO OTHERS: (circle one)

1. Around others I am more: RESERVED or OUTGOING
 - Find ways to be part of the crowd
 - Build deep relationships with a few friends, not large numbers of people.
 - Start conversations with people I don't know.
 - Avoid being a part of a large group.

2. My decisions are based more on: FACTS/ THINKING or FEELINGS
 - Feel free to share my feelings with people I've just met.
 - Withhold my thoughts and feelings from others at certain times.
 - Seek opportunities to share my life with others.
 - Hold back so only a few close friends can truly know me.

3. In my relationships I tend to be more: COOPERATIVE or COMPETITIVE
 - Focus on making sure people feel comfortable when I'm around them.
 - Find importance in achievements.
 - Look for ways to make others content.
 - Embrace conflict and enjoy winning.

RESPONDING TO OPPORTUNITIES: (circle one)

1. I tend to be more: HIGH RISK or LOW RISK
 - Avoid radical changes.
 - Enjoy chaotic environments
 - Excel when risk is very low.
 - Get motivated when I have the chance to overcome big obstacles.

2. I am drawn more to: PEOPLE or PROJECTS
 - Embrace opportunities to work with other people directly.
 - Look for ways to complete projects.
 - Enjoy being involved in many projects at once.
 - Find more fulfillment when I can work with someone one-on-one or in a small group.
3. I like to: FOLLOW or LEAD
 - Often find myself leading others.
 - Feel comfortable when I can follow someone else.
 - Determine the direction for groups I'm part of.
 - Experience fulfillment when I help others succeed.
4. I enjoy: BEING ON A TEAM or FLYING SOLO
 - I enjoy being part of a team or group.
 - Look for opportunities that allow me to work by myself.
 - Become energized by being around others.
 - Work most effectively when I'm alone.
5. I am all about: ROUTINE or VARIETY
 - Be involved in many projects at one time.
 - Prefer completing one project before starting another.
 - Enjoy being responsible for a lot of tasks at the same time.
 - Become overwhelmed with constant change.

STEP 5: Experiences

Read to the Student: *All of our experiences can draw us closer to God. It hardly seems like it at the time, but even a bad experience is an opportunity to grow closer to God, the source of constant help and hope and healing. God doesn't mete out those bad times, zapping people from heaven, causing disease or injustice, but God loves us too much to prevent all bad things. After all, bad experiences make us stronger and can help us to love better. If we grapple with a hard situation while remaining open to God's grace, we certainly grow. We can then offer strength and empathy to others who encounter the same experience.*

"(God) ... wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us! (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Don't waste those bad experiences. Allow them shape your ministry as they have shaped you. Let your experience be a blessing to others!

Give the candidate time to reflect and journal quietly over the next four areas.

Afterwards take some time to review his/her answers:

(they don't have much space in their journal for this, but if you can write notes below to help you remember what each said, it'll help you in furthering the mentorship)

My spiritual experience is (how my faith has grown):

Top three positive memories I have:

Some painful experiences that I've had:

A past experience I've learned from is:

BEFORE CONFIRMATION:

This might be the last time you meet with your candidate (*It doesn't have to be*) so make sure you discuss life after Confirmation. You will want to encourage three things:

1. To constantly tweak and reflect on their vision and values.
2. To consistently plug themselves into the parish
3. To touch base with their sponsor and discuss their journey thus far and how they will continue after you finish meeting with them.

St. Louis de Montfort Parish Ministries

Write their initials by any of the activities they checked! (*they can check as many as they'd like*)

Liturgical:

- ___ ___ ___ Choir
- ___ ___ ___ Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- ___ ___ ___ Mass Coordinator
- ___ ___ ___ Lector
- ___ ___ ___ Knights of the Holy Temple – serving
- ___ ___ ___ Daughters of the Wisdom – usher, greet, EMHC
- ___ ___ ___ Greeter

Leadership:

- ___ ___ ___ Youth Advisory Board – guides our High School Youth Ministry
- ___ ___ ___ Retreat Team(s) – Confirmation, SLdM School, SLdM Jr. High, etc...
- ___ ___ ___ Marian University's – Missionary Discipleship Institute
- ___ ___ ___ National Catholic Youth Conference

Spiritual/Social:

- ___ ___ ___ High School Youth Group – team gatherings, service, activities, retreats, conferences, mission trips, social fun, & more!
- ___ ___ ___ Knights of the Holy Temple – meetings, serving at Mass, & retreats
- ___ ___ ___ Daughters of the Wisdom – meetings, gatherings, activities, & retreats
- ___ ___ ___ SLDM Athletic Ministry- gatherings, service
- ___ ___ ___ St. Bosco Juggling club – learn how to entertain to share joy with others

Labor:

- ___ ___ ___ Groundwork/landscaping
- ___ ___ ___ Cleaning on SLDM campus
- ___ ___ ___ SLdM Food Pantry
- ___ ___ ___ Lord's Pantry/Anna's House (downtown)
- ___ ___ ___ Brazil Mission
- ___ ___ ___ Spring Break Mission Trips

OTHER: Please list other wants in areas of involvement not listed above

*Collect the information on what boxes they checked. Please email that information to YM office, so we can assist in getting them in touch with the proper people who oversee those organizations. **End in prayer & discuss reuniting as a group***

(schedule Masses, or just get extracurricular activities that they do and all go support them)