

Table Discussion #1:

What are the reasons for why many young adult Catholics have a vibrant Catholic faith?

- Active in a vibrant parish life that draws & attracts them
- A good education and formation in the Faith
- Solid youth ministry programs
- Active in forms of service / activities outside of Mass
- Have had a genuine encounter & experience of the Lord
- Have found truth, beauty, and goodness in the Church

What are the reasons young adult Catholics give for leaving the Church?

- Parishes not reaching out / not hospitable / not inviting
- Homilies are not engaging, interesting or challenging
- Lack of powerful life-changing experiences / poor catechesis
- Priests & parish staff lack passion
- The secular, materialistic, over-busy culture

Table Discussion #2:

When was a time that you struggled in your faith?

- A time of intense suffering
- The experience of hypocrisy among leaders in the Church
- Intellectual challenges among college professors / peers
- Feeling and being alone
- Influence of inactive Catholic or non-Catholic friends

Share a significant moment when you chose to be more committed to Christ and his Church.

- Retreats / Rallies / Gatherings / Conferences/ Mission Trips
- Being prayed for by friends and receiving an invitation
- Personal research in response to "Why am I Catholic?"
- The impact of having a child
- The inspiration of parents and other role models

What are the particular needs of young adults that the Catholic Church needs to be attentive to?

- Need invitation and empowerment by parish leadership
- Need for Bible study & fellowship in same age group
- Need child care to participate
- Need more savvy marketing
- Need answers to spiritual / intellectual longings

Discussion Session #3:

What do our young adults have to offer that can help renew and invigorate the Church?

- Fresh outlook with creative ideas
- Vibrant energy and passion
- The ability to communicate with and evangelize peers
- Knowledge and experience with technology
- The potential to make radical commitments

What are some concrete means we can take to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to young adults?

- Bold homilies that are attentive to younger parishioners
- Use the media (CDs, DVDs, Internet) effectively
- Provide a drop-in place for young adults to gather
- Retreats/Gatherings that appeal to young adults
- Praise and worship coupled with with prayer groups

What would be some effective ways to encourage young adults to know/love/live/defend their faith?

- Design child care into the programs we offer
- Theology of the Body • Theology on Tap • Apologetics
- Dynamic Catholic speakers series
- Make Sunday & Daily Mass available in the evening
- Appoint deanery/parish young adult ministry coordinators

How do we encourage a more active prayer life so that they can hear the Good Shepherd calling them?

- Eucharistic Adoration
- At Mass, provide silent opportunities for prayer/reflection
- Parish school of prayer
- Retreats filled with silent and guided prayer
- Instruction in how to pray the Divine Office

What service opportunities could we provide that would be attractive to young adults?

- Prison Ministry • Mission trips • Homeless • Elderly • Poor
- Ministry to mothers who need help with childcare / housework
- Pro-life: 40 Days for Life / March for Life / Crisis Pregnancy
- Events on Sundays promoting Sunday as a day of rest/service
- Designing and staffing parish hospitality