

Emerging Approaches to Ministry with Youth

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CHRIST IS ALIVE!
CHRISTUS VIVIT

POPE FRANCIS
POST-SYNODAL
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

Christus Vivit

The post-synodal papal apostolic exhortation written to and about youth and young adults, released in late March 2019, following the XV Synod on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment (2017-18).

*The foundational guiding document for the Catholic Church's ministries with **youth** and with **young adults***



“youth”

Youth is not something to be analyzed in the abstract. Indeed, “youth” does not exist. There exists only young people, each with the reality of his or her own life.

Pope Francis, CV #71



“ministry”

The young make us see
the need for new styles
and new strategies...

Youth ministry has to be
synodal; it should involve
a “journeying together.”

Pope Francis, CV #204, 206

Ministry with young people is a **process** that is gradual, respectful, patient, hopeful, tireless, and compassionate.

The Synod proposed the example of the disciples of **Emmaus** as a model of what happens in ministry.

Pope Francis, CV #236



Listen.

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them... He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" (Lk 24:15,17)

Teach.

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. (Lk 24:27)

Send.

"Were not our hearts burning...?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem. (Lk 24:32,33)



Listening.

- **Encountering** youth on the road, wherever they are.
- Being fully **present** for them in times of great transition.
- **Understanding** and taking real interest in their lives and appreciating their uniqueness.
- **Healing** their brokenness by being a “field hospital after battle” and restoring trust.



Teaching.

- **Proclaiming** Jesus Christ and witnessing to the *kerygma*.
- Offering an **evangelizing catechesis** with formation suited to their lives and age.
- **Sharing the truth in love**, giving them tools to navigate social, moral, ethical issues.
- Revealing Christ in joyful and communal **sacramental life**.



Sending.

- Equipping youth to be bold, **evangelizing witnesses**.
- Motivating them to engage in **charity and works of justice**.
- Journeying with them through **vocational discernment** as they aspire toward holiness.
- Inspiring and training them to be **faithful protagonists** now, as peer leaders and witnesses.





The Practical

How is this all practically and realistically happening?

What are parishes already doing to “listen,” “teach,” and “send” youth onward?

What more can be done?



Small Group Discussion

1. What are the **implications** of this approach and these ideas on your local context?
2. What are the **obstacles** that may need to be navigated in order to ensure fruitfulness?

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