The Critical Role Youth and Young Adult Ministry Play in Discerning God’s Call
Presenters

- Fr. John Guthrie
  Associate Director, Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, USCCB
- Fr. Brian Bashista
  Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry, Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia
- Ms. Margaret Motto
  Pastoral Associate, St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Plainfield, Illinois
PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

- What is your motivation for attending this workshop?
- What possibilities excite you?
- What challenges have you faced?
PowerPoint available at:

www.usccb.org/vocations
God has a dream for every person
Youth and Young Adult Ministry leaders have a privileged role in helping young people DISCERN the divine call

• Discernment vs. Recruitment
2012 CARA STUDY

- On consideration of a religious vocation by never-married youth and young adults

No Shortage of Interest

Priests and Religious Brothers
- Current population: 43,441
- Never-married Catholics who have considered vocation at least "a little" or more: 1,411,200
- Never married Catholics who have considered vocation "very seriously": 352,800

Religious Sisters
- Current population: 54,018
- Never-married Catholics who have considered vocation at least "a little" or more: 1,274,000
- Never married Catholics who have considered vocation "very seriously": 254,800
KEY FACTORS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

- Those who attended Catholic educational institutions at any level
- Those who were encouraged to consider a vocation by any type of person
- Those who personally know priests and men and women religious
- Those involved in parish youth and young adult groups
THE BOTTOM LINE

RELATIONSHIPS
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For men, participation in youth group at primary school level increases serious vocational consideration by 5 times

For women, participation in youth group at high school level increases serious vocational consideration by 9 times
ENCOURAGEMENT

- If one person encourages another to consider a religious vocations, he/she is TWICE as likely to do so.
- If three persons encourage, he/she is more than FIVE times as likely to do so.
  - THREE IS KEY!
In the relationship with youth: talk with them about discernment
The Challenge

Rather than staying within our own silos in Church ministry, we learn to work together more effectively.
FROM A VOCATION DIRECTOR

Fr. Brian Bashista
Diocese of Arlington, VA
ALL are called!
General and particular call
Vocation and career
All about love, offering of self as a gift, and other directed
Vocations are discovered, not chosen. Essential freedom is rooted in a response, not a choice
DISCERNING GOD’S CALL
PRAY. LISTEN. ACT. REPEAT!

Seekholiness Video
FIVE PASTORAL PRIORITIES

› Prayer
› Evangelize
› Experience
› Mentor
› Invite
When our youth have a deeper encounter with Christ and draw closer to Him, then they can come to know and love Him more personally. The more they are convinced of the goodness of this, then they want to know and love Him more. Out of this, and the joyful example of priests, brothers and sisters, they are more willing to perhaps consider the idea that they might be called to a similar vocation.
OPPORTUNITIES

- **Relationship of Trust:** Get to know one another, interaction is very important, we are in this together

- **Collaborate:** Value distinct, yet complementary roles

- **Speak the ‘language’** to foster and atmosphere of openness to talk and actively encourage discernment
COLLABORATION

- In-Service Day
- Work-Camps
- High School Rally & Jr. High Bash
- World Youth Days
- Seminary Visits & Nun Runs
- Quo Vadis & Fiat Days
- Speakers
- Handbook
CHALLENGES

- **Communication** is key, keep in close contact

- Not a new ‘program’ look at what is already being done with an added or broader awareness

- Ultimately about Christ, and making disciples of Jesus, not us and following His plans, not *necessarily* our own
Role as a ‘Fisher’ of Men & Women

...be patient and alert
...be persistent
...trust your intuition
...know the right moment
...keep ‘out of sight’

Master we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing. But, if you say so Lord, I will do it.”

Luke 5:5
FROM A YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTER

Ms. Margaret Motto
Diocese of Joliet, IL
MINISTRY MODELS THAT APPLY THE 5 PRINCIPLES

- Spirit and Truth
- Youth Leadership Conference
- Created and Redeemed Series
"I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of his presence?" - Pope John Paul II

- The Eucharist is the “Summit of Evangelization”

- Silence is attractive to youth because it is so countercultural
Mentoring

- “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”

- Start of conversion is relationships and trust

- Youth and Young Adults want to see Seminarians, Priests, Religious and Catholic Married Couples who are authentic, normal, joyful and fulfilled in their vocation!
How to Collaborate with Vocations Office

- Schedule Sharing
- Mutual Promotion
- Frequent presence of Mentors
- “Vocations” as Underlying Theme
Young Adult Theology of the Body/ Vocations Series
Skit at Youth Leadership Conference

Diocese of Joliet Video
What did you learn that will enhance what you already do?

What is one new idea you might consider with regard to your local context?

How can you advocate this approach with youth, young adult or other pastoral ministers?
Contact Information

- Fr. John Guthrie
  • jguthrie@usccb.org
- Fr. Brian Bashista
  • bbashista@marymount.edu
- Margaret Motto
  • m.motto@hotmail.com