Today’s youth and young adults are the future of the Church. In his papal exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis, tells us that the “entire community has to be involved in evangelizing them” (#202). Youth ministry should “involve a ‘journeying together’ that values ‘the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church’s members, through a process of co-responsibility’” (#206). As educators and youth ministers, we want to accompany our young people as they renew and deepen their relationship with the Lord and discover God’s great love for them.

In the coming issues of our IHM Catholic EdNotes, we will share various topics and ideas related to youth and young adult ministry. We welcome your input and suggestions as well.

**Who are today’s youth and young adults?**

**Millennial Generation** (Current Young Adults)

- Born between 1981-1996
- Social media savvy and digitally connected, yet many report feeling lonely
- Tolerant of differences, yet have experienced high rates of bullying/cyberbullying between peers as teens
- Have increased awareness of sexual harassment, yet are increasingly sexualized because of being exposed at younger ages to pornography through technology
- Believe in themselves, yet anxious for their future
  - High rates of anxiety, depression, suicide and addiction
  - Massive student debts
- Generally not religious, yet want to find meaning in their lives
  - Large number report having no religious affiliation, yet they are not atheists
  - Want to make a difference in world
  - Called “Generation Nice” by recent NY Times article

**iGen, also known as Generation Z** (Current Children, Youth, and College-aged Young Adults)

- Growing up entirely in digital world of instant information; “Digital bond” with technology
- Growing up in post-9/11 world of globalized terrorism, yet have little or no memory of 9/11 themselves
- Many were born or grew up in economic recession
- Worried about their future
- Growing up in diverse society: growing Hispanic population, witnessed 1st African-American president, legalized same-sex marriage
- Growing up in more polarized society
Want to Learn More? Here are some Mac YYAC suggested resources.

https://bustedhalo.com


Social Justice and Charitable Acts

https://uscatholic.org/articles/201403/best-practices-for-engaging-youth/

5 Awesome, Little Prep Games for Teens
https://lifeteen.com/cym/blog/5-awesome-little-preparation-games-for-teens/


"My dear young people, the Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you!"