

APYM: Standing on Common Ground: Rooted in the Domestic Church

December 6, 2017 at St. Joseph, Eldersburg

Introductions, including overview of Servant Team roles

Icebreaker – Rudy led us in a “Secret St. Nick” sharing & game

- Each person filled out a sheet with the answers to five questions & shared in a table group
- Everyone pulled a different person’s and chose an imaginary gift for the unknown person (budget \$150)

Prayer – Rena – Intercession

- Began with the Lord’s Prayer (God is a parent – Our Father)
- Story of St. Nicholas throwing bags of gold coins into home to save 3 daughters’ reputations
- Gold coin chocolates – for each one, plan an intentional action for a parent or set of parents (in your ministry, parish, community, etc.) & share with the table
- Shared intentions for prayer
- Prayed through list of intercessions for parents (document will be linked).

Tim Janisewski (Keynote) – Rooted in the Domestic Church

- Who Is Tim?
 - Husband of Laura, his high school dream girl (though they never dated in college). Married 22 years, still can’t believe he’s got to marry her.
 - Dad of Luke and Jake.
 - Used to be an engineer, felt a call for “something else” – now in ministry for 21 years.
- Family Tradition on the Feast of St. Nicholas – Write a letter to Baby Jesus.
 - Two parts:
 - i. How did you past year go?
 - ii. What are your hopes for this upcoming year?
 - When Tim was a kid, the would put them in pie tins outside and St. Nick would come get them and leave a treat. □ (Some traditions use shoes.)
- Everybody’s Domestic Church is different. Some are faithful, some not as much, but they shape all of us in faith one way or another.
 - Shared stories of his parents – His father discerned religious if quite seriously. “If it wasn’t for my dad’s hemorrhoids, I wouldn’t be here.” (seriously – check the video!)
 - Triptych with Our Lady of Czestochowa and feast days Saints for every family member.
 - Dinner by candlelight (I thought everybody did this!)
 - Family Prayer plaque – prayed together as a family at the end of every dinner. I hated it!
 - Family never missed Mass. “We are Janisewskis, we go to Mass.”
 - Father blessed them every night, hand on his children’s heads, with “The Lord bless you and keep you...” Even now, Tim blesses his sons from afar (hands raised pointing in the appropriate direction)
 - Dad’s Motto: In His Will, Our Peace.

- Dad's Books – it was normal to have faith books around the house
 - Arch Books – stories of OT and NT, etc. All the pictures from those books became the images for those passages in Tim's adult life.
 - Mom's prayer chair – she would sit there in the mornings, with scripture, and the kids knew not to interrupt her.
 - Visits to the Grotto in Emmitsburg.
 - When family would come to visit DC, they always started at the Basilica.
 - Always pray the Rosary during the months of May and October. Tim hated this too! Dad would always chant his parts, which drove brother and sister crazy, so Tim would do it too.
 - Went to Catholic school at St. Jane's. Dad was an elementary school teacher, Mom was at home (also an elementary school teacher), so it was a stretch but an important part of his faith development.
 - i. Some parents see Catholic school as their key to not having to do faith stuff at home, and this doesn't work!
 - Wait – St. Nick put treats in the pie plates! □
 - Advent Wreath
 - Advent Calendar
 - ***If you do only one thing for Advent, do the Jesse Tree!*** – He had no idea that he was learning Salvation History every Advent!
 - Nativity Set – hid Baby Jesus until Christmas Day. Mom's ceramic one was off limits, but there was a wooden one to play with.
 - Tim "was a sadistic weird little kid" and combined Noah's Ark with the Nativity scene. Jesus and the donkey survived, obviously.
 - Christmas Gifts – small gifts at Christmas, bigger gifts are some other time of the year.
 - Lent – Stations of the Cross at home, with candles. Tim's Dad made a simple wooden Stations set, w/ only spots for 12 candles, so that when the last candle goes out it lines up with Jesus' death.
 - Sacrament Cloth – went out on the table for Baptisms and First Communions
 - Did First Communions in their own house!
 - Kids' bible – "I don't know if I actually read it, but I definitely looked at the pictures."
 - Confirmation – no one had the nerve to say that his Dad (who happened to be dying) couldn't be his sponsor.
 - Dad – "I forgave you before you did it." (Like Jesus!)
 - Conscience is the most important voice, but it has to be educated.
 - Was this normal??? Likely not, but it wasn't abnormal in a weird/isolated way.
 - Tim's Mom, Kay Janisewski, is here!
 - Mom taught him to put his name on things so he can stand by his words (Kellie does it too).
 - At home, Tim's family celebrates their Baptism days. They get books for each anniversary of Baptism, starting with children's books.
 - They do family pilgrimages.
- Advice for parents who are nervous or self-conscious:

- “Anything you do that’s faith related, let them know you do it!!!!”
- Be vulnerable with your kids! It’s okay to not be perfect.
- Make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead when you say goodnight.
- Give them something they can follow, a guide, including conversations about it, and challenge them (give them someone to “blame.”)
- Kay’s big takeaway/most important thing to pass on to kids: Prayer! In all forms.
- Tangible, non-intimidating, and concrete suggestions are important for families we minister to/with.
- Tim’s Advent calendar is his house when the boys were little – notes with actions, which when completed were replaced with special candy. “Live in tune with the Spirit and enjoy the fruits!”
- From Mary Conney: Blog resources for celebrating faith within the family:
 - i. Carrots for Michaelmas
 - ii. Catholic All Year

Discussion based on John Romanowsky's PPT (Craig's presentation from Youth Contact)

- The very first place teens should hear the word, "Jesus" is in the home; but this is not the reality for the majority of families.
- Moving from "Cradle Catholics" to "Cradle None's"
- "When the urgency rate is not ..." John P. Kotter

After lunch discussion...

- Sean Reynolds, Youth Contact 2012 "Parents have given up the role of primary faith educators, but we as youth ministers have made it worse by taking that role and running with it."
- If we are not impacting domestic church, we are just spinning our wheels – go out and make disciples of parents. You need to work with parents, you are not just a youth minister, you are a family minister.
- "There are no silver bullets" – Mark Pacione; we need to start with small ideas and see what works and keep moving forward from there
- Suggestions:
 - OLC HSYM – *Date*
 - i. I will not send you junk, please read this!
 - ii. Your ten minute conversation with your teens is worth more than the two hours we spend with that at youth group. I am giving you the details of what we did since your teen might not tell you
 - iii. Agenda, question of the week, summary of what we did, encourage to go to Mass
 - Faith Covenant
 - i. Everywhere you go, you take your faith with you. It is part of everything you do. It is the pie crust, not filling. Church should be on this campus, in the halls of your school, on your team, etc.
 - Teens get a checklist of places and ways to "be Church"
 - Sponsors and parents get one too – what do you do to model your faith?

Announcements

- March 19th at Bon Secours
 - 8am breakfast begins, 9:30am retreat with Dr. Pat, 11am optional Mass, 12noon Lunch, 3pm retreat ends
 - Come early to spend the night (\$120)
 - Topic: Self Care, "Filling Your Cup"
- Thurs, June 14 – Friday, June 15th
 - Theme: Recharging on Holy Ground
 - Fr. Paul Dresser, OFM (Retreat Director)
 - Registration online

Nominations Cast for Next Year APYM Servant Team (3 openings; 2 3-year terms, 1 2-year term)

DYYAM (Craig)

- Gender conversation is being guided by the AOB; want feedback, want to plan well so everything is clear – will reschedule for Spring
- **Bosco Day, Jan 31st at St. Michael's Mt Airy, 9:30-3pm** (Bob McCarty)
 - o St. Mary's Press funded process of research of NONE's, we will be the first group
- **MAC**
 - o Mike Tyson (Strong Catholic Family Initiative)
 - o Bob McCarty will have a breakout pre-MAC
- **Junior High Day (May 12th) at Mount St. Joe's HS** (alternate space is St. Louis)
 - o Promo and registration will come out in New Year
- **Donor who has agreed to fund a part-time DYYAM member focused on MS Ministry for 5 years**
 - o Responsibilities:
 1. Middle School Day
 2. Coordinate and expand MS retreat opportunities
 - Target MS Catholic school students (catalyst to connect to parish YM)
 3. Create and offer resources for parents on how to talk about faith in the home

Small Group Discussion

- What do/can YOU do at your parish?? (names next to suggestions)

Family Ministry (on campus, parent & children)	Non-gathered Ministry (off campus, parent led)
<p>Suggestions/Ideas (Lauren) How do we approach these large gatherings with VIRTUS? How do we follow the rules?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If every teen that comes is with a parent, not all the adults have to be certified. It is not our responsibility. Check about overnight??? - (Michelle) Sponsors on overnight retreat, as long as the team is trained, the others do not have to be trained. They do not leave on their own, by themselves. - ASK OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION - (Adam) Lots of weird nuances, but if there is an event with a lot of adults, in order to not have to have all the adults certified each teen has to have a guardian - (Scott) We roadblock ourselves with this kind of dialogue; need to be able to brainstorm first and then work out details, instead of road blocking ourselves at the beginning <p>(Becki) Family/Community events that focus on the charisms of the parish</p>	<p>Suggestions/Ideas (Susan, St. Mary's) Increase communication with parents so they know what is happening with program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Kay, Michelle) Put a suggestion in the bulletin, or send an email to parents. Email seems best way, include video because there are visual learners - Scott Miller's letter – relevant, informative - (Chris Wesley) should be able to communicate the whole email in the subject line - (Colleen) Bold the essential information - (Katie Erskine) links to websites - (Mary Conney) Sarah J uses SMORE, can sign up for free and it makes your emails look cool and professional - (Becki) FlockNote is helpful with making emails look professional, can schedule emails - (Kenn) Parents are able to see value in the outcome of participating in sports, so remember that parents are comparing events and are competing with other events – why is this valuable? Sell it! Concrete, clear, tangible value. <p>(Katie E) Craig has reminded us that we are valuable in the parish outlook conversation because we have a history of being creative and innovative in ideas; let the HS bless your ideas!</p> <p>(Scott) Tim did a great job defining what missionary discipleship looks like for kids. If we want them to become a missionary disciple, we need to equip parents.</p>

Small Group Discussion (continued)

- What do/can YOU do at your parish?? (names next to suggestions)

<p>Things We Have Already Done (Kate K) MS Created to Love; this night is about opening a conversation with you and your child, it is only successful if you are open to it and try. I am not going to tell you everything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works because - “I wish my parents knew...” on anonymous slips of paper and then send out to parents or read aloud <p>(Colleen) Speaker each year on a different issue for parents and teens together; speaker was a parent who was able to speak vulnerably to help parents open conversation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Body Image, Drugs & Alcohol/Addiction <p>(Pat S) Parent-Teen Retreat (planned with Scott)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Special FX Family Experience” - \$18/family - Spiritual (holy family), dynamics of the modern family, developmental realities through the year, chance for parents and youth to talk separately, what do parents and teens want the other to know, communication and differences between generations, end with Mass? <p>(Lauren) We focus on building relationships with teens, but we need to build relationships with the parents as well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empower peers and CORE team to build relationship with teens - Discussion questions, summary sent in email to parents - (Mary) To the parents whose teens were not there, FORWARD the message to the parents saying “We missed your teen!” <p>(Becki) Evangelize best through service projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value is “service hours for school” - Offer projects, especially after Christmas and Easter. Promote in bulletin because they are actually there... - Parents tend to come in and check them out, it is more accessible. Teens want to take it home and involve their families. “You can do this too!” 	<p>Things We Have Already Done (Pat S) Two Minute video every other week with prayer and reflections</p> <p>(Colleen) Schedule FlockNote to parents and sponsor with questions we discuss in Confirmation class</p> <p>(Craig) disconnect when we do not follow up; we offer a lot of opportunities, but next level of relationship is the follow up – builds relationship with parents</p> <p>(Scott) ParentQue.com</p> <p>(Kellie) “Befriending the Wolf” – ecology charism of St. Francis</p> <p>(Becki) build relationships with parents wherever they are</p> <p>(Becki, Adam Smyth) Catechists/small group leaders/CORE Team sending regular emails to parents</p> <p>(Scott) LifeTeen → Parent Life</p>
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Future of APYM (Katie)

History of APYM (Pat Sprankle)

- 1980's was about trailblazing; four people began together as a team (1984/5), by 1986 there were about 10 people.
 - Established informal mentoring support network.
 - Why APYM is so important – we can get the nourishment we do not always get at our parishes by spending time together

Looking Ahead – Three Considerations

1. Share formation with DYYAM (between APYM and DYYAM)
 - a. APYM offers 3 days; (DYYAM) Bosco Day, Youth Contact; MAC; regional meetings
 - i. Attendance **not all tables did this**
 1. Bosco Day (5 = 5)
 2. DYYAM Meetings (1+3 = 4)
 3. Faith & Science (3 = 3)
 4. Youth Contact (2+5 = 7)
 5. MAC (5 = 5)
 6. NCYC (2 = 2)
 7. Pastoral Formation Day (2+4 = 6)
 8. APYM (5+6 = 11)
 9. Regional Meetings (6 = 6)
 - b. DYYAM would cover the rest financially
 - c. DYYAM can put more money into their days, so we can get national speakers
 - d. **Thoughts:**
 - i. **Challenges**
 1. Table One
 - a. Question 1
 - i. One volunteer attended MS Formation, 2 attended young adult formation
 - b. Question 2
 - i. Timing (3 nights in a row is too much, nights and weekends are too hard on families)
 - c. Question 3
 - i. Short notice, there were no reminders sent out after initial schedule
 - ii. Schedule that was sent out was overwhelming
 - iii. Not enough regular communication
 - iv. More training that we can send volunteers to (such as MS or Confirmation)
 - v. Distance
 2. Table Two
 - a. Poor marketing, tag lines we not marked well
 - b. Value of events not communicated well

- c. Branding
 - d. Time – we have too much to do
 - 3. Table Three
 - a. Schedule conflicts
 - b. Distance
 - c. Time of Day
 - ii. **Benefits/Would Make it Worthwhile...**
 - 1. Table One
 - a. Question 2
 - i. Topic that is not readily available online or in a book
 - ii. Personal/Human Topics
 - iii. Something I am not already doing (like self-care)
 - iv. Topics that are most supported by discussion
 - v. Practical topics that we can easily incorporate
 - 2. Table Two
 - a. Want to be challenged
 - b. Relevant topics
 - c. Not mediocre
 - d. Practical takeaways
 - 3. Table Three
 - a. Relevant Topics
 - b. Available dates
 - c. Distance
 - d. Spirituality Available
 - e. Conversation over presentation
2. Collaboration with BACM and BPA
 - a. All charge dues, offer retreats, offer professional development
 - b. Challenges? Benefits?
 - i. **Challenges**
 - 1. Table One
 - a. Experience and how we want/need to be formed are very different
 - b. Different people, vision, culture, approach to ministry
 - c. The way it is lived out in our ministries is very different
 - d. Suggestion: SOME collaboration, but not ONLY collaboration
 - 2. Table Two
 - a. Need clearer definition of what each does
 - 3. Table Three
 - a. Membership costs
 - b. Difference in culture/attitude
 - c. Differences in job descriptions
 - d. Differences in charisms

- e. Remaining collaborative, not competitive
- f. YM's seen as under DRE's
- g. Lose ground as professionals in our own organizations

ii. **Benefits**

1. Table One

- a. Plenty of overlap that we can definitely hit relevant and current topics
- b. Could collaboratively create a vision of lay ministry for 10 years down the road
- c. Clarity of mission is shared and unified
- d. We can all have the same formation at the same time, so our parish staff is on the same page at the same time (maybe formation together, then sometimes break into organizations)

2. Table Two

- a. Influence each other, change old models
- b. Foster collaboration and relationships so we can work together
- c. Wider reach with the information that is relevant to both
- d. Help iron out job descriptions – develop a basic template that can be used throughout the AOB

3. Table Three

- a. Variety of formation
- b. Prevents extra meetings
- c. Larger size = more money = speakers
- d. Conversation of lay ecclesial ministry
- e. A lot of overlap in jobs

3. Functioning as a local chapter of NFCYM

a. **What are you hearing on the local level that you think there needs to be national conversation about?**

i. Table One

- 1. Pastorate and population shift – how does that change how we do ministry?
- 2. What will lay ministry look like?
- 3. Our field is becoming more bi-vocational – another job in addition to ministry
- 4. Growing level of diversity (multiple groups/populations trying to co-exist; raising up leadership) – racial, ethnic, family structure, gender identity
- 5. Don't see ourselves as a local chapter of NFCYM, but we could be advisory
- 6. Re-tooling ministry for evangelization
- 7.

ii. Table Two

1. Conversations about how to integrate family ministry into youth ministry
 2. More young adult ministry training at all levels (post HS, college, single YA, married YA, parents, etc)
 3. The urgency to “shake it up” – what you are doing is not working
 4. Debriefing that really helps us integrate the lessons learned
 5. Ways to promote the important of YM to pastors and parents
- iii. Table Three
1. Pastorates and collaboration
 2. Formation of Youth Ministers
 3. Certification to Formation
 4. Small group vs. Large group youth ministry

4. Additional Considerations

- a. (Scott) What are the tasks that we as collaborative groups we could address? What could we collaborate on? What could we put out for others?
 - i. Tasks (advocacy) after each gathering
 - Example: sit down and develop 3-4 tasks and task groups, then share outcomes at the next gathering
- b. (Kellie) Monday, January 8th daytime gathering to celebrate and honor Mike Downes as House Director
 - i. Talk to Kellie or Craig if you want to be on the planning team
 - ii. RSVP to Cassandra Palmer
- c. (Table One) Tasks that we can be doing collaboratively:
 - i. Advocacy – care of ministers, maternity leave, school discounts, etc
 - ii. Work together on developing shared projects
 - iii. Work on developing shared programs