



PLANS OF HOPE

HOUMA-THIBODAUX PARISH PLANNING

DIOCESAN PLANNING PRIORITY NO. 2: YOUTH FORMATION

CHAPTER 12

SECTION 9



WHAT?

Best practices: What *is* working and *why* is it working?

CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE BEST PRACTICES

THE FORMATION LIFE CYCLE

How well does this address the issues articulated in our Formation Life Cycle?

IS IT BEARING FRUIT?

Can you see evidence that it is affecting change in people's lives?

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

It might work in parish "A" but can it work in all of the parishes?

HAND OFF

How well does it interact with other parish ministries? Is it easy to get into? Does it feed other ministries?

SUSTAINABILITY

Is it dependent on a certain personality or leader? Can it sustain multiple pastors?

LACK OF PERIPHERAL "NOISE"

Are there questions? Perhaps with its leadership? theology? history?



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LEARN MORE



**AUGUSTINE
INSTITUTE**

UNDERSTAND, LIVE, AND SHARE YOUR FAITH



WHAT IS IT? The Augustine Institute partnered with Jim Beckman in providing the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia with an online in-service regarding the changing face of youth ministry.

HOW CAN I WATCH IT? They are on YouTube.

- First watch: The Changing Face of Teens: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLuG-_W-Po&t=1s
- Then watch: The Changing Face of Youth Ministry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YB7RSvpJJRs>



WHAT IS IT? Ave Marie Press hosted a “Best Practices in Catholic Youth Ministry Webinar”. It’s just that: experts in the field who are sharing what’s working.

WHO ARE THE PRESENTERS? Jared Dees, Alison Griswald, Katie Prejean, Tony Vasinda, Christopher Wesley

HOW CAN I WATCH IT? It’s on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO5eAcvwmUU



WHAT IS IT? LIFE TEEN is hosting the next in a series of training conferences on June 9-12, 2019

WHY SHOULD I GO? Because no one in the country trains people for youth ministry better than does LIFE TEEN.

WHAT’S MY NEXT STEP? Visit their website: www.lifeteen.com/events/catholic-youth-ministry-convention-date/



BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES LIFE TEEN



WHY DID IT MAKE OUR LIST OF BEST PRACTICES? LIFE TEEN's commitment to quality is better than any other producer of youth ministry resources. They are relevant in content, as well as in presenters. Whether the resources are online, video, or planning packets, they are the best out there. Furthermore, they approach the whole process together. There are resources for youth ministers and those just getting in youth ministry. There are resources to be used in the parish during ministry events with teenagers. There are resources for parents.

ARE THEY PERFECT? No, but no program is. As with many things in the Church, LIFE TEEN has had its ups and downs. On a national level they have had both dramatic impact as well as scandal within their founder. Here at home in our diocese we have seen both unparalleled success as well as poor implementation that has skewed people's experience and understanding of what LIFE TEEN is. Both of these factors have led to an opinion of what LIFE TEEN is or isn't. LIFE TEEN can be analogized to losing weight. It takes a lot of work to lose weight, and it takes more than one thing. The only way to lose weight, and to sustain weight loss, is to change one's lifestyle. You have to exercise and you have to change your diet and you have to change other factors which may threaten the previous two. Trying to do one without the other will leave one frustrated and will not yield the success you had hoped for. To successfully implement LIFE TEEN, a parish needs a commitment to commitment. It needs well trained adults, a commitment to liturgical renewal, and much more. Unfortunately, our diocese has still yet to see any parish successfully implement LIFE TEEN the way it is supposed to be implemented. Therefore, the negative opinion within some parish's is more of a reflection of our experience of local implementation than it is of LIFE TEEN in and of itself.

WHAT KIND OF RESOURCES DO THEY OFFER?

- Issue nights
- Social nights
- Life Nights (9-12 grade resources)
- Edge Nights (6-8 grade resources)
- Retreats
- Training videos
- Resource videos

HOW CAN MY TEAM GET MORE INFORMATION? www.lifeteen.com/cym/resources/life-teen-timeline/



BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES Y DISCIPLE



WHY DID IT MAKE OUR LIST OF BEST PRACTICES? *YDisciple* is an intuitive online platform designed to help parents and parishes work together to reach more teens more effectively with the Gospel. *YDisciple* offers training, streaming video content, well-crafted leader guides, and more to aid the forming and multiplication of small groups. *YDisciple* is not a program. It is an apprenticeship in the Christian Life.

ARE THEY PERFECT? No, but no program is. Most parishes are looking for a program. They want something they can put in place. The learning curve of youth ministry and the changing landscape of teen culture is difficult to keep up with. Furthermore, the crisis of adult formation is compromised the number of adults capable, without extensive formation, ready and willing to mentor teenagers. *YDisciple* is not a program. It is an apprenticeship in the Christian Life. They provide great resources, as well as a framework of successful youth ministry. But, parishes will need adult mentors. That could be a challenge. If pastors are looking for a program to plug-and-play then *YDisciple* will challenge that mindset.

WHAT KIND OF RESOURCES DO THEY OFFER?

- Small group trainings
- Small group resources
- Retreats
- Training Videos
- Resource Videos

HOW CAN MY TEAM GET MORE INFORMATION? www.augustineinstitute.org/formed/ydisciple/



BEST PRACTICE VIDEO RESOURCES OUTSIDE DA BOX FILMS



odb
FILMS



WHY DID IT MAKE OUR LIST OF BEST PRACTICES? ODB's films are some of the best Catholic media available to today's youth. The videos are relevant and touch on a variety of topics. With the influence of technology changing the landscape of youth ministry, ODB is a relevant option for parishes looking to incorporate video into their formation.

ARE THEY PERFECT? They are not trying to do everything. They do not have every topic you may be looking for. What they do have is top notch. They have what they have.

WHAT TOPICS HAVE THEY ADDRESSED?

- VCAT: Video based teachings on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Chasity
- Atheism
- Mercy
- Virtue
- Pornography
- True Presence
- Eucharist
- Confession
- Struggles common to today's teens
- 144 videos ... growing by the day

HOW CAN MY TEAM GET MORE INFORMATION? www.odbfilms.com/films



BEST PRACTICE VIDEO RESOURCES SPIRIT JUICE STUDIOS



WHY DID IT MAKE OUR LIST OF BEST PRACTICES? Just like with ODB *Spirit Juice* films are the Catholic media available to today's youth. The videos are relevant and touch on a variety of topics. *Spirit Juice Studios* is an award-winning, Chicago-based creative production firm specializing in the transformative power of high quality visual media merged with the ever ancient, ever new beauty of Catholicism. Through the collaborative efforts of those involved with *Spirit Juice Studios*, the Gospel is delivered by means of a strong visual design aesthetic, coupled with the paramount components of modern technology. Both engage the eyes, ears and soul of an individual — both depend on parables and belief in the compassion of the human heart. The team at *Spirit Juice Studios* are passionate not only about the standards in which they hold their work, but also in their Catholic faith, ultimately fusing together to form the best representation of Catholic values to advance the mission of the Church today. We welcome the impossible idea.

ARE THEY PERFECT? They are not trying to do everything. They do not have every topic you may be looking for. What they do have is top notch. They have what they have.

WHAT KIND OF RESOURCES DO THEY OFFER?

- Right to life
- Vocations
- Mercy
- True Presence
- 218 videos ... growing by the day

HOW CAN MY TEAM GET MORE INFORMATION? www.vimeo.com/spiritjuice