

University of St. Thomas School of Theology/St. Mary's Seminary

Workshop: Ministry with Young Adults

1-2 March 2002

Instructor

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Course Objective

To understand young adulthood from a developmental perspective, as well as the unique characteristics of today's generation of young adults, the so-called "Generation X." In light of this understanding, students will study the US Bishops' pastoral plan for young adult ministry, *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, and learn how to plan ministry for young adults in keeping its goals. Emphasis will be placed on evangelization of young adults at critical points in the lifecycle, such as marriage preparation.

Textbooks

Required:

John C. Cusick & Katherine F. DeVries, *The Basic Guide to Young Adult Ministry*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults*. Washington, DC: USCC, 1996 [Español: *Hijos e Hijas de la Luz: Plan Pastoral para el Ministerio con Jóvenes Adultos*, 1997].

Optional:

Carmen María Cervantes, ed. *Hispanic Young People and the Church's Pastoral Response*. Prophets of Hope, volume 1. Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1994 [Español: *La Juventud Hispana y la Respuesta Pastoral de la Iglesia*. Profetas de Esperanza, volumen 1. Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1994].

_____, ed. *Evangelization of Hispanic Young People*. Prophets of Hope, volume 2. Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1995 [Español: *Evangelización de la Juventud Hispana*. Profetas de Esperanza, volumen 2. Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1995].

Course Outline:

1. Young Adulthood — Developmental Perspectives
 - a. Developmental Tasks
 - b. Stages of Young Adulthood
 - c. Faith Development
2. Generation X — Today's Young Adults
 - a. Introduction to Generation X
 - b. Religious Perspectives
 - c. Multicultural Perspectives
 - d. Young Adults Speak Out (video)
 - e. Top Ten Things Young Adults Look for in a Church
3. Ministry with Young Adults
 - a. *Sons and Daughters of the Light*
 - b. Assessing Your Faith Community: Are You Young Adult Responsive?
 - c. Specific Issues in Young Adult Ministry
 - i. Evangelization
 - ii. Marriage Preparation
 - iii. Liturgy
 - iv. Young Adult Programs
 - (a) Catechesis
 - (b) Retreats
 - (c) Leadership Training
 - (d) Creative Social Events

Grading

For those taking this workshop for credit, grading will be based on class participation and the completion of a five page reflection paper. For the paper, pick one of the four goals of *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, and discuss it in relationship to the developmental needs of young adults, and the specific issues of concern to Generation X. Then, in this context, discuss a strategy for addressing this goal in your particular ministry setting.

Paper is due April 1.