



MOMENTUM

The Accompaniment Symposium

Faithfully Ministering to and with Youth and Families in the Year Ahead



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The Accompaniment Symposium

Empowering Faith Companions for Youth

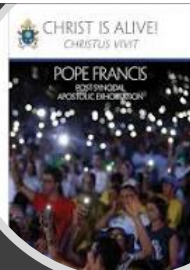
Marthamaria Morales, Tom East, and Solanyi Rodriguez



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Accompanying Youth

- Provide a way to intentionally accompany young people in faith and life.
- Empower the faith community to pray for, care for, witness to, and accompany their young people
- Provide resources, formation and support for parents and other faith companions for young person in the parish.



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Journey of Adolescence



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Youth Need Guides



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Being a Faith Companion



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In such places...the **person-to-person contact indispensable for passing on the message can happen**, something whose place cannot be taken by any pastoral resource or strategy.

218- Christ is Alive – Christus Vivit
April 2, 2019



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A good accompanier

is a person who is balanced, a listener, a person of faith and prayer, who has the measure of his own weaknesses and frailties. Hence, he knows how to be accepting of the young people he accompanies, without moralizing and without false indulgence.

Final Document for the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment, # 102



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Companion

"the one who brings to you, or who is bread for you."



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Accompany

- ▶ Walk Side by Side
- ▶ Share Bread
- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Empathize
- ▶ Consistency
- ▶ Accountability



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The Current Reality



Many youth and young adults feel disconnected from their communities.



Many families are disengaged from the parish and are not empowered to share faith at home.



Many youth and young adults do not have anyone to talk to about faith and their lives.



Many youth and young adults do not pray regularly; they are often distracted from integrating an experience of God

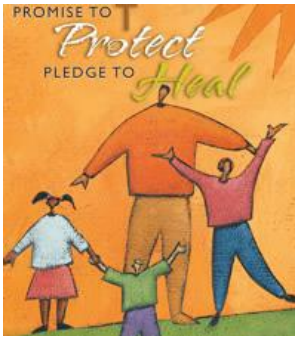
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Seeing

- ▶ Spend time with youth and young adults
- ▶ Listen to them
- ▶ Respond to their experience, their story
- ▶ Empathize



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A safe place to walk

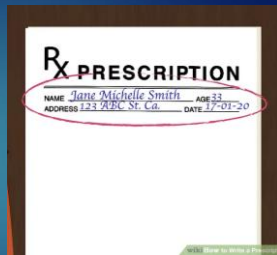
- ▶ "Public / Private Space"
- ▶ Walking in Pairs

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A Faith Companion

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Prescribing Next Step



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Faith Conversations

Recall a faith conversation you've had with a young person.

- ▶ What was easy?
- ▶ What was hard?



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Go to www.menti.com and use the code 2897646

What feels easier to you in talking to youth about faith?

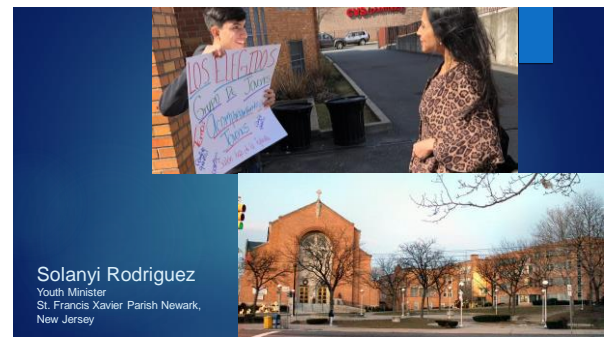
Go to www.menti.com and use the code 2897646

What is hard about talking about faith with young people?

Go to:
www.menti.com

Use code
28 97 64 6

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Solanyi Rodriguez
Youth Minister
St. Francis Xavier Parish Newark,
New Jersey

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Watch For

Judgement

Adultism

Coercion

Lecturing

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Create Space for Conversation

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- ▶ Create Safe Places
- ▶ Hold Questions as a Sacred Trust
- ▶ Use Only Love

"We must relinquish any means other than love to persuade young people to the truth of the Gospel and the inherent value of a life lived in service of Christ and neighbor."

Robert J. McCarty, *Faith Talk – Having Conversations that Matter with Youth*, Winona, Minnesota: Saint Mary's Press, 2018, page 42.



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A Community of Faith Contacts

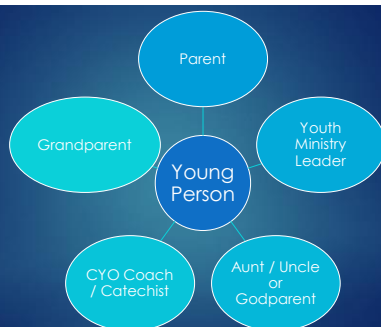
Parents / Aunts / Uncles / Grandparents

Ministry Leaders / Catechists / Teachers / Coaches / Group leaders

Sponsors / Godparents

Peers

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Parent and Faith Companion Toolkit

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Getting Started with Youth

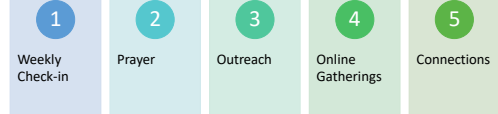
Determine a Ministry Context to Begin Accompaniment

- Youth involved in youth community
- Youth preparing for Confirmation / Sacraments
- Youth involved in leadership and ministries

Divide Youth into Groups for Accompaniment with Two Adults

- 30 youth = 5 groups of 6 = 10 adults = Each adult is lead for 3 youth / Back-up for 3 youth

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Develop a Pattern of Presence with Youth

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Discussion Questions

1. What are the starting points in your community for empowering faith companions for youth?
2. What resources or support do you need to empower faith companions?



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Praying for Youth



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