

# New Ways to Think About Confirmation Preparation



**Kelly Henderschedt**  
**Director of Faith Formation**  
**Archdiocese of Hartford**



**Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis**  
INSPIRING FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY



## Come Holy Spirit

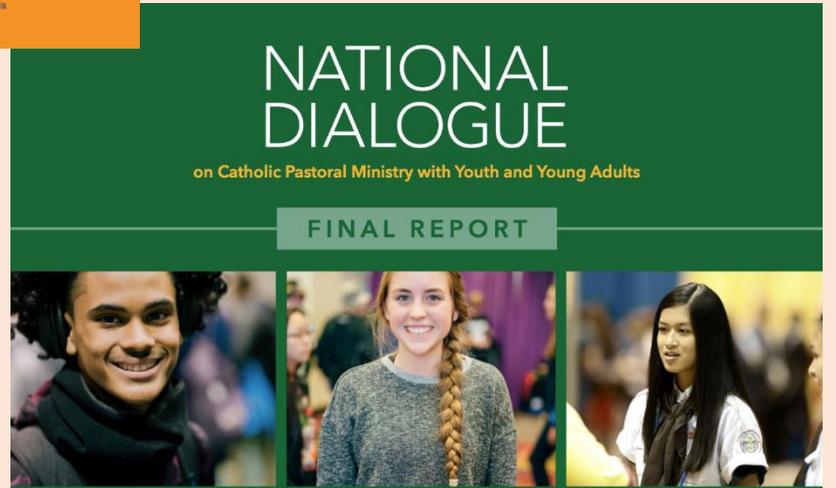
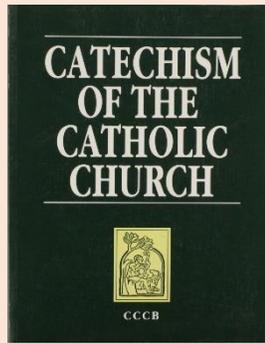
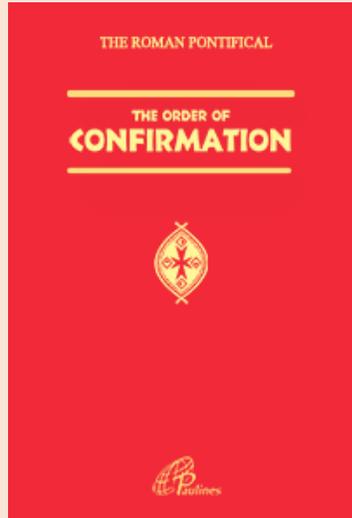
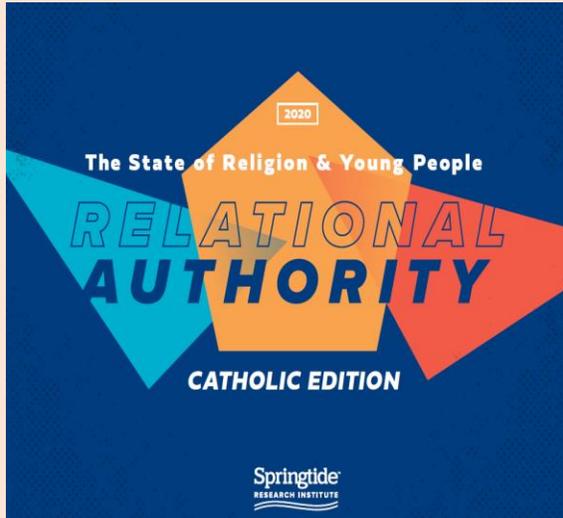
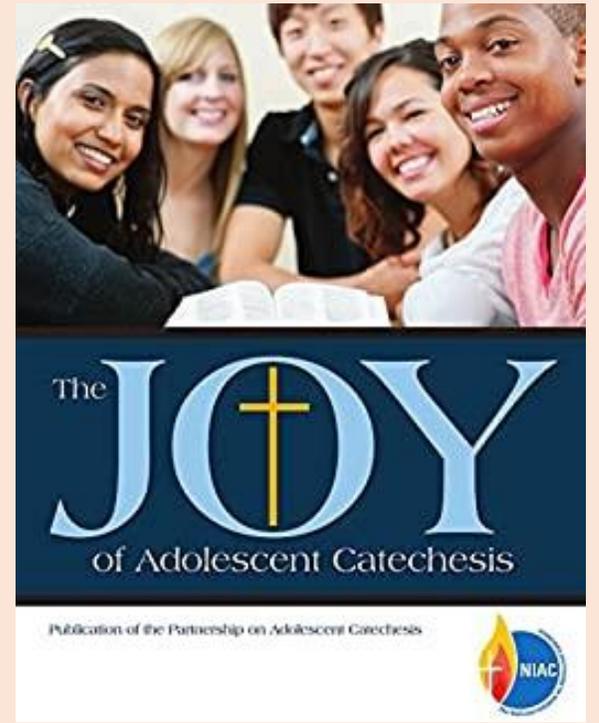
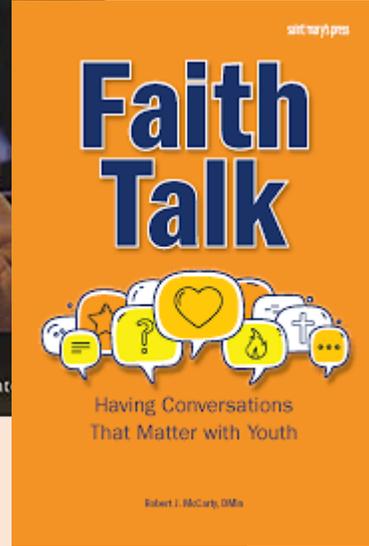
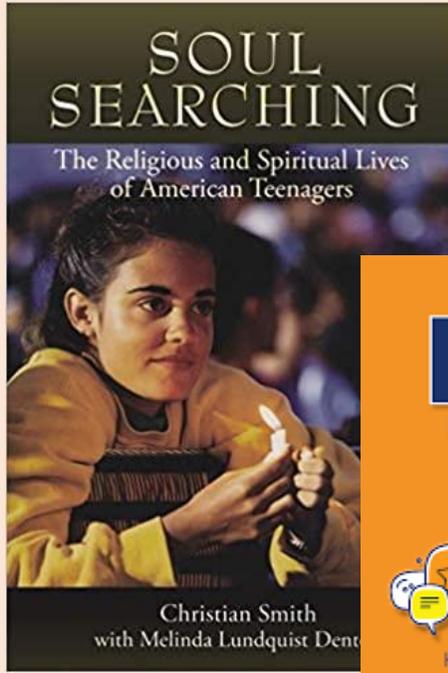
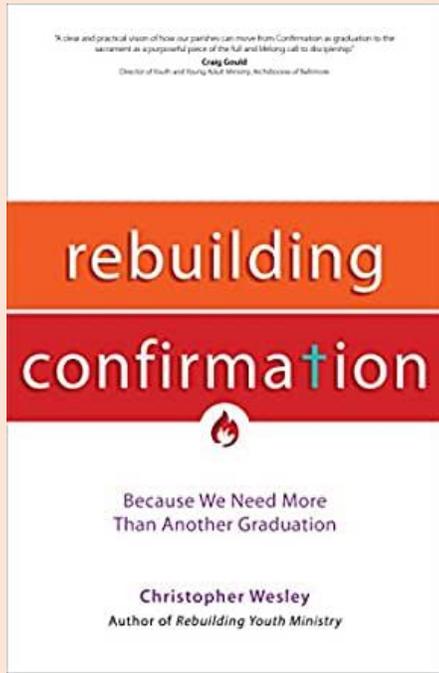
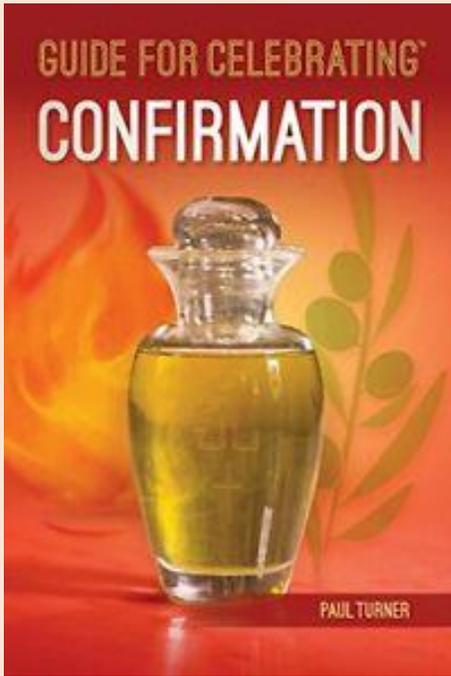
Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit  
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord,  
Amen.



# Roadmap for Workshop

1. Let's think about the life of teens.
2. Let's think about ministry with teens.
3. Let's think about the sacrament of Confirmation
4. How does all of this inform our design work for our programs?





## **Life of Teens**



## 3 Key Questions Adolescents are Asking

- 1) Who am I? (**Identity**)
- 2) Where do I fit in? (**Belonging**)
- 3) Why am I here? (**Purpose**)



# GenZ-ers

## And adolescent development

- Actively exploring identity alternatives (in relationship to the larger world)
- Considering their beliefs in relation to broader socio-cultural groups
- Taking a stronger stance on social, ethical or moral issues
- Digital natives!!
- **Desperately seeking agency!**



- **They need space to breath, places to rest, places to move**
- **They need opportunities to be contemplative and unplug**
- **They don't just need more content**



**19% of 13-to-17-year-olds report they have one or fewer adults in their lives they can turn to if they need to talk.**

*[The State of Religion & Young People 2020: Relational Authority](#)*

A study of over 10,000 young people, by Springtide Institute



**PROVIDE  
SUPPORT**

**EXPAND  
POSSIBILITIES**

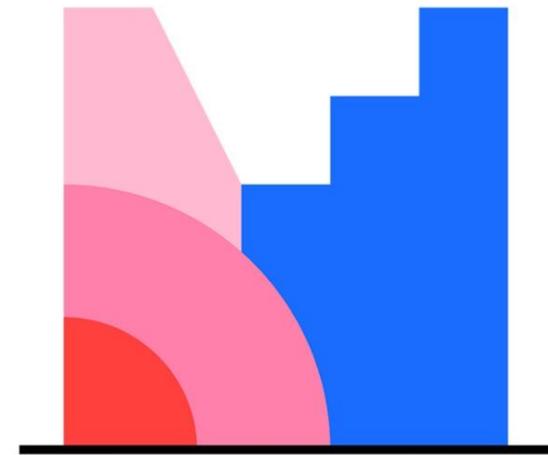
**CHALLENGE  
GROWTH**

**SHARE  
POWER**

**EXPRESS  
CARE**

**Which of these issues  
effects your teens the  
greatest?**

[www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)

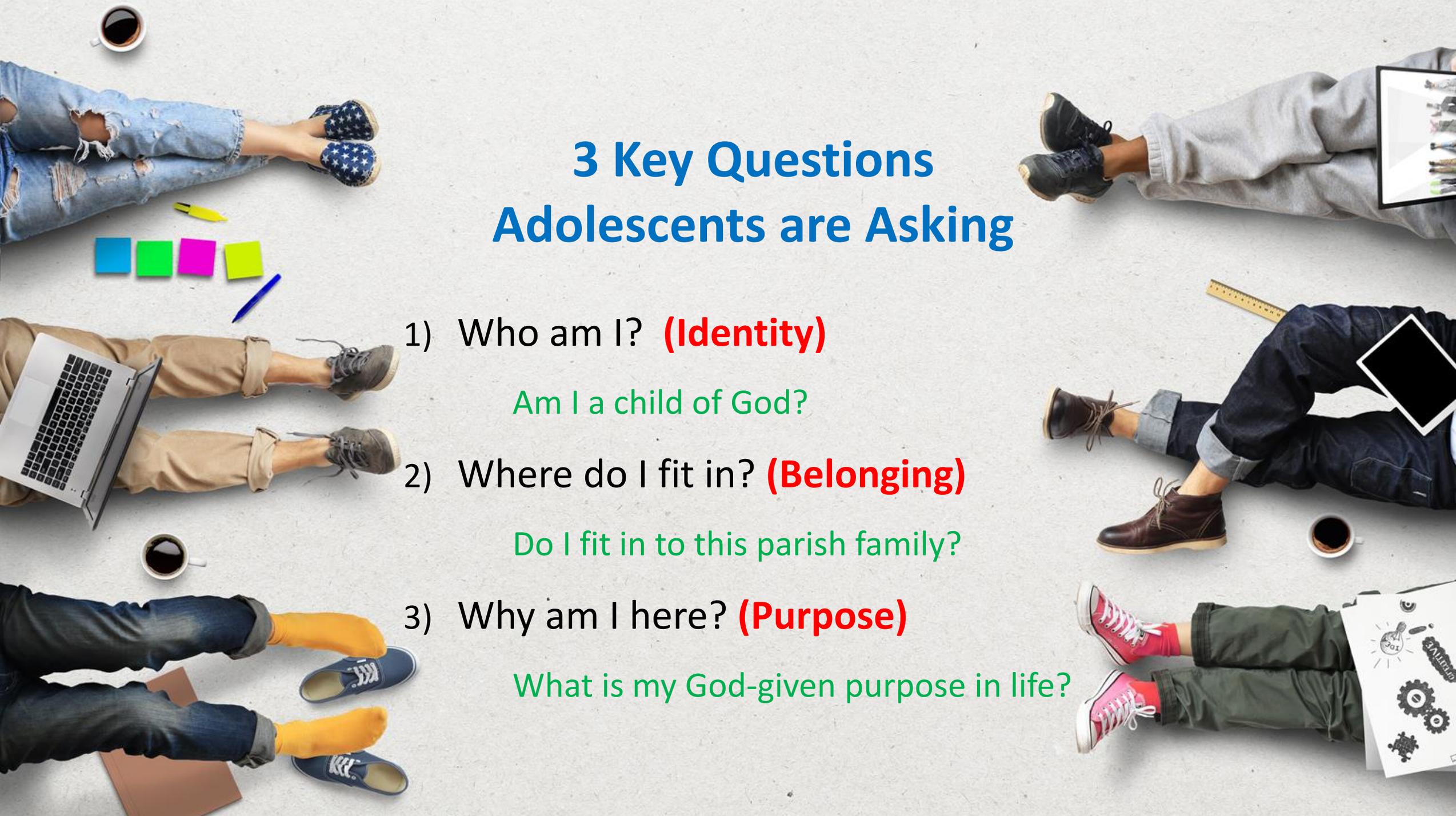


**Mentimeter**

<https://www.mentimeter.com/s/5b6159009f2bc8b91f51f8c42ea76674/1faeb4faf000/edit>



**Ministry with Youth**



## 3 Key Questions Adolescents are Asking

1) Who am I? **(Identity)**

Am I a child of God?

2) Where do I fit in? **(Belonging)**

Do I fit in to this parish family?

3) Why am I here? **(Purpose)**

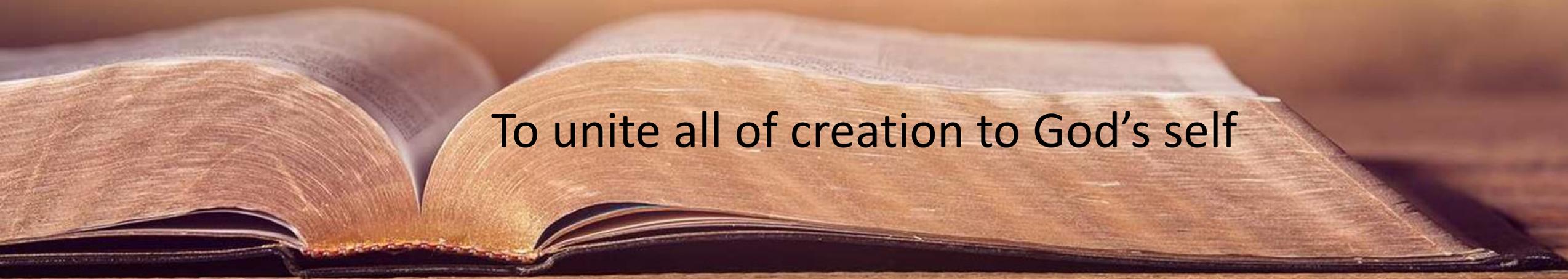
What is my God-given purpose in life?

# MISSIO DEI

**Missio Dei** is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the "*mission of God*."

It's our **WHY**

To unite all of creation to God's self





STEP TWO...

## KNOWING OUR OWN "WHY" ...

### Tools, but not reasons

Prayer, Bible Study, worship, etc. are to help us understand the Kingdom and calling of God. Without purpose, these become religious ritual that provide little meaning to teens.

Michael Droege  
Vibrant Faith  
MasterClass on  
Adolescent Catechesis

# Three Stages of Discipleship

## Pre-Evangelized

- Not yet experienced a personal encounter with Jesus
- May not have developed a personal prayer life
- Needs lots of relationship building , welcoming, encouragement
- May need healing
- Often doesn't attend Mass or participate in the sacramental life of the church



## Evangelized

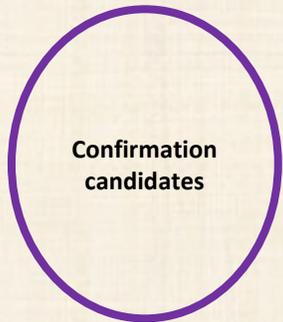
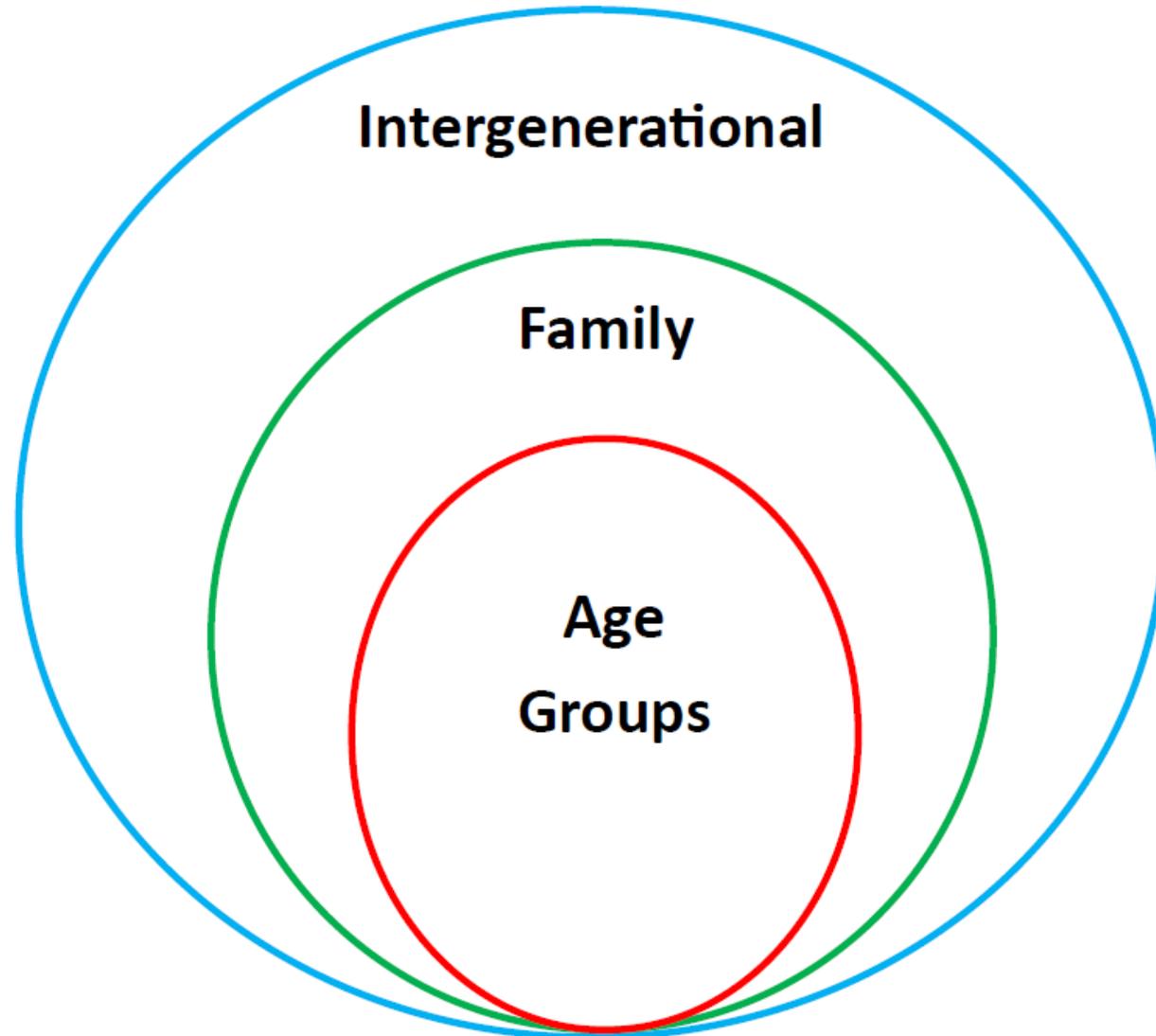
- On the road to discipleship
- Open to a relationship with Jesus
- Beginning to develop a prayer life but may need mentoring
- Beginning to understand how we meet Jesus personally in the sacraments



## Disciples

- Are following Jesus and have given a Holy Spirit 'yes' to a life with His Church
- May need ways to further expand their personal prayer life
- May want to explore scripture in deeper ways
- Good candidates for leadership roles within the parish community
- Would make great mentors to pre-evangelized people
- Would make great small group leaders, catechists, evangelizers

# Parish Eco-System



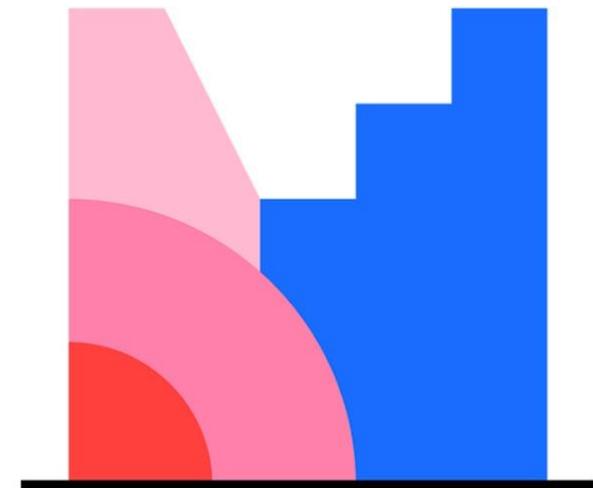


1. God creates
2. Sin enters
3. Jesus saves
4. I respond

1. God is love and has created me for relationship with him.
2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.
3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through his life, death and resurrection.
4. Jesus invites me to give my life to him.
5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church.

**What do you feel is the most important spiritual need of young people today?**

<https://www.mentimeter.com/s/62952bba634d071b4cc59dd8e6cfa83e/f6c0f5e9ae47>



**Mentimeter**



**Let's Take a Look at the Sacrament of Confirmation**

# Myths about Confirmation

1. You're now an adult in the eyes of the Church.
2. This is your chance to say yes and to choose this Catholic faith.
3. You receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. You need \_\_\_\_ hours of community service to be Confirmed.
5. There's a body of knowledge of the doctrine that you must know to be confirmed.
6. Faith Formation ends at Confirmation.



# OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is Christ's spirit in the Church and in every baptized person. This Holy Spirit living within us that is here to help us in every part of our lives. It never leaves us!
- ❖ THIS is what we are celebrating at Confirmation!
- ❖ It's this **outpouring** of the Holy Spirit that is being **more fully understood** by the candidates. Preparation should involve helping them to become **more fully aware** of this abundant gift that was given to them at baptism.



**RESTORED  
ORDER**

# SAINTS AMONG US

CONFIRMATION



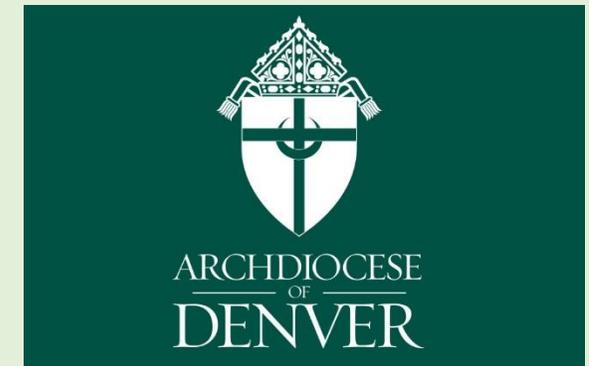
## Sacramental Prep Objectives

These are the topics that a third grader should be familiar with before he/she is confirmed:

1. Know what is a sacrament.
2. Have an awareness of Baptism and our true identity in Jesus Christ.
3. Know that we receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and are strengthened through Confirmation.
4. Know the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit.
5. Know that we need to be faithful to God's commandments.
6. Should have a sense of prayer and a need for God.
7. Should desire to build a relationship with Jesus Christ.
8. Should have experience with lectio divina.

## Archbishop Aquila of Archdiocese of Denver

His focus is for parishes to embrace a discipleship approach (evangelization) over a traditional classroom model.



# Quiet Reflection

What is one practice or experience you have with your Confirmation candidates that addresses what you've heard so far?





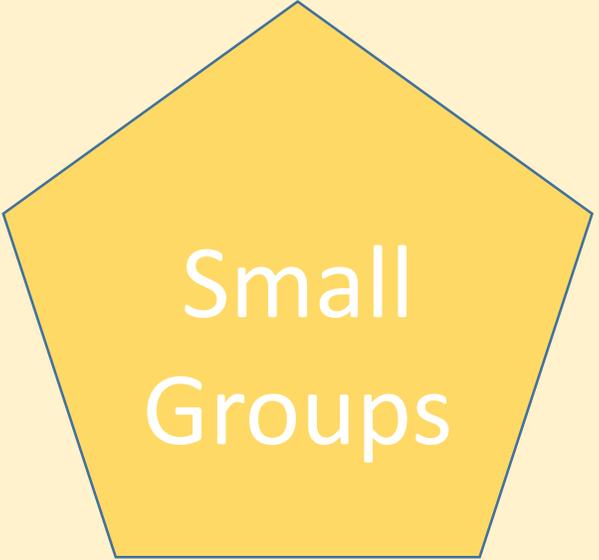
**Now the fun part! Design time!**



Retreat Model



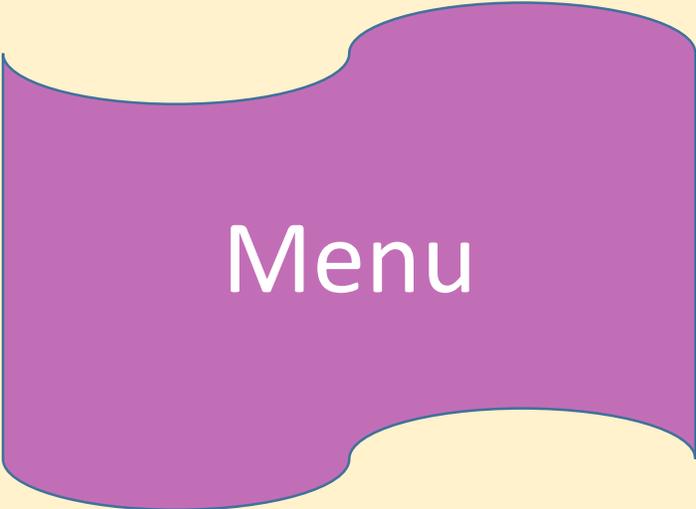
Mentors/  
Faith Companions



Small  
Groups



Intergeneration  
Aspects

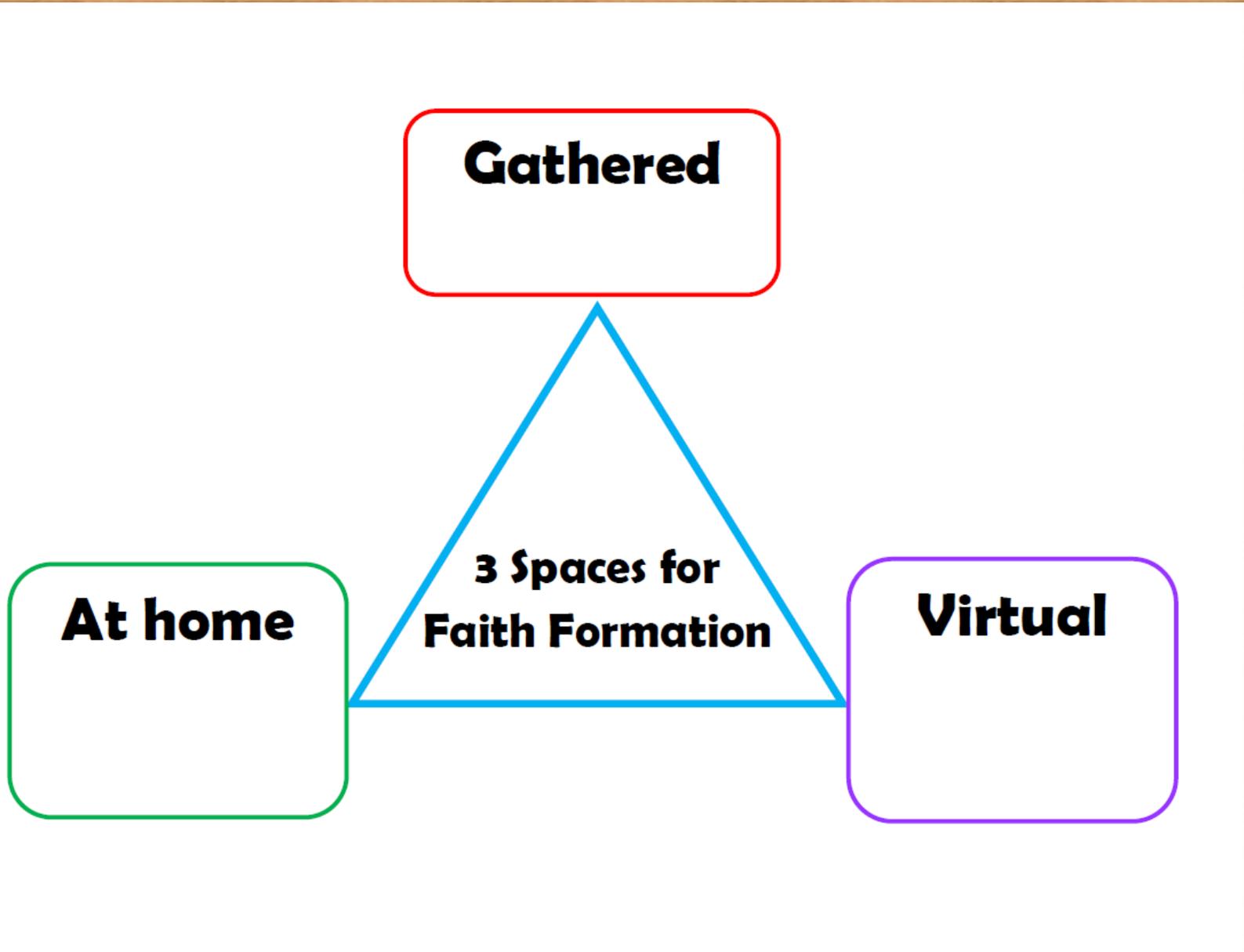


Menu



Personal  
Faith Growth  
Plan

\*Rethink and repurpose role of catechist!



# Confirmation

## Core Elements

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Retreat	Whole Group Christian Service Opportunity	Mass to present candidates to parish family (at beginning of process)	Review Baptismal Promises (small groups with faith mentors)	Candidate/Sponsor Event	Ongoing Reflection Journal (to reflect upon experiences)	Reconciliation Service
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## Electives

PRAYER EXPERIENCES	FAMILY SERVICE	SCRIPTURE	Life as Curriculum	PARISH LIFE	PARENT CHOICES
Choose at least 2	Choose at least 2	Choose at least 1	Choose at least 1	Choose at least 1	Choose at least 2
Learning to Pray the <i>Examen</i> Living Rosary Intro into Prayer Journaling Adoration Contemplative Prayer Praying through Music Seasonal: (Advent wreath blessing, Lenten stations of the Cross, etc.)	List opportunities for families to engage in service together 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____	Intro to the Bible Bible Study on Gospel of Mark (from Six Weeks with the Bible for Catholic Teens) Praying with the Psalms Women of the Bible Presentation <u>Lectio Divina</u>	"Take a Hike!" Come on a hike in God's creation and learn about St. Francis "Car Care" Come learn how to take care of your vehicle. "Cooking 101" Hone your kitchen skills and learn some new techniques. "Budget Basics" Develop good financial stewardship skills as you develop a personal budget.	Lector Choir Altar serve Work with younger children in faith formation Peer ministry Attend a social justice ministry meeting Attend a parish function _____	The Busy Parents' Guide to Prayer Spiritually Navigating the Hills and Valleys of Raising Teens Finding God's Grace in Blended Families The Art of Discernment and Listening to God's Call An Overview of Catholic Social Teaching

# Small Group Sharing

What is one new thing you  
might like to try with your  
Confirmation Program?



## **Follow-up Conversation**

Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM



# Thank you very much!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like more support with any design work you are doing with your Confirmation program, or if you have questions, resource needs, or just want a dialogue partner to share your thinking!

Kelly Henderschedt  
860-242-5573 (ext. 2663)  
Kelly.Henderschedt@aohct.org