

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal Today



*AMERICA'S
RELIGIOUS
LANDSCAPE*

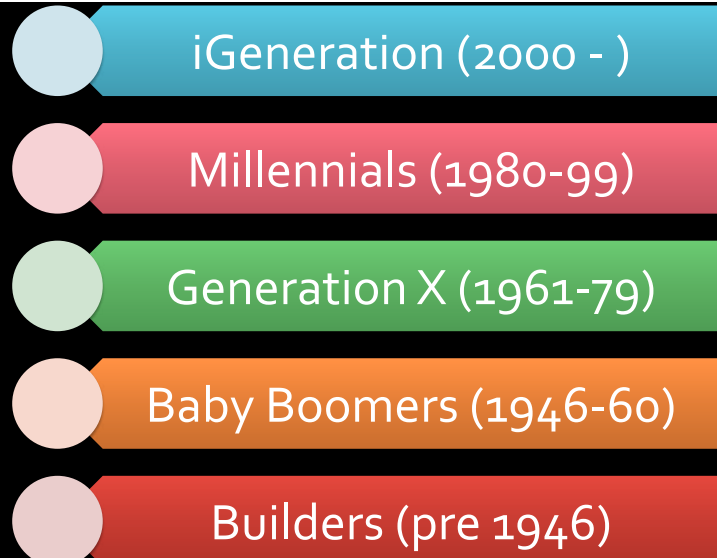


Increasing Diversity in Congregational Life

- Generational
- Ethnic & Cultural
- Family Structures
- Faith Practice
- Participation in Religious Congregations
- Religious & Spiritual Needs



5-Generation Diversity



Generational Change: Boomers



Baby Boomers @ New Stage of Life

- Since Jan 2011, every day for the next 19 years, about 10,000 Boomers will turn 65.
- A new stage of life between adult midlife – typically focused on career and child-rearing – and old age, traditionally marked by increasing frailty and decline.
- This new stage (60s-70s) is characterized by generally good health, relative financial stability, and an active, engaged lifestyle.

Baby Boomers @ New Stage of Life

New Roles

- Grandparenting
- Blending work and retirement
- Volunteering
- Pursuing new interests and activities

New Needs

- Life Issues
- Spiritual Growth
- Community
- Service/Mission

Generational Change: The Young



Changing Generational Patterns

1. Increasing number of "Nones"
2. Increasing number of "Spiritual but not Religious"
3. Accepting and embracing diversity: culturally, sexually, and in family structures
4. Declining participation in Sunday worship and sacraments/rites of passage (marriage, baptism)
5. Marrying later and having children later
6. Declining levels of family faith practice & socialization
 - fewer marriages – marrying later –
 - fewer baptisms – fewer young families
 - lower Sunday worship attendance.....

Family Life Change



Changing Patterns in Family Life

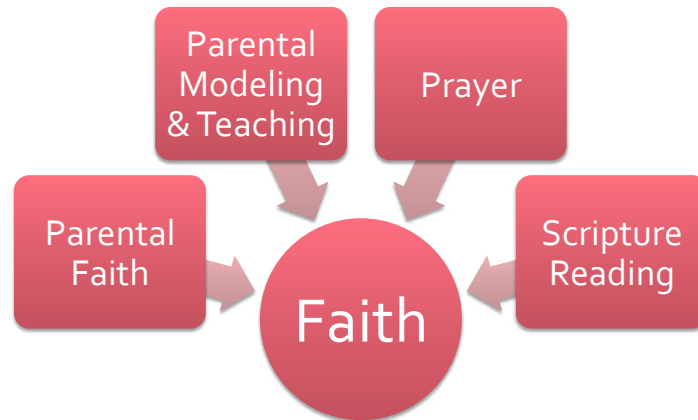
- Couples delaying marriage or not marrying at all
- Increasing number of unmarried couples living together
- Increasing inter-faith marriages
- Having fewer children and later in life
- Decreasing number of children in two-parent households

Changing Views of Family

Pew Research, 2011	A Family	Not a Family
Married Coupled with Children	99	1
Married Couple without Children	88	10
Single Parent with Children	86	12
Unmarried Couple with Children	80	18
Same-Sex Couple with Children	63	34
Same-Sex Couple without Children	45	52
Unmarried Coupled without Children	43	54

Importance of Family Socialization

The single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of children, teens, and emerging adults is their parents.

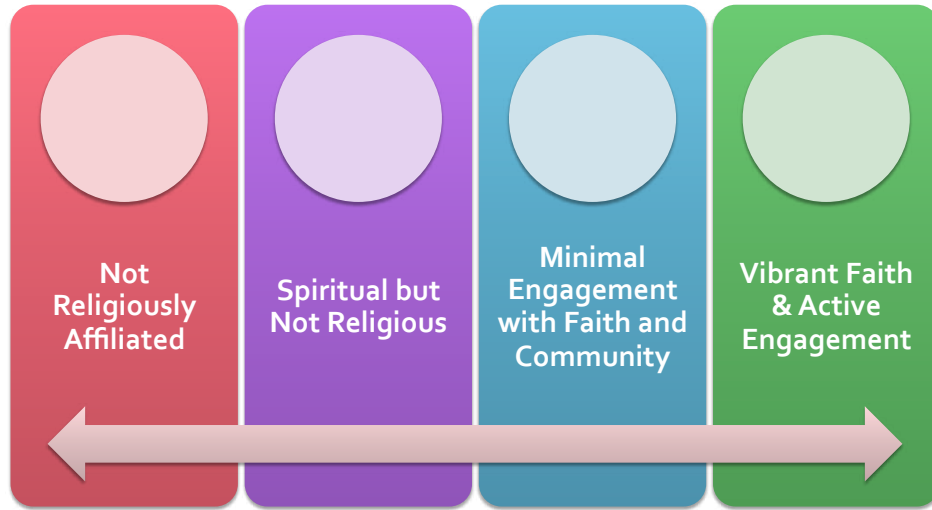


Importance of Family Socialization

Children and teenagers with seriously religious parents are more likely than those without such parents to have been trained in their lives to think, feel, believe, and act as serious religious believers, and that training "sticks" with them even when they leave home and enter emerging adulthood.

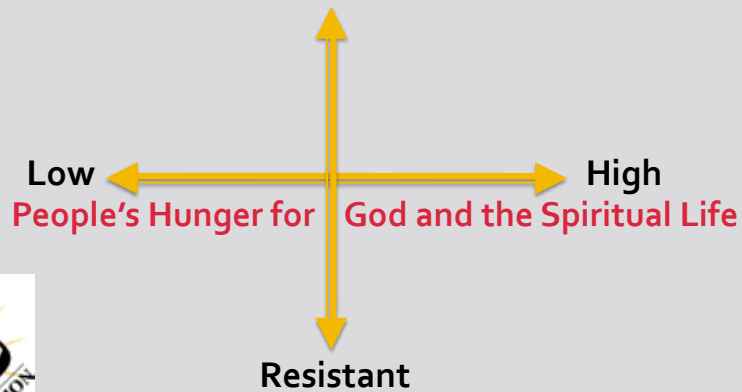
(Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults by Christian Smith with Patricia Snell)

Diversity in Faith Practice & Religiosity

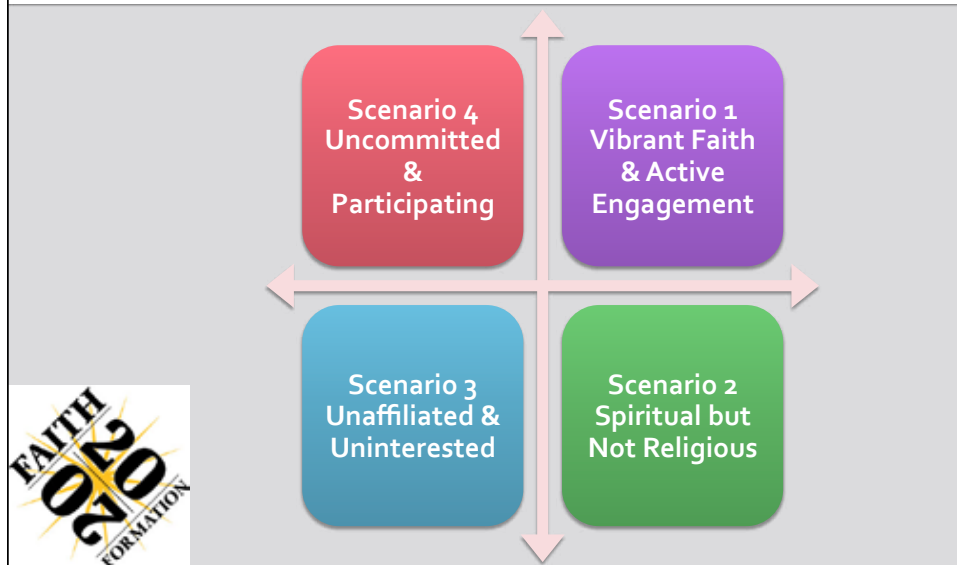


Two Critical Uncertainties

Dominant Cultural Attitude toward Organized Religion



4 Scenarios Thinking



4-Scenario Faith Formation

We now have the models, resources, and technologies to . . .

- **Expand** faith formation to address the diversity of people today – life tasks and issues, religious and spiritual needs
- **Deliver** religious content and experiences to people wherever they are, 24 x 7 x 365
- **Engage** people in a wide variety of experiences tailored to their needs, interests, spiritual journey, and busy lives
- **Connect** people to each other – in physical places and virtual spaces

4-Scenario Faith Formation

