Faith Formation for All God’s People in a Era of Change

Presenter: John Roberto

John Roberto
Vibrant Faith Leadership Team
jroberto@lifelongfaith.com

www.LifelongFaith.com
SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
www.VibrantFaith
An Era of Change

10-Decade Society
Five Generation Society

- Gen Z / iGen (2000-)
- Millennials (1980-99)
- Generation X (1961-1979)
- Baby Boomers (1946-60)
- Builders (before 1946)

Contemporary Family Forms
Ethnic Diversity

Spiritual-Religious Identities

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
  - Unaffiliateds
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
  - Uninvolved
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
  - Occasionals
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life
  - Actives
Digital Transformation

Technological Revolution:
The Print Era (1500s - )
Technological Revolution: The Multimedia Era (1960s - )


[Images of various electronic devices and technologies]
The Digital Transformation

1. Mobile faith formation – we can engage people anytime, anyplace, 24x7
2. An abundance of high quality digital content for faith formation – audio, video, print, websites, digital learning platforms, apps, etc.
3. Content and tools to extend and expand faith formation in multiple environments
4. Provide multiple ways to learn
5. Develop content in smaller units (micro-learning) that connect together
6. Personalize faith formation—tailor faith forming experiences around people and their needs & interests
Envisioning Faith Formation in a New Era

1. Developing a New Ecology of Faith Formation
2. Focusing on Faith Maturing
3. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational
4. Empowering & Equipping Parents & the Family
5. Personalizing Age Group Faith Formation
6. Utilizing Digital Media & Methods
A New Faith Forming Ecology

Faith Forming Environments

Intergenerational

Family

Peers

Life Stage
Forming Faith: Intergenerational

Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service. . . . To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.

(Allen and Ross, 84)

Forming Faith: Intergenerational

Connect the generations through all events and programs
Utilize intergenerational events in the faith community
Infuse multiple generations into age group programs
Create new intergenerational programs & experiences (learning, service, community life)
Worship & Lifelong Faith Formation

Worship Theme
- Readings
- Homily/Sermon
- Podcast

Family Youth Adults
- Scripture
- Learn
- Watch / Listen
- Read
- Prayer
- Live

A Whole Church Curriculum

Engaging all ages and generations together in informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

- Intergenerational Learning
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models
Become Intentionally Intergenerational

Connect  Utilize  Infuse  Create

Forming Faith: Family

- Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults
Forming Family Faith: Parents

**Gatekeeper of the Faith**
control over how much and what sorts of religious content their children encounter

**Sponsor of the Faith**
point of access between church and home

**Interpreter of the Faith**
meaningful embodiment of the Christian faith in the lives of children

Parent Role

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Family Faith Formation

**Family Faith @ Home**
- God in Everyday Life
- Faith Practices
- Milestones

**Intergenerational Faith Community**
- Seasonal Events
- Bible through the Year
- Intergenerational Connections & Experiences

**Family Life & Parent/Grandparent Formation**
- Strong Family Life
- Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers
Faith Practices @ Home

1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation

Young Children  Older Children  Young Adolescents  Older Adolescents
Milestones throughout Life

1. Ritual and blessing
2. Home celebration/blessing
3. Learning program
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth
Milestones throughout Life

- Baptism
- Anniversary of Baptism
- Prayer Milestone
- Welcoming Young Children to Worship
- Beginning School and Church Education
- First Eucharist
- First Bible
- Sexuality
- Middle School
- Confirmation
- Driver’s License
- Mission Trip
- High School Graduation
- College Graduation
- Return from Military Deployment
- New Job
- New Home
- Empty Nest
- Marriage
- Becoming a Parent
- Becoming a Grandparent
- Retirement
- Caregiving Aging Parents
- Loss of Loved Ones
- Death and Funeral

Forming Faith: Life Stage Faith Formation

### Seasons of Life

- Young Children
- Older Children
- Young Adolescents
- Older Adolescents
- Young Adults (20s-30s)
- Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)
- Mature Adults (mid 50s–75)
- Older Adults (75+)

### Life Issues

1. Physical & Cognitive Changes
2. Developmental Tasks
3. Family Life Cycle
4. Faith Development
5. Spiritual-Religious Identities
6. Generational Characteristics
Faith Forming Environments

Intergenerational

Family

Peers

Life Stage

Personalize Faith Formation
A Pathway is a process for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
Connecting with God

Praying
- I am maturing in my understanding of God as revealed in Scripture and tradition.
- I am growing in my understanding of God as revealed in my experiences and prayer.
- I am exploring God's relationship to me.
- I am maturing in my understanding of God as revealed in the world around me.

Faith Growth Pathway

1. Connecting with God
   - Praying
   - Reflecting
   - Participating in liturgical worship
   - Engaging in prayer and meditation
   - Engaging in study of Scripture

2. Connecting with Others
   - Connecting with family and friends
   - Connecting with community
   - Connecting with small groups
   - Connecting with the larger community

3. Connecting with the World
   - Engaging in service and mission
   - Engaging in justice and peace work
   - Engaging in environmental stewardship
   - Engaging in community building

Maturing Faith

- Living with moral integrity
- Learning and articulating Catholic teachings
- Praying and seeking spiritual growth
- Studying & reading the Bible
- Engaging in Service and mission to the world
- Worshipping with the community

Characteristics of Faith Maturing

- Living the Christian way of life - discipleship
- Relationships with Jesus Christ
- Connecting with others
- Connecting with God
- Connecting with the world

For more information, please contact:
Rev. Kathy Pendergast
Pastor, All Saints Parish
tpendergast@wesleyfarmers.org
(603) 660-0000

Central United Methodist Church
Waveland, MA
Approach 1

**Personalize the Pathway for People**

- Develop pathways of faith maturing
- Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- Upload playlists to a digital platform

Imagine Pathways for Sacraments
Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, RCIA

A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities

- **Not Spiritual, Not Religious**
  - *Unaffiliateds*

- **The Spiritual but Not Religious**
  - *Uninvolved*

- **Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities**
  - *Occasionals*

- **Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life**
  - *Actives*
Approach 2

**Personalize the Offerings**

- Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and their needs
  1. Getting Started
  2. Growing
  3. Going Deeper
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs
Personalize the Offerings on a Website

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation
A Network of Adult Faith Formation Experiences, Programs, Activities, & Resources
Digital Faith Formation Strategies

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people
Extend the Event

Church or School Event or Program

At Home & Daily Life

Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living

3rd Sunday of Easter A
April 30, 2017

- Reading of the Readings
- Got a Question? Ask Us
- Music of the Sunday’s Mass
- General Information

OPENING THE WORD
4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd
Tri-Saints Lutheran
Hardy, NE

One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats

- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

Multiple Formats

- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

Website

- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Social Media

Event/ Program

The Sunday after Epiphany (transferred): January 14, 2018

This is the LAST week of #jeansbirthdays. We will celebrate Baptisms of our Lord next Sunday, January 21, 2018. Details here.

After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him.” (Matthew 2:13-14)
Build on an Event/Experience

Preparing
- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing
- How will you design the event?
- How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living
- How will you sustain/extend the event?
- What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life
Exploring the Content - print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content: Create – Practice - Perform - Participate
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another. By having both in person classes and an online study we hope to help families learn more about their faith while respecting the many demands for their time.
Christian Initiation & New Member Formation

Intro to The Basics of Christianity
by Pastor Bill Gratzke of Silverdale Lutheran Church
Flip Christian Initiation

CATHOLICISM

ASCENSION PRESENTS

FORMED

myCatholicFaith DELIVERED™

Integrate Online and Gathered

CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

WHAT'S NEW

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both online and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together, into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.
Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

**Mondays**
What: #BreakingBread (Dinner Church)
Where: 4C University Parkway, Owings Mills, MD 21117
When: 6 PM EST

**Wednesdays**
What: #Slatereads (Live Tweet Chat: Book Discussion)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #Slatereads
When: 8 PM EST

**Thursdays**
What: #SlateSpeak (Live Tweet Chat: new topic each week)
Where: Twitter -- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak
When: 9 PM EST

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#BreakingBread
Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a ‘dinner liturgy’ we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our ‘borrowed space’ graciously offered to us by the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

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#Slatereads
#Slatereads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by these readings.

Follow the hashtag #Slatereads to participate!

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Integrate Online and Gathered
Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home</th>
<th>Online</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ash Wednesday&lt;br&gt; • Lenten Sunday liturgies&lt;br&gt; • Stations of the Cross&lt;br&gt; • Lenten prayer&lt;br&gt; • Lenten retreat&lt;br&gt; • Lenten service&lt;br&gt; • Lenten soup suppers</td>
<td>• Fasting&lt;br&gt; • Praying&lt;br&gt; • Service/Almsgiving&lt;br&gt; • Lectionary reflection&lt;br&gt; • Family Lenten activities</td>
<td>• Lenten learning resources&lt;br&gt; • Lenten calendar&lt;br&gt; • Daily Lenten prayer&lt;br&gt; • Weekly table prayer&lt;br&gt; • Video resources&lt;br&gt; • Online retreat experience</td>
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Online Prayer

Webinar
Live Presentation
Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you’re out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the UDLC Facebook page at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our Facebook event with a friend! - Keith

Program Description
The mall. Public parks. Friends’ houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through “networked publics,” and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.
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Personalizing Faith Formation
Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

**Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**
- Develop pathways of faith maturing
- Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- Upload playlists to a digital platform

**Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**
- Identify important life and religious needs of target audience(s) OR develop a pathways model
- Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs
- Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities

Pathways of Faith Growth
A Pathways Model

- **A Pathway is a process** for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
- **A Pathway is life-centered**, reaching into every area of a person’s life.
- **A Pathway is holistic** incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.
- **A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.**

A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities

- **Not Spiritual, Not Religious**
  - *Unaffiliateds*
- **The Spiritual but Not Religious**
  - *Uninvolved*
- **Faith & Engagement — one among many priorities**
  - *Occasionals*
- **Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life**
  - *Actives*
Designing a Pathways Model

1. Identify a target audience(s)
2. Describe their life stage & religious-spiritual characteristics.
3. Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
   - Sacraments/milestones
   - RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
   - Gathered adult faith formation programming
   - Affinity groups
   - On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the content for the Pathways
5. Develop a ‘discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

Designing Steps 1 & 2
Target Audience & Description

Sample Themes – Mature Adults

1. Dealing with retirement
2. Making life plans, finances, health
3. Becoming a grandparent
4. Making a difference in the community and world
5. Incorporating family changes and transitions
6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple
7. Caring for aging parents
8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith
9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2nd half of life
10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us
11. Dealing with loss

- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Interviews
- Research Reviews
Designing Step 3 - How & Where

Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model

• Sacraments/milestones
• RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
• Gathered adult faith formation programming
• Affinity groups
• On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey

Designing Step 4 - Content

Designing Step 5 - Discernment

Develop the content for the Pathways

• Life and faith characteristics of the target audience
• Characteristics of mature faith

Develop a ‘discernment continuum’ that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

• Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper
• How true: 1= not true from me, 3=somewhat true for me, 5=very true for me
Approach #2. Personalize the Offerings

Personalize

- For Life Stage Needs
- For Spiritual-Religious Identity
- For Interests
- For Time People Have for Activities
Playlists for Faith Formation

Learning Playlists

- A learning playlist is a curated group of digital and local learning experiences and resources (e.g. videos, websites, books, games, articles, etc.).
- A playlist weaves together these learning experiences into a sequenced pathway centered on a common theme.
- Playlists broaden opportunities to engage in cohesive, interest-driven connected learning experiences that combine a variety of ways to learning: peer settings, family settings, intergenerational settings, community/world settings, and online settings.
- Playlists create a rich network of experiences for learners.
Curating Playlists

- Books
- Audio / Podcasts
- Video and movies
- Apps and digital programming
- Website content and activities
- Courses, programs, workshops at church and online
- Church life, ministries, and events
- Small groups at church, home, community settings
- Art, drama, music
- Service and action projects, mission trips
- Retreats
- Field trips
- Mentoring

Faith Formation Playlists

Variety of Environments: Self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

Variety of Ways to Learn
Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach to develop the faith of families with young children…

1. *Getting Started Families* (little faith experience)
2. *Growing Families* (somewhat connected to faith community)
3. *Going Deeper Families* (involved and practicing)
   - How would you engage the parents?
   - How would you engage the children and whole family?

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Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for first communion…

1. *Getting Started Children* (little to no faith forming experiences)
2. *Growing Children* (some faith forming experiences)
3. *Going Deeper Children* (involved and practicing)
   - What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of children?
   - What would parent and family faith formation look like?
Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for confirmation...

1. **Getting Started Adolescents** (little to no faith forming experiences since childhood)
2. **Growing Adolescents** (some faith forming experiences in childhood)
3. **Going Deeper Adolescents** (involved and practicing)

- What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of adolescents?
- What would parent and family faith formation look like?

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**What is Edmodo?**

Edmodo is a classroom website that is completely controlled by the teacher...

...and it looks like Facebook!