

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

John Roberto (jroberto@lifelongfaith.com)

The Atlantic

The Preschool Inside a Nursing Home

For the elderly residents, interacting with the kids is a jolt back to the world of the living.



A still from Even Brigg's documentary, *Preschool Perfect* shows an elderly resident doing a puzzle with preschoolers. Even Brigg

TIFFANY N. JANSEN | JAN 20, 2016 | EDUCATION

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PENNSTATE

Chicago Tribune

July 23, 2014

Intergenerational houses bring seniors, 20-somethings together



Tracy Marotta, a college student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, checks on senior residents Robert (center), Rose (left), Jean (right) and Judy (bottom) who all live with her in the Pal Community House in Edgewater on May 22, 2014. (Chicago Tribune)

By Vikki Ortiz Healy - Contact Reporter
Chicago Tribune

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Intergenerational homes are mix of "The Real World," a college dorm and a senior citizen residence.

SCIENCE THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSE JULY 23, 2014 2:51 PM

Multigenerational Households Make Sense

Why more and more adults are living with their parents.

By Boer Deng



Living with the grandparents is back in style.

Photo by David Sacks/Digital Vision/Thinkstock



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)

Intergenerational Community

The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.

(Joyce Mercer)

Intergenerational Community

Guided participation in a community of practice puts a premium on both participation and practice. . . . We become Christian, taking on the identity of one who is a disciple of Jesus, by acting the way Christians act, and by talking the way Christians talk. Over time through practice, even our hearts and minds are formed in this way of life.

(Joyce Mercer)

Importance of Intergenerationality

A faith-forming education requires the interdependence of the generations.

This involves developing sustained patterns of intergenerational learning, relationships, and mentoring that develop young people's identification with the faith community, give them memories of hope to enliven their future, and create their sense of responsibility for the well-being of the community and the earth.

(Charles Foster)

Importance of Intergenerationality

The responsibility of mentoring the faith of children and youth belongs to the whole congregation in the full range of its ministries.

The clearest way of learning to be Christian is to participate with others in the practices of being Christian. Each member of a faith community may potentially mentor someone at the threshold of expertise in some shared community practice.

(Charles Foster)

Importance of Intergenerationality

Christian commitment is formed and strengthened as persons develop relationships and actively participate in intergenerational faith communities that teach, model, and live out the communities' beliefs.

Importance of Intergenerationality

Intergenerational experiences strengthen and create new relationships among people of all ages, enhances their sense of belonging in the faith community, and increases participation in church life.

Importance of Intergenerationality

Intergenerational experiences support families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in a variety of faith-forming experiences together.

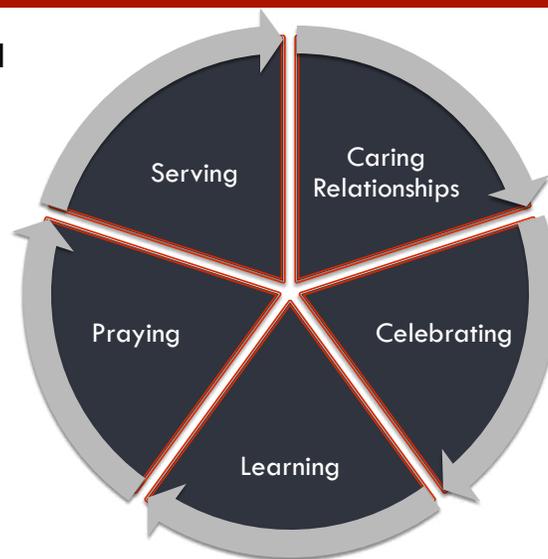
Intergenerational experiences strengthen the ability (confidence and competence) of parents and grandparents to promote religious socialization at home; be role models of faithful practice; and engage in faith practices at home.

Intentionally Intergenerational

Create Intergenerational Experiences at Church

Infuse Intergenerational Experiences & Relationships into Existing Ministries/ Programs

Connect Generations in Church Life



Intentionally Intergenerational

1. Intergenerational Worship
2. Intergenerational Learning
3. Intergenerational Prayer & Spiritual Formation
4. Intergenerational Social Events
(arts festivals, music and concerts, drama)
5. Intergenerational Service & Mission Trips
6. Intergenerational Retreats & Camps
7. Intergenerational Mentoring
8. Intergenerational Leadership

Learning

Engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

Intergenerational Learning

1. Weekly
2. Bi-Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Small Group & Large Group

Intergenerational Learning

Engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

- Intergenerational Learning
 1. In-Common All Ages Experiences
 2. Parallel Learning
 3. Contributive Occasions
 4. Interactive Sharing
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models

Learning Process

- Meal and Community Building (30 minutes)
- Part 1. Gathering and Prayer (10-15)
- Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience (20-30)
- Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience (75-90)
- Option 1. Whole Group (together)
 - Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
 - Option 3. Activity Center
- Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application (15-20)
- Part 5. Closing Prayer (5-10)

HI-life Gatherings...

Our sixth year of whole community catechesis focuses on Living a Moral Life. Our theme is *Navigating Life with GPS - God's Proven System*. Christian moral life can be summed up as the recognition of the awesome gift of God's loving presence in our lives and our continuing effort to respond to that love. During this year we will explore the guidelines that God has given us to live lives of love and faithfulness, including the ten commandments and the beatitudes. We encourage parishioners of all ages to participate in our HI-life Gatherings - our intergenerational learning assemblies that are the foundation of our lifelong faith formation process. Our monthly Gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.

➤ Sharing a Simple Meal Together

No cooking - just come and enjoy! At a typical Gathering you are welcomed by greeters in the Hospitality Room and escorted to a table in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At your table there might be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, or an empty-nest couple. There will be a couple of questions on the table to focus our table talk.

➤ Whole Group Opening Experience

Introduction of the topic to be experienced by all ages. After the meal, everyone moves to the church for an opening prayer and an activity to set the tone for the evening, such as a story or video segment. Each household receives a HI-life Home Kit and learns to use it throughout the evening.

➤ Exploring the Topic through Age-Specific Learning Activities

Learning about the same topic according to one's age or stage in life.

Then the group divides into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A typical evening might have adults staying in the church for a speaker and group discussion, young adults in Meeting Room 6, JYM youth in Meeting Room 3, TYM youth in the Hospitality room, and parents with young children (approximately ages 5-11) together in the Fellowship Hall. There are lead catechists for each group to teach and guide the learning activities of the evening and trained facilitators to assist the parents and children at each table.

➤ Whole Group Sharing Experience

Closing of the Gathering for all ages. To conclude our evening, everyone reunites in the church to share what has been learned, to pray together, and to be sent forth to continue learning at home in preparation for the church event or season which is the focus of the month.



Elements of LOGOS

In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring, Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

ACTS 2:42 (NRSV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.



Bible Study: A time for each grade, or a combination of grades, to study the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living. Churches can use non-denominational curricula developed by GenOn for LOGOS (either "Faith for Life" or our high school Bible studies) or something of their own choosing.



Family Time: The shared meal is a time to gather regular "table families" of various ages often eat together each week for the entire program year. Kitchen teams prepare dinners that are served family style - with table settings and serving dishes - practicing the art of serving one another.



Worship Skills: Choir, drama, bells, or other arts are rehearsed at LOGOS and then presented regularly in corporate worship. Each church decides the best fit with its own liturgy and worship style.



Recreation: All have great fun in a cooperative atmosphere, often dining on the holidays and interests of adults in the congregation willing to share their pastimes on a one-time basis or longer.

Elements of LOGOS

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org

LOGOS Intergenerational Ministry

generations learning and growing together in faith
modeled after the life of the early church in Acts 2:42

