A CHANGING CONTEXT
Ten Decades of Life

Five Generations

- Generation Z or iGen (2000-2015/18)
- Millennials (1980-99)
- Generation X (1961-1979)
- Baby Boomers (1946-60)
- Builders (before 1946)
Contemporary Family Life

Spiritual Religious Identities

- Not Spiritual, Not Religious
- The Spiritual but Not Religious
- Faith & Engagement – one among many priorities
- Faith & Engagement at the Center of Life

Unaffiliateds
Uninvolved
Occasionals
Actives
Decline in Religious Socialization & Practice

THINKING ADAPTIVELY
Thinking Adaptively

- **Technical Problems** can be solved with current knowledge and practices
- **Adaptive Challenges** require new knowledge and practices; they require experimenting in order to find the solution
- **Adaptive Challenges** require us to operate in a new way
- **Adaptive Challenges** requires some sacrifice of past ways of operating – they involve real or imagined loss
- **Adaptive Solutions** take time

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Thinking Adaptively

- **Adaptive leadership is specifically about change than enables the capacity to thrive.**
- “Of all that we care about, what must be given up to survive and thrive going forward?"
- “Of all that we care about, what elements are essential and must be preserved into the future?”
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

#1. Faith Forming Ecology

Intergenerational

Family

Life Stage
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, Intergenerational Christian Formation)
Family

The primary mechanisms by which Catholic identity becomes rooted in children’s lives are not Catholic schooling or sacramental preparation, but rather the 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.

(Burtkus and Smith)
Lifelong & Lifewide

Intergenerational

Children  Teens / Youth  Young Adults  Midlife Adults  Mature Adults  Older Adults

Family

Integrating the Elements

Whole Community

Worship Theme
- Readings
- Sermon
- Podcast

Intergenerational Gathering

Children & Family Youth Adult

Life Stage

Young Children & Families

Grade School Children & Families

Adolescents & Families

Young Adults

Midlife Adults

Mature Adults

Older Adults

Through the month:
- Learn
- Pray
- Live

Weekly

Monthly
The Formation Dynamic

*Relationships lead to craft, which leads to experiential belief. That is the path to becoming and being someone different. The path of transformation.*

*It is also the path found in the New Testament; the Way of Jesus the leads to God. Long ago, before the last half millennium, Christians understood that faith was a matter of community first, practices second, and belief as a result of the first two. Our immediate ancestors reversed the order. Now, it is up to us to restore the original order.*

Diana Butler Bass
*Christianity without Religion* (HarperOne, 2012)
Maturing in Faith

- Focusing on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship
- Incorporating knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living.
- Addressing each characteristic in developmentally-appropriate ways at each stage of life
#4. Personalize Faith Formation

Pathways of Faith Growth
Playlists of Content & Experiences
Project-Centered Faith Formation
#5. Twenty-First Century Learning

21st Century Learning

1. Blended Learning
2. Micro-Learning
3. Immersive Learning Environments
4. Multiple Ways of Learning
5. Multisensory Learning
6. Project-Based Learning
7. Collaborative Learning
8. Visual Learning
9. Practice-Oriented Learning
10. Storytelling
#6. Digital Transformation

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

What is the Digital Transformation Making Possible?

1. Learning and faith formation are now mobile—anytime, anyplace, 24x7. People have the digital devices to stay connected and to access learning and faith formation on the go.

2. There is abundance of high quality digital content for faith formation—audio, video, print, websites, apps, online learning platforms, and more.

3. New digital media and learning methods mean that we can provide multiple ways to learn and grow—activities and experiences that reflect different learning styles and multiple intelligences.

4. Digital media and online activities, especially videos, mean that we can develop content in smaller units (micro-learning) that better suit today’s learners who have shorter attention spans.

5. A faith formation website can serve as an online learning center, a portal to activities and resources, and a connecting point for people.

6. Online classrooms, like Edmodo, Schoology, and Google Classroom, provide safe spaces for young people, parents, and adult leaders to engage in faith forming experiences and interaction.