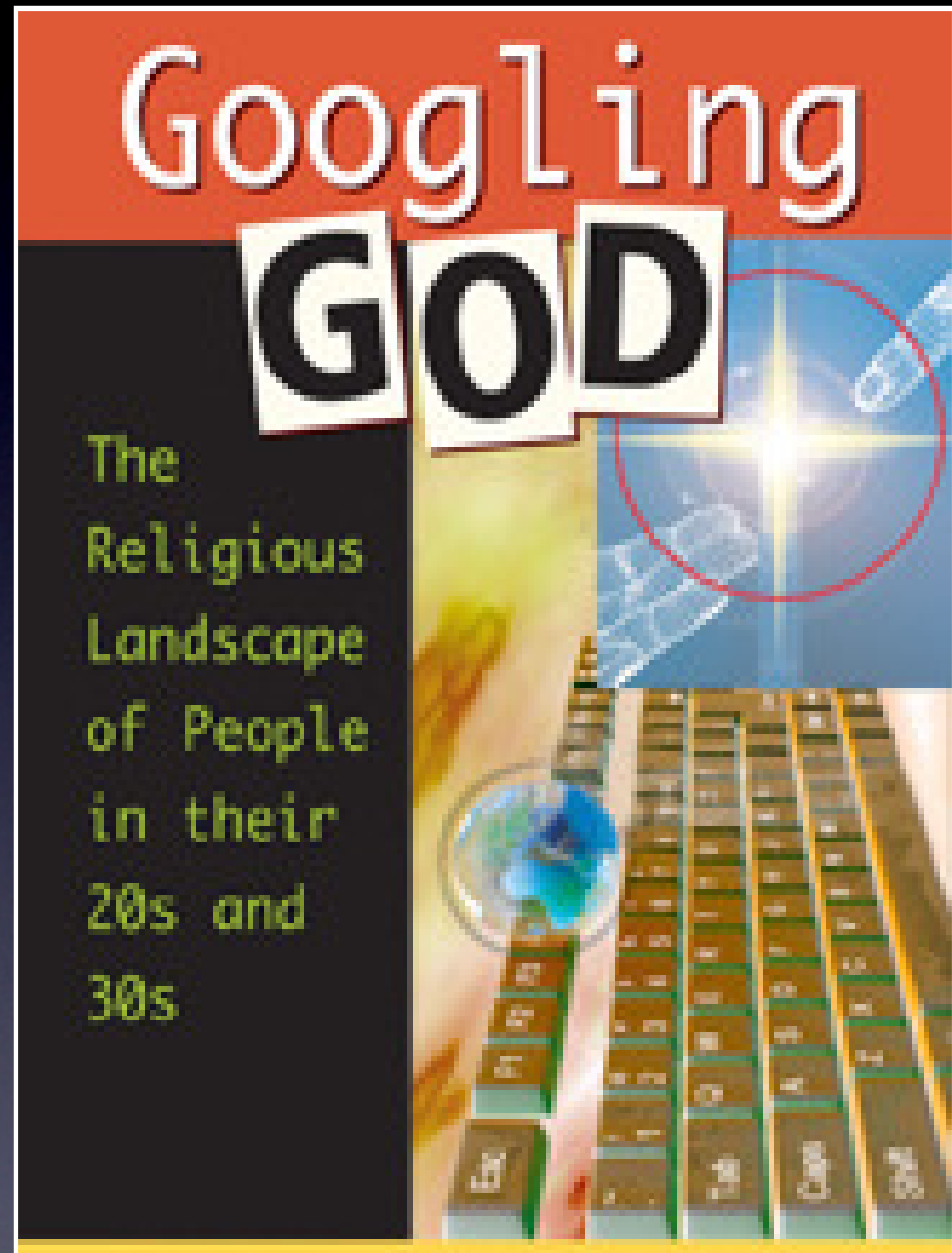


Teaching Catholic Young Adults in a Technological World

by Mike Hayes

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Schedule for the Day

- 9:30 - 9:35 - Introduction
- 9:35 - 9:50 - Table Exercise: Seminal Events
- 9:50 - 10:00 - Large Group Discussion
- 10:00 - 10:15 - Types of both Generations
- 10:15 - 10:30 - Table Exercise: Who do we see?

Schedule (part 2)

- 10:35 - 10:50 - Technology Today: Never Easier
- 10:50 - 11:15 - Table Exercise: What Delivery system is best?
- 11:15 - 11:30 - Social Networking and Young Adults
- 11:20 - 11:40 - Table Exercise: Turning inward: What do we do now? (One Tech, One Non-tech)
- 11:40 - Noon - Questions, quandaries.

who are young adults?

Two DIFFERENT Generations:

Generation X b. 1964-1979

Millennial Generation b. post 1980

Spiritual driven by different world and personal events.

“Spiritual tinkers”, “wisdom seekers”, “truth reclaimers”

Tangible experience is key for all generations and especially for immigrants

Tech World has unlimited choices - but people use technology to find “specifics.”

The technological task for us: “How can Catholicism ‘be found’?”

People from different cultures blend their family experiences with the

Which do we see them?

- Mass (only 10%-20%)
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Children: Schools, Baptism, Sacraments
- Return in crisis
- By being prophetic

Table Exercise

- 15 minutes.
- Name at least one **WORLD EVENT** that may have shifted or challenged **YOUR** religious beliefs during the ages of 16-25
- Name one **PERSONAL** event
- a) For Yourself
- b) for Millennials
- Contrast:What is the same/different?

Personal Events



Personal Events

- Most watched over Gen.
- Acceptance of institutional life (truth, answers)
- Hi technology is assumed, not cool (Googling God)
- Information overload
- Tendency towards extremes
- Diversity is assumed

Gen X

- Almost no world events (name the few)
- Personal:
- Latchkey kids, divorce - Suspicion of institutions
- Community is central longing
- Spiritual but not religious - even religious

In some ways...

- Millennials are more like “The Greatest Generation”
- Gen X are more like baby boomers.

Eclipsed Catholics

Theory: I want to be connected with God but I just don't have the time for religion.

- Information Overload - provide good info.
- Work and family demands
- Church is a commodity that I want on my terms
- high mobility - "always on the go"
- No grudges with the church; just not "a priority"
- Idea: Technology filters our message to them in already pre-existing "delivery systems"

WHICH/WHERE DO WE see them?

- Moments of return - weddings, baptism, death, change in life, questions of meaning.
- Divorce/annulment
- Catholic Schools
- Neighborhood events
- Being a voice for justice - be prophetic (Micronaque story)

Theory: I want to connect to God in a
personal way by myself.
(individualism)

Contemplation

Liturgy: How is this time unlike
any other?

Retreats: Create liminal space

Tradition: Adoration, rosary,
lectio divina, centering prayer,
spiritual direction

Create liminal space online:



Ecumenical Catholics

Theory: How are we different from other faiths?
How can we work together in a diverse world?
Isn't one religion as good as another?

- Marriage and marriage prep
- Ecumenical/Interfaith Alliances - for service and justice
- Speaking about what makes us unique and different and doing that publicly.



Evangelical/Prophetic

Theory: I want to feel fully alive and engaged with a faith tradition (although in varied ways)

Use of many senses in prayer

Robust spirit

Challenging nature of being called into love

Sense of mission and conversion (Service-based - seeing God in "the other")

The BustedHalo® Question Box

Googling God section - Catechesis

Challenges: Alienating to seekers/ Panacea:



I want to meet God in a tangible way.

Adoration & the Eucharist
(and knowing the difference)

Nature engagement

Confession

Sunday Mass

Catholic Holidays - very
important in terms of visibility

Highlighting this on the web is
important; what is important to
our tradition.



Communal Catholics

Theory: I want to meet people who share my values and my faith



- Dating “opportunities” - not explicit dating groups but activities for people to meet and socialize.
- Use “captive audiences” go deeper
- Social Networking keeps you in connection (Facebook groups, etc.)
- Be “fun” not “social misfits.”

Immigration and Diversity

- Do younger people amongst these generations react the same way as the mainstream?
- Yes and No
- Take some experiences from their family customs and culture. (esp. praying in their own language).
- Identity - “we’re together” - simply easier in National parishes, cultural enclaves within other parishes.
- But also--and importantly - there is a desire to “belong” as new Americans--to be accepted by their peers and to pray with them. (living situations)

Exercise 15 mins.

In my parish, diocese, etc...

Knowing what I know now...

What group(s) do I see in my parish?

Which group might our parish have a particular "affinity" to?

What challenges do I have to what we've talked about? How have I reacted to the groups I see?

The Runaway Train

- Bob Hope story
- If this happened today...
- californiacoastline.org
- Comcast tech falls asleep
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvVp7b5gzqU>

“Google It”

- Young people want EVERYTHING in an instant.
- Expectation of finding information quickly
- Why would someone come to my parish’s website?
- At least the basic information...what might they be looking for? (example: SDVPSE.org)

Express Yourself

- How are we “saying” who we are/what we are about technologically?
- It’s all a “test case”
- What does outdated information say?
- Young Adult “review” of our sites, our gifts
- What might they want “access” to?

POST METHOD

- People - We did this in the morning. Who are YA's, How do they use technology?
- Objectives - What do we want to do with them? Listen, Talk, Energize, Support, Embrace?
- Strategy - How do we want our relationship with them to change?
- Technology - What form of technology can we use to do that?

People

- Creators - blog, video, etc (40%)
- Critics - rate things, post comments (40%)
- Collectors - of information and sources (30%)
- Joiners - have a myspace/facebook page and keep up w/ others (60%)
- Spectators- just consume info (65%)
- inactives - do nothing (22%)

Objectives

What we do

- Listen - what are they saying about you?
- Talk - spread your message using technology
- Energize - who can spread your message?
- Support - how can we give assistance through technological means?
- Embrace - who knows stuff? What?
And can they help us?

Strategy

What will change

- What do you want to change?
- Measurable is best!
- Examples: More marriages, higher attendance, more participation, etc.
- One example: Talk with people; support their need for marriage prep questions.

How we do it:

Using Technology

- Interactive Website
- Podcast
- Blogging
- Video - What we did.
- E-newsletter, E-bulletin

Table Exercise

- How are we using technology? Well? Lousy?
- What do our YA's use?
- What "delivery system" might work well with our gifts? With our YA's?
- Do a POST analysis.
- Social Networking is next!

Social Networking

- 321.1 Million people have a facebook account.
Why?
- People get information and things they need from ONE ANOTHER.
- ALWAYS BEEN TRUE.
- People want to be connected to each other so badly that they are inventing new ways of doing it.

Why Facebook?

- Is this new? NO.
- People have always depended on others for advice
- Vocations: More people go to friends for advice than to a vocation director (Emerging Models)
- Social Networking: Two purposes: Stay In Constant Connection; PUSH your delivery system
- BECOME A TRUSTED SOURCE; NOT AN ANNOYANCE
- Facebook vs. Twitter - speed, media, preferences
- YOU CAN USE SOCIAL NETWORKING AS YOUR PLATFORM; but you should have another one.

Table LX put it all together

- Goal for all: How to integrate young adults into our church BETTER?
- For some - intentional group
- for others: better marriage ministry, parent ministry, etc.
- For some - technology is a must
- for others “First century”

Four things

- What will I do when I get home?
- 1) One non-technology way
- 2) One technology
- 3) What did I learn that was new?
- 4) What don't I buy? Mike's missed X

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