

Lifelong and Multigenerational Faith Formation

Faith Formation Learning Exchange

Research, Analysis, and Practice

Handing on the Faith—The Church’s Mission and Challenge

Robert Imbelli, editor. (New York: Crossroads, 2007)

Many of the leading thinkers and writers in American Catholic life focus on the question of how to pass the faith on to a new generation. What are the best means for conveying the faith, particularly in North America? The eleven essays in the book are organized into three categories: The Contemporary North American Context, The Content of the Faith Handed On, and Communicating the Faith. Terrence Tilley’s essay, “Communication in Handing on the Faith” is must reading for all those in faith formation. Contributors include: Robert Barron, John C. Cavadini, Bishop Blase Cupich, William D. Dinges, Paul J. Griffiths, Thomas Groome, Michael J. Himes, Robert Imbelli, Luke Timothy Johnson, Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN., Christopher and Deborah Ruddy, Terrence W. Tilley, and Robert Louis Wilken. This is an essential book for all faith formation leaders.

Passing on the Faith: Transforming Traditions for the Next Generation of Jews, Christians, and Muslims

Edited by James Heft, S.M. (New York: Fordham University Press, 2006)

Passing on the Faith: Transforming Traditions for the Next Generation of Jews, Christians, and Muslims is the result of a 2004 international conference at USC, “Faith, Fear and Indifference: Constructing the Religious Identity of the Next Generation.” The book includes original essays by international scholars that explore the challenges of passing on faith today, summary reports on three recent national studies of youth and young adults, and direction for passing on faith to the next generations of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The report on new research on young adults conducted at USC, “Congregations that Get It,” is especially helpful.

Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids

Kara Powell and Chap Clark (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011)

Nearly every Christian parent in America would give anything to find a viable resource for developing within their kids a deep, dynamic faith that “sticks” long term. Research shows that almost half of graduating high school seniors struggle deeply with their faith. Recognizing the ramifications of that statistic, the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) conducted the “College Transition Project” in an effort to identify the relationships and best practices that can set young people on a trajectory of lifelong faith and service. Based on FYI findings, this easy-to-read guide presents both a compelling rationale and a powerful strategy to show parents how to actively encourage their children’s spiritual growth so that it will stick to them into adulthood and empower them to develop a living, lasting faith.

Sticky Faith - Youth Worker Edition: Practical Ideas to Nurture Long-Term Faith in Teenagers

Kara Powell, Brad Griffin, & Cheryl Crawford (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011)

Many of the statistics you read about teenagers and faith can be alarming. Recent studies show that 40-50 percent of kids who are connected to a youth group throughout their senior year will fail to stick with their faith in college. As youth workers are pouring their time and energy into the students in their ministries, they are often left wondering if they've done enough to equip their students to carry their faith into adulthood. Fuller Youth Institute has done extensive research in the area of youth ministry and teenage development. In *Sticky Faith*, the team at FYI presents youth workers with both a theological/philosophical framework and practical programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers. Each chapter presents a summary of FYI's quantitative and qualitative research, along with the implications of this research, including program ideas suggested and tested by youth ministries nationwide. This resource will give youth pastors what they need to help foster a faith that sticks with all the teenagers in their group long after they've left the youth room.

Theory and Practice

Across the Generations: Incorporating All Ages in Ministry Resource Manual with CD (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2001)

Across the Generations integrates foundational information, practical “how to” advice, and proven plans and programs that you can use in cross-generational ministry. The first three chapters provide the foundations, while the next ten chapters provide practical ways to do cross-generational ministry—service, worship, learning, summer ministries, retreat and camping ministries, support ministry at home, drama, and media. Contributors include experts in cross-generational ministry including Roland Martinson, Diane Shallue, Nathan Framback, Paul Hill, Dick Hardel, and David Anderson. The CD contains reproducible program formats, planning tools, and guides for developing your own cross generational programs.

Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners John Roberto (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2006)

Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners presents the research, vision, and practices that provide a foundation for lifelong faith formation. The first chapter analyzes the social-cultural context and identifies important trends that are having an impact on faith formation today. Chapter two presents a vision of lifelong faith formation. Chapters three through six present the four essential practices that make lifelong faith formation a reality in parish life: 1) events-centered systematic curriculum for the whole parish community, 2) events-centered intergenerational learning, 3) household faith formation, and 4) collaborative and empowering leadership. This model of faith formation forms the basis for the Generations of Faith approach developed by the Center for Ministry Development.

Bringing Catechesis and Liturgy Together Joe Paprocki and D. Todd Williamson (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002)

Paprocki and Williamson explore the intimate, essential link between catechesis and liturgy, reflect on the language and mystery of ritual, emphasize the power of signs and symbols in sharing faith, and delve into the mystery and messages of the liturgical year. The authors challenge educators to examine their ministry and invite them to go beyond words; to invite those they teach into a deeper relationship with God through both liturgy

and catechesis. Chapters are organized into four sections: 1) Proclaiming the Mystery of Sign, Symbol, and Ritual; 2) Proclaiming the Mystery of the Church at Prayer; 3) Proclaiming the Mystery of the Eucharistic Liturgy; and 4) Proclaiming the Mystery of the Liturgical Year.

The Church as Learning Community

Norma Cook Everist (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002) [\$29.50]

Norma Cook Everist contends that it is meaningful to say that in ministries of administration, outreach, and pastoral care, the church is functioning as a learning community. Whenever and wherever Christians are being formed into the image of Jesus Christ through ministry, there Christian education is taking place. Christian education is the name we give to that process of formation. Part 1 of the book focuses broadly on what it means to be the church in the world. Part 2 shows how being a learning community requires ongoing growth in faith throughout the span of life. Part 3 shifts focus to the church as it moves into the community and world.

Dreams and Visions—Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation

Bill Huebsch (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2007) [\$14.95]

In *Dreams and Visions* Bill Huebsch offers a blueprint for lifelong faith formation for the whole community with the goal of helping all parishioners turn their hearts so fully toward Christ that a fire is lit in the heart of the parish itself. He offers a clear and consistent plan for step-by-step growth, with special emphasis on excellent liturgies, intergenerational gatherings, parish retreats, strong and effective catechist and teacher formation, and developing households of faith in every home in the parish. In this guide, he not only shows parishes how to get started but also how to keep going until lifelong faith formation is a reality. Chapters are organized into three sections: Essential Background, The Plan Itself, Getting It Done.

Gathered Before God—Worship-Centered Church Renewal

Jane Rogers Vann (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004) [\$19.95]

What is the central purpose of the church today? How can churches experience renewal through worship? In *Gathered before God*, Jane Rogers Vann answers these important questions by studying ten vibrant small, medium, and large churches. Her findings show that worship is the most important thing churches do and is vital to the renewal of congregational life. Vann explores how these congregations changed into worship-centered churches and how their experiences can help other churches do the same. *Gathered before God* offers resources for pastors, worship leaders, and Christian educators to reflect on their worship, leading to an openness to change and processes to help church leaders support each other during the periods of reform and renewal. Moving beyond the “contemporary versus traditional debate,” *Gathered before God* is an earnest call for us all to reclaim worship as a central act of our life together as Christians that expresses clearly what the church believes about God, itself, and the world.

Generations of Faith Resource Manual—Lifelong Faith Formation for the Whole Parish Community

John Roberto and Mariette Martineau (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2005) [\$29.95]

Specifically written to guide church staff and faith formation leaders, this guide to developing lifelong faith formation offers planning processes and practical tools for fashioning and implementing a lifelong curriculum and developing leaders for lifelong faith formation. It also offers processes and tools for designing intergenerational learning experiences and household activities. The book contains meeting outlines correlated

to each chapter in the book and comes with a CD-ROM with PowerPoint presentations for each chapter as well as all the necessary worksheets and handouts to implement the process of lifelong faith formation.

Intergenerational Faith Formation—All Ages Learning Together

Mariette Martineau, Joan Weber, and Leif Kehrwald (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2008)

Written by the family and intergenerational faith formation team at the Center for Ministry Development, *Intergenerational Faith Formation* addresses the context and urgency for effective faith formation in the church today, and in light of key principles for effective learning, makes a compelling case for intergenerational learning as one of the ways in which people can best learn and grow in faith. Not only is there a place for intergenerational learning in faith formation, the authors believe there is a *necessity* for it. They show that intergenerational faith formation can help children, adolescents, and adults effectively identify with and integrate into the faith community because their learning and formation takes place in the context of the community—learning the way they live. The book describes the necessary elements for multigenerational learning, and explores the essential practices of intergenerational faith formation.

Intergenerational Religious Education

James W. White (Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1988)

This is classic work on intergenerational faith formation. It is the most comprehensive, well-researched, and most inclusive of any book on intergenerational religious education (IGRE) published to date. It includes workable models, solid theoretical foundations, and concrete practical prescriptions for effective inter-age religious and community living and learning in the faith community. It includes a variety of viewpoints, models, programs, and methods of IGRE. The spirit of this book resonates so well with the direction of faith formation today: the whole faith community together in which persons of different age groups work interactively and productively to help each other grow religiously

Live, Learn, Pass It On!—The Practical Benefits of Generations Growing Together in Faith

Patty Meyers (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006)

Congregations are intergenerational, but many fail to make the most of the amazing gifts of generations learning together. Instead, peers are segmented from the whole to talk about faith and help each other grow spiritually, creating an unintentional disconnect within the congregation. *Live, Learn, Pass It On!* is written to help the church build on its greatest asset, people... as they pass on understandings of faith and discipleship to the next generations. “This book attempts to honor the God-given strengths and life experiences of people of every age and encourage them to use these for the good of others and to the glory of God,” writes Meyers. She provides a practical overview of multi-generational learning that includes models, stories, biblical and theological foundations on which to build an effective, holistic ministry for all in your congregation.

Shaped by God: Twelve Essentials for Nurturing Faith in Children, Youth, and Adults

Robert J. Keeley, editor (Grand Rapids: Faith Alive, 2010)

Faith formation doesn't just happen—it's a Spirit-led lifelong process of shaping and reshaping. In this accessible anthology, twelve experts share their perspectives on faith formation at home, in worship, in education, in intergenerational contexts, in people with developmental disabilities, and more. Chapters include: Biblical Foundations of Faith Formation, Faith Formation through Faith Practices, The Importance of Story in Faith Formation, Faith Formation at Home, Faith Formation through Worship, Sacraments and Education, Fostering

Intergenerational Christian community, Faith Formation and People with Developmental Disabilities, Recent Research, and Faith Formation in the Postmodern Matrix.

Vibrant Faith in the Congregation

David W. Anderson (Vibrant Faith Ministries, 2011)

Through their vision called the Vibrant Faith Frame, Vibrant Faith Ministries has helped congregations develop strategies to nurture Christian faith in individuals, homes, congregations, and communities for more than 15 years. In David Anderson's sequel to *From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith: The Role of the Home in Renewing the Church*, he identifies what these strategies look like in a congregation. With special emphasis on Christian faith formation and community outreach, *Vibrant Faith in the Congregation* illustrates how congregations have successfully applied the Vibrant Faith Frame to various congregational ministries, such as evangelism, Christian education, worship and preaching, youth and family, and stewardship. An underlying theme of the book addresses the important task for the church to be missional, that is, to help people live out the gospel in word and deed in homes, congregation, community, and the larger world.

Will There Be Faith: A New Vision for Educating and Growing Disciples

Thomas H. Groome (Harper One, 2011)

In the face of mounting obstacles, parents and educators find themselves increasingly challenged by the task of leading people toward lives of faith. Thomas Groome has created a contemporary, holistic approach to teaching Christian beliefs and values that offers real, effective solutions for today's parents and teachers. His guide to religious education—which aims to “bring life to Faith and Faith to life”—is a hopeful road map for reenergizing the faith community and family from the bottom up. He explores the nature and purpose of educating in Christian faith, and describes and illustrates his shared Christian praxis approach of moving from the life to faith to life. Also included are chapters on educating in faith for the life of the world, intentional Christian nurture in a secular age, and faith formation in households of faith.
