Regional Stewardship Education Meetings, Spring 2015

Discussion Questions

1. **What words do you use when describing the “Greatest Generation” and the “Baby Boomer” generations?**

**Terre Haute**

Greatest Generation

* + 2 parent families (more cohesive, Dad mostly worked, Mom stayed home) large families
  + farmers built communities
  + parish/church was the center
  + more neighborly (everyone knew everyone) not very mobile
  + lots of Catholic schools
  + Pearl Harbor
  + frugal

**Batesville/Connersville**

Greatest Generation

* Church was important (2)
* Family was important
* togetherness and respect for clergy
* respect for elders
* Hardworking (3)
* Honest
* Frugal
* savers and private with faith
* conservative
* accepting
* followers

Baby Boomers

* + Rebel
  + more self-centered
  + status seeking and money more important
  + permissive
  + feel good (2)
  + TV influenced; public education

**Seymour/Bloomington**

Greatest Generation

* Worked hard
* Giving
* less material
* experienced
* saving
* frugal
* family oriented
* attended church regularly

Baby Boomers

* Entitlement
* Desensitized
* generational decay
* less commitment

**Indianapolis**

Greatest Generation

* Respect (3)
* traditional (3)
* family and church (2)
* centered, cautious, support the church dutiful, pre-Vatican II (2)
* hard-working
* thrifty (2), frugal

Baby Boomers

* College educated (2)
* Adventurous
* free spirits
* more about the “now” vs saving for the future(2)
* fewer kids
* more social
* verbal with children
* challenge authority
* frivolous
* more independent
* risk takers

**New Albany/Tell City**

Greatest Generations

* + - Hardworking (2)
    - achievements hard earned
    - sense of family
    - sense of community
    - sense of work ethic
    - simple plain answers (2)
    - respectful (2) Boomers
    - loyal
    - trustworthy
    - resourceful
    - surrounded by people who
    - believed alike
* Taught to think for themselves (2)
* questioned authority
* more complex
* think outside the box, well educated (2)

1. **Based on the noted characteristics, is there a better way to engage these individuals as stewards?**

**Terre Haute**

* Invite them personally
* Give them something productive to do
* Listen to them
* Be willing to transport them

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Encourage deeper personal conversion
* Catechesis
* one on one prayer partners
* willing to volunteer
* don’t like changes
* face to face communication
* Small faith groups
* mentors (2)
* create social events (2)

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Speak the language
* Involvement
* younger generations need more transparency to give
* ask them personally
* run ministries

**Indianapolis**

Greatest Generation

* personal contact
* provide more info on use of funds
* take more info from priest vs laity
* tailor message to different groups
* retired have time to volunteer
* encourage planned giving

Baby Boomers

* variety of activities (outreach)
* choice for contact
* appeal to outreach of church
* planned giving
* giving towards specific ministries
* giving for community and causes
* focus on annual appeal

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Contributions more involvement, less dollar based
* personal invitation or phone call (4)
* verbalizing
* weekday vs night
* respect experience and worldview
* value of lay ministry
* baptism as vocation

1. **What does your parish do to help people within these generations deepen their prayer life and better understand the depth of Church teachings?**

**Terre Haute**

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Adult education
* bible studies (3)
* adoration (2) small groups by invitation
* men’s groups
* parish mission talks
* priest homily

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Time commitment
* Bible studies
* daily Masses and rosaries
* ladies organizations
* meals

**Indianapolis**

Greatest Generation

* Daily Mass
* involve laity
* day activities
* support groups
* mixed ages Bible study
* daily reflection booklets

Baby Boomers

* special classes
* support groups
* providing modern views during homilies
* tailor message based on audience
* use retreats
* prayer groups

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Written invite
* extra weeknight Mass
* homily appeals to intellect vs storytelling/humor
* Bible study(2)
* morning Mass
* adult faith formation
* train for specific lay ministry
* reintroduce prayers or devotions
* offer variety of events and opportunities
* don’t understand the faith
* need different experiences for each age group
* drop in for kids

1. **Are there opportunities to better utilize these two generations in the New Evangelization?**

**Terre Haute**

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Family formation
* Each generation have stories to share, share your faith journey(2)
* Ask them to be involved
* Ask the older generations to mentor the younger generations
* Belonging precedes believing

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Accept their roles as the new sponsors
* Transportation
* nursing homes
* get involved to explain the past experience to new generations

**Indianapolis**

* Get new blood involved on committees
* set term limits to encourage participation
* priest makes the call (harder to say no to)
* day activities
* encourage them to share their faith experiences with younger generations
* open dialogues
* meet them where they are at
* thru social media

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Encourage to live their faith (2) call to offer stewardship opportunities
* mentoring (3)

1. **What words do you use when describing these generations?**

**Terre Haute**

* Gen X has an entitlement attitude
* Materialistic
* Vietnam War
* Civil Rights Movement
* Assassinations affected Gen X
* In 80’s prison population exploded –a hardness (3 strikes and you are out)
* No sense of forgiveness
* More affluence leads to more greed
* 80’s and 90’s family movement in Church

**Batesville/Connersville**

* + Immediate media bites (3)
  + little time alone
  + distracted by technology (2)
  + driven if valued
  + technological need to be respected
  + passionate, readily influenced
  + more liberal
  + Need to be heard and respected
  + communication must be direct (2);

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Tech savvy; tech jobs
* will share knowledge
* believes and lives faith
* latest equipment
* “Me”,“I”
* Selfish
* volunteering reluctantly
* Self-focused
* Never satisfied
* tactical vs strategic

**Indianapolis**

* Technologically savvy (4)
* self-sufficient (2)
* short attention span (2)

Gen Y way beyond X

* not money centered
* fulfillment more important
* always connected
* busy
* short conversations
* want to belong, afraid to fail
* realists
* social
* blended families;

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Less structure/ more informal
* figure things out yourself
* be independent (2)
* motivated, entrepreneurial
* patient
* technology driven
* device friendly
* Grew up too fast
* less childhood(2)
* media blasted them
* no controls
* instant information
* new skills
* unsheltered
* impatient
* lack of family anchor

1. **Based on characteristics, is there a better way to engage these individuals as stewards?**

**Terre Haute**

* Invite them
* Y needs more technological church information
* need things now
* present church and faith in their terms

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Use “Flocknotes”
* Facebook (2)
* websites (3)
* media
* meet them where they are (3)
* texting (3)
* e-mail(2)
* Don’t hide behind technology, but keep up with it.

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Technology
* programs for each generation
* mission trips
* redefine stewardship to connect to their worldview
* youth ministry

**Indianapolis**

Generation X

* use Facebook (2) and e-mail campaigns (3)
* use their technology (2)
* focus on better websites(2)

Generation Y

* not so much email or text
* use “Snapchat” or the next new thing
* use “Strengthfinders” to determine needs
* use non-religious events to bring togetherness
* online giving; social media

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Be mindful of each generation’s preference mode of communication (3).
* Electronic media always changing; transparency (3)
* Realize and respect that they spend time working/living in the cloud to have more free time to spend w/friends and family
* set time/reason (2)
* Engage in purpose of donations
* make it personal to encourage a personal connection

1. **What does your parish do to help people within these generations deepen their prayer life and better understand the depth of Church teachings?**

**Terre Haute**

* Explain to Gen Y why we do this……why things are done this way
* Lead by example
* Be there where things are happening
* Good youth ministers to engage them
* Social media is good in showing Y’s where social justice needs to happen

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Use Catholic Radio
* “Lighthouse” CDs
* offer free babysitting (3)
* offer youth and young adult ministry
* offer on line giving (2)
* better communication tools (2)
* Catholic education thru I-pad
* prayer apps(2) on phones
* adult education
* people become engaged

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Get to know the people teaching, youth groups
* attend other parish events
* “Theology on Tap”
* Facebook
* adults guess what is important, we must engage and ask them

**Indianapolis**

* “Theology on Tap” (2)
* “Marriage on Tap”, use “Flocknotes” (4)
* daily devotions
* sponsor informal teaching events

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Use website effectively
* prayers
* Kindle, smartphone
* offer online programs
* links to sites on website
* faith formation to unite parish
* Is there an app for that (4)?
* Online giving (2)

1. **Are there opportunities to better utilize these two generations in the New Evangelization?**

**Terre Haute**

**Batesville/Connersville**

* Personal invitation
* young mom groups
* get them involved and listen to their ideas(2)
* talk about their faith
* let them present questions and then work in how religion can solve the problems
* social media
* “Lighthouse” media
* Family formation
* personal invitation
* get to parents thru kids

**Seymour/Bloomington**

* Confirmation
* larger part of Mass earlier
* engage in youth thru college
* pass the baton to them
* young adult unmarried and young married groups
* plant the seed

**Indianapolis**

* Use social media to rally causes (3)
* increase importance of Catholicism
* invite them to use knowledge via Facebook, etc.

**New Albany/Tell City**

* Be intentional, not passive with Gen Y
* Older generations tend faith
* younger generations use technology to spread their faith
* tap into their communication skills (3)