



Frameworks for Youth Ministry

by Gregory Abdalah

Youth Ministry should provide an environment within which our youth can encounter Christ, It should create an atmosphere that facilitates the development of their personal relationships with Christ, Once a relationship with Christ has been developed to provide opportunities for the fostering of that relationship. Our youth are seeking out community wherever they can find them, not knowing where to look. When the Liturgical Life becomes the center of the community. It is then, we can begin to help them to realize their Liturgical Discipleship. Considering each from the viewpoint of Liturgical Discipleship, we would understand them as Baptism-the roots of Liturgical Discipleship, Chrismation-the sign of Liturgical Discipleship, Eucharist-the expression of the Liturgical Discipleship. The anaphora prayers aren't for God. God knows them all already, liturgical prayers are for us. Liturgy is joy Why would keep that joy away from our Youth.

Youth, generally speaking, are narcissistic, and each successive generation seems to be more and more so. By Narcissism, we mean self-centeredness, not the personality disorder, Narcissism is a lonely pattern of behavior, it is an expression of loneliness, not an expression of arrogance. Narcissism can be a defense mechanism that shields those who are socially awkward and insecure from the uncomfortable interactions with others. By living life with a Eucharistic understanding we begin a process that destroys narcissism. "We are to Bring God to the world and the world to God" -Bp JOHN of Worcester, This begins to break down the notions of narcissism, as it focuses on the corporate and communal nature of our being, while appealing to individual responsibility.

We ask ourselves, have we adequately prepared and taught our youth to understand how important the church is? It is time to face the reality that our youth are not staying in the Church because their parents were not taught how to be disciples when they were young, and did not, in turn, teach their children the faith or how to be disciples. We need to ensure that our youth have a place where it is OK for them to speak about God, learn about God, and ultimately encounter God.