Write down the Vision clearly upon the tablets so that one can read it readily.

For the Vision still has it’s time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint.

If it delays, wait for it.

Habakkuk 2:3
A project of the National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis

THE CONFIRMATION PREP PROJECT
“ratification of Baptism, thus completing Christian initiation, and the strengthening of baptismal grace”  CCC1289

“the completion of baptismal grace”  CCC1285,1303,1303

CONFIRMATION
How can we enhance Confirmation prep’s ability to be a more formative experience in the lives of young people?

583,000 Confirmed in 2013

UNCHAINING CONFIRMATION
What kind of experience did they have?
Potential enhancements to Conf Prep

Enhance the FOCUS
1. Increased sensitivity to the Spirit
2. Articulate experiences of grace, nature of their faith, grasp of the Tradition
3. Challenging moral and theological examination
4. Evaluation and ownership of their Catholic Identity

Enhance the PROCESS
1. Spiritual Growth Plan
2. Some formational work on their own
3. Mentoring

INTENTIONALLY
Teaching For Discipleship
1. Suppose we help them to develop spiritual sensitivities and awakenings?

“The maker of Heaven and earth, of all things VISIBLE and INVISIBLE.”

Enhance the focus
...should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, his biddings—in order to become more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.”

CCC 1309
“The world is crowded with God. The real labor is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more. To remain awake.”

C.S. Lewis
2. Suppose we help them *evaluate and own* the nature of their Catholic Identity?
Public Privacy

A makeshift outdoor confessional provides spiritual comfort to Roman Catholics in La Vang, in central Vietnam. The people at right are waiting their turns.
3. Suppose we helped them imagine the call and practices of discipleship?

I stand at the door and knock... 

Enhance the focus
Can someone be a believer but not a disciple?

A disciple is different than a believer. How?
STUDIES the ways of the One and LIVES by them DISCIPLE
Discipleship for the good of the World
within a Community of Disciples
and the will of God.

LIFE AFTER CONFIRMATION
Putting and end to Confirmation as The End

Life after Confirmation

Discipleship …

within a Community of Disciples…

for the good of the World

and the glory of God.
4. Suppose we engaged in meeting them where they are...

And driving them out of their minds ...

For a minute?

Enhance the focus
so they can consider:
  
  The mind of Others
  
  The mind of Christ
  
  The mind of the Church

Challenging Moral and Theological reflection

Enhance the focus
5. Suppose we help them to develop the skills and the language to *articulate* the nature of their faith... their experiences of grace...

Enhance the focus
...and their grasp of Tradition
6. Suppose we asked them to develop a Spiritual Growth Plan?

- Knowledge?
- Attitudes?
- Behaviors?
- Vertical?
- Internal?
- Horizontal?
30 Days = 60 minutes

1 Day = 2 minutes (16hrs)

8 Hours = 1 minute
How do you want to spend your minute?
How can we help them use some of their 59 minutes?
7. What we can help them to do on their own... but not alone?

*Invest in the adolescent isolate.*

R. Dykstra

Enhance the process
8. MENTORING ENVIRONMENT

Small group leaders
Co-sponsors
On site Service organizers
Post retreat follow-up
Parish supporters

Enhance the process
Which enhancement interests you most?

- Increased Spiritual sensitivities
- Evaluate and own their Catholic identity
- The Call and Practices of discipleship
- Challenging moral and theological engagement
- Articulation of faith, grace, and Tradition
- Forming a Spiritual Growth Plan
- Some formation on their own, but not alone
- a Mentoring environment
Challenges facing our Confirmation prep program

TEAM

THEME

TOOL(s)

TECHNIQUE(s)
This dialogue between faith and life is “the profound drama of our time.” (Pope Paul VI)

“Faith that does not connect to life is dead. Life that is not illuminated by faith is blind.” (Cardinal Ratzinger, 1983)
The catechist is essentially a mediator and a knowledgeable disciple, engaging young people through a variety of methods, activities, and learning approaches, including the use of media, music, memorization, group dynamics, liturgy and prayer.

Helping young people read their experiences along with the questions and needs raised in light of the Gospel.

Offering them a spiritually challenging vision that helps young people meet their hunger to participate in the noble adventure of discipleship.

(GDC 3152-156, NDC p.201,202,224)
• Spiritual sensitivities/ awakenings
• Evaluated Catholic identity
• Call to the practices of discipleship
• Moral and theological engagement
• Articulation of faith, grace, and Tradition
• Spiritual growth plan
• On their own, but not alone
• Mentoring environment
Write down the Vision clearly upon the tablets so that one can read it readily.

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