

# Young Adults on Mission

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# When I hear the word “mission”

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I think...









# Cultural Context

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- What are some aspects of the current culture that draw young adults to be on mission?
- What are some aspects of the current culture that draw young adults away from being on mission?





# Immersion

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# Immersion

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- Discernment
- Decision to immerse into experience
- Challenges of the decision
- Unintended benefits



# Immersion

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- What has been your experience of immersion?





# Baptism

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1213 Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons (and daughters) of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission:

“Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.”



# Marinating

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# Baptism

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- We Be Baptized.
- We have been adopted as Sons and Daughters of God through the mission of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit expressed in the ministry of the Church. Jesus claims us.
- We belong to each other – here, now, and everywhere, and for all time.
- We are sent. We are on mission.



# What Now?

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- This is a universal conversation.
- As baptized, we are all called to become missionary disciples.
- Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment



# Share with Francis

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# Synod Listening Sessions

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- 50 in-person listening sessions
- Online submissions
- Around 1500 Catholic and non-Catholic youth and young adults, clergy, parish staff, and parents
- The average young adult participant is single, ages 19-30, and works full time. Those that identify as Catholic tend to be registered members of their parish (59%) and attend Mass at least weekly (49%) and frequently more than once a week (29%).





# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings

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## *1. Young people are asking for peer Catholic community in the face of heightened secularization*

- Home
- 55% of Catholic young adults 'have a close friend at their parish'
- Increase the number of adults engaged in parish life by prioritizing adult faith formation
- Belonging -> Behaving -> Believing



# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings

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## ***2. Young people are asking for personal relationships with clergy, religious and lay mentors***

- Studies show that *“in almost all cases, having strong relational ties to the faith is a necessary condition of becoming a strong Catholic emerging adult”* (Christian Smith, *Young Catholic America*).
- 50% of Catholic young adults do not have an adult mentor at their parish
- Increase access to spiritual direction as well as intentional one on one, and small group relationships with intergenerational mentors





# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings

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## ***3. Young people are asking for an invitation to leadership***

- “always done it this way” vs. training ground for discernment
- Requires creating space within current leadership
- Create seats at the table for young people
- Be willing to set aside current parish ministries or structures that don’t resonate with a new generation





# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings



## ***4. Young people are asking for an authentic message that applies to their daily life***

- Dissatisfaction with consumeristic secular world
- Longing for a coherent worldview
- Desire to be challenged to live out a great mission worthy of their lives yet accepted and forgiven when they fall short.
- Provide additional formation opportunities like small groups

# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings

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## ***5. Young people are asking for a Church that exists in the peripheries of life***

- Desire for integration between faith and life
- Expand the geography of 'parish' by leaving the church property



# Share with Francis 6 Key Findings

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## ***6. Young people are seeking meaningful spiritual experiences***

- Experiential learning
- Only 18% of young adults ages 18-23 nationally report having been on a retreat in the past two years and only 10% report ever having been on a mission trip of any kind. (Christian Smith, *Souls in Transition*)
- Focus on Sunday experience, offer adult experiences of retreat, mission, pilgrimage, etc.

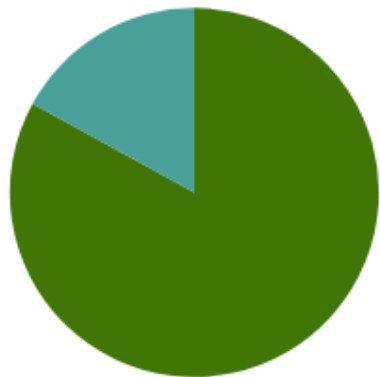




# Full-time, Faith-based Service



**181,000+ people serving** in the last 10 years  
**18,500 people serving** last year



63% female  
37% male



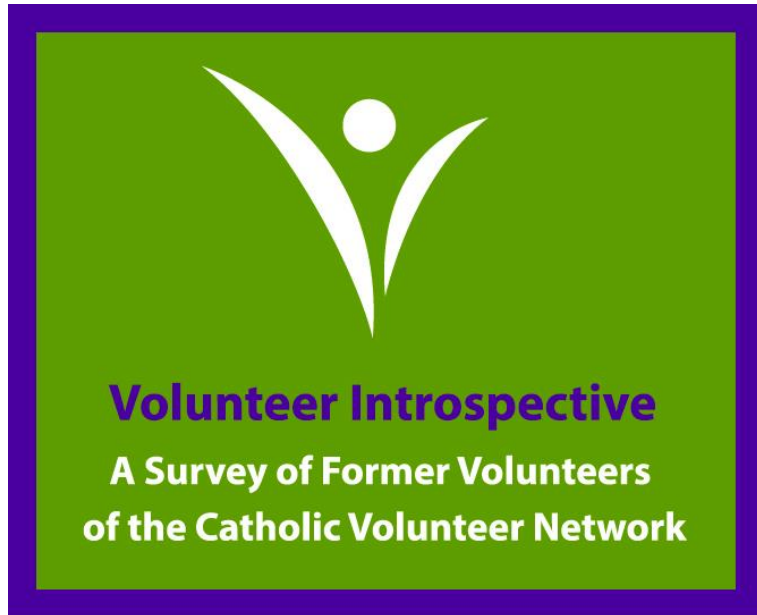
84% serving for 3 months or less



92% serving in the U.S.  
8% serving abroad

# Impact of Faith-Based Service

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- **67%** volunteers say that their volunteer service was “somewhat” or “very” influential in their choice of career (43% saying very)
- Proportion of divorced former volunteers is almost **4 times lower** than the general population.
- **6%** of former volunteers have a vocation to ordained ministry or religious life. **37%** have considered a vocation to ordained ministry or religious life.

# Church Attendance

	Former Volunteers	US Population	US Catholics
More than once a week	13%	8%	4%
Once a week	33%	19%	21%
Almost every week	14%	4%	5%
At least once a month	12%	16%	20%
A few times a year or less	28%	53%	50%





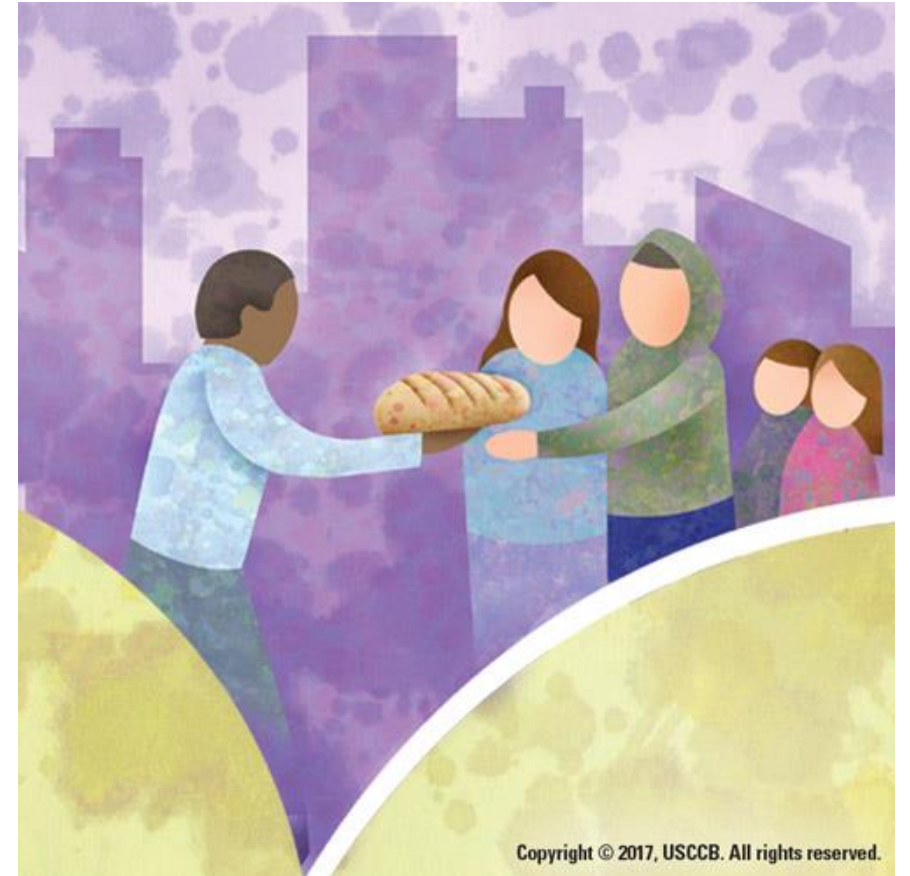
# Process

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## Encounter

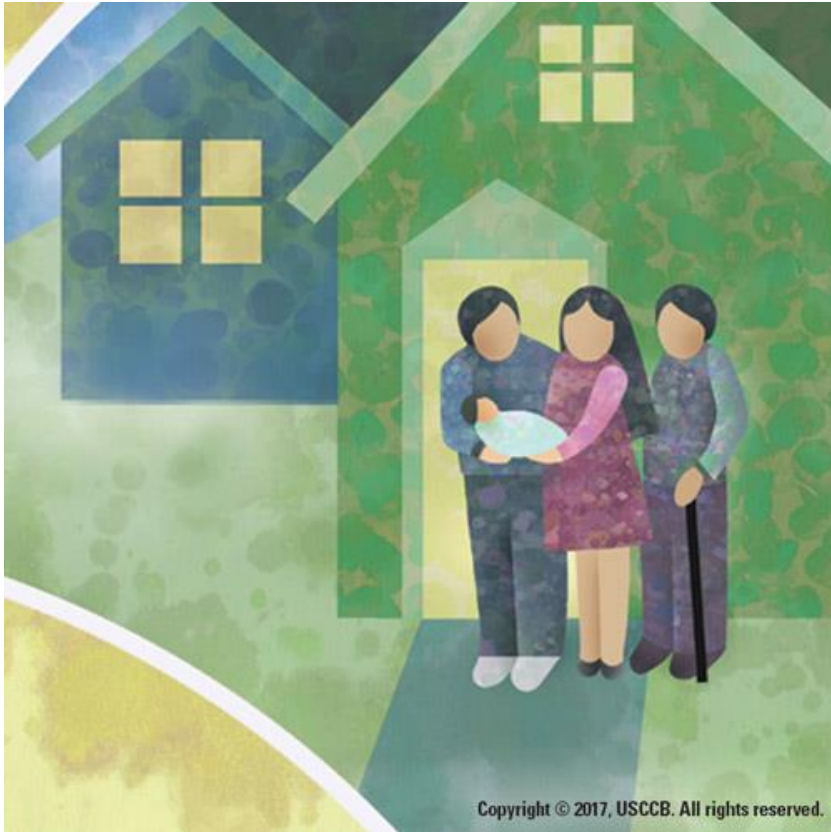
*“The purpose of evangelization is to lead people to encounter Christ.”*  
– LMD, 9

- Our personal encounter with Jesus Christ
- Within the family
- In and through the Church
- In others
- Hospitality
  - In the parish
  - Outside of the parish



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# Process



## Accompany

*“The response to this encounter with Christ needs accompaniment.” – LMD, 14*

- Ensure that someone has responsibility for ministry with young adults
- Find opportunities to listen to what mission means to older youth and young adults in your parish
- Join or start a small group or grouping at your parish for young adults (single or married)
- Mentor/build Christian friendship
- Pray for a regular group of people in your parish family daily
- Reflect on who God has placed in your lives who live outside the Church and go out to build relationship with them

# Process

## Community

***“Evangelization invites people to the Body of Christ, which is the Catholic Church.” – LMD, 16***

*“When Jesus calls us forth, he never calls us alone. He calls forth a family of people, a community growing in the gradual recognition that we are brothers and sisters in the Lord, and that love is binding us together.”*

– Jean Vanier, Steps to Authentic Community

- Community is never accidental, it's always intentional.
- Built upon a shared commitment to accountability, acceptance, respect, love, and trust.



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# Process

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## Send

*“Evangelization leads disciples to accept God’s desire to send them on mission.” – LMD 17*

- We have felt that call, that tug, to go beyond ourselves
- Even to the point of moving outside of our comfort zones,
- Crossing some type of border,
- And risking an encounter with a complete stranger,
- In service to a greater good – the Kingdom of God. Our motivation is as altruistic as we can get on this side of heaven.

# Missionary Opportunities

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## 1. Home

- **Mission starts** at home within our families. Family is the domestic church.
- **Have a prayer life** as a family.
- **Encourage** curiosity of faith in children.
- **Develop** a plan for continuing faith formation
- **Go out** as a family to do service, both **charity** and **advocacy**

# Missionary Opportunities

## 2. Parish

- **Empower** people to identify their gifts and empower them to use them
- **Be open** to new parish initiatives
- **Highlight** opportunities for ministries of service and charity
- Who or what areas inside parish life are **in need of love**?
- **Get to know** your parish boundaries: do the pews look like the grocery store?
- **Support** family life





# Missionary Opportunities

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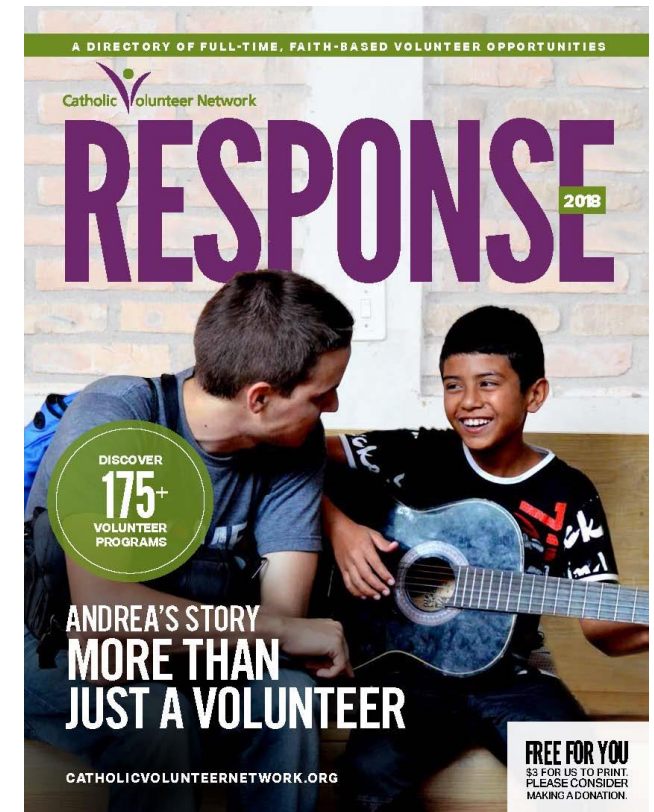
## 3. *Community* (Civic)

- Location, Location, Location – what is happening in your neighborhood? Is there a need that you could respond to?
- Causes – how are some of the “hot button” causes showing up in your city? Homelessness, racism, environment?
- Migration – who is moving into your city, where are they from, who is welcoming them?
- Students – there are 1 million international college students studying in the United States of America.
- Polarization – our “body politic” is becoming increasingly polarized; how can we foster civic conversation and reconciliation?

# Missionary Opportunities

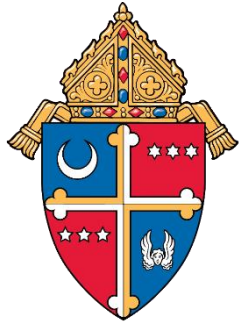
## 4. Full-time

- **Discern** – how is God calling me? How do I want to be challenged to grow in my faith, in my service to those in need?
- **Serve** – most full-time programs require prior volunteering experience
- **Explore** – Catholic Volunteer Network resources
  - RESPONSE – search opportunities based on location, length of time, type of ministry, living arrangement, etc.
  - Urgent Opportunities
  - Volunteer Profile

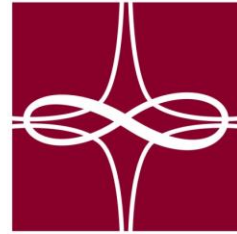


# Questions?

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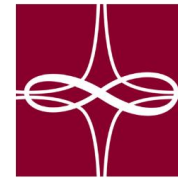
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# Additional Resources

[www.catholicapostolatecenter.org](http://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org)



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