

"The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

~Pope Francis

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Mission:

- What is the mission of your ministry?
- What is the purpose of your ministry?
- Why does your ministry exist?

The overarching mission of youth ministry is to form young people as missionary disciples



Foundations of the Planning Process

Needs:

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- What are the needs of your community?
- What are the needs of young people?
- What are the needs of parents?

Example: Young people, most of whom feel lonely and disconnected, need to know that our parish community cares about them



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Foundations of the

Goals:

 In light of what is needed, what goals is your ministry currently focusing on to help you accomplish your mission?

Example: To help young people develop meaningful relationships with adults in our parish community



Foundations of the Planning Process

Objectives:

- Identify specific objectives that will help you achieve your goal
- Make them SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)

Example: Every teen starting the Confirmation process this year will have 2 adults from the parish community (not relatives) who know them by name by the end of the year



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Foundations of the Planning Process

Parameters:

 Identify the parameters that must guide your planning (policies, procedures, guidelines, budgetary requirements/concerns, legal/public health restrictions, etc.)

Example: Safe environment policies must not be violated when connecting young people with adults



Foundations of the Planning Process

Strategies:

 What strategies will you use to achieve your objectives? (e.g. events, programs, physical or virtual gatherings, resources, actions, initiatives, etc.)

Example: Recruit adults who are not part of the Confirmation team to serve as parish mentors to the teens who are starting the Confirmation process



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Foundations of the

Measurables:

 How will you measure effectiveness of your strategies or success in attaining your objectives and goals?

Example: At the end of the year, every Confirmation candidate will be able to name at least two adults from the parish who know them by name



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What is Different Now?

- We must be prepared to be flexible in our ministry so we can adapt as needed
- We must take necessary and appropriate steps to keep people safe
- We must be prepared to do things differently from how we have done them in the past

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- We need to know what the needs are and what resources we have available
 - The needs often exceed the available resources (time, people, materials, finances, etc.)
- We need to be clear about our mission, our goals, and our objectives
- Knowing all this will help us determine priorities
- We might need to let some things go



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- List all events, programs, initiatives, and strategies that you have been using in your ministry
 - What need has this been responding to?
 - What objectives or goals has this been intended to achieve?
 - How have we been measuring success or effectiveness?
- Make a new list naming all the needs, goals, and objectives you identified

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- How have the needs of your community changed?
 - What is no longer a need at this time? Delete these.
 - What needs have emerged and are not on your list? Add them.
 - Be sure to get input from others, especially teens and their parents
- Who thinks this need is important? [you, your bishop or pastor, teens, parents, etc.]
- How important is this need? [high importance or low importance]
- How urgent is this need? [high urgency or low urgency]

- Do your goals align with your mission? Do your goals respond to the current needs?
 - If the answer is no, delete or revise the goal(s)
- Will your objectives help you to attain your goals?
 - If the answer is no, delete or revise the objective(s)
- What impact will this have in meeting the need? [high impact or low impact]
- How easy will this be to accomplish? [easy or difficult]

• Large group/assembly model

Programming/content is presented mostly in the large group
 Breakout groups support what happens in the large group

Participants are in designated groups that each have their own leaders
 Programming/content is mostly consistent from one group to the next

Small group model
 Groups do not need to have the same programming/content
 Flexibility in scheduling and ministry methods

group

Classroom model

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- Gathered physically
- · Gathered digitally
- Non-gathered, non-digital
- · Non-gathered, digital
- · Blended gathered and non-gathered
- Blended digital and nondigital



- Stay focused on the mission
- Utilize your team
- Stay flexible

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- Don't forget to laugh!
- Programs don't form missionary disciples; people who are missionary disciples do so



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