

**Conversation/Topic: FORMATION AND EDUCATION**

**CREATING A CULTURE WHERE SCHOOL STAFF CAN BE INVOLVED IN FAITH AND MINISTRY FORMATION**

**Convenor:** Ryan Gato

**Scribe:** Lynn Redding

**Other Members:**

Alan Rooke, Helen Kearney, Vicki Sheriff, Don Reid, Anne Marie Peebles

**Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:**

- Staff do not seem to make the connection between their faith and ministry formation within school and in the wider church community;
- What is a practising Catholic? How do school teachers see the “practice” of their faith?
- Are teachers confident in being involved beyond school?

**Action/Strategies:**

- Reconnecting with founding charismas to re-culture schools;
- Look to others for ways of renewing staff, e.g. the Marist approach;
- Being more individual on a personal level;
- Reviewing the RECs role in schools

**Ongoing Conversation:**

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**Interested Participants:**

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**Conversation/Topic: FORMATION AND EDUCATION  
FORMATION FOR OLDER CATHOLICS**

**Convenor:** Ed Wright

**Scribe:**

**Other Members:**

Betsy Gadd, Pamela Eades, Carmel Moor rsj

**Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:**

Formation and Adult Education:-

- Many have a “living” Catholic experience of a 7-10 year old;
- The priest told us all we needed to know;
- Different styles of homily from different preachers (e.g. Redemptionists);
- Relating everyday events (newspaper, films, etc) to Gospel values;
- Bible – not read/studied for a long time – now more open – Lenten groups;
- Lectro Divina – allowing people to think differently. Scripture not just a history lesson – it is “living word” – relevant to today;
- The older generation is the keeper of our faith – some don’t want to move out of old structures but some are keen;
- Formation is a life-long thing.

**Action/Strategies:**

- Encourage more participation in the things that are happening, e.g. Lectro Divino, short courses, Lenten groups, Cell groups (Wallsend); dinner/friendship;

**Ongoing Conversation:**

- How do we continue to engage all Catholics in ongoing Formation?

**Interested Participants:**

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**Conversation/Topic: FORMATION AND EDUCATION  
FORMATION FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

**Convenor:** Louise Gannon

**Scribe:** Colleen Carney

**Other Members:**

Liddy Waanders, Nance Schrieber, Pat Healion, Pat Hollingsworth, Sheila and Des Kinsella, Terry Kerr, Michael O'Connor

**Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:**

- How do we identify potential leaders? Sense of community is essential;
- Many people are still not au-fait with Vatican II;
- Challenge is to recognise this is not just about parish but is about agencies, regions and diocese;
- When people are encouraged to be active in mission they realise their need for formation. People will come to do even when they are less confident about the need for formation;
- The document sounds too business-like. The key is developing personal relationships with Jesus;
- Tension between scholastic and experimental model of formation;
- Need to skill people to build their confidence;
- Anglican Synod, with its emphasis on topics like refugees, etc.

**Action/Strategies:**

- Focus on mission of Face to Face;
- Recognise gifts and call people to leadership;
- Core – Formation in personal relationship with Christ;
- Engage people in mission as impetus to get involvement in personal formation.

**Ongoing Conversation:**

- How do we continue to engage all Catholics in ongoing Formation?

**Interested Participants:**

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**Conversation/Topic: HOW DO WE SUPPORT YOUNG TEACHERS IN THIER OWN SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS?**

**Convenor:** Anna Cox

**Scribe:** Carmel Moore

**Other Members:**

Patricia Boland, Jennie Nolan

**Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:**

- Young teachers are experiencing a faith they had previously left and don't know what to do with it;
- The culture now is different – many teachers have another job, not much time. There is a need for their own spiritual development;

**Action/Strategies:**

- Anna Cox would like to start a social group for young teachers which would have a spiritual formation goal. Ray Collins will connect Anna to Mark Spencer.

**Ongoing Conversation:**

**Interested Participants:**

- Anna Cox/Mark Spencer

**Conversation/Topic: FORMATION AND EDUCATION  
ONGOING FORMATION IN FAITH FOR  
PARENTS OF OUR CHILDREN**

**Convenor:** Sr Patricia Egan

**Scribe:** T McNickle

**Other Members:**

Fr Tom Brennan, Pamela Eades, Kevin Gadd

**Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:**

- Parents are enthused during Sacramental program participation with their child but then there is nothing else for them;
- The parents need more knowledge of what children are learning in RE in schools – knowledge of faith is at teenage level;
- Need to provide ongoing support to these parents – either school or parish based;
- How can we involve young people more?
- How can we make them feel like they belong?
- What are we offering for the future?
- Develop faith of young adults with young children – foster family involvement and education;
- Time is precious – people are time poor.

**Action/Strategies:**

- Use ICT to have chats with younger parents;
- Use Aurora to target advertising to these groups;
- Attend a formation session;
- Involve grandparents;
- Post program celebration at the schools.

**Ongoing Conversation:**

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**Interested Participants:**

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## Formation and Education

<b>Conversation/Topic:</b> YOUTH MINISTRY	
<b>Convenor:</b>	Maryanne de Luca
<b>Scribe:</b>	Robert Copas
<b>Other Members:</b> Robert Copas, Hubert Williams, Carmel Cowan, Helen Regent, Anna Cox, Patricia England and Jennie Nolan.	
<b>Discussion Notes, Key Understanding, Outstanding Questions, Observations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can we inspire students of Catholic education to read the Bible, appreciate the Eucharist and follow Jesus?</li><li>• Social component required to involve young people;</li><li>• Lack of role models in schools (non-practising teachers, not much encouragement);</li><li>• Give students an opportunity to be involved;</li><li>• Parents/grandparents who are not practising (lack of role models);</li><li>• Vinnies (a good way for young people to become involved in social justice – hopefully will lead to relationships with Jesus);</li><li>• We should bring Church to the schools – give them an opportunity to experience Eucharist/Church etc;</li><li>• We could survey students in schools in regard to their thought on the Mass (what they like or don't like);</li><li>• Dialogue between active young people and older people in parishes (this will help is to grow as Church – support of young people in Church).</li></ul>	
<b>Action/Strategies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth workers employed in regions;</li><li>• Linking schools with parishes – parishes supporting schools;</li><li>• Survey – “What is causing a barrier between youth and Church?”</li></ul>	
<b>Ongoing Conversation:</b>	
<b>Interested Participants:</b>	