Sparks from Ashes
an outline of the conversation

1. The Ash Wednesday & Lenten Phenomenon
   Why do they come?

2. What Can We Do? for Ash Wed & Lent

3. What Can We Learn? as a Church and for the Jubilee of Mercy
The Ash Wednesday & Lenten Phenomenon
Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?
Percentage responding as such among all adult Catholics and by generation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rarely or never</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>At least once a month but less than weekly</th>
<th>Once a week or more</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Adult Catholics</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Vatican II (born before 1943)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vatican II (born 1943-60)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Vatican II (born 1961-81)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennial (born after 1981)</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Six response categories are combined to create four attendance frequencies

# Lenten Practices

When asked: “Do you do any of the following during Lent?”

Percentage responding “yes” to each of the questions. Asked by Generation.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent?</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you receive ashes at Ash Wednesday services?</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you give up anything during the Lenten season?</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you do anything positive, such as giving money to the needy or trying to be a better person during Lent?</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Average estimated percentage of U.S. self-identified Catholics attending Mass by week

Average estimated attendance for all 52 weeks is 26%

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 2013. Ash Wednesday and Easter represent averages of recent year observations and are shown above in a set calendar placement.
Why do they come?
Why do they come?
Who’s in the pews? besides you and me?
Who’s in the pews? and why are they coming?

The Traditionalist  Expectation
The Guilty  Therapeutic
The Tinkerer  Curiosity
The Busy One  Quick & Easy
The Passers-By  #AshTrends
The Bored  Winter Blues
The Lonely  Community
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The New Starter</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Stagnant</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sinner</td>
<td>God’s Mercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Anxious and Overwhelmed</td>
<td>Refuge and Rest/Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spiritual But Not Religious</td>
<td>Spirituality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(and Jesus)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who’s in the pews? and why are they coming?
What can we do?

1. Pre-Lent prep
2. Ash Wednesday experiences
3. Lent for the curious, the overwhelmed, & those in need of mercy
1. Pre-Lent preparation

Preparing the Active Catholics

Intentional Ash and Lenten Planning

Accompaniment
what can we do?

2. Ash Wed. experiences

Liturgical Aspects
Hospitality
Special Gatherings
Invitation to More
what can we do?

3. Lent for all those in need

Social media Lent
Support networks
Spiritual direction and renewal/retreat
Lenten traditions
What can we learn?
as a Church and for
the Jubilee of Mercy

Evangelize, encounter, and accompany.

Be ready for the moments of return.

Focus on people’s needs, not on programs.
What can we learn?
as a Church and for
the Jubilee of Mercy

Be religious and spiritual.
Lead with Jesus.

Be humble and merciful.
And listen.

What else have you learned here?
What can we learn?

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for yourselves.

Mt 11:28-29
Thank you.

This presentation and Ash Wed/Lent resources can be found at www.catholicapostolatolatecenter.org

For more info or if you have questions pjarzembowski@usccb.org