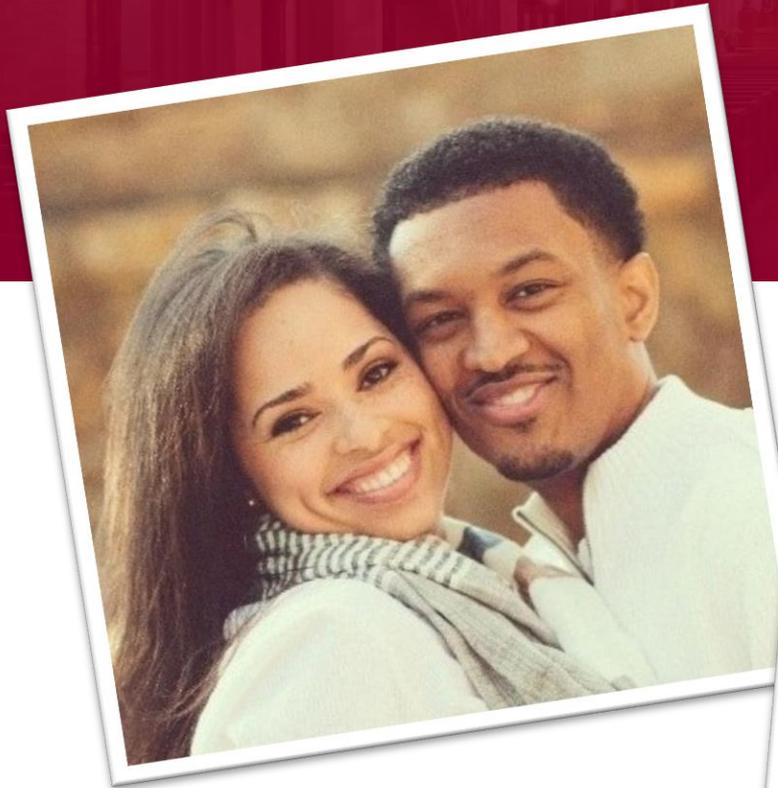


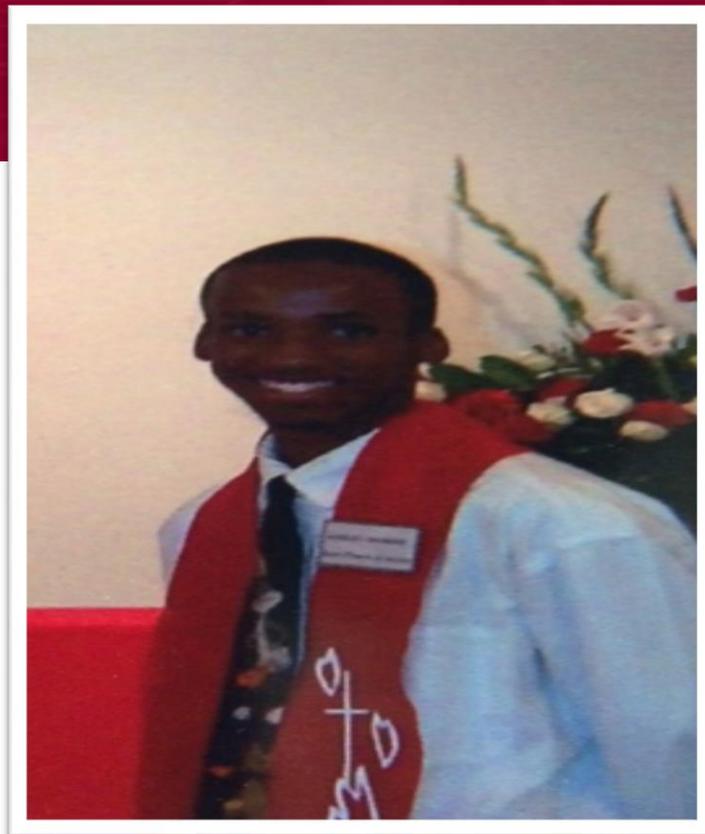
Lyndon Batiste

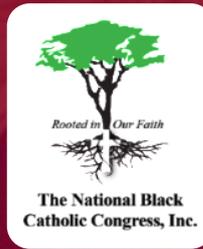


Ashley Morris



Ashley Morris





Catholic Apostolate Center

Reviving Faith • Rekindling Charity • Forming Apostles

Where is My Faith?

“Building Bridges with Young Adults in the Catholic Church”

National Black Catholic Congress &
Catholic Apostolate Center

Lyndon Batiste & Ashley Morris

Where Is My Faith?



WEBINAR

Black Catholic Young Adults



Have you noticed a declining presence of young adults in your parish?

Are you wondering what can be done to improve engagement and keep young adult members?

This webinar seeks to answer those questions by focusing on some of the realities and challenges that many describe as a growing chasm between the Young Adult community and the Catholic Church.

Presented By



Lyndon Batiste
*Youth/Young Adult Minister
Most Blessed Sacrament
Church, Atlanta, GA*



Ashley Morris, Th.M.
*Associate Director of the
Office of Intercultural and
Ethnic Diversity,
Archdiocese of Atlanta*

August 15, 2018 | 3:00pm ET

Sponsored by the National Black Catholic Congress
In Collaboration with the Catholic Apostolate Center



Where is My Faith?

“Building Bridges with Young Adults in the Catholic Church”

An NBCC Webinar to Young Adults

“Where is My Faith” has a dual meaning that is designed to lead church stakeholders towards a productive discussion about some of the challenges the church may face in reaching out to and connecting with the Young Adult Catholic community. The first meaning is to acknowledge the young adult who may be navigating a complex world, and is searching for a healthy and relevant personal religious construct that aids them in forming a better spiritual reality for themselves and their family. In this, the young adult asks, “What Do I Believe?” or “Where is **MY** personal Faith?”

The second meaning is to acknowledge that the young adult is at a critical place in their lives; personally, relationally, and professionally, and needs their Catholic faith to help them architect a personal faith that is enlightening, empowering, and encouraging. In this meaning the young adult asks, “Where is my Catholic Church?” “Is it relevant to where I am, and where I see myself going?” or “Where is My Faith?” “Where is My Faith” is designed to help guide a discussion that ultimately connects young adults with a living Faith, a living Church, and a living God.

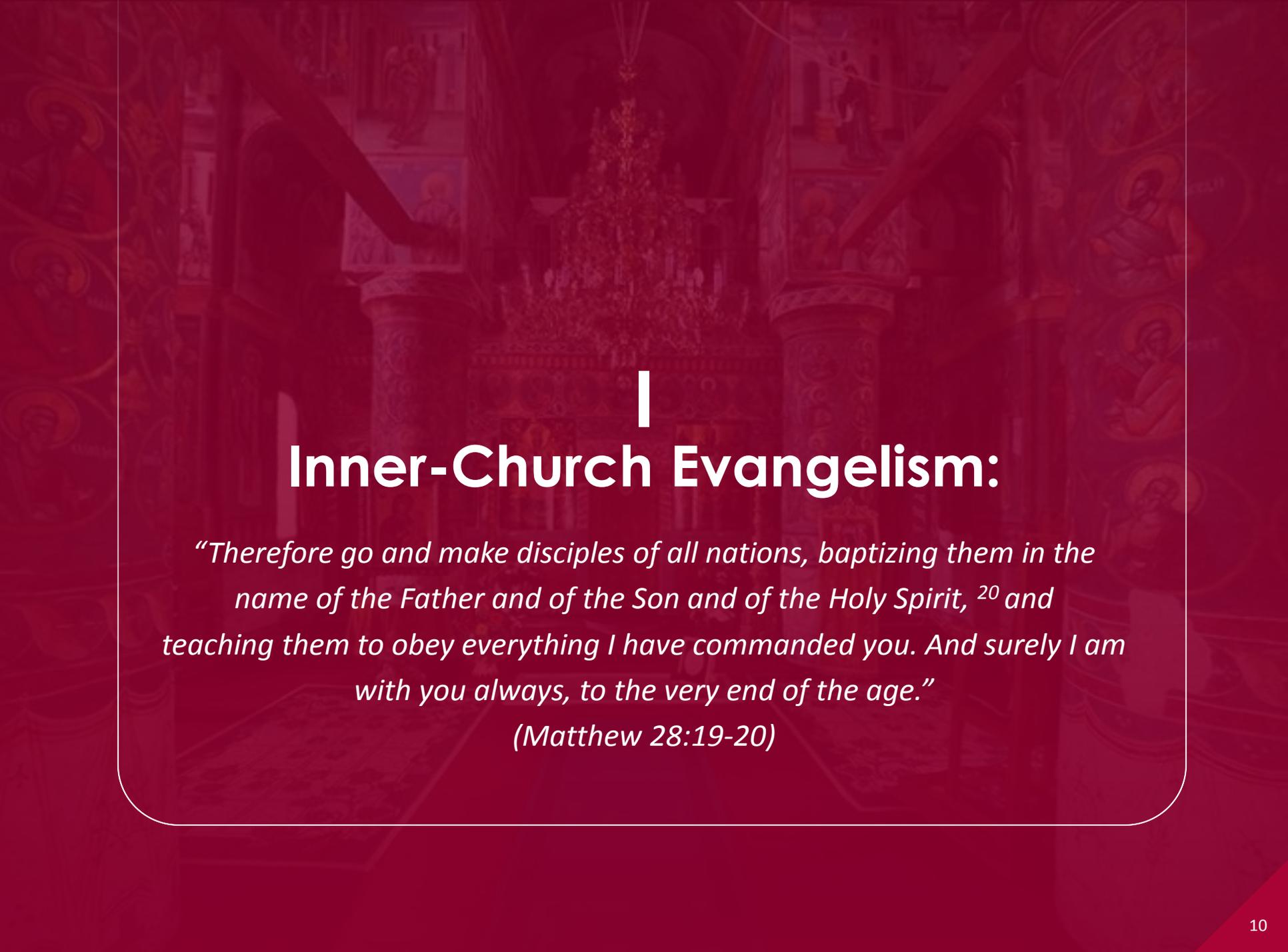


Characteristics Of Young Adults

- Age 19-39 Years of Age
(usccb.org)
- Working Professionals; New Careers, College, Military, unemployed
- New or Young Families; First time parents
- Newly Weds or Young Married Couples, Single, Divorced, Widowed
- Transient

What Are Catholic Young Adults Saying About The Catholic Church?

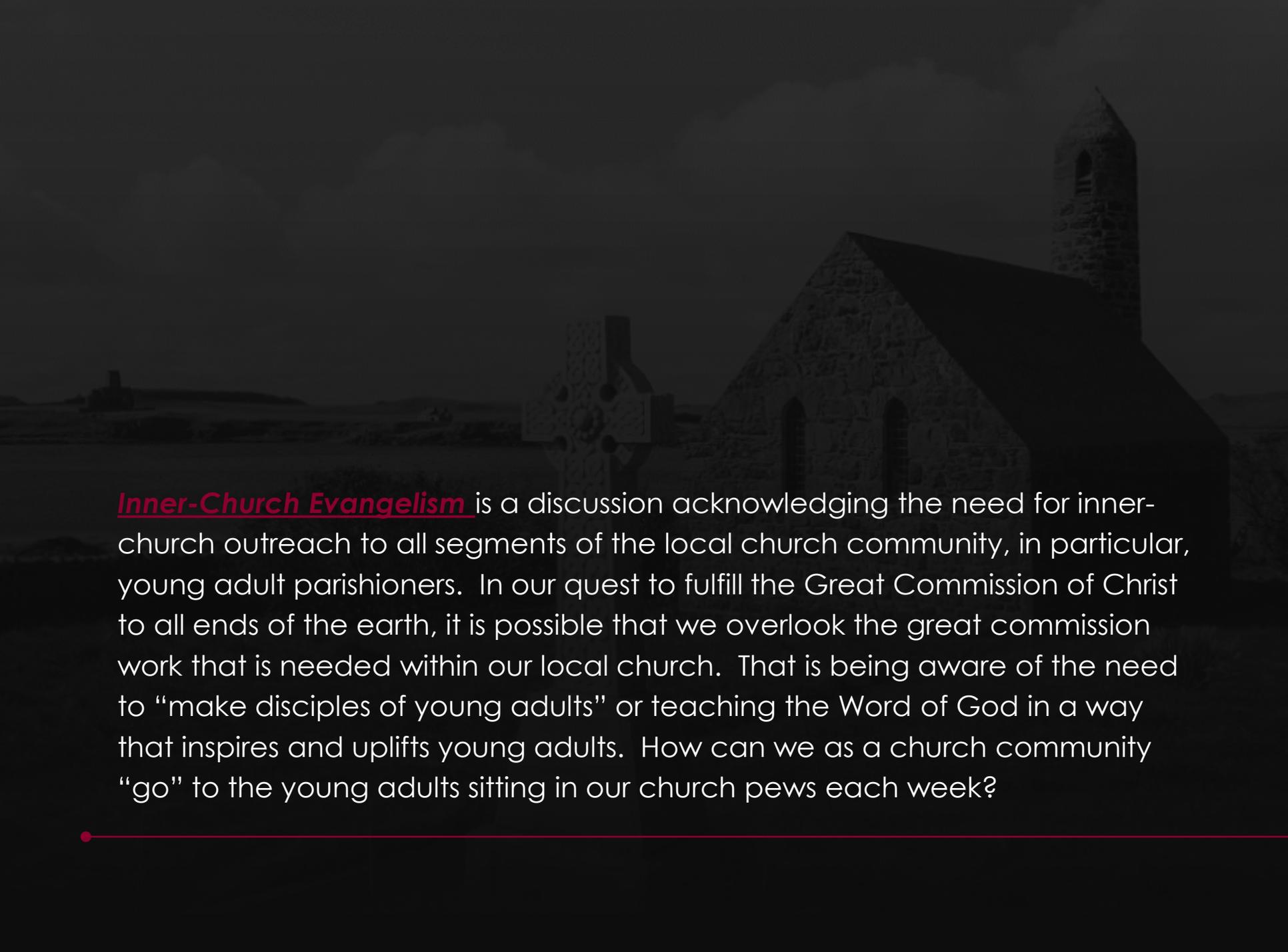
- Mass and the Liturgy are Outdated
- We're being told what to believe, how to act, and what to do. We do not like being spoon fed.
- Why does the Catholic Church have to be so rigid in their rules and rituals?
- Why isn't the Catholic church changing to adapt to the parts that are inconsequential to their faith?
- Why can't Priest marry?
- Mass is very boring!
- The hypocrisy of the church is a big problem, i.e. scandals.
- Non-denominational churches are more free in their worship. Come as you are!
- The hymnal music is boring! Won't allow modern music.
- None of the Priest are from our Generation.
- Racism in the Church; Lack of awareness of racial issues.
- Catholic Church is not transparent.
- We need a Vatican III....



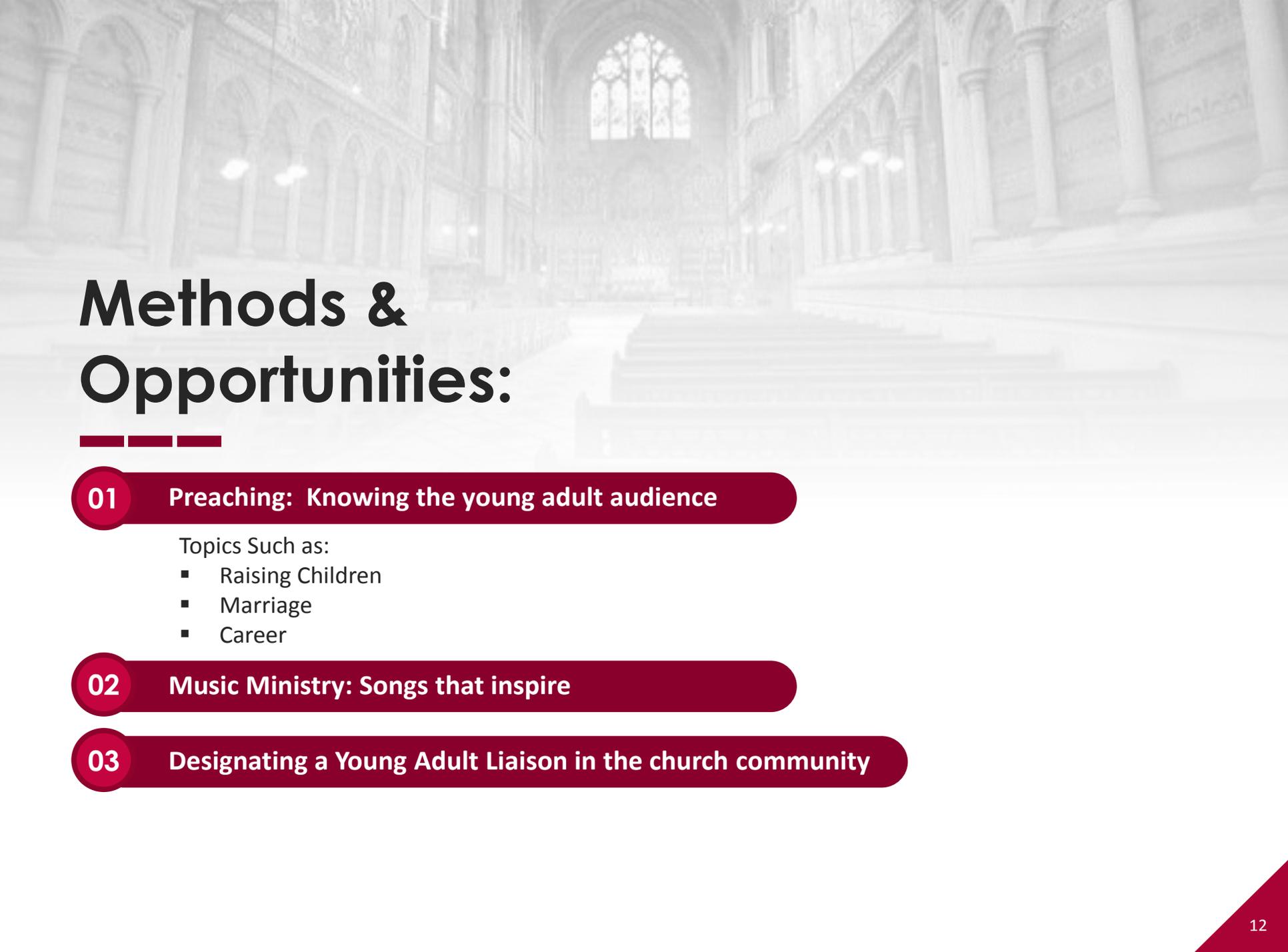
I Inner-Church Evangelism:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)



Inner-Church Evangelism is a discussion acknowledging the need for inner-church outreach to all segments of the local church community, in particular, young adult parishioners. In our quest to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ to all ends of the earth, it is possible that we overlook the great commission work that is needed within our local church. That is being aware of the need to “make disciples of young adults” or teaching the Word of God in a way that inspires and uplifts young adults. How can we as a church community “go” to the young adults sitting in our church pews each week?



Methods & Opportunities:

01 Preaching: Knowing the young adult audience

Topics Such as:

- Raising Children
- Marriage
- Career

02 Music Ministry: Songs that inspire

03 Designating a Young Adult Liaison in the church community

Methods & Opportunities:

04 Using technology to reach Young Adults where they are

(Internet, Social Media/Twitter, FB, Instagram). The Church must be in the technology business...more specifically social media Social Media Article Facts ([Article "6 Social Media Trends That Will Take Over 2018"](#))

Of course, he said, everyone must "keep an eye on the roots" of the church and preserve its essential teachings, but they also must find creative ways to share those teachings and reflect on how the Gospel responds to people's questions today."

- Pope Francis

05 Flexible Mass Scheduling: Is Sunday morning the only day and time that I can come to church?

- Does the traditional 9:00am & 11:30am service work for Young Adults?
 - Saturday Mass
 - Online Mass

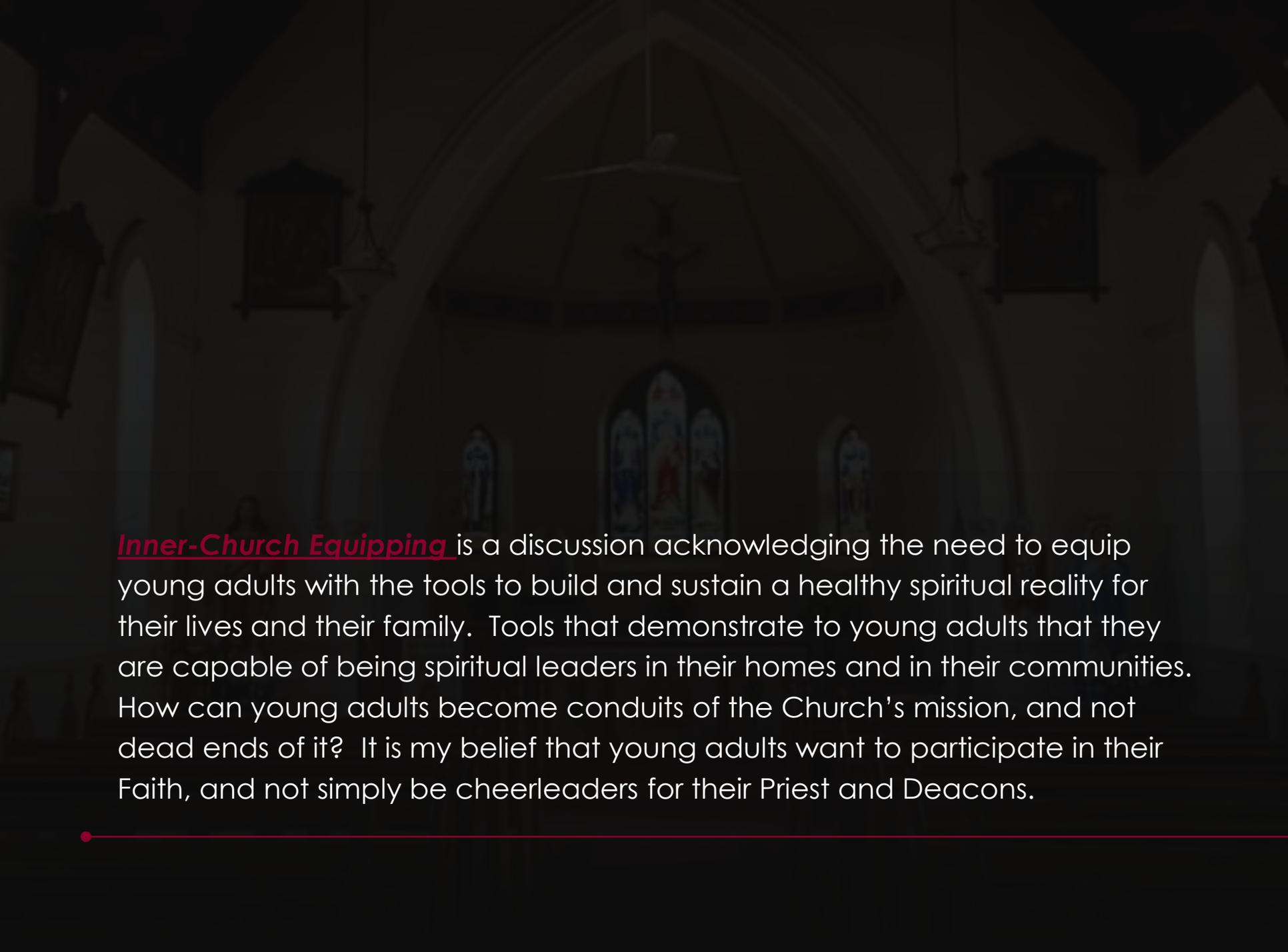


Pope Francis is on Instagram!



II Inner-Church Equipping

*“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
(Matthew 4:19)*



Inner-Church Equipping is a discussion acknowledging the need to equip young adults with the tools to build and sustain a healthy spiritual reality for their lives and their family. Tools that demonstrate to young adults that they are capable of being spiritual leaders in their homes and in their communities. How can young adults become conduits of the Church's mission, and not dead ends of it? It is my belief that young adults want to participate in their Faith, and not simply be cheerleaders for their Priest and Deacons.

Methods & Opportunities:

01 Instruction on the Teachings of the Church

Informed by their Faith Young Adults want to know why they are, or should be, Catholic; We cannot assume that they know, or are still convinced even if they were raised in Catholicism

Methods & Opportunities:



02

Small Learning Groups-Interaction with their Faith

Like many of the speakers, Angela Markas, a Chaldean Catholic and a delegate from Australia, spoke to Pope Francis and her peers about young people's questions regarding their identity. As the Australia-born daughter of two Iraqis, who lives in a multiethnic country and is connected by social media with people all over the world, Markas said it was difficult to know who to listen to and to know *"which path should I take, given that I can virtually take any."* ***"As youth, we are in need of guidance," she said. But from talking to friends, family and young people she tutors, "I feel young people are less drawn to seek this guidance from someone associated with the church. There are many reasons, but a consistent one is that youth feel disconnected from the church." "Youth do not always feel they have a place in the church," she said. "They need a place where they feel safe, welcomed and loved. "But they also want the church to take them and their concerns seriously, Markas said. "There is a tendency in the church to avoid matters that are not so easy to talk about. This includes same-sex marriage, our sexuality, and also the role of women in the church."*** (Excerpt from the Article ["Pope Francis talks tech, sex and tattoos with Young Adults"](#))

Methods & Opportunities:



03 Social Teachings and Social Opportunities-Demonstration of their Faith

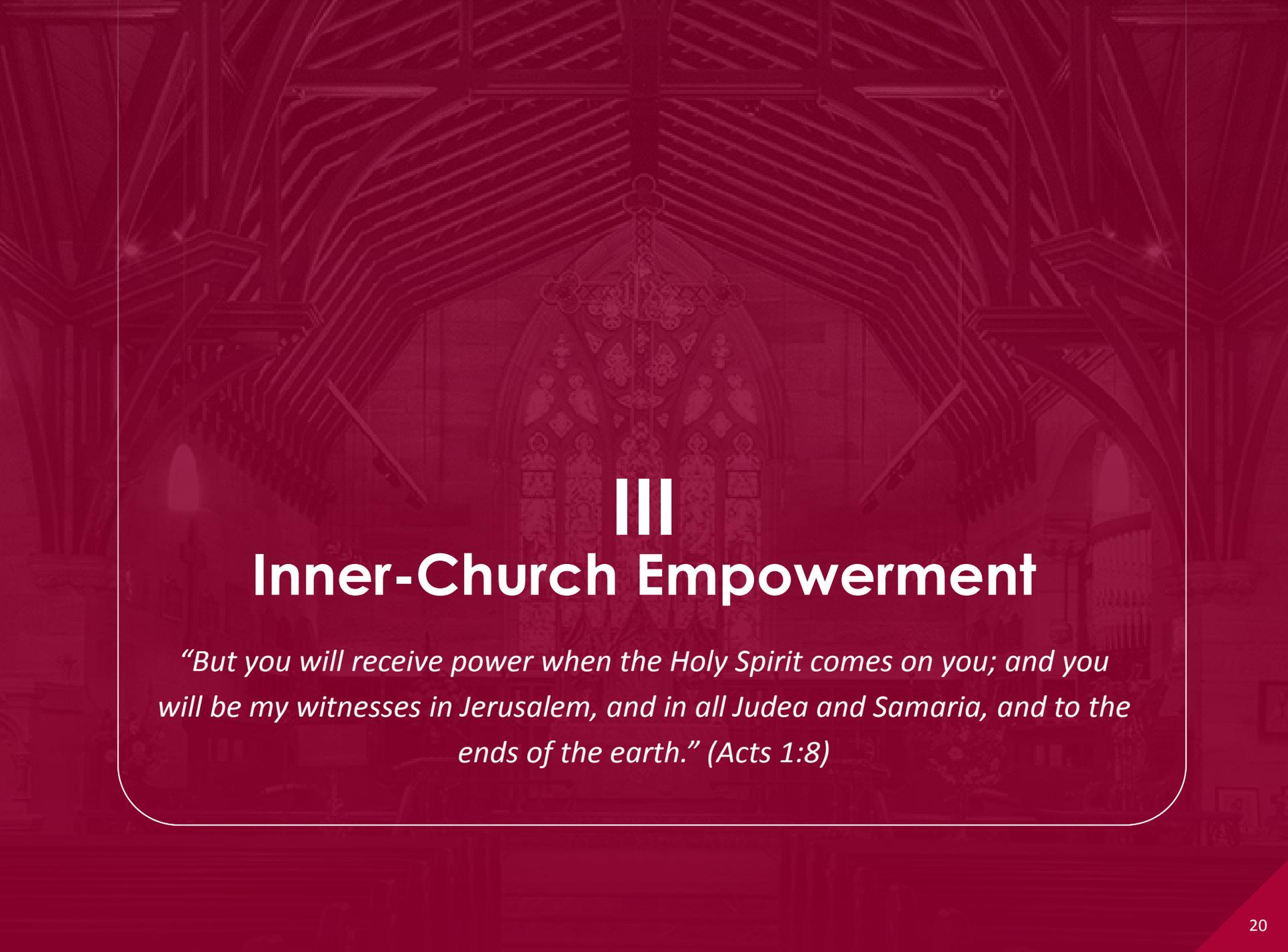
“The Catholic Church’s response to racism should be what the Church’s prophetic response always is when the dignity of humanity is being dismissed. The Church is mandated to remind us of the non-negotiable matters of equality, justice and unity. The Church can offer hope by being the Church, not the politic, but the sacramental institution founded and formed to help each and all know that God’s children have to come together in order to build better things than we would build amongst our own and without God.” Fr. Lee (Excerpt from the Article “[Homilist for upcoming MLK Mass discusses civil rights leader’s legacy.](#)”)

Methods & Opportunities:



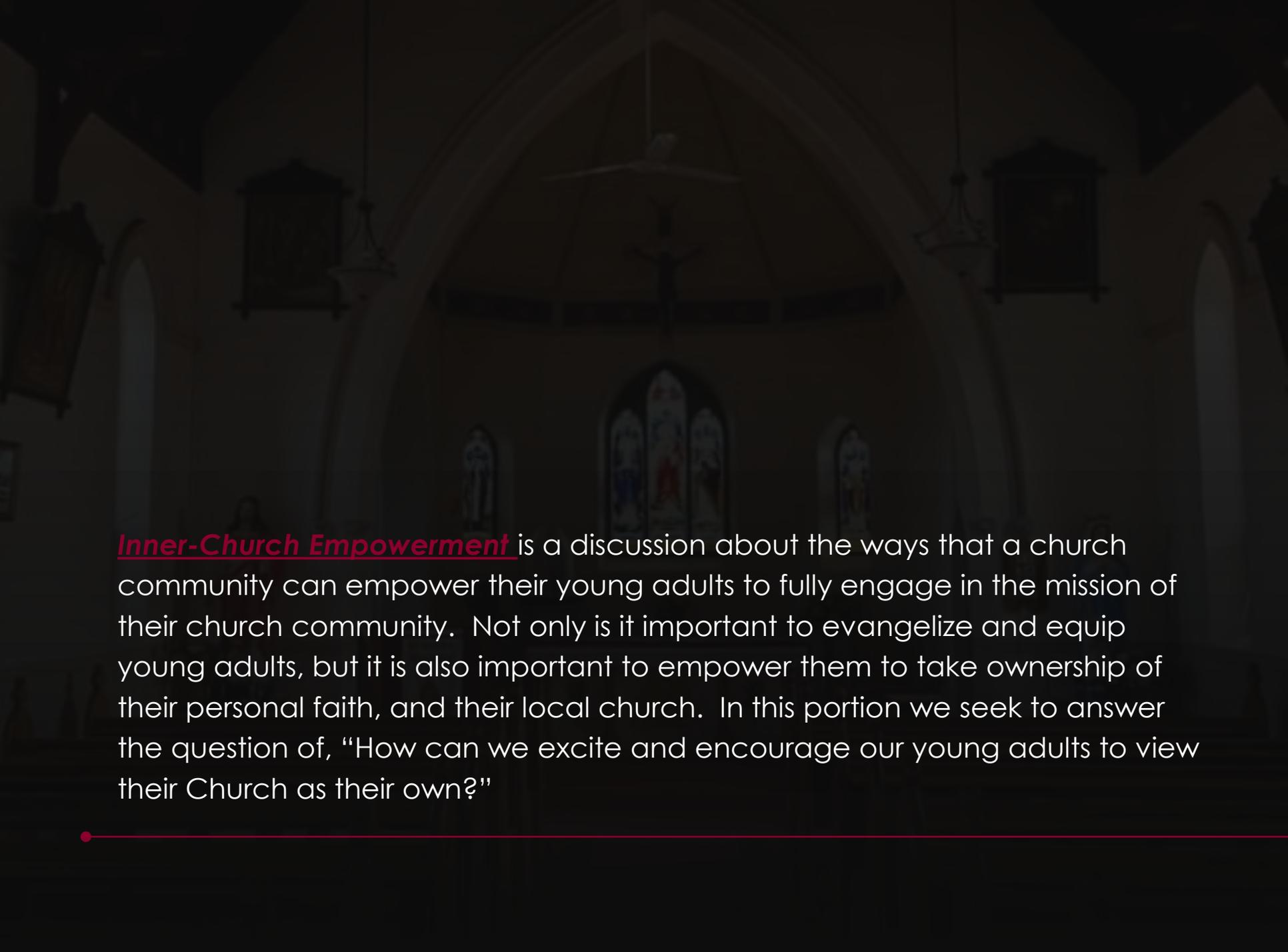
04 Apologetics-Convincing of their Faith

A young man from France, Maxime Rassion, told the pope he has not been baptized, but he has questions about the meaning of his life and his relationship to the world and to God, if God exists. He said he is not sure if he wants to approach the Catholic Church for help because it is so big and he doesn't want to give up his freedom. But he asked the pope where he should start. ***"You have already begun," the pope told him. "The danger is not allowing the question to come up." Young people must have "the courage to tell themselves the naked truth" about their hopes and weaknesses, the pope said, and then they must find a wise person -- someone patient, "who won't be frightened by anything" -- with whom they can talk through their questions.*** (Excerpt from the Article ["Pope Francis talks tech, sex and tattoos with Young Adults"](#))



III Inner-Church Empowerment

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



Inner-Church Empowerment is a discussion about the ways that a church community can empower their young adults to fully engage in the mission of their church community. Not only is it important to evangelize and equip young adults, but it is also important to empower them to take ownership of their personal faith, and their local church. In this portion we seek to answer the question of, “How can we excite and encourage our young adults to view their Church as their own?”

Methods & Opportunities:

01 Inclusion in the development of church programs and initiatives

- a) Julie: The church had a meeting and decided to eliminate the nursery, and did not consult with any of the young parents who had children and depend upon it to attend church.

02 Identifying responsibilities/ volunteer opportunities that can be shared with young adults

03 Aligning of professional skills with possible Church needs?

04 Identify and share their story: Allow for willing young adults to share who they are within the context of their faith community. Bringing young adults out of the shadows!

05 Worship Inclusion- Participation in Mass (Young Adults want to be more than just spectators)

- a) Lectors
- b) Choir
- c) Ushers



Inter-Generational Dialogue and Respect

In Between Mass Inter-Generational
Sessions?

The National Black Catholic Congress wants your Ideas and Content
Please consider submitting Young Adult related content to
<https://www.nbccongress.org/young-adult-leaders.html>

