YA Workshop Design

Purpose: Design of Workshops to transition TEC leaders from Youth to Young Adult candidates

Due to the complexity of the local situations, no one model of workshop can be designed to cover all situations. Rather it would be wise to design various elements that can be adjusted to the concrete needs of each Center.

Three different situations might be present:
1. The TEC Center which wishes to switch to Young Adults as candidates has leaders who are well informed and mature in the TEC Process, but have not experienced young adults as candidates.
2. The TEC Center already includes some Young Adults among their candidates.
3. The members of the Center who wish to offer TEC to Young Adults have little or no previous experience as TEC adult leaders.

No one form of workshop will serve all these various groupings.
1. For the first group we must build on the knowledge they already have. Draw out the insights they have gleaned from working TEC with youth and contrast that knowledge with what they may expect to experience in working TEC with young adults, positive and negative.
2. The second group has the greatest advantage. They are already aware of the contrast of the response to the TEC process within the two age groups. It is a matter of providing them with grids to aid them in applying their knowledge better. A review of the TEC process, element by element, might be helpful.
3. The third group lack the basic knowledge about the TEC Process. They need to experience first the *Renewing The Vision Workshop* before any of the above plan can be operative. For them a fuller treatment of the documents on Young Adult Ministry would also be in order.

The actual design of the workshops for these purposes should be worked out in response to the following questions:

Who are the ones we wish to reorient?
- The persons who will give and moderate the TEC process among Young Adults.
- Hence the Spiritual Director and the Adult Team Members. Teams may not be composed primarily of Young Adults. The TEC Process by its very nature requires that Adults be the primary Team Members. If only young adults were to give the TEC it would cease to be a TEC. It is essentially intergenerational. The model of Workshop used should be designed according to the level of understanding of the TEC Process by those who attend. Those who have pastoral experience in ministering to Young Adults are to be preferred as leaders.

How do we approach our task?
- o As a basis for dialogue, a grid of the spiritual and psychological profile of the two groups should be designed.
- o Show how the mode of ministry must differ among the two groups, and the reasons why they differ.
- o Show how the *context* is different although the *text* (process) is the same.
- o The meditations need to be prepared with the YA culture in mind.

What about the use of the documents Vision of YM and Sons and Daughters?
- o They should be used only as background insights, in general.
- o We must bear in mind that we are not giving a workshop on Young Adults
- o These documents are written to unfold a sort of panoramic view of Young Adults.
- o The danger is that we could present so much material we lose focus.
- o The TEC process cuts through the complex nature of this age group and concentrates on relationships: human and sacred.

How do we build community in the group?
- o The same way we build friendship into a community among youth.
- o The activities used on the weekend to generate *communio* must be appropriate to YA age group.
- o Among TEC young adult student candidates there is danger that they might over intellectualize the Gospel and we would end up with a virtual TEC.
- o Full personal commitment should be modeled by the team members so as to draw the candidates to similar commitment.
- o We must always be mindful our goal is an experience that ends up in spiritual conversion.

What about a name change for TEC for Young Adults?
- o I think it is a bit premature to discuss such a change right now.
- o I am more interested in the quality of the contents we get into the can, than the label we put on it.
- o I prefer the name TEC ("Twenties Encounter Christ", or "To Encounter Christ")
- o Although the literature on Young Adults stretches the age profile to 35, the normal age group for TEC would be in their 20s.
- o TEC by its very nature is designed for persons in transition.
- o By the time they reach their 30s I hope they have settled into adulthood.
- o It is recommended that those in their 30s make the Cursillo, which is for adults.

I would be willing to help design a series of components that serve as a basis for different workshop models, to respond to the various needs as described at the beginning of these observations above.

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