

# THE 3 B'S

Steps to an encounter  
with Jesus Christ



## BELONG:



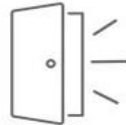
Belong is a period in evangelization ministry whose elements include invitation, relationship, inquiry, witness, gospel, creation, mission, and salvation. The goal of this period is to build trust and curiosity that leads to deeper encounters with, and a desire to know more about Christ and His Church. Not unlike the precatechumenate period in the OCIA, belong is not for deep catechesis.

*"...the precatechumenate, is of great importance and should not normally be omitted. For within it takes place that evangelization in which the living God is confidently and constantly proclaimed, together with the one whom he sent for the salvation of all, Jesus Christ, so that, as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts, that they may be freely converted to the Lord as believers and sincerely hold fast to him who, since he is the way, the truth, and the life, fulfills all their spiritual expectations, and indeed infinitely surpasses them. (OCIA36)*

Belong is about building committed relationships with young people and their parents, addressing their immediate needs (what is holding them back), and building trust. To share the living Christ through intentional proclamations of the gospel and the sharing of one's own witness to faith so the young person, having encountered Christ in word and witness, begins to build curiosity about Jesus Christ and His church.

The final goal of this phase, "... so that the will to follow Christ ... may mature." (OCIA 37)

## BELIEVE:



Believe is the period in which a persons trust and the curiosity formed through belonging is cultivated, leading to a longing for something deeper. The elements added to this phase take place in young discipleship groups where catechesis based on individual needs is introduced, questions are authentically answered, curiosity is fed, and life changing witness is experienced. The Believe phase leads individuals toward a deeper encounter with Christ and a continued conversion to Him.

Young discipleship groups are where young people are fed truth, community is built, and lives are transformed. This period is also the phase in which sacramental preparation takes place at the appropriate time and based on the movement of a persons will to receive Confirmation. – Goals of this period are desire, openness, continued encounter, deeper understanding, and a deeper longing for life in Christ.

Like the Period of the Catechumenate, this period of time is when "They are assisted on their journey by Mother Church." (OCIA 75.3)



## BECOME:



Become is the period when a young person arrives at the threshold of continued conversion. The elements of this phase are fulfilment, reception, *lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi*. Goals include mission, commitment, growth, acceptance and discipleship. It is here where individuals, being formed in young discipleship groups, and having developed their sense of belonging to the parish community, continue to grow stronger in their relationship with Jesus, and continuously seek encounters with Him. Become happens when young people accept fully their life in Christ and begin to display that behavior beginning with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The structure for this phase does not change but continues into what we have come to know as continued formation. *"A genuinely fuller and more fruitful understanding of the 'mysteries' is acquired... For having been renewed in mind, having intimately tasted the good word of God, having shared communion in the Holy Spirit, they have come to realize how sweet the Lord is. From this experience, enhanced by day-to-day living, they draw forth a new understanding of the faith, the church, and the world"* (OCIA 244) **To accompany!**



## Let's Talk!

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# IMPLEMENTATION

## Overview of the Process

1. **Build:** The Pastor, YM/DRE and Diocese work together to create a vision for small group relational youth ministry which includes Confirmation. Together, an implementation team is identified and trained in this vision.
2. **Implement:** The implementation team works directly with the Pastor, YM/DRE to implement and sustain the vision which includes the continuous identification and training of mentors. Team serves in this support role for an indefinite period.
3. **Sustain:** In addition to initial training by the team, the DRE/YM must build solid relationships with their volunteer team and mentors. These relationships help grow and sustain the mentor as well as maintain vision, accountability and health within the small group. An Implementation team member may take on the role of continuing formation of mentors, but for the health and success of the mentor and small group, it becomes the chief priority and responsibility of the DRE/YM to build those solid mentor relationships.
4. **Succeed:** Using a well thought out plan of formation that mirrors the Diocesan vision and conversion process, well formed, committed adult mentors will accompany 8-12 young people toward an encounter with and conversion to Jesus Christ. Mentors, building relationships with young people and their parents, will eventually lead to missionary families.





# THE PROCESS:

*You can't do this alone!*

## CHOOSING YOUR DISCERNMENT/IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Those you choose should represent the entire parish community, be visionary minded, have a desire for youth ministry and a heart for the young church. Here are some considerations for choosing your 12:

- Ministry leaders in your parish
- Adult leader(s) of current YM Team
- Teacher or someone who works with young people
- Non-involved parishioner
- DRE or other Liturgical Staff
- Vocations minister
- Leader of Altar Servers
- Confirmation Coordinator
- Catholic School Principal or teacher
- Hispanic or other cultural ministry leader
- Pastor/Parochial Vicar/Deacon
- Parent(s) of middle school students
- Parent(s) of high school students

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## CALLED BY NAME

A personal invitation to be part of this visionary team should be made to each person. Be prepared to give a good explanation as to the changing parish vision for Youth Ministry and the move to Young Discipleship Groups. Discuss the time frame and length of service.



*I have called you by name: you are mine.*

*- Isaiah 43:1*





# ON THE ROAD

## STEPS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUNG DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

### The Discernment Process

- Share the Vision
- Obtain Pastor Commitment
- Walk through the process with the pastor & staff
- Identify an Implementation Team
- Set date for Come & See
- Invite your team

### Come and See Meeting

- Get to know the team
- Pastor shares commitment and desire for youth ministry
- YM/DRE Shares -Why are we here and the process
- Share the Vision (3 B's)
- Discern commitment
- Invite team to the retreat day.

I wish simply to emphasize that youth ministry involves two main courses of action.

One is *outreach*, the way we attract new young people to an experience of the Lord.

The other is *growth*, the way we help those who have already had that experience to mature in it.

*Pope Francis, Christus Vivit #209*

### Reflection Day & Training

- **BELONG:**  
Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35
- Understanding Belong
  - Community
  - Evangelization
  - Hospitality
  - Trust & Curiosity
- Building personal goals for Belong
- **BELIEVE:**  
Hearts: Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Understanding Believe
  - Catechesis & Conversion
  - Small vs. Large
  - Mentorship
  - Openness & Desire
- Spaghetti Discipleship
- The 72 - Luke 10:1-12
- The Art of Discipleship & Witness
  - Our Christian Story
  - Identify Mentors
  - Personal Invitation
- **Become: Planting Seeds**  
Matthew 13
- Understanding Become
- Missionary Discipleship
- Statement of Parish Needs
- Discerning Spiritual Gifts
- Answering the Call
- Sustaining the mission

## PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM WORKING LIST

### Belong in relation to:

- Parent Communication (incl. disengaged)
- Inviting Youth (5th Grade)
- Parish/Ministry Engagement
- Larger Parish and Community Involvement
- Considerations for Gr. 6-12
- Sacraments & OCIA (Sorting Fish)

### Believe in relation to:

- Young Discipleship Groups Discernment
  - Attainable Goals
  - Scheduling & Locations
  - Catechetical Resources
  - Accountability & Tracking
- Mentors
  - Communication
  - Spiritual Development
  - Catechetical Formation
- Mountain Top Experiences
- Retreats, Mission Work, Conferences, etc.

### Become in relation to:

- Confirmation Preparation
- High School & Beyond
- Peer Evangelization
- Role of Large Group Ministry

\*Additional focus points can be discerned by the parish.



## IMPLEMENTATION TEAM COMMITMENT:

To help a parish prepare for the roll out of the vision for youth ministry and confirmation, the parish implementation team commits to an increased prayer and sacramental life, the training process in the vision of the 3B's and to serve in a specific administrative or ministerial roll on the team.



*The togetherness of the Lord Jesus with the two disciples of Emmaus, his walking with them, dialoguing, accompanying, helping to open their eyes, is a source of inspiration for walking with young people.”*

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