

Youth Ministry In-Service Notes

Session #4 December 2009

Action 1

Jesus related stories to those with whom he was speaking. This group of people were farmers, thus relating the seeds to something they would certainly understand.

If you want to follow Christ, learn how to live in “good soil.”

- Farmers can't just go around throwing seed anyplace and expecting the seed to grow and flourish. There is a system.
- People moaning and groaning about their lives or that God hasn't done anything for them.... They are not trying to learn what God is trying to teach them. They will not get anything out of the Faith they are not trying.
- On our journeys through life, “good soil” is a necessity if we are going to find the Truth.
- What action do you really want to produce? If you are on the track team and want to win the state championship, do you just get up one day and do it? No. You need to go to practice, listen to your coach and train in preparation.

How do the pictures speak to you?

Action 2

St. Francis Xavier was very wealthy with lots of money and gold. Someone said something to him about his wealth in an envious manner. It was at that time, that he began to find this void inside. What else do it need to do in order to gain happiness? All the stuff in the world won't bring you happiness.

Denying yourself is important. Denying your children is important. You can't give them everything...it's not good for them.

Action 3 ***Make sure one group gets this one!!***

In many places the Faith is not taught. Mary Therese has not only children asking questions about the Faith, but also many adults...even your parents, youth ministry leaders and those who work in this ministry as an employee.

I wish I had learned what my son is learning now.

What have you learned about Jesus Christ...even just this year...what do you know about him? What kind of person was he? List some of the qualities and values of Jesus.

Action 4

Today's youth are used to asking and getting in a couple of minutes...in this digital world.

Someone's family member or a friend dies in a car accident. What about the teens from East Troy? Why did God let that happen?

We must remember that God gives us free will. Maybe the roads were slippery or the driver was speeding or another driver had been drinking or....

What about natural disasters? Tornados, floods or other things of nature? God doesn't control nature. God helps people to understand nature, to help find cures for diseases. There are some new studies regarding healing for Parkinson's Disease. Some people are called to contributing to the development of people...to mankind.

MT's great-niece, Paige, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer when she was just 4 years old. She did not survive, but medical advances gave her more time. Sorrowful? Yes. But we are learning about abilities to provide cures. Hardships test us and help us get through disastrous situations.

Action 5

Greed

For Christmas, MT's great nephew wants a train. Not a little one to play with in the house. He wants one big enough that he can ride on in the back yard.

How are teens greedy?

Are they conscious of their greed?

Sacrament of the sick: Glass tabernacle ("house") just inside the main entry into church holds special oils for Baptism, Anointing the Sick and Confirmation. Each year, the priests of the diocese attend a special service in Madison with the remaining oils from their parishes to receive new oils.

Each day, Mary Therese calls the hospitals to see if there are any parishioners have been admitted. Each day, a Lourdes Minister is sent to the hospital to give Communion. They bring the host in a container called a pyx. You may see people bringing them up in the Communion procession. St. William supplies Mercy Hospital's chapel with on-going hosts. Sometimes we don't know people are sick, so have them tell us. Only extreme weather keeps Lourdes Ministers from visiting the sick or those unable to come to church.

Story of Bernadette: Look up Bernadette on the internet to learn more about how she is connected with the Lourdes Ministry.

Liturgical Year: Look at calendar. Three cycles – A, B and C.

Morality: Example: Anita Nelson's curls (an old Mary Therese story)

World Greed: How did our country get into such a financial mess? What does our world teach us in the area of morality? (faithful to marriage, abusing our bodies, caring about others, self-image and being accepted....)

Make-Up Sessions: Each month, a make-up session is provided. I contact families to let them of the details. Those who do not attend the make-up session are mailed a packet including in-service notes and a youth make-up worksheet to be completed and returned to the parish office or their leader before their next gathering. If they turn them into you, please let me know. Thanks!