The first fully digital generation

GEN Z

Photo by NFCYM
MAJORITY OF CATHOLICS LEAVE THE CHURCH AT A YOUNG AGE AND THAT THEIR STRUGGLE WITH WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES IS A PRIMARY REASON.
“Catholic teenagers stood out to us as exceptionally weak in their faith, disengaged from the Church, and largely indifferent to faith and practice matters.”

(Engaging a New Generation, 31)
KEY TRENDS OF GEN Z

• GEN Z is DIVERSE
• GEN Z is HIGHLY INDEPENDENT
• GEN Z is DIGITALLY DIFFERENT
• GEN Z is GROWING
• GEN Z VALUES TRANSPARENCY
• GEN Z LOVES TO GET PERSONAL
what you “Z” is what you get
Inside look at what “Generation Z” is all about
GEN Z

“Since birth, they have been surrounded in technology in such a way that it has become invisible. Some researchers have found that young people’s brains have been rewired with a greater capacity for multitasking as a result of simultaneously juggling numerous digital gadgets.”

(Engaging a New Generation, 63)
POPE FRANCIS

He describes how the Church must "go forth," boldly taking the first step to draw near to those who do not know or live the Gospel, by bridging bridges, supporting others, taking on the "smell of the sheep" and patiently seeking to accompany them on their journey. He says that the message we announce should be the "heart of the Gospel," which is the joyful proclamation that Jesus loves them, gave his life to save them and seeks to live at their side each day to strengthen and free them.

(Evangelii Gaudium #164)
WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

• A Church that is not afraid to navigate uncharted waters and to try new things.
• A Church that walks with, not behind, in front or under young people.
• A Church that desires to know the life of young people and wants them to be a part of the life and vitality of our communities.
• A Church that is merciful, empathetic, understanding, loving and embraces the young person just as he/she is.
FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

- Listen and see with empathy;
- Avoid the tendency of providing pre-packaged answers and ready made solutions without allowing the young people questions to emerge;
- Help create a culture of discernment among young people;
- Newness of the digital environment;
- Continued partnership with parents;
- Help the young people recognize in their lives the signs of God’s love and to discover the community as a place of encounter with Christ;
- Foster a vocational culture.
What do you think most needs to be transformed in your local ministry efforts with Gen Z?