

A Powerful Presentation  
on the  
**Religious and Spiritual Lives  
of Today's Youth**  
for  
Parents, Parishes and Schools

# **Will Our Kids Have Faith?**

- Agnostic
- Anglican
- Apostolic
- Atheist
- Ba'hai
- Baptist
- Buddhist
- Catholic**
- Confucian
- Evangelical
- Hindu
- Jew
- Lutheran
- Mennonite
- Methodist
- Mormon
- Muslim
- Pentecostal
- Presbyterian
- Quaker
- Unitarian
- Whatever

*Passing on the  
faith is  
tougher than  
ever.*

*Find out what  
we're up  
against.*

*Learn what it  
will take for  
our kids to  
have faith.*



Youth & Young Adult Ministry & CYO Office  
Department for Marriage & Family Ministry  
Parish & Community Ministries  
Catholic Charities Health & Human Services



Office of Catechetical Services  
Diocese of Cleveland

Will Our Kids Have Faith?  
Passing on the Faith to the  
"Whatever" Generation



Youth/Young Adult Ministry & CYO Office  
Department for Marriage & Family Ministry  
Diocese of Cleveland  
7911 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44102



"I'm afraid that  
when our kids grow  
up they'll abandon  
their faith."

"I want our kids to have  
faith, but it seems like  
they're drifting away."

"We sent our kids to  
Catholic school to get  
a good foundation, but  
they still don't seem  
interested in the  
faith."

**A Parent Reflects on "Will Our Kids Have Faith?"**

*"As Catholics we are behind other Christian faiths when passing on our faith to young people. We need new approaches to pass on our faith to our children. I can definitely influence the teens I encounter by the model of Christian living I demonstrate. I don't have to be "afraid" to speak frankly about my faith journey. How can our parish help support me as the primary educator of our Catholic faith with my children? I have great power and therefore great responsibility as a parent. I need to learn more about my faith and how I feel so that I can articulate my faith to my children."*

- Susan B., Parent of 3 children ages 7, 10, 14, St. Barrabas

*“No previous generation of American Catholics inherited so little of the content and sensibility of the faith from their parents, as have today’s Catholic youth. The challenge of Catholic education and formation in our media-driven, cyberspace age is no less than this: older Catholics must be restored to, and younger Catholics introduced to, a sense of Catholicism as a comprehensive way of life.”* Church historian R. Scott Appleby

## WILL OUR KIDS HAVE FAITH?

This eye-opening presentation will:

- Explore the startling findings of the *National Study of Youth & Religion (NSYR) & the follow up Souls in Transition Study*.
- Redirect our efforts towards what will make the most difference in the faith of youth & families.
- Offer practical steps to respond to the challenges we face.

## A WAKE-UP CALL FOR CATHOLICS

Parents, Catholic schools and parishes have every reason to worry that our young people are drifting away from the Church. In a major national study it was discovered that, despite all the wonderful programs, initiatives and guidance that parishes and schools provide, Catholic teenagers consistently scored lower on most measures of religiosity — 5 to 25 percentage points lower than their conservative, mainline, and black Protestant peers.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND AND WHY

- **Parents** will be motivated to take action to form the faith of their kids.
- **Parish Staffs** will gain shared perspectives on the challenges we face, and develop collaborative responses.
- **Schools** will rally around their central mission of passing on the Catholic faith.
- **Parish Clusters** will learn what’s working and what’s not in youth faith formation – and work together to meet the challenges.

## A VARIETY OF FORMATS

This presentation can be tailored to fit your needs. We can adjust for time and audience, from a 90 minute discussion with parents and/or catechists to a day-long staff or faculty in-service. Some typical formats:

- Parent meetings for sacramental preparation
- Faculty in-services
- Parent-Teacher Organization meetings
- Parish staff meetings
- Pastoral region gatherings



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

### Youth/Young Adult Ministry & CYO Office

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## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT “WILL OUR KIDS HAVE FAITH?”

“We did the Will Our Kids Have Faith workshop for parents in our Elyria cluster and at our district meeting. I wish all the parents could have been there to consider their role in the faith life of their children. It reminded me of the critical partnership that our parishes share with parents. Our common goal is to help our youth and parents grow as disciples of Jesus. This workshop helped me understand the challenges and opportunities in store - I strongly recommend it.”

- Rev. Al Krupp, Pastor

St. Agnes, Elyria

“This information needs to be in the hands of parents. They love their children and want the best for them. We now have current research that tells us what does and doesn’t work when trying to pass on our Catholic faith to our teenagers. Working with parents and supporting their efforts to live their faith in their families is vitally important for families and the Church. Parents, parish leaders, religious educators and youth ministry leaders will all reap huge benefits from this presentation!”

- Libby Peterson, Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
Holy Angels Catholic Church, Bainbridge