

Spiritual Wellness & Belonging

UIW Mission & Ministry





Spirituality and our Young Adults

UIW Mission and Ministry
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Who are they: what are they experiencing?

2016

62.3 Million 16-29 y.o.
19.35% of US population

Average age
1st marriage

Men - 29.5
Women - 27.4

Employment

20.5 million YA working
53% of US population
25% leisure, hospitality, and
food services
18% retail
13% education and health care

Average of 7 jobs between
18-28

College

Women more likely to go to
college (72%) than men (63%)
and earn 4 year degree
(Women 34%/Men 26%)

2017
YA - ages 18-24
40% enrolled in college
59.5% NOT enrolled in college

Experiencing

Isolation
Finances
Relativism
Drugs and Alcohol
Pressure and Anxiety
A need to be understood
Personal/Domestic Issues

FAMILY



FRIENDS



WORK



SCHOOL



SELF



Stages of Faith

based on the work of theologian James Fowler, author of Stages of Faith

PRE-STAGE: UNDIFFERENTIATED FAITH

- Birth-2 years
- know faith through caregivers

STAGE 1: INTUITIVE- PROJECTIVE FAITH

- Pre-school Age
- known through experiences of their religious community

STAGE 2: MYTHIC-LITERAL FAITH

- Ages 6-12
- Age of Reason
- know difference between fact and fantasy
- concrete thinkers
- experience expands

STAGE 3: SYNTHETIC- CONVENTIONAL FAITH

- Ages 13-18
- Abstract thinking begins
- start seeing things from other's perspective
- Claim faith as own
- Trust in the authority of people and the system
- Stuck inside a "belief box"
- Some stay here their whole life

STAGE 4: INDIVIDUATIVE- REFLECTIVE FAITH

- Ages 18-22
- Questioning
- Disillusion
- Realizing there are other perspectives
- Doubts
- Questions
 - authority structures
 - disconnect with reality/world experiences
- Greater ownership of their faith journey
- Deep need for self-reflection

STAGE 5: CONJUNCTIVE FAITH

- Age 30
- Acceptance of mystery and paradox
- Comfortable with not having all the answers
- Move from individual to community
- Maturity & Life experience

STAGE 6: UNIVERSALIZING FAITH

- Rare to reach
- True freedom and joy
- Able to live and serve others without expectation
- No real doubts

Too scary! Retreat!

Doubts not resolved!
Drop out!

What do they want and how do we help?

(as parents and the Church)

1. **Listening, Accompaniment, Vocational Discernment** that is constant (from us and the church) through the transitions they are experiencing
2. **Effective, faith-filled, and reliable mentors** who model Christ in sharing their Catholic (Faith) perspective and foster a relationship with God and the Church.
3. **Want to better understand the teaching of the Church** that relate to their daily experiences
4. Asking the Church to be **relevant and relatable**
5. **Safe environments** where they can be free to discuss complex issues such as same-sex attraction, marriage, abortion, the death penalty, climate change, etc. Some are open to being challenged, while others are simply seeking a better understanding of Church teaching, so they might - in turn - share that faith
6. They have a **need for belonging and connection**
7. **Being present during moments of return.** Even if they should disconnect, welcoming them when they do engage or return with openness.
8. **Invitation to participate** in major Church experiences.
9. **Engagement with the world.**
10. **Leadership formation**




University Mission and Ministry

Campus Ministry

Catholic, Protestant, and Interfaith




<https://my.uiw.edu/ministry/> 

Diversity Equity and Inclusion

 <https://www.uiw.edu/eccl/index.html>

Ettling Center for Civic Leadership
and Sustainability



 <https://www.uiw.edu/eccl/faculty-engagement/current-initiatives.html>

Other Resources



<https://www.usccb.org/topics/youth-and-young-adult-ministries/resources-young-adults>



<https://waterloocatholics.org/college-bound-resources>