

Roman Catholic Community of Practice

Notes from Session at REA Annual Meeting: Nov. 2, 2019

Twenty-one members attended the meeting, which was convened by Maureen O'Brien.

Announcements

1. Tracey Lamont, Jodi Hunt and Theresa O'Keefe reported that at a recent gathering on youth and young adult ministry at Franciscan University of Steubenville, participants discussed possible ways to follow up on the Youth Synod. They asked Catholic COP members whether a Catholic journal on youth and young adult ministry might be helpful. Members offered various comments and suggestions:
 - Investigate status of the new Catholic University of America International Journal of Evangelization and Catechesis as a possible outlet for publication
 - Set up a wiki for COP member input regarding the journals available and whether they're helpful
 - If a new journal is created, try to make it accessible to practitioners as well as academics
 - Go beyond a Catholic focus
 - Perhaps aim a publication toward young adults themselves
 - Post information and request ideas via the REA web page
2. Hosffman Ospino reminded us of the REA's *Horizons* series, which focuses on developing and publishing manuscripts by newer scholars. Submissions are welcome.

Topic Discussion

We had agreed to focus our discussion on the Catholic clergy sexual abuse crisis and our response as religious educators. Following are highlighted insights and questions:

- The crisis is a “null curriculum” in the church
- How can we approach the crisis as it affects lay-clergy relationships? How can we bring clergy into conversation about it?
- Sense of powerlessness when the pastor or bishop won't respond to the crisis, but very empowering when the space is created for dialogue, hearing one another in the struggles of each; “this is church right here”
- Finding in our history how people come from the ground up to respond to crisis (as in the recent efforts in the Pittsburgh diocese by a new lay group called Catholics for Change in Our Church, <https://ccoc-pgh.org/>)
- Clericalism and theological and RE responses to the crisis; the big events sponsored by universities haven't included the RE perspective; how does our voice become heard?

- CTSA is seeking to do research on the crisis
- How can we as the Catholic Community of Practice and as religious educators be resources? Model of Boston College's seminar on future of priesthood, which brought together academics and practitioners and resulted in a substantive document
- Note Carl Procario-Foley's paper during this meeting
- Religious educators are accustomed to collaborating with other professionals, which is a valuable skill relevant to the abuse crisis
- The dominant US paradigm is therapeutic and managerial/leadership-oriented, not educational; how can we reframe the abuse crisis to offer an educational opportunity?
- Recognizing in new ways the destructive effects of clericalism, including seminarians and clergy in the educational process, etc.
- Can poets and prophets be formed in the current seminary model?
- National Leadership Roundtable had a facilitated discussion about the crisis that felt like a "dialogical lament"

2020 Catholic Community of Practice Session

To continue our work on the critical issue of the abuse crisis, we decided that our 2020 COP session will be a liturgy of lament that includes processing of our experience of the crisis. John Falcone and Steffano Montano volunteered to plan the session.

Respectfully submitted,

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