

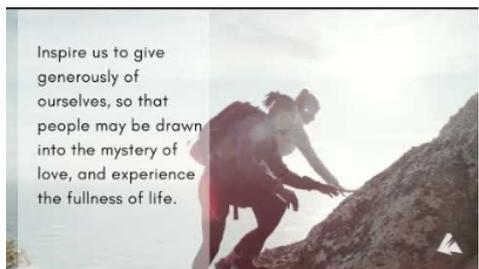

Areté
 CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP
A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

Ministry Intensive

 Intensive 3

1

Inspire us to give generously of ourselves, so that people may be drawn into the mystery of love, and experience the fullness of life.



2

Course 4: Practicum and Field Placement

- This unit is divided into three elements:
 - Ministry Intensive - Topics include understanding one's gifts for ministry (charisms), evangelising conversations, and prayer ministry.
 - Leadership Intensive - This practicum helps students appropriate key leadership practices for ministry, such as event management, budgeting, promotions. There will also be a reflective element (or capstone process) that draws the key learnings from Foundations Program together.
 - Monthly Mentoring Sessions - These sessions provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon their practice of ministry in the light of what they are learning from the coursework.



3

The Foci of the Weekend

- Conversational Evangelisation – incorporating:
 - Threshold conversations
 - Conversational apologetics
 - Kerygma
 - Testimony
 - Prayer with people
- Discerning Charisms
- Prayer ministry



4

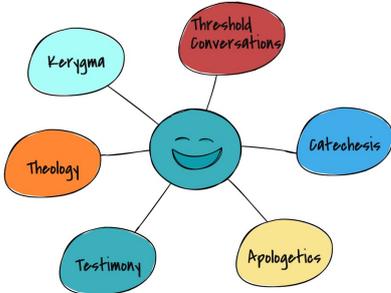
Assessment

- One 500-word verbatim report on either an evangelising conversation or a crucial conversation
 - One 2000-word capstone paper
- * Grad Cert students have different assessment

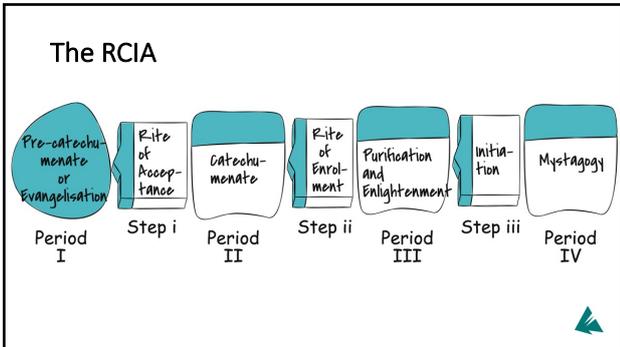


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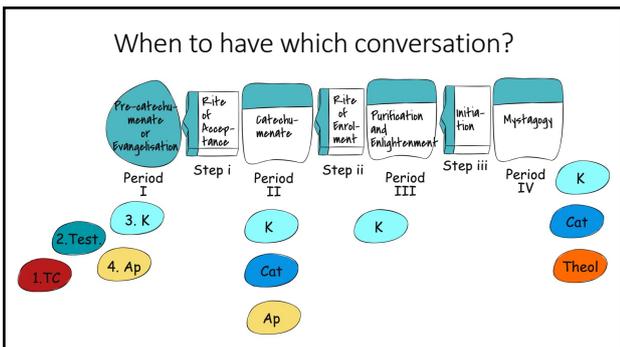
Different Kinds of "God-conversations"



6



7



8

Accompaniment as the Right Conversation at the Right Time

Pope Francis: "In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ's closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this "art of accompaniment" which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life" (EG 169).

9

Accompaniment > Evangelisation

Pope Francis: "Although it sounds obvious, spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God, in whom we attain true freedom. Some people think they are free if they can avoid God; they fail to see that they remain existentially orphaned, helpless, homeless. They cease being pilgrims and become drifters, flitting around themselves and never getting anywhere. To accompany them would be counterproductive if it became a sort of therapy supporting their self-absorption and ceased to be a pilgrimage with Christ to the Father" (EG 170).



10

The Importance of Listening

Pope Francis: "We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness with- out which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. Listening helps us to find the right gesture and word which shows that we are more than simply bystanders. Only through such respectful and compassionate listening can we enter on the paths of true growth and awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal: the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what he has sown in our lives" (EG 171).



11



**Catherine of
Siena Institute**

Taking the Inventory



12

Taking the Inventory

- You CANNOT fail the inventory
- Everyone will get a "zero" in something
- ZEROs are GOOD!



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Taking the Inventory

- Read each question carefully and determine to what extent it is true of your life TO THE PRESENT
- Please answer on the basis of what has ACTUALLY HAPPENED in your life to this point, NOT what you wish were true, or think should be true, or hope will be true in the future



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Let's Look at the First Question

1. When I find myself in a disorganized situation, I help things become better organized
To what extent has this been true of your life to date?



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Taking the Inventory

- Read the questions literally.
 - Do not "translate"
 - Do not skip over words or phrases
- Go with your first response. Do not agonize over your answers
- If you are married, skip over the questions about being single
- The Inventory should take about 40 minutes



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When you have finished:

- Add up the five columns on each line across the answer sheet
- Write the total for each line in the blank space on the right hand side of the answer sheet under "Total"
- Turn to page 60 of your inventory.
- Place the right-hand edge of your answer sheet so that your first score at the top lines up with the word "Administration". All your other scores will line up correctly beside the corresponding charism



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Charisms: The Five Steps of Discernment

- 1) Explore the possibilities
 - What a charism is
 - What it looks like
 - How it functions
 - How it feels to exercise a charism



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Charisms: The Five Steps of Discernment

- 1) *Explore* the possibilities
- 2) *Experiment*
 - Charisms are real and *objective*
 - You cannot discern in the abstract
 - Discern through *action*
 - *DO* it and see what happens



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Charisms: The Five Steps of Discernment

- 1) *Explore* the possibilities
- 2) *Experiment*
- 3) *Examine* your experience
 - Energizing
 - Satisfying
 - Joyful
 - Feels like you 'fit'
 - An expression of your relationship with God
 - Prayerful or contemplative experience



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Charisms: The Five Steps of Discernment

- 1) *Explore* the possibilities
- 2) *Experiment*
- 3) *Examine* your experience
- 4) *Evaluate* your effectiveness
 - The charism does what it is supposed to do
 - Pay attention to mediocre or poor results
 - Success is recognizing where you *are* gifted *and* where you are *not* gifted



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Charisms: The Five Steps of Discernment

- 1) *Explore* the possibilities
- 2) *Experiment*
- 3) *Examine* your experience
- 4) *Evaluate* your effectiveness
- 5) *Expect* confirmation from others
 - Indirect
 - Direct



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Share – in Triads

- What were your top 4?
- What is your reaction/response to your top 4?
- Do you have initial thoughts about which charism you wish to experiment with?



23

Questions?



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Evangelising Conversations – Recap from Last Night

- Accompaniment
- The right conversation at the right time
- Listening



25

Threshold Conversations (Weddell)



- Purpose: To get an idea of the threshold a person is likely to be at
- Thresholds of Conversion Review



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Threshold Conversations



- Begins with where they are – the sacred ground of someone's experience
- These conversations are not catechesis, testimony, or apologetics.
- They are about listening to someone else's story
- Don't ask too many questions - don't want to interrogate someone
- Must be trust to be able to have the conversation (but sometimes this can happen faster than you think)
- "Never accept a label in place of a story"



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The Threshold Question: Would you like to tell me about your relationship with God to this point in your life?

<p>Atheist</p> <p>What do you mean by atheist?</p> <p>Tell me about the God you don't believe in.</p> <p>Have you had much contact with religious/spirituality?</p> <p>Are you close to people you don't agree with?</p> <p>Could you ever imagine yourself believing in God?</p>	<p>Agnostic</p> <p>Do you believe in God or a universal Spirit?</p> <p>If yes, describe the God you believe in?</p> <p>If no, have you always been certain why?</p> <p>If God existed what would he be like?</p> <p>Would you want a relationship with that God?</p> <p>What gives you meaning in life?</p>	<p>Impersonal God</p> <p>How would you describe the power you believe in?</p> <p>What do you call the power?</p> <p>Does your power make a difference in your life?</p>	<p>I believe but no relationship</p> <p>How would you describe the God you believe in?</p> <p>Why don't you believe you have a relationship with God?</p> <p>If it was possible to have a relationship with God, would you want one?</p>	<p>I believe and have a relationship</p> <p>Are you part of a religious community?</p> <p>non-Christian</p> <p>I believe in Jesus - not a Christian</p> <p>I'm a Christian but not at Church</p> <p>I'm a Christian, active in the Church</p>
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Do you pray? If so, how?

Have you had much contact with people of religious faith/spirituality?

Are you, or have you been in a religious community?

What do you believe about Jesus? IF CURIOUS

Tell me about that



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Threshold conversations: What are some questions you could ask in response to these statements?

- I think there's a force that created the world
- I'm an atheist. There's nothing out there – this is all there is
- I go to church. Pray my prayers, but no one gets anything back from God. It's a one way street.
- I'm spiritual but not religious

Threshold Conversations



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From Threshold Conversation to Testimony

- Pray for guidance – ask the Holy Spirit
- What is Jesus' desire for this person right now?
- What am I being prompted to share?
- Adjusting your testimony to the threshold you think someone is at
 - If someone is moving **from trust to curiosity** > reflect upon what made you curious – someone said, did something, read something etc?
 - If someone is moving **from curiosity to openness** > was there a catalyst? What made it possible? Did you pray? Did you move forwards/backwards?
 - If someone is moving **from openness to seeking** > what shifted so you moved from being open to the possibility to actively seeking Jesus? Did someone help you? What helped bring you to repentance and forgiveness?

Testimony



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Conversational apologetics



- Make it personal – give your own response to the questions raised:
 - Science has shown us mate: there's nothing out there
 - The Catholic Church is homophobic
 - Dead people stay dead – the resurrection is nonsense
 - If God exists, I don't want to know him [suffering]



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If you were sitting in a café with a good friend and they said, "I want the kind of faith you have", and you had ten minutes to respond what would you say?



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James



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Sharing the Kerygma

Kerygma

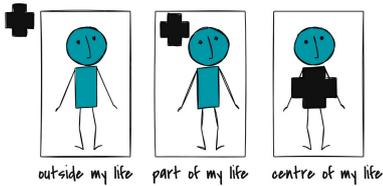
- What's the kerygma again?
 - God's loving plan
 - Sin
 - Redemption through Jesus' Cross
- The kerygma is a story too



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Invite a Response – Step 1

Kerygma



- Which one best represents you right now?
- Where would you like to be?
- If 3, would you like to put Christ at the centre of your life?

Source: Andre Regnier, *Clear and Simple*



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Invite a Response – Step 2

Kerygma

- If yes to putting Christ at the Centre of your life
- Lead them in a prayer of repentance and commitment to Jesus
 - Repeat after me (informal, or have it in your wallet/purse!)
 - Father, I believe that you know me and love me. I have not always chosen to love you, and have broken my relationship with you through my sins. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus who proved your love for me on the cross. Lord Jesus, I open the door of my heart and invite you to be the centre of my life—to be my Saviour and my Lord. Direct me by your Holy Spirit and help me to live the Gospel with my whole life. Amen. (Regnier)
 - Pray for them



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