



saint mary's press

touching hearts. enlivening minds.

Questions for Discussion following What is Relational Authority? video

1. What did you hear? What stood out for you and why?
2. Which of the “tide turning tips” did you connect with most (listening, experience, integrity, care, expertise)? Which do you desire to strengthen?
3. Everyone wants to be noticed, named, and known. What are some things that take place within the faith community, whether in the parish or at a Catholic school, that help you to feel noticed, named, and known? What difference does that make to you to feel connected in that way?
4. So often, we wonder how we can keep the young and their families interested and engaged, but how interested and engaged are we in them? How can you show interest and engage in their lives in the classroom or before and during a lesson? When you see them at Mass? When you see them out in the community? When you meet with parents during a parent meeting—are we ever interested in them personally or only in their child(ren) and the program or classroom? Have I been mainly content driven? How can I become equally relationship driven, like Jesus?
5. What have been some of the most ordinary and profound ways you’ve encountered Jesus through your engagement in the parish or school?
6. We all work so hard at helping the young learn all about Jesus, but do they ever really encounter him? What are some concrete ways to provide opportunities for the young to encounter Jesus in what you’re already doing? How can what you already do become more experiential? How can you help the young and their families notice God’s presence and action in the day-to-day of their lives? How can we, as faith communities, identify, acknowledge, and lift up those times in prayer, when we’re together?
7. Who are the people that you connect with most in the parish or in the school, or when you come to Mass? What difference does that make for you when you come to Mass or participate in helping out within the parish or school?
8. If people are not coming to Mass and engaging in parish life, many times, it’s because they do not feel connected to the individuals within the community. Coming to Mass can be a very lonely and hurtful experience when no one knows or connects with you the entire time you’re there.
9. How can you become better bridge builders to introduce families to other people within the community for connection and to nurture, and take interest in those relationships, whenever you gather?
10. After considering all that’s been heard, shared, and discussed, what are your 2 take-aways? How will I put them into action?