

# A Quick Look at...

## THE ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from September 15, 2020

### Key Points from Presentation with Father John David Ramsey:

- We each have a unique role in contributing to the work of Christ through the Church to bring new people to their life with God.
- For many years, to be a person of faith and be a Catholic was good. Now, everything is sort of questioned and challenged. So being able to understand in the teachings of our faith, not just as rules and regulations, but as a way of life that brings joy & beauty is huge.
- Our ministry is to help people understand the person of Jesus Christ, to know the what our faith demands and why it demands that.
- The more we make our teachings relatable to the lived experience of our teens, the more they will ask us questions and for help. Being available and willing to listen is key in art of accompaniment.
- Why did Jesus had so many followers? Sure, he performed miracles and healed people but there were others in that time that did remarkable things as well. The reason so many people trusted in Jesus was because Jesus loved them. He always looked at people with the love of his Father that was totally accepting, embracing, and honest.
- As ministers, that is what you are called to do: to look at people with the gaze of Jesus, which is a simple look of love and to know that each person is loved by God no matter what. When we love the people we serve, teens let go of insecurities and we can walk forward together.

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES

#### [Catholic Apostolate Center](#)

A section on this website is called “The Art of Accompaniment,” and it has a wide collection of documents and webinars that speak to accompanying young people.

#### [Christus Vivit](#)

This post-synodal exhortation by Pope Francis in 2019 speaks to ministry and vocation with young people, and explicitly refers to how we are called to not just teach them but to accompany them.

**The art of accompaniment is to learn and to pray constantly, to resist the temptation to put time limits on it, to not put pressure to see results, and to just be present and be there to listen to them.**

### - Q&A about The Art of Accompaniment -

1. **How do you encourage teens to open themselves up to you if they need (or even to one of their parents or to another trusted adult)?** *When it comes to confidence, tell minors that unless it was life threatening, it would stay confidential. Build positive relationships and be fully present to them. Some teens will open up to you, some teens won't. But if they know you care about them and have their best interests at heart, they will reach out. A simple reminder at the end of your meeting that you, and your the Core Team, are there if they need prayer/to talk.*
2. **In your experience, working with teenagers specifically, is there one area of their life that you've seen a specific need or desire for accompaniment in?** *This first thing that popped to Father Ramsey's mind is sexuality – not necessarily to be confused about who you are attracted to but sexuality as whole, as we live in a world that falsely tells teens any way they want to be is fine. This message is not true and very destructive. Teens want someone to walk with in this messy world as they figure out how to be faithful even when it isn't easy. They are loved and Jesus loves all people no matter what. And remind them that this struggle is part of being human, and asking questions is good.*



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