



Profile of Professional Campus Ministers

2nd CEAP National Campus
Ministry Conference
De La Salle University
July 24, 2013

Let's meet

Share

Introduce yourself and your school

What do you expect to happen in this session?

Share

Introduce your self and your school.

Share your story on how did you end up becoming a campus minister.

Objectives

- The participants understood the roles, functions and competencies of a campus minister;
- Reflected on their ways of coping amidst the challenges in their ministry;
- Shared best practices; and
- Renewed their fervor and zeal as campus ministers

Fill in the blank

The _____, far more than any other, must be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living. Its work is seen as promoting a faith-relationship with Christ in whom all values find fulfilment. But faith is principally assimilated through contact with people whose daily life bears witness to it. Christian faith, in fact, is born and grows inside a community.

The Catholic School

The Catholic school, far more than any other, must be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living. Its work is seen as promoting a faith-relationship with Christ in Whom all values find fulfilment. But faith is principally assimilated through contact with people whose daily life bears witness to it. Christian faith, in fact, is born and grows inside a community. (Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977, no. 53)

Campus Ministry in Catholic Schools

1. Declining number of priests and religious
2. Increasing recognition of the gifts and talents of the laity
3. Increase in the focus on Catholic mission and identity (Sureau, 2012)

Reflect and share

Describe your school's campus ministry, its role and place in your school community.



Who are the Campus Ministers?

All the Baptized

All the faithful on campus, by virtue of their baptism, share in the task of bringing the humanizing light of the Gospel to bear on the life of the academic community. (Empowered by the Spirit, 22)

The Professional Campus Minister

- Forms the faith community so that it can be a genuine sign and instrument of the kingdom.
- Identifies, calls forth, and coordinates the diverse gifts of the Spirit possessed by all the members of the faith community.
- Educates all the baptized to appreciate their own calls to service
- Creates a climate where initiative is encouraged and contributions are appreciated.”

(Empowered by the Spirit, 23)

Roles and Functions of Campus Ministers

- **Liturgical Animation**
- **Spiritual Leadership, Guidance and Direction (Retreat and Recollection)**
- **Youth and Adult Ministry**
- **Building Faith-communities**

Liturgical Animation

- Liturgy is the core activity of the church, and so therefore, of a Catholic School
- Through liturgy, we grow in deeper relationship with God and neighbor
- This is the life of the ministry
- The purpose of the Eucharistic liturgy, as well as all Sacraments, is to make us holy, to build up the Body of Christ and to worship God.
(Sacrosanctum Concilium, 59)

Liturgical Animation

- Planning, directing, leading liturgy and worship
- Preparing spaces of prayer
- Celebration of Sacraments
- Formation of Liturgical Ministers as partners in the ministry and
- Formation of the faithful to fully appreciate and participate in the liturgy

Spiritual Leadership, Guidance and Direction

- Retreats and recollection
- Spiritual Direction
- Formative Counseling
- Mentoring and accompaniment
- Finding one's gifts and talents

Spiritual Leadership, Guidance and Direction

- Powerful in transforming the person.
- Provides an ideal community of faith wherein the Divine that rules over our lives is named and worshipped.
- The life in the Spirit is nourished and supported
- Leads participants into the mysteries of their lives and create a safe place to open-up and grow.
- Manifests God's love and care for each of us

Adult Ministry

“By their witness and their behavior...teachers are of the first importance to impart a distinctive character to Catholic schools...(This) requires the educator to have a mature spirituality expresses in a profound Christian life. (The Catholic School, Congregation for Catholic Education, #78, 60)

Adult Ministry

Catholic educators need a “formation of the heart”: they need to be led to that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others, “so that their educational commitment becomes a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love. (Educating Together in Catholic Schools, #25)

Adult Ministry

Personal Programs:

- Prayer
- Involvement in the community life and Church's mission
- Effort to root one self to God's Word and the Tradition and teachings of the church
- Participation in works of justice and peace and service to the poor

Adult Ministry

Schools, through Campus Ministry, can provide:

- Moments of common prayer, reflection and liturgies
- Immersion and Outreach activities
- Pilgrimages
- Retreats
- Accompaniment
- Learning the charism of the founding congregations

Youth Ministry

Goals of Youth Ministry (Kalakbay, 2004)

1. To establish and strengthen the youth's relationship with Christ
2. To provide opportunities for personal growth
3. To encourage community involvement

Building Faith Communities

Community is not a by-product of Catholic schools but at its core. As Catholics, the mystery of the Trinity defines our understanding of life-giving and life-supportive community relationships. Because our triune God creates, redeems and sanctifies, we place learning, service, prayer, leadership, decision-making, resource development, communication and social engagement in the context of community. Knowingly or unknowingly, our schools are rooted in the reality that we are at heart Trinitarian. (Taymans 2006, p. vi)

Building Faith Communities

How is community formed? Formation requires leadership, organizational support, structure and planning. It also requires presence, care and compassion. Campus ministers, chaplains, and campus ministry teams help realize this ideal through a balance of programs and pastoral care. The campus ministers help foster “a pleasant and family atmosphere” that is the mark of Catholic schools. (Sureau, 2012)

Reflect and Share

Share a best practice in your campus ministry in the line of the roles and functions of a campus minister presented.

Roles and Functions of Campus Ministers

- **Liturgical Animation**
- **Spiritual Leadership, Guidance and Direction (Retreat and Recollection)**
- **Youth and Adult Ministry**
- **Building Faith-communities**

Competencies of Campus Ministers

- Personal Competencies
- Theological Competencies
- Professional Competencies

Personal Competencies

- Is a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church;
- Nourishes his or her faith through participation in a worshipping Catholic community and a commitment to prayer and spiritual growth;
- Demonstrates a balanced lifestyle, showing concern for the emotional, intellectual, physical, psychological and spiritual components of one's life;
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Theological Competencies

- Have a basic understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church;
- Church history;
- Articulate an understanding of the aspects of Campus Ministry as presented in the document Empowered by the Spirit
- Have a familiarity with other religious traditions;
- Continue theological reflection and education.

Professional Competencies

- Ability to discern the needs of the campus community
- Communication skills
- Pastoral counselling skills
- Develop and sustain effective professional relationship

Reflect and Share

Among the given competencies of campus ministers, where do I feel that I am competent enough?

Where do I need further improvement?



Challenges and Coping

Top 12 stressors of ministers (Charlton et al, 2009)

- Amount of work/number of roles
- Unrealistic expectations
- Dealing with conflict and difficult people
- Administration and finance
- Pastoral demands
- Worries about future of the church
- Lack of volunteers
- Multiple churches
- Managing change
- Work/life balance
- Loneliness and isolation
- Theological concerns

What can keep you in the ministry?

- Remembering ones call to the ministry
- Managing expectations
- Sabbath principle (Taking time off effectively)
- Learning to say “No”
- Learning from mistakes and easy with self
- Finding a community
- Exercising (Croft, 2006)

Reflect and Share

**How long have you been a campus minister?
Are you still happy?**

Reflect and Share

As the campus minister of your school, what was the most difficult challenge you have encountered so far? How did you handle it?

The Catholic School

...an atmosphere animated by a spirit of liberty and charity based on the Gospel; a synthesis of faith and culture and life; knowledge illumined by faith; the formation of a faith community; a Christian vision of the world, of life, of culture and of history; the integration of faith and reason; and the formation of mature personalities. (Cook, 2001, p. 12)

Conclusion

O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.
In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:1, NRSV

Domine opus tuum, Lord the work is yours.