

2023 Conference

- [Lecture 1 - Continuing Education of Servants](#)
- [Lecture 1 - High Gain Questions](#)
- [Lecture 2 - Technology Use](#)
- [Lecture 2 - Breakout Rooms](#)
- [Lecture 3 - Breakout Rooms](#)
- [Lecture 4 - Transplanting Servants](#)

Lecture 1 - Continuing Education of Servants

Processes and Events

Why should I self-discipline?

- I am following my Lord
 - The servant in Exodus 21 is the Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom God the Father entrusted the Church as a Bride and us as His children
- I am following the True Shepherd
 - John 10:11
 - Hebrews 13:20
 - Ezekiel 34:15

How do I self-discipline to learn daily?

- One day in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ is the ideal day for us as servants
 - (Gospel of St Mark is portraying Christ the Servant, so His deeds are important more than the words that He spoke)
 - Mark 1:16-45
 - It's not the first time the Lord saw them - He saw them in John 1
 - They left their nets
 - What are the nets we must leave in order to cleave?
 - Whatever we are relying on
 - Whatever we think can take the place of self-discipline and perseverance in learning every day
 - Human resources, not divine resources
 - They left their father and the servants
 - Our relationships
 - The Lord entered the synagogue and a demon-possessed man was there
 - Spiritual warfare
 - He called fisherman
 - Levels of Leadership (in order from lowest to highest)
 - Position - one who has the position and is followed simply because he has it
 - Permission - the people permit him to lead because they like him... but nothing gets done
 - Production - you bring results
 - People Development - you invest in people (rather than in events)
 - The Lord chose people who were uneducated and undeveloped, so that He would develop them

- He healed Simon's Mother-in-law
 - You will be attuned to the needs of others
- Everyone was looking for Him
 - We will be swayed from our service
- He said "let us go into the next towns"
 - He is not allured by the crowd or the fame, but he did not regard the simple services of the next town
 - It is a plan; a process; an investment in the Twelve - it's not simply an event
- The Leper came to Him and He healed him
 - When we have a purpose, we will not see things as inconveniences but as opportunities
- Acts 4:29
 - The disciples apply all of what they learned from their Master (in the Gospel), in the Book of Acts

Education

- Language of Society includes SEO (Search engine optimization), AI (Artificial Intelligence), etc.
- The time of saying "This is what it is" or "this is how it is" is passed
- **Tracing Origins is Crucial**
 - In any credible scholarship, it is necessary to study what and how others have tackled in the field of study
 - E.g. if we want to understand the theological depth of a specific liturgical prayer, we must study the liturgical development of that prayer
 - We must inquire of the past to comprehend our present and predict our future
- **Studying is Spiritual!**
 - St Gregory Nazianzen says "We must not then dishonor education..." (Oration 43)
 - Some people ignore education in order to remain stagnant and hide themselves and escape their want of culture
 - Some people will say "We need spiritual talks..." as if academic talks are not spiritual!
- Διαχρή - The Teaching
 - Exegesis - what you take out of the text (then, them, there)
 - Hermeneutics - how is it applied to now (here, us, now)
 - Sometimes we give "what we do" as "what we believe" - but "fasting x days" and "staying x hours in Good Friday" have nothing to do with **what we believe**
 - Four words used for teaching:
 - κήρυγμα (Kerygma) - teaching of the Gospel without argument or defense... "This is what we believe"
 - Evangelism - to tell the good news
 - Martyrdom - to bear witness
 - Διαχρή (Didache) - teaching must be preceded by Kerygma. Explanation of that which was proclaimed

- Παράκλησις (Paraklesis) - exhortation to accept the Christian faith and live the Christian life
- ὁμιλία (Homilia) - General discussion of any subject in the light of Christian faith
- We lump all of these together and call them "Education"
 - HH Pope Shenouda used to say that a good indicator of a good sermon is if the hearer comes and asks "What shall I do?"
 - It is important to not make assumptions about what is known or not known before teaching
- Improve the Feed
 - Farmers spend their time studying how to improve the feed and not how to get more cattle to come to be fed
- How did the service come to a point of mediocrity?
 - We started with the Great School of Alexandria founded by St Mark!
 - But what happened after that? Chalcedon... Arab Conquest... Burning of Patristic Heritage...
 - French Conquest in Egypt... British Conquest in Egypt... and then finally Habib Girgis got us out of this ignorance...
 - But we're faced with Western Missionaries and ideas like Sola Scriptura and Prima Scriptura
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:15 - "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle."
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6 - "But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us"
 - In those two verses, in Arabic, the word tradition is "ميليعة" (instructions)
- Universal Language of God (θεόπνευστος)
- "But beyond these sayings, let us look at the very tradition, teaching, and faith of the Catholic (Universal) Church from the beginning, which the Lord gave, the Apostles preached, and the Fathers kept. Upon this the Church is founded, and he who should fall away from it would not be a Christian, and should no longer be so called" - St Athanasius Letter to Serapion on the Holy Spirit

Lecture 1 - High Gain Questions

Question 1

“ If you were a "typical" Sunday School servant in your church, what would your expectations for the continuing education program of your church be?

Discussion

- Note that the question asks about the "program" not just the "servants meeting"
- Educational - Church consecrates more on "pure spiritual topics" - Repentance, Confession, Sacraments... which is great. But in Servants Meeting something more academic
- Friendly atmosphere between the servants (sometimes this may cause someone not to attend the servants meeting)
- "I wanna hear something that's gonna make me serve better..." - something practical. How to do a certain thing in Sunday School... how do I prepare a better or nicer or more engaging lesson?
- More education on the psychosocial aspect of teaching (how to deal with kids who have complex issues, mental health issues, etc.) to have the toolbox to know how to deal with kids of all different mental health situations
- Continuing education for servants should be part of the Church goal, purpose, vision. Church should have a plan for developing the whole congregation and servants are part of that plan. Every church is different and can't have the same plan. An assessment based on the needs of the children and the servants is needed to see what is best for them.
- Continuing education should be integrated with all the other activities of the Church
- Should have a curriculum to build off of, or follow over a certain number of years.
 - How long should that curriculum be?
- Breadth of teaching (Church History, Liturgics, Patristics, etc.)
- Dealing with parents and kids and how to connect parents and kids, deal with family issues, etc.
- Continuation of Pre-servants in the sense that it is the same topics but on a deeper level
- Writing papers, research papers that can serve the rest of the community
- Have the servants take a task themselves of teaching so it is not the same person every time
- In any field of work, they try to keep you up to date with what is happening in the world... we should have the same in the field of service. What are our children being exposed to, being taught, etc. We should be on top of it and teach the servants right away. In touch with Contemporary Issues
- Big gap between old servants and young servants... young servants were raised in a completely different way from older generation. Younger generation is not used to

lectures and sitting and listening. We need a vision for the younger generation of servants to help them in a different way

- "typical" is a Sunday School servant that prepares the lesson and gives it. Beyond education, we need to understand the age group that you are serving - how to reach them, connect with them, etc.
- Discipleship - for younger servants to have a mentor to look up to and who can follow up with them
- Servants are too busy? With work, children, etc. Reading, studying, serving, etc. takes a lot of time
 - It is true that adding another hour or two hours per week for continuing education may not be practical for the "average" servant
 - It is good to make the weekly servants meeting that is known to be required, a good use of time
- Is the word program appropriate? Program means clear start and end? Maybe process is better?
- Continuing education should be open-ended as it is needed by everyone
 - It would be nice to have diocese programs for continuing education in the regions centralized and disseminated to all the churches, given by experts at a high quality
- Computer Modules assigned to every servant and they can finish at their convenient time. The job of the coordinator or priest is to follow-up, see the outcomes, discuss in Servants Meetings, gather feedback, etc.
- Self-service, catalog of materials, minimum requirement on a yearly basis (e.g. 3 credits, 4 credits, etc.)
- Hands-on, workshops, how do you deal with this situation, case studies, etc.
- Re-apply and live it - kids see what we are doing as a lecture... why come to Servants Meeting if I'm gonna hear the same thing I heard before? How do I live it? How do I redirect when I'm lost? Etc.
- It needs to be updated on a regular basis. It cannot be the same for 10 years. We cannot be blind to what is going on around us.
- Use the skillset of the servants or congregation more broadly to deliver expertise
- Hybrid Program: Some modules, some in person. Servants retreats have good feedback for bringing servants together
- Continuing Education usually depends on some base knowledge... but in service, Servants nowadays are all over the place. Some servants don't know anything and some know a lot. What is the standard that we build on before talking about continuing education. Is the process of selecting servants part of the continuing education process?
 - People cram and then forget everything
 - Ladder of service - most of what I learned in service is from the experience of serving and learning "on the job"
 - May need to emphasize the fact that your preparation is part of your independent learning to fulfill your goal
- In smaller churches, there is no time for pre-servants but servants are needed immediately! And sometimes they are overwhelmed or scared, and may leave the service. We should think "outside the box" for better ways
 - Continuing Education Process may look very different in a large established church, than in a smaller community or new church

- Young servants have the time to gain but don't know that they need to gain; by the time they know, they are too busy!
- Improving the feed - people will willingly come
- Large churches may be able to help small churches (e.g. to send a servant to come and teach the servants and help improve the feed)
- Lesson Preparation and Review can be a big part of identifying someone's areas of improvement or talent
 - Review can be a good chance to teach or to guide
- To take example from the field of Engineering - There is an Engineering Conference every year which was a continuing education for the whole engineering community in the area

Summary

- Variety in topics (Staying on top of social issues and trends)
- Variety in delivery environments (e.g. retreats, servants meetings, online modules, discipleship)
- Variety in delivery methods (e.g. tailored to groups of servants, tailored to individuals)
- Integrated with the whole service and goal of the Church

From the Fathers

- If we have a purpose, we will see opportunities and not inconveniences
- Continuous education must be very effective to the point of seeing a true change in the service
- Continuous education needs dedication from all of the servants

Question 2

“ As a church servant, how can you overcome the three biggest barriers to your active participation in the continuing education program of your church? What role does the church play in this process?

Discussion

- Time
- Motivation
 - how do you get the servants motivated to come often and not just on their scheduled service day
 - Needs interesting topics and more interactive with variety in speakers
 - Give a feeling of ownership to the service - feeling of ownership will cause someone to use paid time off, make a priority
 - Needs variety in environment - increase the sense of community through social interactions that are outside of the process but knits the service together
 - Lack of seriousness in the service in general
 - What's in it for me?

- Lack of Communication
- Some churches may have issues with getting husbands in the service
- Don't feel the need to learn
 - I already learned everything I need in Pre-Servants
 - Resources are everywhere... I can learn from YouTube or from anywhere else
- There should be an expectation set for the servants to do their continuous education and have consequences for not
- We live in an age of immediate gratification
- Communication and Reminders
- Move Servants meeting into a conference room around a conference table and starts with "How was Sunday School today" And Servants meeting becomes more like a meeting. Invites engagement
- Child care during the meeting
- Look past Sunday - other days may work better

Summary

- Time
 - Being sensitive to (and accommodating) the needs of the servants (on a group level or on an individual level)
 - Effective Communication
 - Setting expectations
 - Variety
- Motivation
 - Giving tools to those who are responsible for the service for how to motivate
 - Motivation happens on an individual level
 - Effective Communication
 - Show appreciation
- Resources
 -
- These ideas are general and solutions should be applied based on the needs of the church and servants

From the Fathers

- Reiterate to the servants their purpose in the service... you may be the only proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ in this child's life. There will be sacrifice. There will be a need for patience. This expectation should be set even before servants preparation.
 - Acts of Mercy (e.g. visiting children in a hospital, nursing home, battered women shelter, homeless shelter, etc.) will connect what the fruits of service are. The people we are serving will have a desire to go out and serve their community.
 - This can combat the impatience and the need for instant gratification in the service

Lecture 2 - Technology Use

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (1 Corinthians 6:12)

In this generation, we can definitely say that we have been brought under the power of our phones.

Risks

- Health and Wellness
 - Addiction - devices and screen use are as addictive to children as cocaine
 - Increased Depression and Anxiety - the feeling of not living up to the standards of what you see online, the feeling of always being in the spotlight
 - Sleep Disruption - blue light disrupts sleep cycle; during COVID many kids were sleeping all day and up all night
 - Less physical activity
- Emotional
 - Less connected to family
 - Loss of social skills for how to interact with and accommodate their peers
 - Online predators/exploitation
 - Bullying
- Ideological/Intellectual Risks
 - Exposure to inappropriate content
 - Indoctrination to certain belief sets or agendas
 - Tracking and monitoring activity for advertisers and social media companies
 - Illegal activity - it is easier to do illegal activities online
- Unknown Risks
 - We are living in a social experiment - the smart phone came out in 2008; the people who are now driving have lived their whole lives with the smart phone and we have not seen a generation of adults that lived through this yet.

Screen Time Recommendations

- Babies 0-18 Months
 - None except video chat with an adult
- Toddlers 18-24 Months
 - Less than one hour co-watching educational programs with a caregiver
 - Not sitting by themselves; still engaging with a parent or older sibling; making the process active rather than passive
- Children 2-5 Years Old
- Kids 6-17

- CDC average usage is 6 hours a day of screen time (recreational and non)
- Adults 18 and older

Content Concerns

- Many shows targeted to children are pushing a liberal agenda
 - E.g. Arthur had an episode a few years ago where the whole episode was the wedding of a gay character to his husband
 - There are subtle hints in programs such as characters wearing pride flag colors
 - Media companies are celebrated for pushing "queer" characters
- Even classic television shows - if they are still in production, then they will start to introduce this content
- This content is being pushed to children
 - E.g. Muppets had a transgender muppet
 - E.g. Thomas the Train Engine has a bi-sexual train

Social Media

- Every new service is going to have a social component
- There's no way of getting away from social-media-like content
- "The Social Dilemma" on Netflix
 - How social media platforms design their algorithms to maximize engagement and essentially increase addiction
 - The recommendations don't care about truth, your well-being, etc. but are targeted towards keeping you engaged to stay on the platform and they can sell advertising
 - Many executives in these companies do not allow their own children to use their product (reminds us of drug dealers)

Exploitation Online

Dark Web

- A way to mask online activity
- Anonymity allows people to do all kinds of things that they wouldn't do if their identity was known

Technology Solutions

How the Internet Works

- You type in a web address on your client (phone, tablet, computer)
- That data is sent through your router or modem (at home) or cell tower (phone) to your internet service provider (e.g. AT&T, Spectrum, etc.).
- The data goes to a Dynamic Name Server (DNS) which gives the address to that website
- The website is sent to your device

Router Level Features

- Most consumer routers nowadays have some control and filters for what content can be used on your network
- You can filter Adult Content, IM and Communications, P2P and File Transfer, Streaming, etc.
- This is not easy to use or trivial

ISP Level Controls

- Cell provider and ISP can monitor and restrict device access to certain websites, etc.
- Some of those providers will charge a monthly fee

Ecosystem Level Controls

- Tailored to a specific "ecosystem" but is deactivated after 13 years old
 - Google Family Link
 - Apple Content and Privacy Restrictions
 - Microsoft Family Safety

3rd Party Parental Control Apps

- Can be installed on several devices and platforms
- E.g. Qustodio, Bark, Kaspersky Safe Kids, Net Nanny, etc.
- Can be disabled by kids easily

Specialized Devices

- E.g. Troomi, Pinwheel, Gabb, Bark - these companies make phones that are targeted to children and teens
 - Some don't have web browsers, or no social media
 - Some don't allow deleting text messages
 - Some block addictive games
 - Some have caregiver portals
 - Some need approval to send images to certain contacts
- Devices like the Light Phone that doesn't even have a blue light screen

Strategies

- Technology (above) is a **PART** of the solution but not the whole solution
 - All of the above are not enough on their own
- Limit technology use **EARLY**
 - Putting up with the fight when they are little will help us be able to deal with it when they're older
- **TALK** to our children about dangers
 - They trust their parents, and should be talking about how there are dangers and we want to protect you
 - Having a time limit or a limit on what they can do will be something they are accustomed to
- **MONITOR** use

- Don't use screens as a babysitter
- Don't let your children watch anything that you haven't watched first
- Gradually increase access when they show **RESPONSIBILITY**
 - Like driving... they have to sit in a car seat, then a booster seat, then back seat, then front seat... and one day they'll sit in the drivers seat with an adult... then they can do that by themselves but only during the day... then at night... then they can let someone ride with them... eventually they can even drive while having kids in the car with them
 - But if you simply hand them the keys to the car when they're 14, it can be fatal
 - If you hand your child an unlocked iPhone as soon as they say "well all my friends have it" - it can be fatal
- **PUT DOWN** our own devices
 - Apply the same rules to ourselves as we apply to our children
 - If we are mad at our children for having their phones at the dinner table, then we can't answer calls or respond to emails or catch up on the news during dinner time
 - At the very least, we would show them that it is possible for them to put the devices down because we can

There is no substitute for engaged parenting

Sunday School Application

- As Sunday School Coordinators, how do we compete with the attractive YouTube videos, games, etc. that are competing for the attention of our youth
- His Eminence gave a presentation on an idea that was presented to HE by an engineer in Egypt called "Joy City"
 - It is directed to all ages to deliver the message of the Scripture through a video game

Lecture 2 - Breakout Rooms

High Gain Question 1 - Red

“ What is the role of the Church in helping control and structure the technology use of children and youth?

1. Partnership between priest-servant-parent
2. Share resources among churches
3. Find an alternative to tech use
 - Interest groups (e.g. camera team)
4. Giving a voice to children to know they are being heard
5. Educating parents one on one
 - Open house before Sunday School year, talk about expectations; Geek squad at church to help setup phones

High Gain Question 2 - Green

“ What are the three biggest challenges parents face regarding their children's technology use? How can the church help?

1. Lack of knowledge
 - Kids are ahead of parents/servants in technology
 - For churches that don't have resources, we may want a shareable list of contacts that have IT expertise
2. Time
 - Lack of time
 - Parents might say "I don't have time to spend time with the kids" or "I have to take an extra shift to support the family" etc.
 - Some newcomers may not understand what work can or can't force on them
 - Church can build family activities for the families to come as a unit (as opposed to just an activity for the kids and just an activity for parents/adults)
 - New parents need to understand that the kids are a shared responsibility
3. Misguided understanding of freedom and culture
 - Parents don't understand the culture and think they will "overstep the freedom of their kids"
 - Encourage parents not to give up

- Parents and servants should be examples to the kids and only use phones when appropriate (e.g. cases of emergency)

High Gain Question 3 - Orange

“ How are the challenges of new immigrants in monitoring children's tech use unique?

Challenges

1. Language
 - Even when encouraging the parents to actively engage with their kids, they may be sitting with them blind
2. Priorities
 - New immigrants' priorities are to meet the basic needs of their family (food, shelter, job)
3. Technology use requires being proactive
 - This is difficult if you are constantly playing catch up with the basic needs of your family
4. Lack of awareness
 - Because of the above three, they don't know what they don't know
5. Denial
 - Your kid did xyz... "no no no my kids are good!"
6. Peer Pressure
 - New immigrants may feel more pressure to fit into a society as opposed to someone who was born here
 - They have certain assumptions about what it's like in the West based on TV and Media

Solutions

1. Ongoing parent meeting (potentially open to all, but catered to newcomers)
2. Online parent corner on the diocese website where different churches can share resources that are up-to-date. Like Axis but including Arabic language resources

High Gain Question 4

Describe the three biggest challenges in monitoring/controlling the technology use of teens.

1. Lack of knowledge of parents
 - Lack of knowledge that there is even a danger; lack of knowledge of how to protect
 - Educate the parents and equip them with how to protect your children
 - Educate them EARLY
 - Continue to educate them
 - Open Wifi in the church should also be protected
 - Things are happening every day and it's hard to keep up
2. Engage with children
 - I want kids to have freedom to explore, but without stifling them - how do I encourage exploration within bounds?
 - What alternative am I giving the kids? If I ask them to put the device down, they will ask "what else do you want me to do?"
 - Having creativity in engagements - what creative alternatives do you have to keep them engaged physically, mentally, socially?
 - Swimming
 - Biking
 - Going to a park
 - Playing sports
 - Needs to start early
 - Leading by example - learning is a lifelong process
 - In the class, can get the kids to use technology to answer questions, research, etc.
 - Engage every moment and don't leave time for talking or phones or even breathing!
 - Boredom
3. Youth feel that their value is in social media and technology
 - Standing in tasbeha wearing my veil won't get me any "likes" on TikTok
 - How do we introduce other things as valuable to you and edifying to you
 - We should give weight to other activities - the Eucharist is life-giving... is this TikTok video life-giving?
 - Value proposition
4. There is no one leading by example
 - "Well so-and-so does it"
 - Can redirect to a better behavior and show that that behavior is fruitful
 - Well this older deacon is using his phone in liturgy
 - Leading by example
 - We need to speak their language and come to where they are (e.g. through games, language, etc.)

To what extent should we limit the use of phone (e.g. "you're not allowed to bring your phone on this trip, or to this outing, etc.")

High Gain Question 5 - Black

“ What are the key features of an "ideal" program to help educate parents of young children about how to teach their kids healthy technology use (from infancy onward)?

What does the program look like?

1. No sermons, but rather hands-on activities for the parents
2. Guest speakers (younger that seem to understand their kids) that are experts
3. Reach out to parents via phone calls so they can feel that we are seeking them to connect with their kids
4. Targeted for a specific age group (i.e. not talking about HS when parents have elementary kids)
5. SetupIT/Geek Squad at Church
6. Servants leading by example (especially in Sunday School... how can one give the lesson while another is on his phone? Use liturgy books and Agpeyas (old fashioned) during liturgy)

What alternatives can we teach parents to offer?

1. Having timers for going outside together
2. Encourage screen time to be a family interactive screen time
3. Set a time for the kid to look up a recipe and prepare the meal for the family
4. Turn off blue light on your phone and use "night mode" all day
5. Use games as a time together
6. Teach kids to have good values and morals

High Gain Question 6 - Purple

“ What practical steps can parents take to ensure that their children's technology use progresses gradually in a healthy way from infancy to adulthood to help them realize age-appropriate benefits of technology while protecting them from unacceptable risks?

1. Engagement
 - Playing with your kids
 - Family time
 - Physical interaction
 - Communicating
 - Leading by example and putting down your own phone

2. Education

- Educate parents and kids
- Internet is not a bad tool but we have to know how to use it in the right way
- Follow through on education

3. Alternatives

- Not "because I said so"
- VidAngel
- Coptic Apps (Upper Room Media, CYC, etc.)
- Putting a schedule that gives earned time
- Church Community

Lecture 3 - Breakout Rooms

High Gain Question 1 - Red

“ Imagine you are a young person growing up in America whose parents were raised in Egypt. What are the three biggest challenges you would face in developing and being comfortable with your identity as an American Copt?

Challenges

1. Peer Pressure
2. Language as a Barrier
3. What is Orthodox vs what is Egyptian

Solutions

1. Establish healthy relationships with your kids
2. Model the behavior that you want your children to have
3. Teach that it's okay to be different; you will face persecution; and reward them when they do obey and do what they are supposed to do

High Gain Question 2 - Green

“ What are the three best ways to increase persistent engagement among young people in the Church?

1. Know them; understand them - develop 1:1 relationships
2. Engagement - get engaged with them at the same level that they are at; give them a task, responsibility or project.
3. Help them find a purpose.
4. Help them find their interests

High Gain Question 3 - Orange

“ How do the needs for relationship and and belonging among American-raised Coptic Youth differ from these needs among their Egyptian-raised parents? How are they the same?

1. The same basic needs apply to everyone - a sense of belonging, love, acceptance
 - In Egypt, the same people at school are those at church, are those to hang out with after... in the lands of immigration, you go to school with different people than who you go to church with.
 - It may become a matter of "who do I fit in with the most?"
 - Dual Identity Crisis: Identity at church and identity at school... leads to changing ideologies
2. Relationships here are done more virtually (online games, snapchat, etc.) as opposed to face-to-face
3. We have to look out for love and acceptance among everyone - even those who aren't American raised, and those who aren't Egyptian at all

High Gain Question 4 - Yellow

“ What are the three most important ways that the Church can help youth who move from Egypt adjust to their lives as Coptic Orthodox Christians in America

1. Language Barrier
 - Including body language
 - Church can assist with language classes
 - We should speak to them in English and help them adjust
 - Homework help, tutoring
 - Help with job search and application
2. Culture Shock
 - How they drive, how they deal with neighbors is very different
3. Cliques and Groups
 - Find common interests
 - Give everyone a role or responsibility

In HE Metropolitan Youssef's book, he talks about the quadrant of "Positive/Negative Attitude to the Old/New Culture."

- Counseling and showing the positives of both attitudes will bring about integration
- Sometimes parents have the opposite attitude of their children which leads to a division
- We want to bring them both to the middle which will close that gap
- Teach them to be integrationists
 - There are studies about the 3rd Generation being more connected to the homeland than the 2nd Generation simply because the 2nd Generation, in rebellion to their parents,
- Four stages

- Honeymoon Stage - he has a dream to leave Egypt, gets the Visa and feels that his dreams have come true. I will go to America, get a house and a car and a job
- Hostility Stage - can't find a job, can't understand people (despite knowing some English); very challenging
- Human Stage - if he is able to overcome hostility; now he can relax; before, if he made a mistake he would be very anxious. Now, if he makes a mistake, he is relaxed and can laugh about his mistakes
- Home Stage - the home is not replacing Egypt, but their home is expanded to include Egypt and America (i.e. he would still say "we have in Egypt" and "we have in America")

High Gain Question 5 - Black

“ What are the three most important ways in which the Church can help young people cope with the increasing social and emotional pressures they face in today's society?

1. Ground in the faith
 - Teaching kids from a young age how to love and be in the Church
 - Teaching how to love Christ and have a relationship with Him
 - Lead by example as a servant
2. Safe environment in church
 - 1:1 relationship between servant and kids served (e.g. no judgment)
 - Hope that they can come with their mistakes
 - Continue to educate adults in the church on how to interact with the younger age group and the youth so they don't turn them off from coming to church
 - Kids to feel our love
3. Helping to find their talents
 - Using talents during services
 - Give opportunities to serve to the youth

High Gain Questions 6 - Purple

“ As a Coptic youth in the United States what three factors would play the biggest role in pushing you away from the Coptic Church, either to other church communities or to being completely disengaged from any church group?

1. Friendship
 - Feeling of belonging is very important; if you see the youth has a talent, let him grow in it and use it to serve in the Church

- Servant should have a relationship that is always in touch with the youth; listening to their issues, trying to help them grow, helping identify their weaknesses and how to overcome them

2. Education

- You can present things in an educational manner - instead of "do this because the Bible says so" something along the lines of "God loves you and wants to protect you from this evil or this harm"
- Present material in a way they understand it

3. Addressing Cultural Issues

- Address cultural issues not based on the culture, but based on scriptural principles
- Don't be judgmental, but make a distinction between what is Egyptian, and what is Orthodox Christianity

Lecture 4 - Transplanting Servants

Introduction

- Transplanting servants is like transplanting plants

Spiritual Context

- Service is a call (Jeremiah 1:5)
 - It can be during a specific season in life
 - It can be in a specific place
 - God does not arrange things with the sole purpose of making us comfortable. God puts us in places because there is a need - either for us, or we have a purpose in the place we are, and often it is both!
 - We have to be sensitive of what God is sending us to structure and establish the service in our churches
- God equips those whom he calls to serve (Exodus 31:2-3)

Considerations

- **Service is NOT a tool to encourage people to attend**
 - If such a person cannot engage themselves and find their relationship with God in the Church independently, how can we expect them to guide others to God in the Church?
 - We all struggle... but there are some struggles that can be accommodated in the service, and others that are fatal
- "Firing" servants is difficult
 - There are ways of "softening the blow" in hopes of not losing the person, but in the end it is difficult
 - It is easier to properly vet servants than to have to let them go later
- Know the needs of the service
 - What are our strengths
 - What are our weaknesses
 - How can we build up the service
 - Try to find people who can fill the gaps (i.e. "attract talent")
- Focus on building the servants
 - Just because someone was established in another church or had a successful ministry, doesn't mean he doesn't need building up
 - All servants need to be built up
- Be open to new ideas

- It's good to have established systems and procedures, but there is a danger of missing out on good ideas and improvements (especially coming from an "outside eye" - someone who has experience in another program or system)
- We all have blind spots... there are always things we don't see or notice. Someone coming in from outside may see something glaring that all of those inside can't see

Types of Servants who may move into your Church

	Within the Diocese	Outside the Diocese
Experienced		
Fresh Servant (completed pre-servants)		
Enthusiastic about service, but needs training		
High Potential (may help fill a need, but hasn't expressed interest in service)		

Experienced Servant within the SUS Diocese

- Advantages
 - Familiar with SUS "school"
 - e.g. would not come and say "Let's take the kids swimming!"
 - Bringing new ideas from previous experience
 - Easier to get feedback from previous priest/learn about their background
 - This is beneficial for the service
 - This is beneficial for the servant (i.e. continuity of care)
- Be Aware
 - Might have expectations from previous experience
- Needs
 - Familiarization with the local church "culture"
 - Some things work in one place and not others
 - There are nuances
 - Build connections with other servants
 - They are not familiar with people's roles or personalities
 - They want to find a group of servants that they can be comfortable with
 - Need pastoral care
 - This is common to all people/congregants and especially those being transplanted, whether servant or not

Fresh Servant from within the SUS Diocese

- Advantages
 - Same as before
- Be Aware
 - Same as before

- Level of preparation varies across the diocese
- Needs
 - Same as before
 - Mentorship from senior servants (with any new servant)

Enthusiastic to Serve but Limited Preparation within the SUS Diocese

- Advantages
 - May be familiar with SUS "school" - but maybe not like the experienced servants
 - Enthusiasm to serve
 - This is needed in the service, but it is not sufficient on its own
 - Their motivations need to be correct
 - Someone may want to serve because it's good on his resume
 - Someone may want to serve in a specific class because his friend is in that class
 - They need to be receptive to learning
 - Fewer expectations from previous experience
 - Easier to get feedback from previous priest/learn about background
- Be Aware
 - Limited to no experience or training
- Needs
 - Same as before
 - Training/pre-servants preparation
 - Mentorship from senior servants

High Potential (no pre-servants) within SUS Diocese

- Advantages
 - Same as before
 - With correct motivation, could be ready to learn and serve
 - Brings something needed into the service
- Be Aware
 - Limited to no experience or training
 - May be unfamiliar with the demands of the service
 - It is not simply showing up and giving a lesson
 - There are certain sacrifices that you may have to make in your personal life
 - We have a service code of conduct (e.g. you won't be dancing in a wedding if you're a servant).
- Needs
 - Same as before
 - Motivation to join the service and support

Outside SUS Diocese

- Advantages
 - New ideas from previous experience
 - Could be well-trained depending where they are from
- Be Aware

- May have expectations from previous experience
- Not familiar with SUS "school"
- May be difficult to get feedback from previous priest/learn about background
 - May not be able to reach them
 - Fathers may not be familiar with SUS "school"
 - The person may point you to one father who will say all the nice things about him, without pointing you to the father that he had issues with e.g.
- Needs
 - Evaluate suitability for service
 - Familiarization within SUS "school" and local church "culture"
 - May need additional training (mentorship by established servant, pre-servants class...)
 - Build connections with other servants
 - Pastoral care