

# Franciscan Youth/Young Adults

**This is nothing new!**

“Go, rebuild my church.”  
(our Lord to Francis)

“(We) will accompany the youth in their journey...”  
(GC: Art. 97)

“(We) should adopt appropriate means for growth...”  
(RULE: Art. 24)

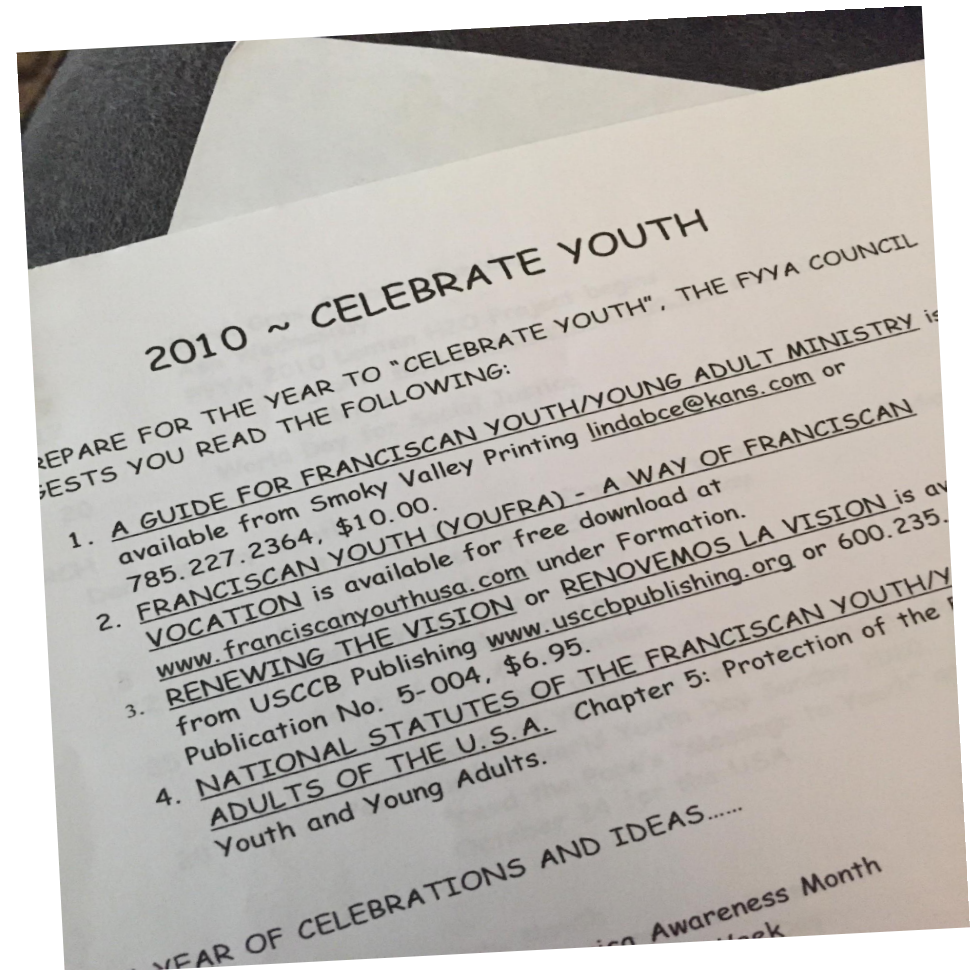
# What We Have Learned

## Annual Report 2016

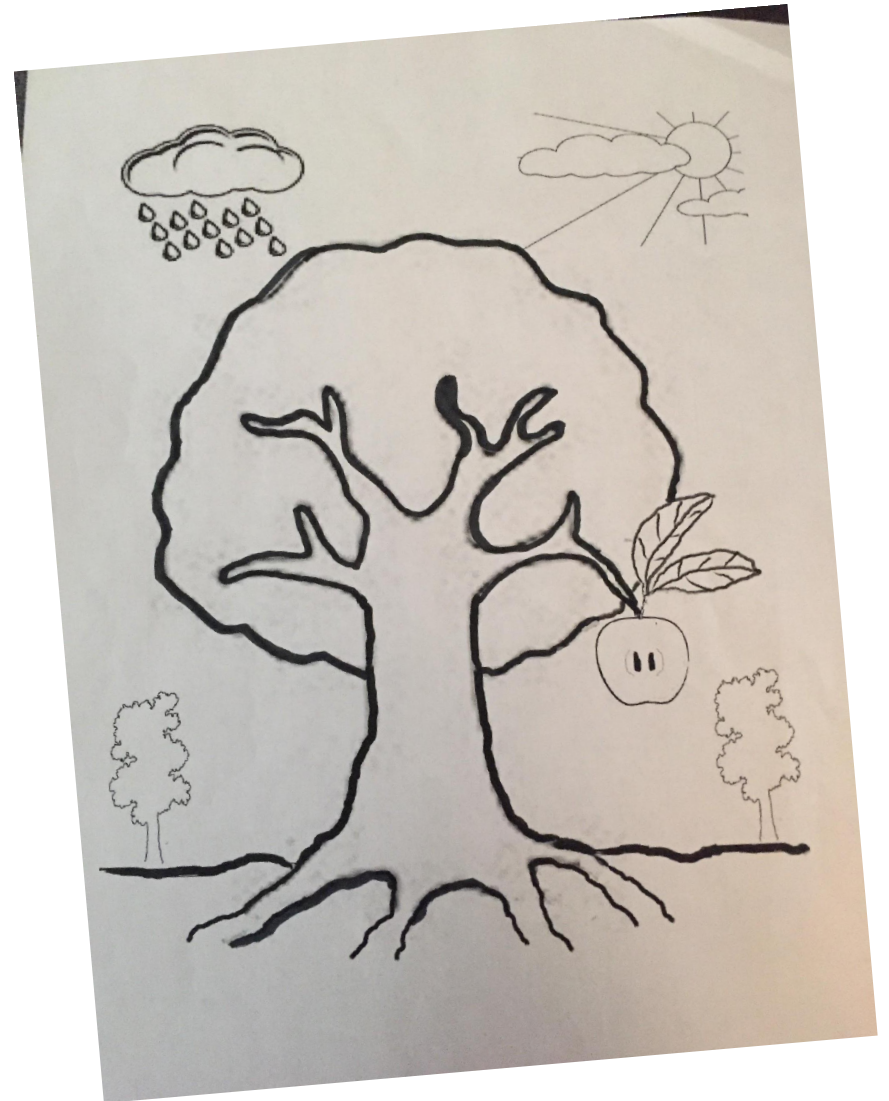
- 1) FYYA is carried out **locally**, with local fraternity support and association. Regions are asking for connections and support with each other and with National and International.
- 2) There is **no “one size fits all”** approach. Local fraternities and individuals are encouraged to move in a direction that is appropriate for their area.
- 3) Materials, information, ideas we've collected from past Commissions are still valid resources. **Don't sit around waiting for a new “program.”**
- 4) We can be **open to all ages**, using appropriate means according to the Statutes, and **abiding by Diocesan rules and regulations**, especially regarding protection and safety of children.

# Invaluable Work From Past Commissions

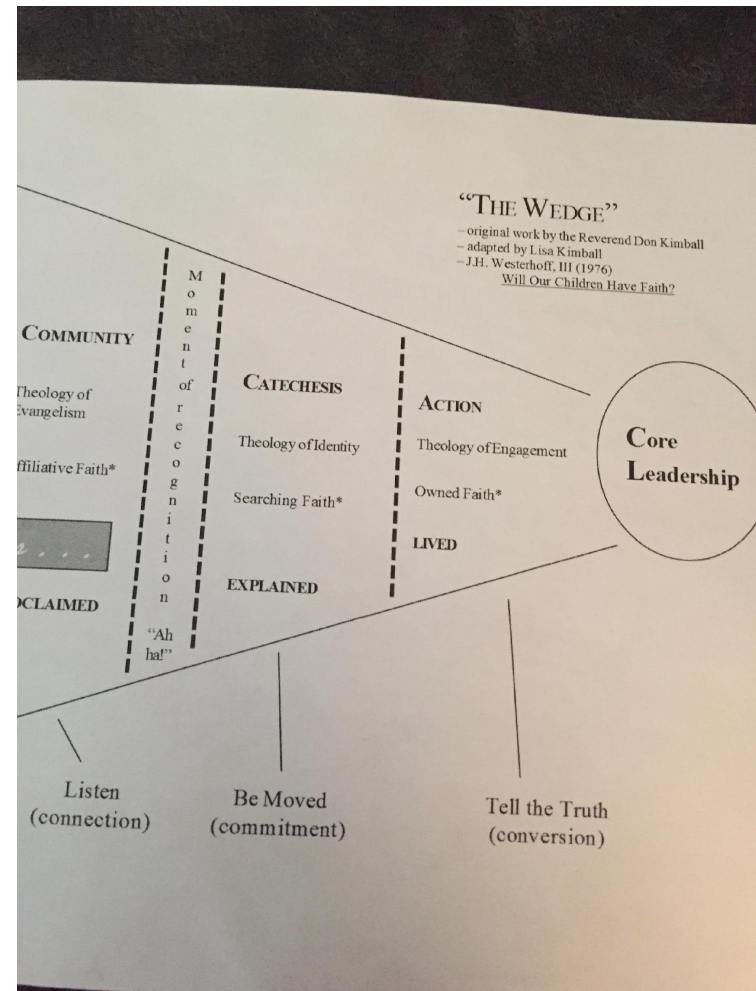
You may remember receiving updated materials to work with,



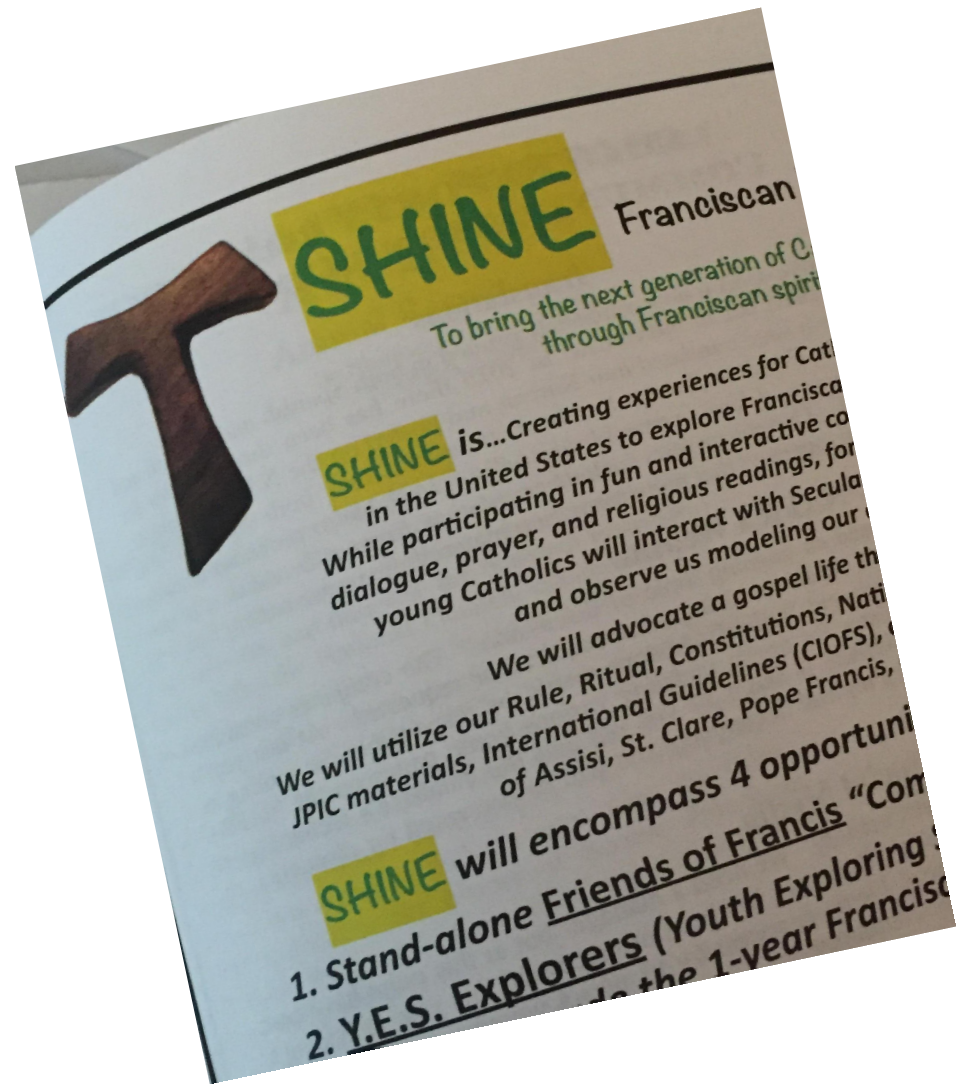
or the apple tree that helped us explain the importance of supporting the youth in our family.



The “Wedge,” helped us understand the process from catechesis to faith in action,



and many colorful materials were made available through the “Shine” creators.



Most recently, we were presented with the 2x2x2 challenge that encouraged getting involved with youth or young adults in little ways.

We've been supported all along.

**YYA (Youth & Young Adults)**  
**"2 By 2 Fraternal Challenge"**

The diagram consists of a central blue circle labeled "OFS Fraternity". It is surrounded by three other circles: a red circle at the top labeled "2 YYA Activities", a purple circle on the left labeled "With 2 or More Franciscan Adults (a)", and a green circle on the right labeled "For 2 or More Young Catholics (b)".

Activities...  
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b) Focus area w  
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**YYA (Youth & Young Adults) Activities!**

Catholics to collect Hoodies  
and distribute to local charity

s to the Children's Hospital  
ns and wear costumes to  
s (conducted by one fraternity  
eir most fun events!).

to help prepare the t...

A group photo of five people, including a man in a brown and gold vest, standing together.

We face many different obstacles ...



First, where are the youth and young adults?



They may not be in your pews,  
but they are out there somewhere!  
The answer will be different  
for each fraternity.



# There's great diversity of youth.

Singles

Married

With or without children

Students or Working

Cultural, economic, racial differences

Strong in their faith

Searching; Questioning their faith

“We need to reach down through the messiness of their lives to the core of who they are!” Sister

Mary Elena, OSF

We face lack of “know how” and experience.

Where do we go?

What do we say?

What do we do?



Distances from each other locally, regionally,  
within the country, and even globally,  
and lack of Spiritual Assistants and Animators,  
...adds to the difficulty.



To be perfectly honest...our age and energy level might inhibit us.



Don't get all weird about getting older!  
Our age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying us!!

# Fear and trepidation...

I'm just sayin'...

let's stop being afraid,  
get down off our  
horses, and find a  
way to “embrace” our  
younger Catholics.



# Summer Work

- Drafted an updated Vision
- Defined what we felt a **FY/YA group** would look like, how they would differ from **Y/YA groups**
- Early discussion of Mission/changes etc.
- Initial Tasks Prioritized
- Time-Line
- Brainstormed long range plans
- Clarified qualities necessary and tasks for Youth/Young Adult Commission Chair

# We Listened

Brother Richard Contino, OS

(Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn)

“The voice of Christ also calls out to us, 'rebuild my church.' We are compelled to go to the edges of our society, culture and Church, to build up a society and culture that is in disarray. We must be in a place of Holy Silence in order to make a Joyful Noise...and **we must invite our young to join us!**”



FYI--A global perspective, and connecting their faith to the world is important for our youth/young adults.

Gathering of Franciscan Youth and World Youth Day  
Jan. 2019, Panama

Theme: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)



Our desire for you is:

Enthusiasm

Motivation

Confidence and

Hope...

and to accept all that comes with

Perfect Joy