

Interviewing Students

Explanation: In 2002, Father Corel began interviewing the students at the Cathedral of St. Joseph while he was assigned as associate pastor. When he became pastor of Loose Creek and Bonnots Mill, he interviewed the students there. It is easy to walk into a classroom and begin talking about vocations to the priesthood. However, students may hear that topic and begin to tune out as if it is not for them, it is for others, or they have heard all this before. When they know they will be interviewed about it, then they have a vested interest in listening realizing this has to do with them. Regardless of their vocation, God wants them to be in relationship with him. This interview is designed to help the students stay open to God's plan of a relationship and helps the priest/principal/DRE Coordinator/Teacher know a little about the student's spiritual place and growth. A Catholic institution exists to help them discover this, so these questions are not intrusive.

Steps:

1. You can copy and distribute the forms in class and have the students write out the answers.
1. To interview individually: Delegate 2 people to do these interviews or make sure several people in the building know they are happening and make them happen in a very public place in the building.
2. Before I come to the school, the principal and priest knows that I will be interviewing (regardless if it is written survey or visiting one-on-one format) When I first began interviewing, I contacted the principal and teachers and got their permission. When I became pastor, I contacted the principal and teachers and sent my own letter to the parents of the students. If you choose to do this, I would make sure you write to the principal, DRE, Youth Minister, teachers, and parents yourself. Do not assume someone else will do this for you. Also, since this is on the website, you have to be a competent person (have a reason to be interviewing the students.)
3. Set up a schedule for interviews to take place. Note the place on the interview schedule.
4. Use one interview form per child.
5. Each interview (or written survey if they do it in class) is photocopied twice: once for the principal or DRE and once for the pastor. Before I left I made sure I saw the packet of copies go to the pastor's mailbox.
6. I take the original form and keep on file for follow-up. Follow up for what?
Companion weekends
Encounter Weekends
Youth Events I want to make sure these students know about
St. Andrew Dinners
7. I leave it up the pastor and principal/DRE to use however they see best.

Please take a few moments and fill out this survey. It is most helpful if you are completely honest and open with your answers. Thanks.

In this page, I will explain why I ask the questions.

NAME _____ GRADE _____ BIRTHDATE (month/date/year) _____

circle one: I am male I am female

I ask the same questions to youth grades 6-12. It is important to know their grade and age for follow up. sometimes with names, one cannot tell if the students is male or female.

Parents' names _____

if we do follow - up, all written material is sent to the parents in care of the child's name. ,

What are your hobbies? In other words, when you are not in school and not studying what do you like to do? _____

this is to help the child know he or she has interests. No interest would be left behind in the priesthood.

What talents has God given you? In other words, what are you good at?

This is to help the child realize that if they have interests, they have talents. These talents weren't just "there." God gave them the talents. Every talent is needed in the priesthood.

What is your favorite and least favorite subjects? Favorite _____ Least _____

It's to let them know that there will always be resurrection and crucifixion stories.

Where is God in your school day? _____

Where is God in your free time? _____

We don't graduate from "being with God" when we graduate school or PSR. He is always with us. So, if they only see God in religion class or mass, then we need to help bring them along.

When do you pray on your own (not with school, etc)? _____

Are they beginning to make this their own, or is this something they do because others are telling them to do it.

What prayers do you usually pray? _____

A mixture of both spontaneous and memorized prayers. More than just petitions? Any prayers of thanksgiving, sorrow, or praise?

When praying do you tell God what you are thankful for? YES ___ NO ___

Do you ask for anything in prayer? YES____ NO ____

These are to prompt them to remember to ask, be thankful and then verbally I remind them to tell God what they are sorry for.

What 3 - 5 words would you use to describe God _____

Is he the new Santa Claus? Is he the therapist? Do they understand He is beyond the student and bigger than the student?

How does God speak to you in your daily life? _____

If we are called to be in relationship with God, then God must be speaking to us; can the student figure out how God does this? I spend time giving them ways in which God does speak to us. Does the student understand well enough to apply to his/her own life?

On the weekends, do you get to mass every weekend ____ every other ____ Once a month____ Less than once a month _____?

it helps to know this for spiritual growth and to know the possibility of the whether the school or /PSR CCD class can aid in the spiritual growth.

Rank these in order of most important; one (1) most important, three (3) least important

____ Money ____ Helping People ____ Being happy in life

Priorities

Has anyone ever asked you to consider being a priest (boys) or religious sister (girls)?

__ YES __ NO

Have you ever wondered if God were calling you to be a priest (boys) sister (girls)?

____ YES ____ NO (turn sheet over and continue answering questions)

Two of the most common ways God calls people.

How would you feel if you found out God were preparing you to be a priest (boys) or sister(girls)? _____

Congruence/incongruence of what God wants of student and how open student is to following God.

What are some things that would be difficult about being a priest (boys) / religious sister (girls)?

What are some things that would be cool/neat/attractive about being a priest (boys) / religious sister (girls)?

maybe they never thought about it; here is there chance.

In each of the following statements, circle the answer that best describes you.

My Catholic faith is (not very 1 2 3 4 5 very) important to me.

I take time to pray (1 2 3 4 5 6 7) days a week.

My grade average is probably (A B C D F)

I tend to be (quiet 1 2 3 4 5 outgoing)

No matter what my vocation, my plan in life is (not likely likely very likely) to include God.

The idea of priesthood (boys) / religious life (girls) comes back (A) Never (B) sometimes (C) Often

I rank my interest in priesthood (boys) and religious life as (little 1 2 3 4 5 great)
This gives me a quick read of where they are.

With the rest of the paper, ask questions you would like to know about priesthood/ religious life Check out the website at www.discoverthepriesthood.com.

Without naming names or schools, I will take these questions and answer them on the webpage in the blog section. Below, you can see the form the student sees when I hand it out.

Please take a few moments and fill out this survey. It is most helpful if you are completely honest and open with your answers. Thanks.

NAME _____ GRADE _____ BIRTHDATE (month/date/year) _____

circle one: I am male I am female

Parents' names _____

What are your hobbies? In other words, when you are not in school and not studying what do you like to do? _____

What talents has God given you? In other words, what are you good at?

What is your favorite and least favorite subjects? Favorite _____ Least _____

Where is God in your school day? _____

Where is God in your free time? _____

When do you pray on your own (not with school, etc)? _____

What prayers do you usually pray? _____

When praying do you tell God what you are thankful for? YES ___ NO ___

Do you ask for anything in prayer? YES ___ NO ___

What 3 - 5 words would you use to describe God _____

How does God speak to you in your daily life? _____

On the weekends, do you get to mass every weekend ___ every other ___ Once a month ___ Less than once a month _____?

Rank these in order of most important; one (1) most important, three (3) least important
___ Money ___ Helping People ___ Being happy in life

Please turn the sheet over and continue answering the questions.

Has anyone ever asked you to consider being a priest (boys) or religious sister (girls)?
__ YES __ NO

Have you ever wondered if God were calling you to be a priest (boys) sister (girls)?
___ YES ___ NO (turn sheet over and continue answering questions)

How would you feel if you found out God were preparing you to be a priest (boys) or sister(girls)? _____

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In each of the following statements, circle the answer that best describes you.

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