

Catholic Identities: The Foundations of Formation Programs

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Introduction:

1. Multiply personal identities
2. Multiply Catholic identities

Explanation

1. Four pillars of Catholic identities (see Figure attached)
2. Scriptures:
 Jesus Christ is primary founder of Catholic Health and Aged Care Services
 Gives meaning to all other identities
 Hence: urgency to experience/know the compassionate Founder

Examples

Holistic healing: directed not just to physical healing, but to the cultural, economic, and social context.

1. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law (Mark 1: 30-31)
2. Healing of the man with a virulent skin disease (Mark 1: 40-45)
3. Healing of Bartimaeus (Mark 10: 46-52)

Healing Virtues

Compassion
 Holistic healing
 Humility: we are guests, not hosts, to people

Application to Catholic Health and Aged Care

- Lesson 1: Jesus Christ – Primary Founder: implications
- Lesson 2: Appropriate formation programs
- Lesson 3: Adult learning methods for all
- Lesson 4: Recruitment of staff
- Lesson 5: Mission to drive decisions
- Lesson 6: Be compassionate to one another
- Lesson 7: Window of five years – Why?
 - Second generation danger stage
 - Programs based on past needs, no longer adequate
 - Necessity for local **and national programs**

Conclusion

- Option 1: Nostalgic escapism
- Option 2: Do nothing
- Option 3: Ongoing refounding

The Church engaging with..... the business of the World

Life, death, resurrection of Christ as mediated through:

1. **Scripture**, e.g.:

Good Samaritan parable values:
 respect/compassion
 equity
 solidarity: option for poor
 community
 excellence

People's needs

Postmodern
 culture, e.g.:
 individualism,
 economic
 rationalism.

2. **Church magisterium/teachings/tradition:**

doctrines,
 ethical principles
 social teachings

Institutional
 culture(s), e.g.:
 employer/employee
 relations
 government policies

3. **Symbols/rituals**

behaviors
 liturgies/sacraments

4. **'Culture champions',**

e.g. institutional founders and
 refounders, values-committed persons

Figure 1: Catholic Identities

Extract from: Gerald A. Arbuckle, *Catholic Identity or Identities? Refounding Ministries in Chaotic Times* (Collegeville, MD: Liturgical Press, Publication date: November 2013)

Healing Examples:

1. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law

Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed and feverish, and at once they told Jesus about her. He went in to her, took her by the hand and helped her get up.

And the fever left her and she began to serve them. (Mark 1: 30-31)

2. Healing of Man with Skin Disease

A man suffering from a virulent skin disease came to him and pleaded on his knees saying, 'If you are willing, you can cleanse me.'

Feeling compassion for him, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, 'I am willing. Be cleansed.' And at once the skin disease left him and he was cleansed. And at once Jesus sternly sent him away and said to him, 'Mind you tell no one anything.' (Mark 1: 40-44)

3. Bartimaeus Healing Incident

They reached Jericho; and as Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus – that is, the son of Timaeus – a blind beggar was sitting at the side of the road.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and cry out, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.'

So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to see Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, "Rabbuni, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go, your faith has saved you.' At once his sight returned and he followed him along the road. (Mark 10:46-52)