

Module 4: The Life of the Church - Sacramental Life - New Understandings

Work With It Challenge

Consider the ways that teachers help their students see the relevance of Mass in their daily lives. Making this connection can be challenging due to the fact that many students in Catholic Schools do not attend church regularly.

Drawing on your recent readings and your experience as a Catholic teacher, make a list of some of the challenges you may encounter when taking students to a monthly Mass.

In Richstatter "A Walk Through The Mass" the Liturgy of the Word is talked about as when we come together at a family member or friend's home for a meal, involving conversation and telling our stories; while at Mass we sit down and listen as readings from the Word of God. The challenge this poses today is that the message "Word of God" which is being proclaimed during the Mass is not being fully received and interrupted by the intended audience. Over the past few weeks I have made conscious efforts to observe all members of the congregation at various Mass celebrations. It is evident to my eyes that there is a large disconnect between the Priest and the congregation, especially the students. Analogous to a classroom teacher which does not differentiate instruction to increase student engagement, our Priests recite the "Word of God" to a passive audience held in captivity. We live in a time where students require increased stimuli in order to sustain attention. And the stimuli must be varied or else sustenance decreases. Just as it is the responsibility of the school's principal to nurture the development of the instructional programs to serve it's teachers and students. I feel a challenge of the Church to develop differentiation of communication of at least the Liturgy to achieve some student engagement. How would our classroom's look like today if we teach like how Priests Preach? (I hope this does not to sound anti-Priest).

Richstatter, T. (n. d.). A Walk Through Mass. Catholic Update. Retrieved from <http://web.archive.org/web/20130919000446/http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/preview.aspx?id=254> 23 February 2016.