

Notes from the Spiritual Maturity for your Parish webinar with Juliann Stanz

Spiritual Maturity is not about involving more people.

As with fruit, not every parishioner is at the same stage of becoming “ripe”.

Look for signs of spiritual curiosity, be attuned to where folks are at.

Avoid “spiritual arrested development” among “good” Catholics. Safe, easy programming can lead to complacency.

Move to a more nuanced, individual approach with programming, focusing on faith development; forming disciples that make disciples.

Those who are hungry for God, aren't the folks we hear from. When their need is not met, they look elsewhere.

With programming:

- Discern what people need

- Purify- what isn't bearing fruit?

- Programs- Align with discipleship making, do everything thru the lens of discipleship (example- instead of just planning fish fries do it focusing on discipleship- have a prayer printed on the placemat and walk among the empty chairs before it begins, praying for those who will attend)

There is a big difference between welcoming and belonging (you are missed, remember birthdays, show up when sick- Like Mary noticed the wine was running out)

We need to help folks feel they belong, help them in their interior life and in their sacramental life.

Create the culture we want!