

Dare to Believe Toolkit

Thumbnail Sketches of Dare to Believe Components

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These thumbnail sketches give you the scope and power of the Dare to Believe process for meaningful lay engagement in being the public face of Christ in the world they touch.

What's included in the Dare to Believe process

Two foundational components

- Sketch 1: Two-day Pastoral Inservice (p. 2)
- Sketch 2: Weekend Laity Immersion (p. 3)

Additional components

- Sketch 3: Accountability Circles (p. 4)
- Sketch 4: Weekend Family Camp (p. 5)
- Sketch 5: Senior Youth Challenge (p. 6)
- Sketch 6: Junior Youth Challenge (p. 7)
- Sketch 7: Pentecost Visioning Day (p. 8)
- Sketch 8: Rapid Response Networks (p. 9)

The whole process begins with the Parish Assessment Tool for a thorough measure of the Sacramental, Intellectual, and Experiential engagement and growth of laity.

Thumbnail sketches begin on the next page.

1. DARE TO BELIEVE: SACRAMENTAL ENGAGEMENT			
1-1. Am I— <i>are we as pastoral leaders—</i> aware of the rhythms of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of <i>our</i> lives?	Yes	Sort of	No
	Unsure		
How so? Or why not? What are the stories?			
1-1a. Are our families and adults aware of the rhythms of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of their lives?	Yes	Sort of	No
	Unsure		
How so? What are some stories?			
1-1b. Are our youth aware of the rhythms of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of their lives?	Yes	Sort of	No
	Unsure		
How so? What are some stories?			

Sketch 1

Two-day Pastoral Inservice

Purpose

To introduce diocesan or deanery/vicariate pastoral and all-ages catechetical leaders to the Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act process for regional lay apprenticeship into their role as “the public face of Christ”

Time frame

Two consecutive weekdays, or a weekend team immersion

Event goals

1. **To provide a sacramental-theological foundation** for regional lay development as the public face of Christ
2. **To identify assumptions and questions** about lay formation for the laity’s active and confident engagement in society
3. **To customize a comprehensive multistep process** of lay formation for the laity’s meaningful and effective role in society

Inservice topics

1. Focus on the mission
2. Focus on the laity
3. Naming the issues
4. Empowered to act in urgent times

Mix of activities

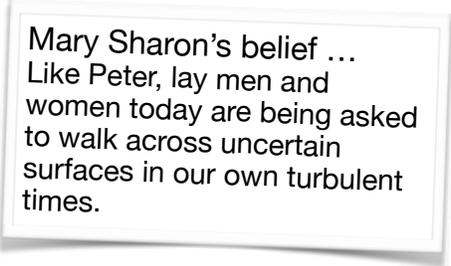
- Table sharing to warm up the environment
- Four talks over two days
- Breakout sessions
- Reports back to the whole group
- Whole-group conversation
- Regional relationship building among participants

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Event coordinator for:

- Diocesan or deanery/vicariate promotion
- Registrations
- Zero-waste hospitality, meals, and environment
- Onsite technology



Mary Sharon’s belief ...
Like Peter, lay men and women today are being asked to walk across uncertain surfaces in our own turbulent times.

Sketch 2

Weekend Parish Immersion

Purpose

To equip regional laity to be the public face of Christ in their world

Time frame

- Saturday morning
- Saturday afternoon
- Weekend Masses with blessing and commissioning

Event goals

1. **To provide a sacramental-theological foundation** for meaningful and effective lay engagement in society and the local community
2. **To communicate lay engagement** through Scripture, teaching, and stories of life experience
3. **To introduce a culture of accountability** for the laity's faith-filled engagement in the world

Immersion topics

1. Dare to believe
2. Rise up to act

Mix of activities

- Opening music for all three segments
- Table sharing to warm up the group
- Two talks over one day
- Breakout sessions
- Reports back to the whole group
- Whole-group conversation
- Community building among participants

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Event coordinator for:

- Diocese or deanery/vicariate and parishwide promotion
- Registrations and database development
- Zero-waste hospitality, meals, and environment
- Onsite technology
- Materials, packets, and nametag prep
- Room setup
- Cleanup
- Childcare
- Music

Mary Sharon's hunch ...
Many people in the pews have slipped from being "laity" back to being "parishioners."

Mary Sharon's observation ...
The world doesn't need more "parishioners." But the world does need—whether it knows it or not—lay men and women who live the power of their anointing.

Sketch 3

Accountability Circles

Purpose

To instill a culture of small-group lay accountability for keeping faith with the Gospel by daring to believe Jesus and rising up to act

Time frame

- Two gatherings per month (suggested), preferably in homes rather than on the parish campus
- Spanning a year, or ongoing

Event goals

1. **To create a safe and welcoming environment** to share experiences of apprenticeship and assignments as the public face of Christ in service to the world they touch
2. **To foster a culture of accountability** for active participation in church and society
3. **To call forth and strengthen** the laity of the regional church

Circle topics

Topics vary per session, per group-selected essays in *Conformed to Christ* (Mary Sharon Moore, 2016), within the text's five categories:

1. Invitations
2. Vocation as mission
3. Your apprenticeship begins
4. Being sent
5. Indwelling, freedom, vocational joy

Mix of activities

- Opening Scripture plus reflection
- Accountability reports
- Exploring the session's essay
- Discerning each participant's next accountability assignment
- Closing hope and blessing

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

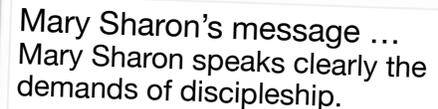
Event coordinator at diocese or deanery/vicariate level

Event coordinator at parish level

Copies of *Conformed to Christ* (available at bulk discount from the author)

Accountability Circle teams:

- Small-group spiritual leader
- Small group accountability leader
- Small group conversation leader
- Scribe



Mary Sharon's message ...
Mary Sharon speaks clearly the
demands of discipleship.

And her stories reveal her own
formation in the work of
following Jesus.

Sketch 4

Weekend Family Camp

Purpose

To bring Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act to family life, and to develop home church

Time frame

- Saturday morning and afternoon
- Weekend Masses with blessing and commissioning

Event goals

1. **To give families, households, and extended family networks** a sacramental-theological foundation for home church, through the lens of the church's social vision
2. **To introduce a process** for Gospel simplicity, participation, and accountability at home and in extended family networks
3. **To create a culture and statement of commitment** through writing a Family Covenant

Session topics

1. Spirituality of home church
2. Living in God's economy
3. Writing the Family Covenant

Mix of activities

- Opening music for all three segments
- Table sharing to warm up the group
- Three talks
- Breakout sessions
- Reports back to the whole group
- Whole-group conversation
- Community building among participating households

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Event coordinator

Event teams

- Deanery/vicariate and parishwide promotion
- Registrations and database management
- Zero-waste hospitality, meals, and environment
- Onsite technology
- Materials, packets, and nametag prep
- Room setup
- Cleanup
- Childcare
- Music

Mary Sharon's commitment ...
To engage and accompany pastoral
leaders and laity as they dare to
believe Jesus, and rise up to act.

Sketch 5

Senior Youth Challenge

Purpose

To introduce Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act to diocesan or deanery/vicariate senior youth, especially in the context of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and becoming the public face of Christ

Time frame

Diocesan Youth Conference program or weekend off-campus experience

Event goals

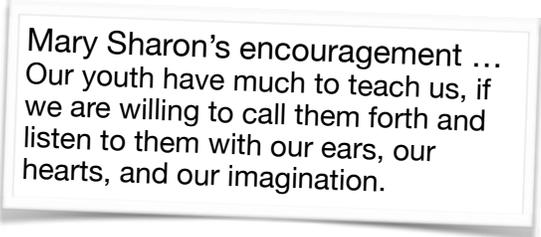
1. **To provide a sacramental-theological foundation** for older youth engagement in the world
2. **To share stories of older youth** connecting a living faith with active participation in society
3. **To introduce a culture of peer accountability** for responsible, faith-filled civic and social engagement in the world they touch

Session topics

1. Dare to believe
2. Rise up to act
3. Become your self-in-God

Mix of activities

- Opening music for all segments
- Opening social warm-up
- Three talks
- Breakout sessions
- Reports back to the whole group
- Whole-group conversation
- Community building among participants



Mary Sharon's encouragement ...
Our youth have much to teach us, if we are willing to call them forth and listen to them with our ears, our hearts, and our imagination.

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Event coordinator

Event teams

- Diocese plus deanery/vicariate and parishwide promotion
- Registrations and database management
- Zero-waste hospitality, meals, and environment
- Onsite technology
- Materials and nametag prep
- Room setup
- Cleanup
- Music

Sketch 6

Junior Youth Challenge

Purpose

To introduce Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act to diocesan or deanery/vicariate junior youth, especially in the context of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and living in the power of their anointing

Time frame

Diocesan Youth Conference program or weekend off-campus experience

Event goals

1. **To provide a sacramental-theological foundation** for younger youth engagement in the world
2. **To share stories of youth** connecting a living faith with active participation in society
3. **To introduce a culture of peer accountability** for responsible, faith-filled engagement in their world

Session topics

1. Dare to believe
2. Rise up to act
3. Become your self-in-God

Mix of activities

- Opening music for all segments
- Opening social warm-up
- Two talks
- Breakout sessions
- Reports back to the whole group
- Guided conversation
- Community building among participants

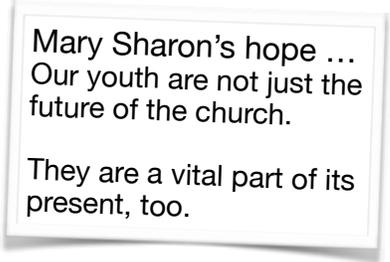
Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Event coordinator

Event teams

- Diocese plus deanery/vicariate and parishwide promotion
- Registrations and database management
- Zero-waste hospitality, meals, and environment
- Onsite technology
- Materials and nametag prep
- Room setup
- Cleanup
- Music



Mary Sharon's hope ...
Our youth are not just the
future of the church.

They are a vital part of its
present, too.

Sketch 7

Pentecost Visioning Day

Purpose

To gather laity and pastoral leadership of the region's parishes to pray, read Scriptures, and discern the Spirit's movement for church to proactively be the public face of Christ in this place and time

Time frame

A Sunday afternoon (preferably Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, or Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, or other feast of the Lord)

Event goals

1. **To gather** regional church for a sense of magnitude, gifts, and mission
2. **To instill** a sense of anointing and urgency of mission within the larger community or region
3. **To introduce** a framework for area churches' Rapid Response Network

Event structure

1. **Hour 1:** Prayer (Taize-style, alternating Scripture, spoken prayer, instrumental music, simple chant, and silence to invoke the Holy Spirit; or similar meditative or reflective style)
2. **Hour 2:** Scripture readings (lectio-style for deep listening, followed by small-group sharing, and reports back to the whole group)
3. **Hour 3:** Whole-group facilitated conversation on the region's needs and ways laity are already engaged in community outreach or civic or social action

Event needs

- Interparish Intercessor team
- Interparish Prayer, Scripture, and Music teams
- Interparish Conversation Facilitator team, including Scribes for follow-up reporting
- Interparish Event Promotion team
- Event coordinator (space, environment, hospitality, audiovisual equipment, event materials)

Sketch 8

Rapid Response Networks

Purpose

To create infrastructure across regional parishes to mobilize rapid response to human, natural, or severe weather tragedies or urgent humanitarian needs, and to coordinate mobilization with other area emergency response teams and agencies

Time frame

Initial coordination and network setup, plus ongoing

Event goals

1. **To secure** training in emergency response from area agencies (e.g., fire, emergency medical, police, Red Cross)
2. **To identify** parishwide and interparish strengths, competencies, resources, and expertise
3. **To create** a Web-based interparish rapid response communications and mobilization network

Event needs

Interparish Intercessor team

Individuals with skills in:

- technology and database management
- systems design
- administration
- communication technologies and message communication
- situation analysis and problem solving
- situational leadership and crisis management
- developing community, government, and agency partnerships

DARE TO BELIEVE Rapid Response Network Grid for emergency mobilization in individual, neighborhood, communitywide, or regional crises	
Category 1 Things I Can Do	Name/Email/ Textable Phone Number
Intercessor	
On-site Prayer Team member	
Database management	
Internal/group communications	
Police/Emergency/Fire/Hospitals liaison	
Community resources liaison	
Administrative skills	

Category 2 Things I Have	Name/Email/ Textable Phone Number
Pick-up truck	
Heavy equipment	
Van	
Chain saw	
Power tools	
Yard tools	
Solar-powered generator	
Strong teenagers	
Medical supplies	
Emergency water and food supplies	