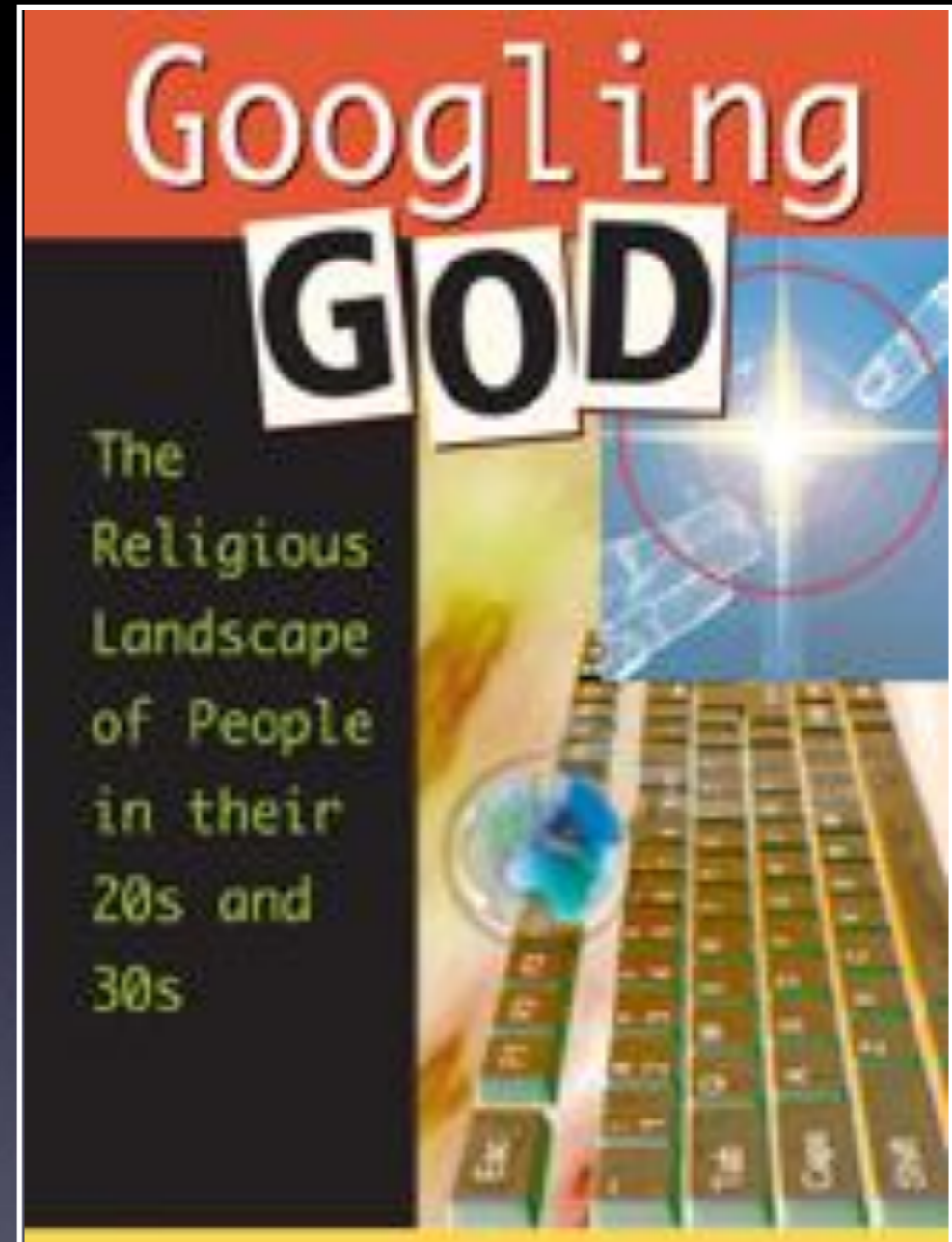


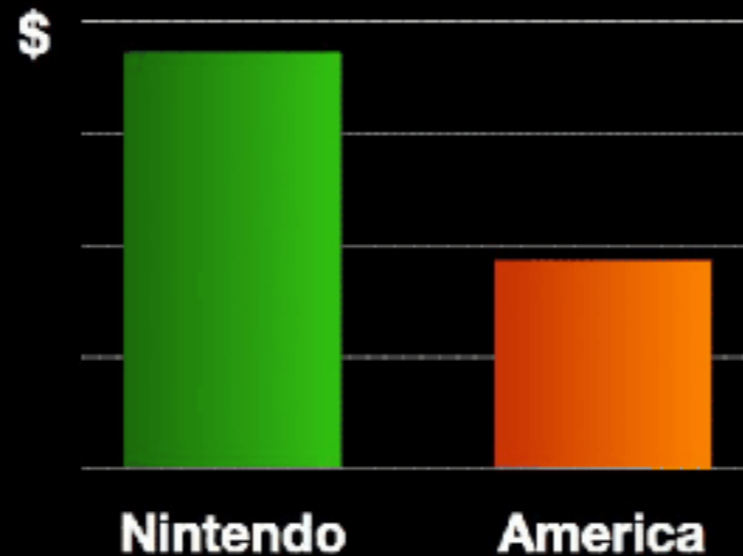
Googling God: Reaching Catholic Young Adults in a Technological World

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Shift Happens

The U.S. Federal Government spent **less than half as much** on Research and Innovation in Education.



We need to be here!

The Spiritual Search

- Young people are searching for something to believe in. (religion or ideology)
- World and personal events are responsible for driving them into this place of searching.
- Generation X b. 1964-1979 and the Millennial Generation b. post 1980 have been driven by different events.
- Tech World has unlimited choices - but people use technology to find “specifics.”
- The question for you to answer is: “How can Catholicism ‘be found’?”

Searching for Belief (inspiration)

- Religion (meaning) - Moral therapeutic deism (Soul Searching, Smith) -belief in a God who makes me “feel good”
- An Ideology (political, philosophical, justice)
- Something else (sports, music, pop culutre)



World and Personal Events

- Exercise: 15 minutes.
- Name at least 1 world event that may have shifted or challenged your religious beliefs during the ages of 16-25
- Name one personal event



Personal Events

- Most watched over Gen.
- Acceptance of institutional life (truth, answers)
- Hi technology is assumed, not cool (Googling God)
- Information overload
- Tendency towards extremes
- Diversity is assumed
- Good team players but vis a vis individualism

Gen X

- Almost no world events
- Personal:
- Latchkey kids, divorce - Suspicion of institutions
- Community is central longing
- Spiritual but not religious - even religious

Eclipsed Catholics

Theory: I want to be connected with God but I just don't have the time for religion.

- Information Overload - provide good info.
- Work and family demands
- Church is a commodity that I want on my terms
- high mobility - "always on the go"
- No grudges with the church; just not "a priority"
- Ideas: Technology filters our message to them in already pre-existing "delivery systems" (you tube vs my catholic voice)

4 delivery systems

- Existing: parish website: “the basics”
- Creating Our Message:
Blogging/Podcasting/Video
- Reaching the Lost: Social Networks:
FaceBook; Twitter
- Building Intimacy: Becoming a trusted
source
- Forging Community: Virtually and in
reality

Non-Technology

- Moments of return - weddings, baptism, death, change in life, questions of meaning.
- Divorce/annulment
- Catholic Schools
- Neighborhood events
- Being a voice for justice - be prophetic (Nicaragua story)

Private Catholics

Theory: I want to connect to God in a personal way by myself.
(individualism)

- Contemplation
- Liturgy: How is this time unlike any other?
- Retreats: Create liminal space
- Tradition: Adoration, rosary, lectio divina, centering prayer, spiritual direction
- Create liminal space online: Sacredspace.ie, pray-as-you-go.org



Ecumenical Catholics

Theory: How are we different from other faiths?

How can we work together in a diverse world?

Isn't one religion as good as another?

- Marriage and marriage prep
- Ecumenical/Interfaith Alliances - for service and justice
- Speaking about what makes us unique and different and doing that publicly.



Evangelical/Prophetic

- **Theory: I want to feel fully alive and engaged with a faith tradition.**
- use of many senses in prayer
- vibrant spirit
- challenging nature of being called into love
- sense of mission and conversion (Service-based - seeing God in “the other”)
- The BustedHalo® Question Box
- Googling God section - Catechesis
- Challenges: Alienating to seekers/ Panacea: Teaching discernment
- You tube - Cardinal Rigali



Sacramental Catholics

I want to meet God in a tangible way.

- Adoration & the Eucharist (and knowing the difference)
- Nature engagement
- Confession
- Sunday Mass
- Catholic Holidays - very important in terms of visibility
- Highlighting this on the web is important; what is important to our tradition.



Communal Catholics

Theory: I want to meet people who share my values and my faith



- Dating “opportunities” - not explicit dating groups but activities for people to meet and socialize.
- Use “captive audiences” - go deeper
- Social Networking keeps you in connection (Facebook groups, etc.)
- Be “fun” not “social misfits.”

Flory/Miller - Finding Faith

- Innovators - highly experiential. They take the church to the community--create small communities. (community)
- Appropriators- create large communities mixing modern culture with ministry styles. Christian motocross (community)
- Resisters - Modern culture sucks. Resist the world at all costs and adhere to tradition and logic. (security)
- Reclaimers - embodied religious tradition within postmodern culture. (security + community = very cool)

Wuthnow - After the Baby Boomers

- Most people are “spiritual tinkersers”
- A little bit of everything we’ve spoken about.
- And a little bit of every tradition we know.

This afternoon = Now What?

- In my parish, diocese, etc...
- How can I better...
- Use technology FOR ministry
- Provide Outreach in a New Way
- Be more identifiably Catholic online and off