



Catholic Leadership
INSTITUTE

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PRESS RELEASE

Catholic Leadership Institute Publishes Whitepaper on Reaching, Engaging, and Inspiring the Next Generation of Catholics

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Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) has published a whitepaper on *Reaching, Engaging, and Inspiring the Next Generation* to address the urgent need to foster deeper connections with Millennials and Generation Z within the Catholic Church and to provide actionable strategies for parish leaders to adopt in a post-Christian era.

Informed by an 18-month study that included a three-part symposium series and *Next Generation Conversation* events, the whitepaper provides a roadmap for strengthening the Church's mission to serve future generations. During the study, over 340 leaders and young Catholics identified key themes that shape young people's faith experiences.

“Pope Francis has repeatedly emphasized that young people are not only the Church's future — they are its present. Yet, according to our Disciple Maker Index survey data since 2020, only 47% of participants aged 18-35 strongly agree that their parish makes them feel welcomed and accepted,” said Dan Cellucci, Catholic Leadership Institute's CEO. “This whitepaper is a call to action, offering innovative approaches to making faith communities a place of belonging to younger generations and challenging the current norms of engaging young Catholics in the life and mission of the Church.”

The whitepaper proposes key learnings and recommendations, as well as an assessment with actionable items for diocesan and parish leaders to apply within their own communities. One anticipated outcome of the whitepaper is that Catholic leaders can create more vibrant and mission-driven communities that resonate with younger generations. The full whitepaper is available for free download by scanning the QR code or visiting catholicleaders.org/next-generation-interest.



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Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) bishops, priests, religious, deacons, and lay persons in the Roman Catholic Church with world-class, pastoral leadership formation and consulting services that strengthen their confidence and competence in ministry, enabling them to articulate a vision for their local church, to call forth the gifts of those they lead, and to create more vibrant faith communities rooted in Jesus Christ. CLI was established in 1991 and is an apostolate of the Catholic Church governed by a Board of Directors and Episcopal Board of Directors. Learn more about Catholic Leadership Institute at catholicleaders.org or on Facebook, Vimeo, and LinkedIn.