

YOUNG MEN'S SPIRITUALITY:

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“Great Diversity, Many Voices, Common Cries”

During 2003, interviews with young men from differing life and faith experiences, four ethnic backgrounds and six regions of the United States revealed high levels of spiritual interest focused around eleven themes or cries.

- ***RELATIONSHIPS:** Young men's spirituality is affected by the character, power, and shape of a wide variety of relationships.
- ***MALE MENTORS:** Young men's relationships with their fathers and other older male figures are most significant in shaping their adult spiritual identity.
- ***CRISIS:** A crisis has often been the occasion for spiritual growth and religious formation.
- ***TIME MANAGEMENT:** Young men struggle with juggling their time among job, school, friends, significant relationships and sleep.
- ***WORK:** Young men wrestle with finding meaning and purpose in what they do to earn a living. Finding meaningful work or a career about which they are passionate is a large part of discovering their “place” in the world.
- ***NODAL EXPERIENCES:** Young men's spirituality is often enhanced by significant events and experiences that reframe their relationships with God and their worlds.
- ***NATURE:** The spiritual vitality of young men is strongly enhanced by experiences in nature.
- ***SPORTS:** Young men are enormously kinesthetic. Their spirituality is experienced and expressed through their bodies.
- ***SPIRITUAL HUNGER:** Most young men experience spiritual hunger which they articulate in non-religious language.
- ***SERVICE:** Young men are eager to serve and report a sense of great satisfaction when they do something for others.
- ***AVOCATION:** To understand the spiritual nature of young men is to hear their passions which are often expressed through their avocations such as sports, art, music or some other “hobby.”