

TELOS PROJECT CROSSROAD INSTITUTE

A "BALCONY VIEW" OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

This exercise is designed to give your parish a visual picture of how young adults interact with your worship space, the liturgy, and the rest of your congregation on a Sunday morning. It may feel strange or disrespectful to do this sort of activity in the context of worship; we encourage you to be discrete and prayerful as you go about it, but also to welcome it as a kind of spiritual discipline—that of truly seeing and paying attention to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

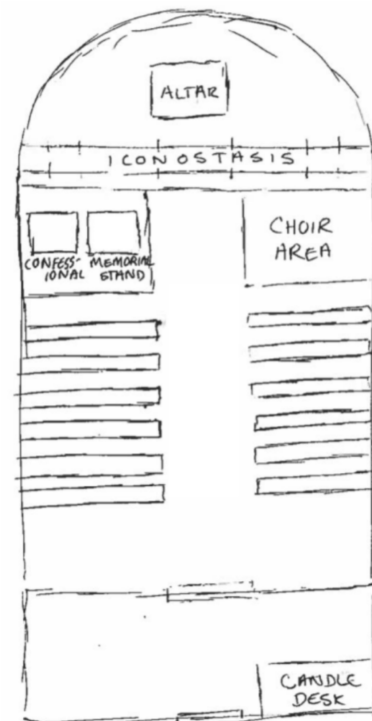
Feel free to tailor this to fit your circumstances—and let us know what you do! We are constantly tweaking our materials in order to make them as useful as possible.

Example:



Sketch your nave and narthex as if from above.

No need for perfection, but include all the areas in use during services.



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Arrive at church before the beginning of your first Sunday morning service. Position yourself where you can easily see the entire church (if you have a balcony, use it!)

Mark on your map the locations of young adults and make note of...

- when young adults arrive & when they leave
- what they do as they come in
- whom they greet
- where they stand during the service
- if they play a particular role in the services



Repeat this exercise for all your weekly services, **over two weeks**. Have different, designated parishioners take turns doing this, so you capture a variety of perspectives. If you have other weekly services, consult with the priest about the best days on which to observe.

At a follow-up meeting, review your map & notes

1. What patterns do you see?
2. Do these patterns make sense to you? Is there anything surprising about them?
3. What challenges do you see?
4. What possibilities do you see?

Share your observations with your parish priest and other parish leadership; continue the conversation of how to better integrate young adults into your community!

If your use of this exercise provokes particularly interesting or challenging conversation in your community, we'd love to hear about it. Likewise, we are eager for any feedback on how this exercise might be improved. Please send any feedback or suggestions to your Telos Coach.

Work Page

Parish Name: _____

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