

Tâm Lý và Giáo Dục Ngành Hiệp

Knights of Eucharist: 16-17 Years Old

The age of Hiệp Sĩ is a time of intense emotions and intense relationship with peers and family. The following short essay outlines essential psychological developments common to the Hiệp Sĩ's age group and offers effective approaches to working with them within the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Society.

More specifically, the essay will address the cause and reaction to Hiệp Sĩ's sense of independence, individual identity, and social fit.

Independence:

As the rate of Vietnamese resettlement to the U.S. declines overtime, most Hiệp Sĩ are either second generation Vietnamese Americans or are highly acculturated youths. As such, they are heavily influenced by the media and western societal norm (e.g., individualism) to seek independency. Further, Hiệp Sĩ at this age are physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and cognitively able to navigate independently through basic everyday activities. Additionally, when Hiệp Sĩ are on the verge of 16/17 and are able to see the world of 18+ within reach, they will strive to achieve qualities and traits of that next stage, the stage of adulthood. Consequently, the desire to be autonomous is greatest during the ages of 16-17.

One of the ways in which Hiệp Sĩ attempt to seek independency is to break away from parents or people of authority because ties with caregivers/authority (e.g., teachers, Huynh Trường) equate to dependency. To break away, Hiệp Sĩ at this point will unconsciously quarrel with parental figures more than any other stages or will challenge the power of people in charge.

Implication for Hiệp Sĩ -TNNT:

- Allow perceived freedom (the individual perspective on the amount of choice one has in participating in an activity) for Hiệp Sĩ in selecting activities. For example, Huynh Trường can pick several topics or activities to teach or sinh hoạt with Hiệp Sĩ and then present those to them so they can choose one to work on. This way, Huynh Trường can ensure that learning is in a controlled environment and the topics/activities do not go against the teachings of the church while at the same time meeting the need for freedom among Hiệp Sĩ.
- Provide opportunity for leadership and independence. For example, Hiệp Sĩ có thể đến với 3 ngành và làm vai trò Đội Trưởng trong những sinh hoạt Phương Pháp Hàng Đội hoặc vai trò Phụ Tá cho Huynh Trường.
- Teach Hiệp Sĩ on different aspects of leadership, team work, self discipline, and self-control.

Individual identity:

One of the requisites to independence is individual identity. As Hiệp Sĩ are branching away to seek independence, they also attempt to form their own personal identity and meaning which often can be difficult, especially for people of diverse ethnic background living within conflicting cultures. In addition, at this point of their development, they are capable of complex thoughts processes and are able to identify and internalize societal values.

To make meaning of their identity in this world, struggling Hiệp Sĩ often challenge and raise the question of "Who am I?" and "Why?" For example:

I look Vietnamese, but why do I feel like I am an American? Who am I?

I look like my parents, but I am nothing like them? Who am I?

Why does my family expect me to be a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, or a pharmacist?

Why is the teaching of my religion at home and church go in one direction and the teaching of science in school in another direction on the same topic?

***Note, teenage suicide is statistically high for Asian Americans within this age group.

Implication for Hiệp Sĩ-TNTT:

- Huynh Trường need to have a solid foundation and a firm stand on their faith and the Catholic religion.
- Allow interactive and analytical discussion activities where Hiệp Sĩ can exchange and debate about societal issues (vấn nạn xã hội, khó nghèo, etc...).
- Assist Hiệp Sĩ in learning and accustoming to the Vietnamese culture.
- Assist Hiệp Sĩ in understanding about their calling to be a Hiệp Sĩ (ơn gọi) and the life of Hiệp Sĩ.
- Teach Thánh Kinh và áp dụng vào đời.
- Assist Hiệp Sĩ to explore their role with God, within society, and within their đoàn.

Social fit:

Often when Hiệp Sĩ cannot discover or come to term with their own individual identity, they tend to be lost (unsafe) and will rely on peers for social norm (peer pressure) and acceptance. Hiệp Sĩ will try to fit in with chosen peer group or cliques (safety), including those that share similar interest in clothing, values, music, and etc... Many will follow trends or take on membership of groups just so they can establish an identity or gain popularity.

***Note, statistically, gang involvement at this age is extremely high.

Implication for Hiệp Sĩ-TNTT:

- Monitor different cliques within Hiệp Sĩ and employ integrative activities where teamwork is of importance.
- Promote, accept, and celebrate the diversity of all people (all God's creation).
- Build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-concept.
- Start a trend that they can buy in. For example, a Bible gang, sign-of-the-cross group, a praying team, going to church every day crew, and etc...
- Glamorize and popularize faith-based activities. If Hiệp Sĩ look up to you and they admire you, they will also admire what you do. So you being popular with các em Hiệp Sĩ can influence them to follow your ways or get other popular Hiệp Sĩ to buy in your activities, the rest will follow.

Present Jesus to the Knights of Eucharist as the **One proclaiming the Good News with a focus on the 8 Beatitudes.**

Teaching method: Teachers holds little authority (student-centered) in the control of the flow of content. Group discussion, group assignments, community projects, and etc...

Work Cited:

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