

Reverse Mentoring **Dr. Earl Creps**

Reverse Mentoring gets right to the heart of our hope for young adult ministry: relationships. Creps' underscores transformative, authentic intergenerational relationships - or mentoring - as one of the most crucial, yet overlooked elements of our ministerial callings. He offers a new model of young adult mentoring. Rather than our typical "top down" understanding of older priesthood formally training young people to take up church leadership responsibilities, he flips the roles. "Reverse mentoring" reveals that older generations have much to learn from younger generations. If we humbly approach young people from the position of interested, non-judgmental learners both young and old will be blessed. Releasing the assumed "power and control" that comes with our long-time leadership and accumulated knowledge to approach young adults as equal peers can be uncomfortable, but transformative. Creps overviews generational characteristics that make this approach relevant for today's young adults. Our fears and discomfort with intergenerational interaction are plainly addressed and solutions are offered. And Creps presents practical suggestions that map out how to approach intergenerational friendship and what to expect as we forge down the various trails of Reverse Mentoring. Creps empathetically, but firmly challenges us to bravely venture from our comfort zones into the risky business of unlikely relationships and to open ourselves as judgment-free learners with a foreign generation. The church has been waiting for a pertinent and practical approach to relevant, personal young adult ministry. ***Reverse Mentoring*** presents an approach that every priesthood member should assume.

Use this text to enrich your personal ministry or explore it with your congregation.

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