

# NCEC FAITH FORMATION FRAMEWORK ~ A FRAMEWORK FOR FORMATION FOR MISSION IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



# THE FIVE WHYS

WHY

- Why have a focus on faith formation?

WHY

WHY

WHY

WHY



# A SYNOPSIS

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jde9qIn4dQ8>)



# STRUCTURE

A Vision	6
A Catholic Understanding of the Human Person	7
Formation for Mission in a Catholic Faith Community	9
The Context	10
Some Key Questions	12
Some Key Principles for Catholic Formation	14
Key Intentions	16
Designing and Facilitating Formation	18



# VISION (p. 6)

*Christ is the centre and fulcrum of the entire enterprise and the standard and measure of a school's Catholicity.*

*(M. Miller, 2006)*

- Parents as first educators
- Catholic schools in partnership with the home and parish
- Christian vocation of educational leaders and teachers and the need for formation of the heart
- Innate dignity of the person educated in the Catholic school



# A CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN PERSON (p. 7)

*The desire for God is written in the human heart because the human person is created by God and for God... (CCC para. 27)*

Recall (or look up) your school's vision statement. How does this statement resonate with the vision of the Framework and its Catholic anthropology as articulated on pages 6 and 7?

# FORMATION FOR MISSION IN A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY (p. 9)

- ❖ Christ-centred
- ❖ Intentional
- ❖ Ongoing
- ❖ Reflective

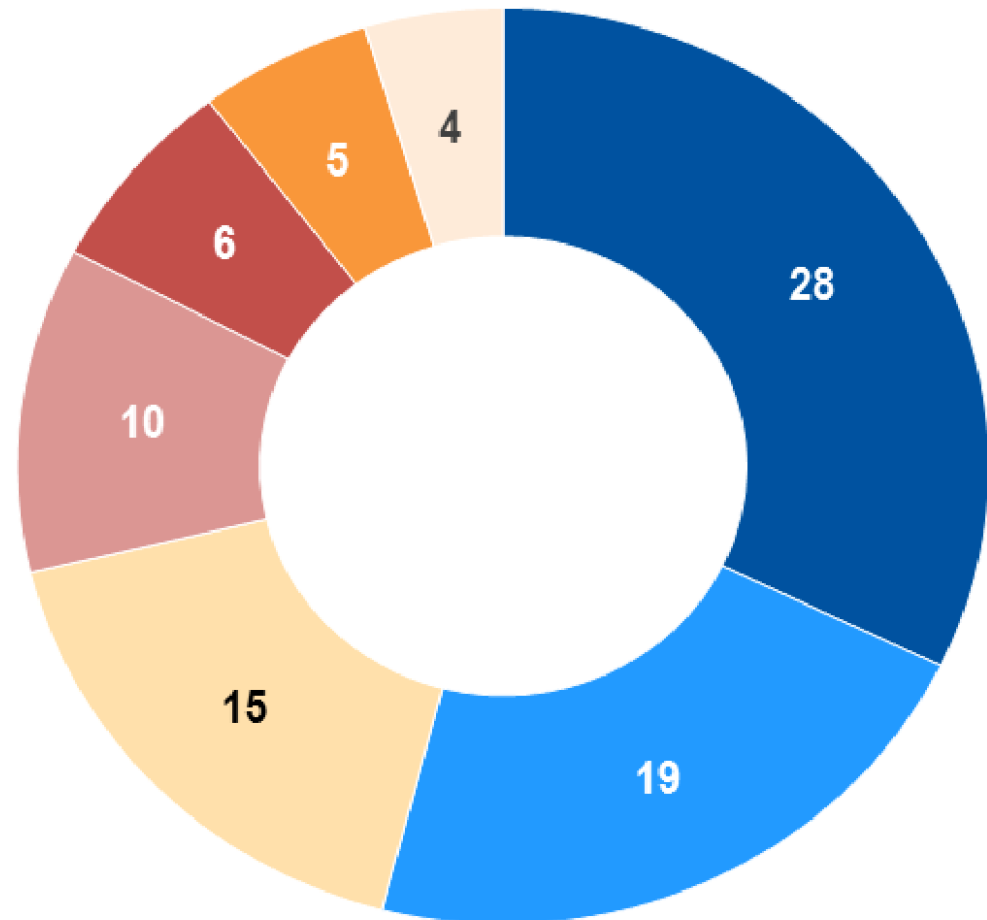
*AN ONGOING  
AND  
REFLECTIVE PROCESS*

- Growth in
- ❖ spiritual awareness
  - ❖ theological understanding
  - ❖ vocational motivation
  - ❖ capabilities for mission and service

# CONTEXT (p. 10)

- The Faith Segments are:

- Non-Practising Believers
- Personally-Focused Faith
- Committed Strong Believers
- Church Going Believers
- The Doubtful
- Non-Believers
- Distracted Engagers

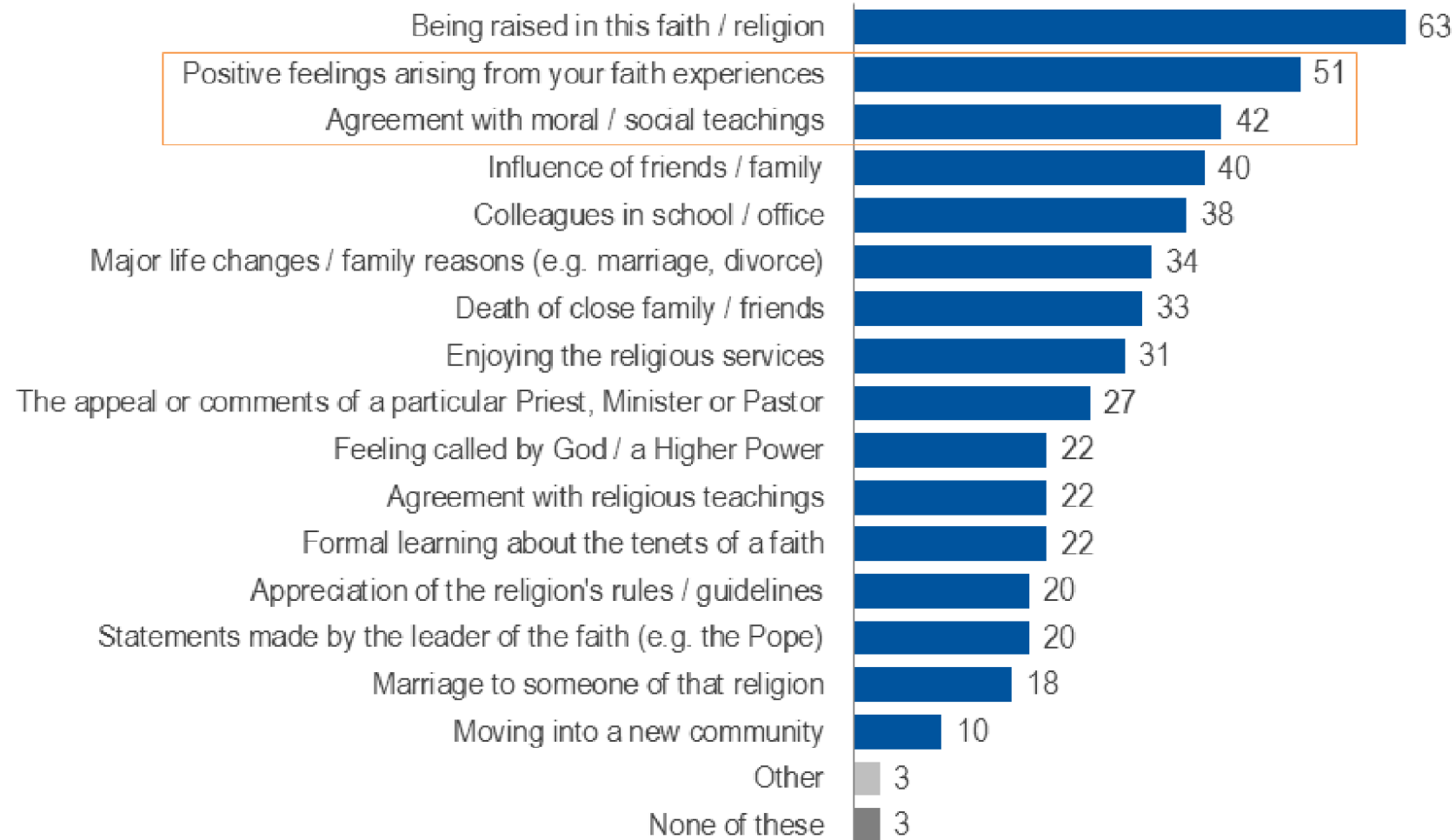




## Factors / Events That Strengthen Faith



- Social aspects (such as influence of family or colleagues, or life changes) have a more obvious impact on faith strength than official statements or direct teachings.



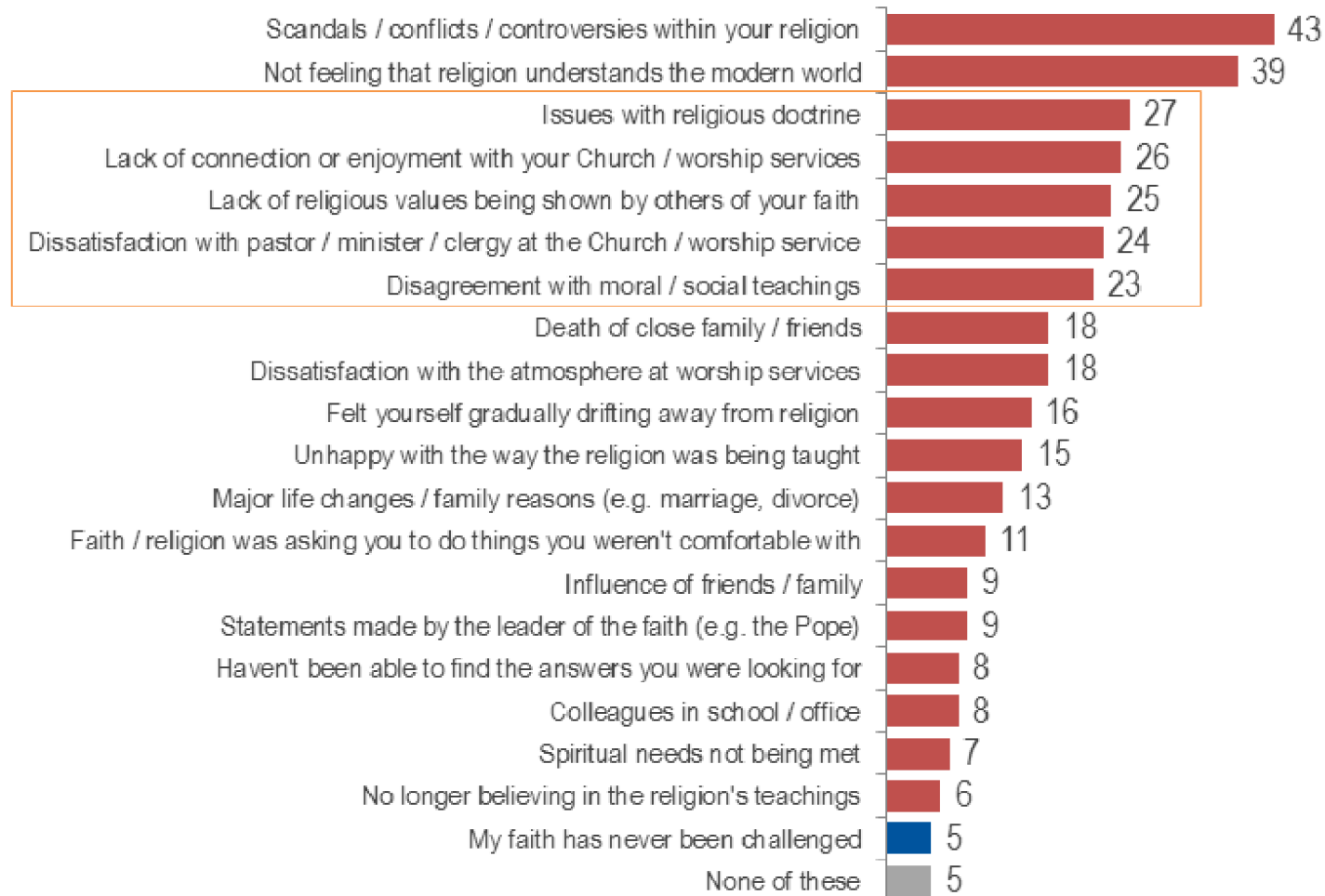
Q15. From the list below, please select those items that you feel have encouraged your faith or helped strengthen it. Base: All respondents (n=3931)

\*Results below 3% not shown.

## Factors / Events That Challenge Faith



- Not engaging with key doctrines, negative experiences with faith leaders and not agreeing with specific teachings form a second 'tier' of faith barriers among staff.



Q17. From the list below, please select those items that you feel have challenged your faith in your life. Base: All respondents (n=3931)

\*Results below 5% not shown

# SOME KEY QUESTIONS (p. 12/13)

***'Come and see...'*** (Jn 1:39)

***'...and go and do'*** (Mt 28)

## Christ Centred

Explicitly Christological, scripturally rich and ecclesially grounded.

Personal relationship with Jesus.

Participation in the Eucharist and a faith community

## Process

Intentional  
Systematic  
Ongoing  
Reflective

## Focus on Growth

Individuals  
Communities

## Lived Experience

Respectful  
Experiential  
Relevant  
Building on participant's personal story and everyday reality

## Growth

Spiritual awareness  
Theological understanding  
Vocational motivation  
Capabilities for mission and service

# SOME KEY QUESTIONS (p. 13)

Christ Centred

Process

Focus on Growth

Lived Experience

Growth

*'...go and do'*

Examine these key questions and apply them to the formation experiences you have provided staff/students in the last 6 months.

Discuss in your group.



# SOME KEY PRINCIPLES FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION (p. 14/15)

*Catholic educators need a “formation of the heart”; they need to be led to that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others, so that their educational commitment becomes a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love... (Educating Together in Catholic Schools , #25)*

A process that is

- systematic
- collaborative
- graduated
- ongoing

Identify a recent formation experience for staff that is identified in your school's Evangelisation Plan. Identify the key principle/s that underpin the experience.

# SOME KEY INTENTIONS (p. 16)

*...into the "art of accompaniment" which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other. (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, #169)*

The intentions come to life when formation is a key strategic priority in the school and system leadership and governance... (p. 17)

- Which intentions make most sense to your context?
- Are there additional intentions?
- How do/don't these intentions resonate with your school's Evangelisation Plan?

# DESIGNING AND FACILITATING FORMATION (p. 18)

There is a range of processes for formation and there is no one way of designing it...however...

...the participants are the key source... the formator is not bringing God to people, God is already there...

...formation builds on the experience of participants...let the process, participants and Holy Spirit do the work...

...reflective, developmental process enables participants to apply the experience to their everyday life and our ministry in Catholic education...

Discuss ways in which this framework can be used to strengthen/compliment/support the development/review of your Evangelisation Plan.



Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the **encounter** with **an event, a person** which **gives life** a new horizon and a decisive direction.

(Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est (no. 1) cited by Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel)

