

Fan the Flame

Note for Leaders:

These resources represent the beginning of the 'Fan the Flame' project, which is an ongoing initiative designed to help group leaders to build upon the experience with their groups.

A lot of diverse groups are going to Flame. Some of them will be very active youth groups (or other types of groups) which are already very vibrant and meet regularly. Other groups may be slightly more ad-hoc, and perhaps just drawn together for the day. In either case, these resources will be useful. If you have an active group, they will help you to think of activities for your group to look back on Flame and build upon the themes, and if you don't currently have an active group, then they will provide you with some practical steps for using the Flame experience to build one.

Although there is a lot of stuff here, you should make sure that you keep checking the Flame website as well as the Social Media feeds (see note below).

The final document in this pack is worth particular attention. It's called 'A wealth of events, resources and programmes' and it's more than just a sheet of further ideas and resources. Rather, it's a collection of links to some of the very best stuff out there that's on offer to young Catholics. It's worth using, and also worth remembering that it's a document which will grow over time – newer versions will be uploaded as time goes on and the Social Media feeds (see below) will suggest further ideas.

How these notes work:

As with the prep resources, generally speaking, type that is in italics is a sort of script. In other words, those are the words we suggest you say to the young people. It's probably a good idea to look them over in advance though and get the gist of them in your head so that it doesn't sound like you're reading from a script when you are actually leading the activity.

Other text that's not in italics is directions/thoughts/instructions for leaders. This will usually be [in square brackets] when it crops up during lots of script text in italics.

We know that many different group leaders will be using these resources; some with great experience and some who are quite new. To help those who are new we have included a lot of tips and hints to help the sessions to run most smoothly. If you are experienced please feel free to skip over these.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about these resources that you would like to share, feel free to get in touch and let us know.

About the Social Media Streams:

CYMFed currently has a number of different Social Media accounts which provide a great deal of useful information and have helped to generate a real buzz in the run up to Flame. Some of these feeds are aimed at young people and others are aimed at the adults who work with them. Specifically...

The 'CYMFed' feeds – <http://www.facebook.com/CYMFed> and Twitter @CYMFed – are aimed at adult leaders. These feeds provide information about the work of CYMFed and links to a lot of different resources which you might find useful as leaders.

The 'FlameCongress' feeds – <http://www.facebook.com/FlameCongress> and Twitter @FlameCongress – are aimed at young people. These feeds will ask questions, link them to interesting, appropriate resources on the web, and challenge them to think about how they are using their Flame experience in their daily lives.

www.cymfed.org/flame/resources

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What's in this pack?:

- Your first meeting after Flame Congress

It's important to keep up the momentum after Flame and to hit the ground running. Okay, enough metaphors. The point is that if you want to build on the experience of Flame – and especially if you want to use Flame as a catalyst for building up a vibrant group – then the sooner you start, the better. This document will give you some great ideas for discussion starters, socials, ways to reminisce and evaluate and ways to plan for the future. We hope that it's a document that can be used in schools, parishes and a variety of other settings.

- Group Prayer/Reflection

A short prayer session which can be used as a night prayer, an opening prayer for a session/ meeting or for many other types of reflection. It focuses on some of the key themes tackled during Flame Congress and on the passage of scripture ('Fan into a Flame...') which the event was based around.

- Putting together a Group Presentation

One activity which might be really fruitful for the group you took to Flame is to put together some sort of presentation about their experiences. This can be a talk for the parish, or a school assembly for instance. There are a lot of advantages to doing this: For one thing, the planning will help the group to reflect. Also, talking to others about the day will help to make them feel included; it will generate interest in any future outings or events that your group has planned, and it might be a great way to thank others in your wider community who supported your group in getting to Flame. This document offers some practical steps and support.

- Handout Cards

As with the preparation resources before Flame, we've included some cards which you can print out and give to your group. These cards have the central passage from Flame ('Fan into a Flame') on the front as well as a reminder to the young people to follow @FlameCongress on Facebook and Twitter (see note above about Social Media feeds). The back of the cards is intentionally left blank for you to add your own messages and information. You might want to use this as a chance to pose some questions about where the group wants to go next, or to give some information about future meetings and events that you've got planned.

- Our Flame Display

Do you want to create a display for the school or parish about Flame? Or maybe a website or an album on a website like Flickr.com for instance? This is another activity which might help the group to reflect and which might help others beyond the group to learn more about your experiences and to feel included. This document offer some practical ideas.

- Some help with building a group

This is one of the most important documents of all, and it's aimed at leaders who want to use the Flame experience to build up a stable group. Indeed, even if your Flame group already came from a stable group, this document might offer you a few ideas. The aim here is to give you some concrete suggestions for planning and building a group. There are also plenty of links and suggestions about resources to use and about the different youth group models you can work with.

- A wealth of events, resources and programmes

As noted above, this isn't just a sort of 'other ideas' appendix, but rather quite a comprehensive guide to some of the best stuff that's out there for Catholic youth ministers, young people and young adults.

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