

The Game of “3”’s

During the next space of time, we will be engaging in a practical exercise that will help to open up a conversation about some of the dynamics of media production. I will divide the group into trios. Next, I will give you exactly thirty minutes to produce a poster that communicates an answer to the question: What does it mean to be Catholic?

Please note: everyone should be able to come up with a response to this question, not just those of you who are yourselves Catholic; and there is no “right” answer that I am expecting. Instead, I hope that this exercise will give you some experience of what it’s like to produce a piece that intends to communicate.

Here are the rules for your poster: 1) you may use no more than three images from the pop culture magazines provided, 2) you may use no more than three words on your poster, and 3) you have exactly thirty minutes to produce the poster.

I will provide the following materials from which you can work: a stack of pop culture magazines that you should feel free to cut up in any way you choose, glue, scissors, markers, posterboard.

[To complete this exercise, put the posters that have been created up around the room. Ask everyone to stand in front of a poster and explain what answer they believe the poster is communicating to the question. During this phase, don’t allow the people who created it to speak. After everyone’s had a chance to speak, then ask the group who created it to explain what they intended, and to note anything that surprised them about what the other groups noted. Do this for each poster. Following all the posters, ask students to reflect on what they learned. Note that the process -- having a short amount of time, having limited materials, having to work with other people -- is typical of media production.]