Can You Believe It?
Faith and the College Student
The experts say…

• Your student is an emerging adult
  • exploration, instability, opportunity, hope

• Less religious or not?
  • practice – daily prayer, attending worship…less
  • belief – about the same
  • “…most emerging adults see themselves as similar to their parents religiously…”

_Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults_ by Christian Smith
The experts say…

“In young adulthood there is a deepened readiness to become aware of our assumptions about whom we trust, what to believe, and how reliable the meanings we live by actually are.”

Young adults are asking “Big Questions”

- Who will be there for me?
- Why is suffering so pervasive?
- What is my society, or life, or God asking of me?
- Will I ever really heal?
- When do I feel most alive?

*Big Questions Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, Faith* by Sharon Daloz Parks
SNC as a place to engage

- Students from a variety of religious backgrounds and experiences

- Fall 2014 – First Year Students
  - 55.5% Roman Catholic
  - 32.1% Christian (other than Catholic)
  - 0.6% Buddhist
  - 0.4% Muslim
  - 1.4% Other Religion
  - 9.9% None

Source: 2014 HERI CIRP Freshman Survey
SNC as a place to engage

- **ALIVE programs in the residence halls**
  - Small groups, discussions, speakers, prayer
- **Campus Ministry**
  - Retreats, service trips, discussions, fellowship
- **St. Norbert College Parish**
  - Participating in liturgy, catechists, music ministers, liturgical ministers, Parish Council members
- **Vocation exploration**
  - A vocabulary of call, gift, need
What a caring parent can do

• Listen to your child
  – as new experiences raise new questions

• Connect your student to resources
  – Become familiar…people, departments, events
  – Encourage your student to seek us out

• Trust the unfolding
Your comments and questions