

Gifts to the Church...
the GI Generation

- Organization at the local level
- Centralization at the national level
- Efficiency of mission, i.e. the power of combined efforts and resources
- Strong emphasis upon learning and passing on the Christian tradition
- Church buildings more than large enough to carry out our local mission
- At a time of national crisis, applied Christian faith to the national identity

Gifts to the Church...
the Silent Generation

- Maintained –and sensitized –the church’s governing bodies
- Ordained women
- Unity and reunion; brought an instinct for reconciliation (Confession of 1967)
- Inspired the church’s imagination for social justice
- Unlike their seniors who “hand down the tradition,” encouraged their own children to question the tradition before making it their own
- Opened the church’s mind to a) ecumenical commitments, and b) liturgical renewal

Gifts to the Church... the Boomer Generation

- Forced the church to refocus upon the individual
- Encouraged renewal of worship in liturgy and music
- Challenged the conflation of Christian faith with citizenship
- Reversed organizational assumptions from top down to bottom up
- Further committed the church to social justice
- Birthed the church's sensitivity to "spirituality"
- Opened the church to seekers from other denominations

Gifts to the Church... the Xer Generation

- Are seeking to bring pendulum to a midpoint ... on liturgy, polity, and personal vs. corporate faith experience
- Redefine boundaries
- Will re-invent the church, restoring "what works," starting from scratch where old answers no longer apply
- Display an ability to take disparate genres, ideas, and traditions and weave them together (music, liturgy, theology)
- Thinking globally