

WORKING
WITH
PARENTS
HAS BEEN
FUN FOR
AGES!

Parents and Parish as Partners: Sharing the Religious Formation



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+ We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over our families, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. +





Pope Francis comments on May 20, 2015
Why we're here and why it matters

The Domestic Church



“But remember, a family is holy not because it is perfect but because God’s grace is at work in it, helping it to set out anew everyday on the way of love.”

Follow the Way of Love

“No domestic Church does all of this perfectly. But neither does any parish or diocesan church. All members of the Church struggle daily to become more faithful disciples of Christ.” *Follow the Way of Love*

The Domestic Church

- **Parental influence** is the single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of youth
- Parents engage the whole family in **nurturing conversations and activities** centered on:
 - Scripture
 - Prayer and
 - Service



Outcomes and Flow

- Review **current issues** affecting families
- Explore **developmental milestones that bring the faith alive** in our homes
 - Early Family
 - Elementary School Age
 - Teens and Beyond
- Discuss **principles and ideas** for partnering with parents
- Engage in **creative brainstorming** on how to build family faith formation together

Let's Talk with Post-its

- Right – What aspects about families today makes faith formation easy?
- Left – What ... with families makes it hard?
- Table – What is ONE hope?

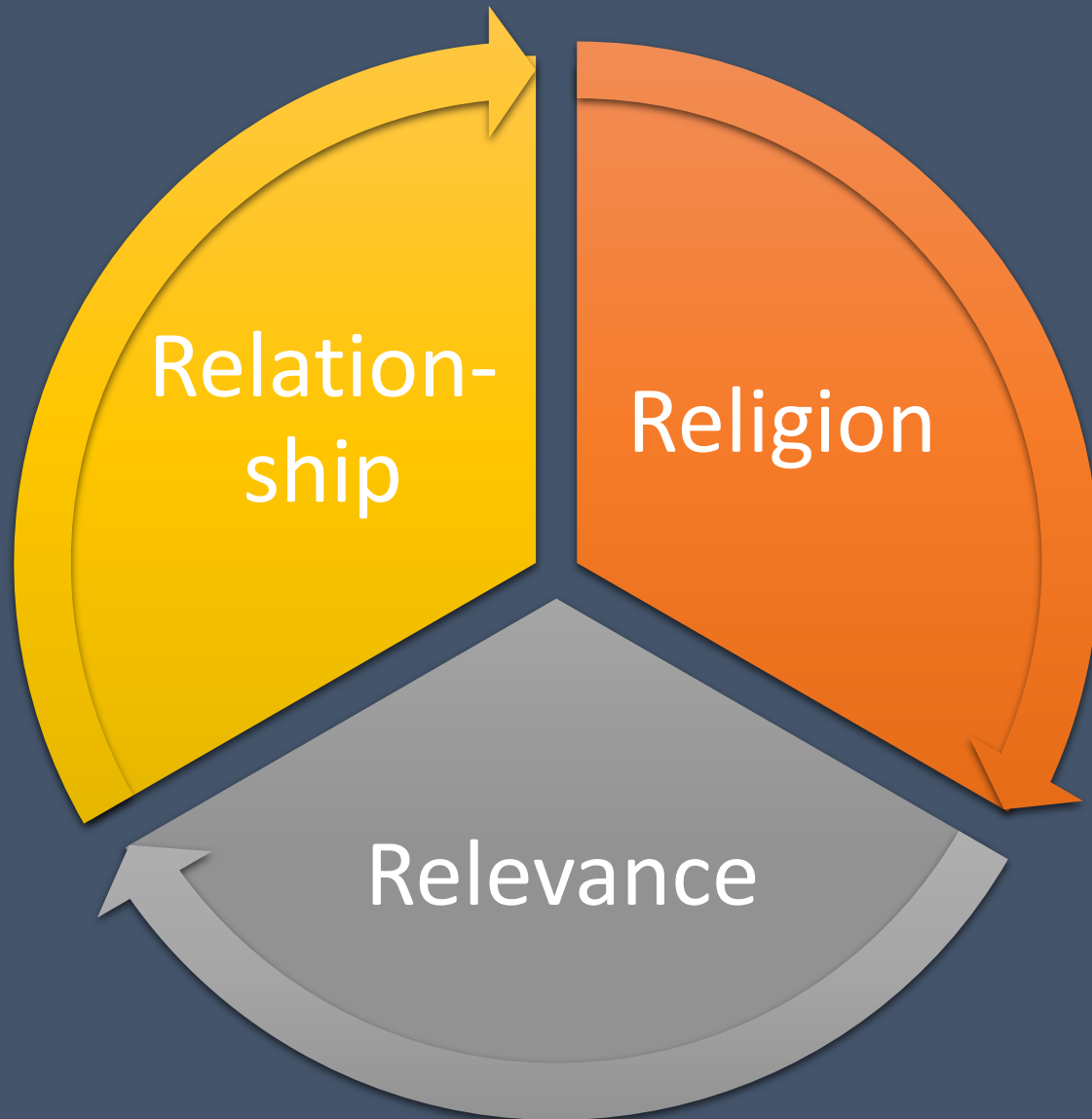


Cultures and Trends



Leave it to Beaver

Partnering with Parents Requires



RELATIONSHIPS:

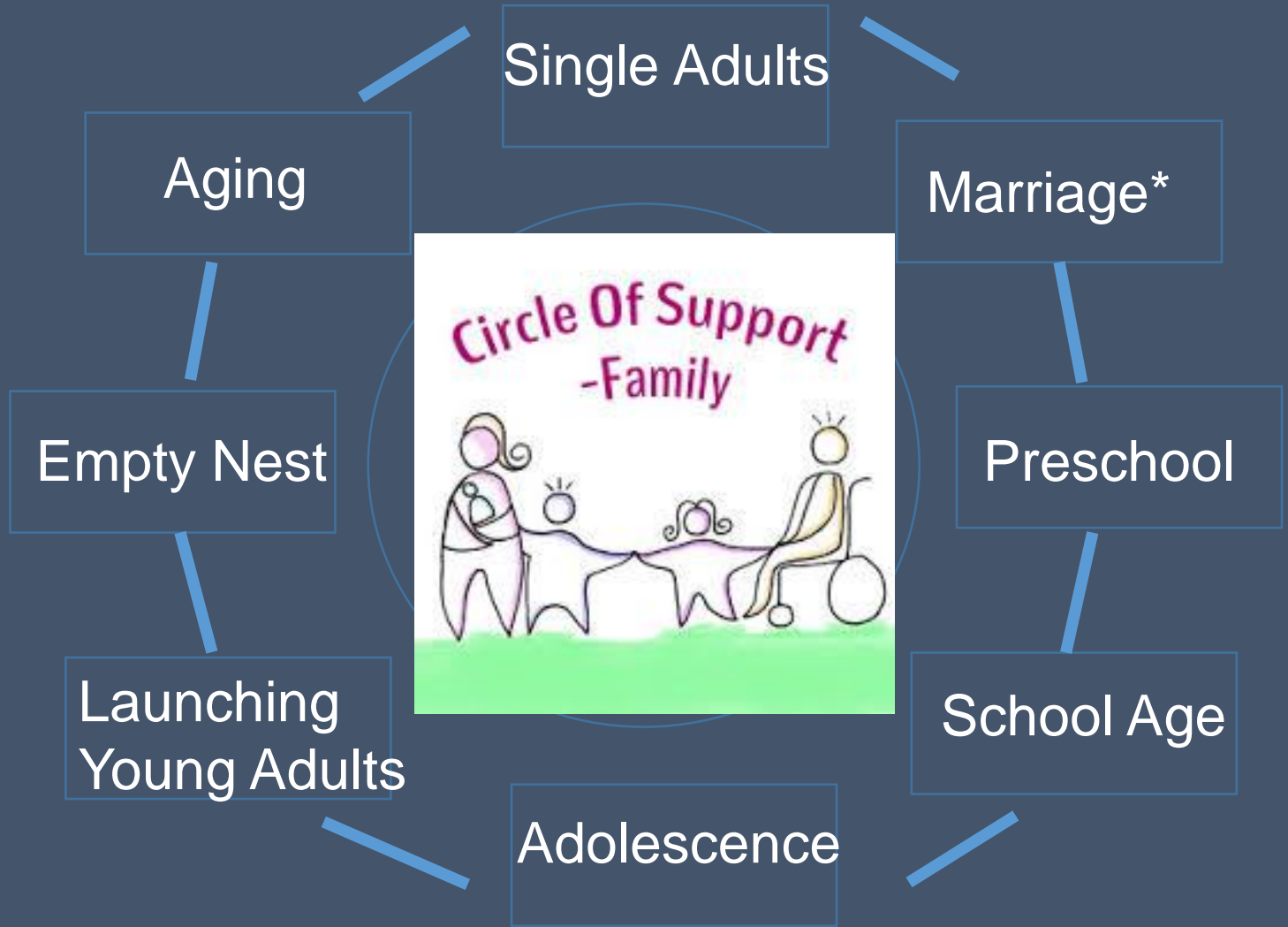
Diversity of Families in our Church

- Life Stages & Family Structures
- Generational Differences
- Ethnic, Cultural & Religious Practices



RELATIONSHIPS

Family Life Cycles



RELATIONSHIPS: Generational Diversity

- Pre Vatican II
 - Builders (pre 1946)
 - Baby Boomers (1946-60)
- Vatican II Generation
 - Generation X (1961-79)
- Post Vatican II
 - Millennials (1980-99)
 - iGeneration (2000 -)



RELATIONSHIPS:

- Who passed on our Catholic faith to you?
- Who is passing the faith on to the next generation?



RELATIONSHIPS:

What we need now...

Before 1960

1960-70s

1980-2000s

Today



Bringing parents into the learning circle is key

by partnering with parents to form their own kids

To happen at every age and stage of family life

RELATIONSHIPS:

- Hospitality
- Encounter



RELIGION:

“The language of faith is learned in homes where this faith grows and is strengthened through prayer and Christian practice.”

Pope Benedict XVI



RELIGION:

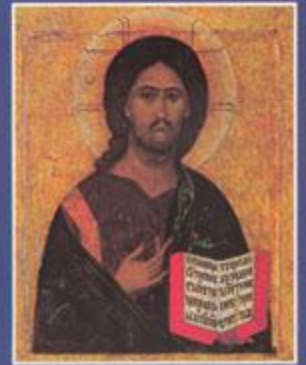
The religious awakening which takes place in the household during childhood is simply **irreplaceable**.

It is most powerful when parents take the time to explain to their children

the religious meaning of life's moments:

including holy days, family events, and social, political or moral questions.

CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY



GDC #226

RELIGION:

The local parish must, therefore,
help parents

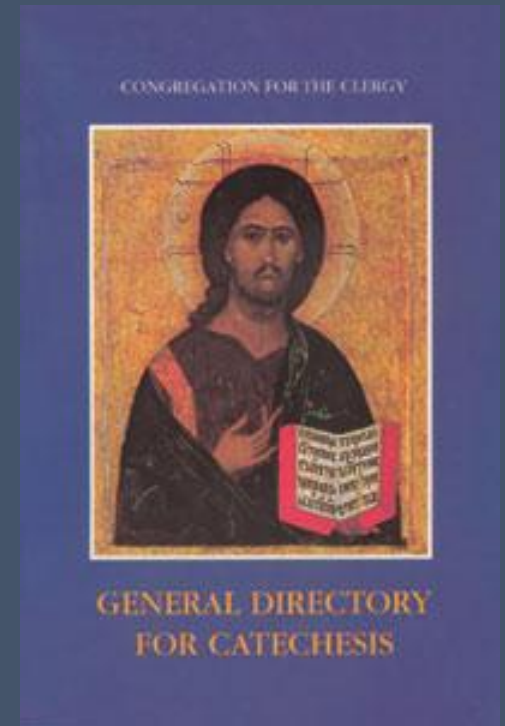
by whatever means works best,

to prepare for and assume

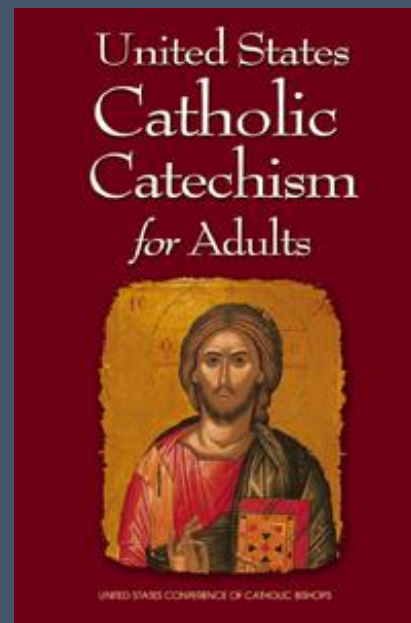
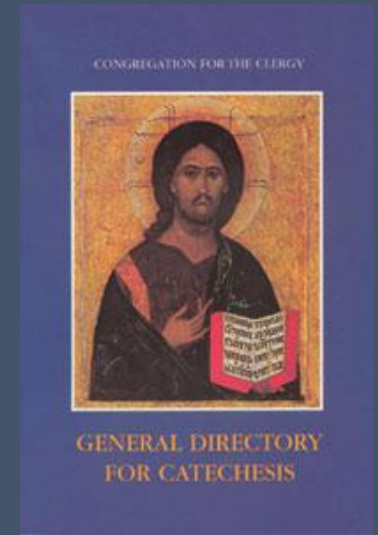
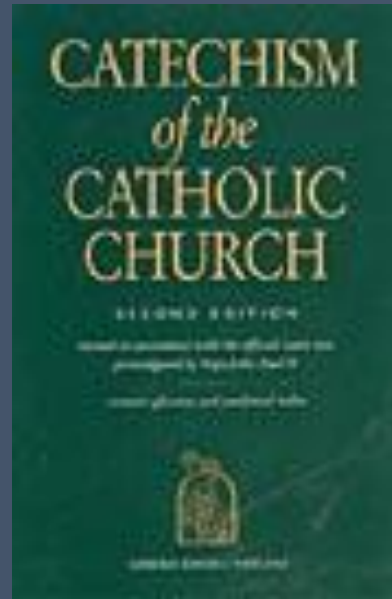
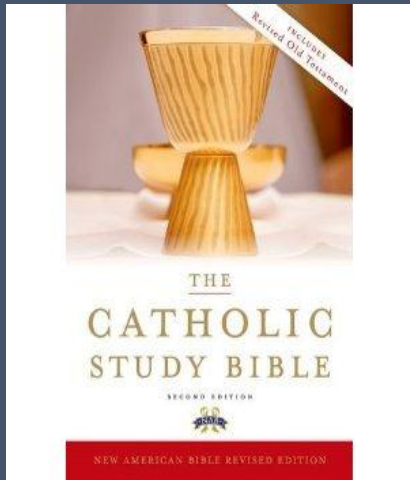
their responsibility,

of educating their own children

in the faith.



RELIGION:



RELEVANCE:



facebook



Google



Transformations across generations with technology, culture, family and society



YouTube



RELEVANCE:

Context	Then	Now
Relationships	Face to Face	Cyberspace and Face to Face
Activities	Mostly Gathered	More Self-Directed
Parish Members	Homogenous	Culturally Diverse
Pace of Life	Regular Speed	Warp Speed
Community	Geographic	Global
Social Control	Strong	Digital Shifts*
Meeting Others	Schedule	Mobile Meet-Up
Parish Involvement	Expected of All	Need Convincing

RELEVANCE for Parish:

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH	FAITH OF THE COMMUNITY
Liturgical Calendar	School Calendar
Objective Morality	Moral Relativism
Theological Language	Plain English
Transcends Culture	Shaped by Culture
Marinated Catholic	Beige Catholic

RELEVANCE:



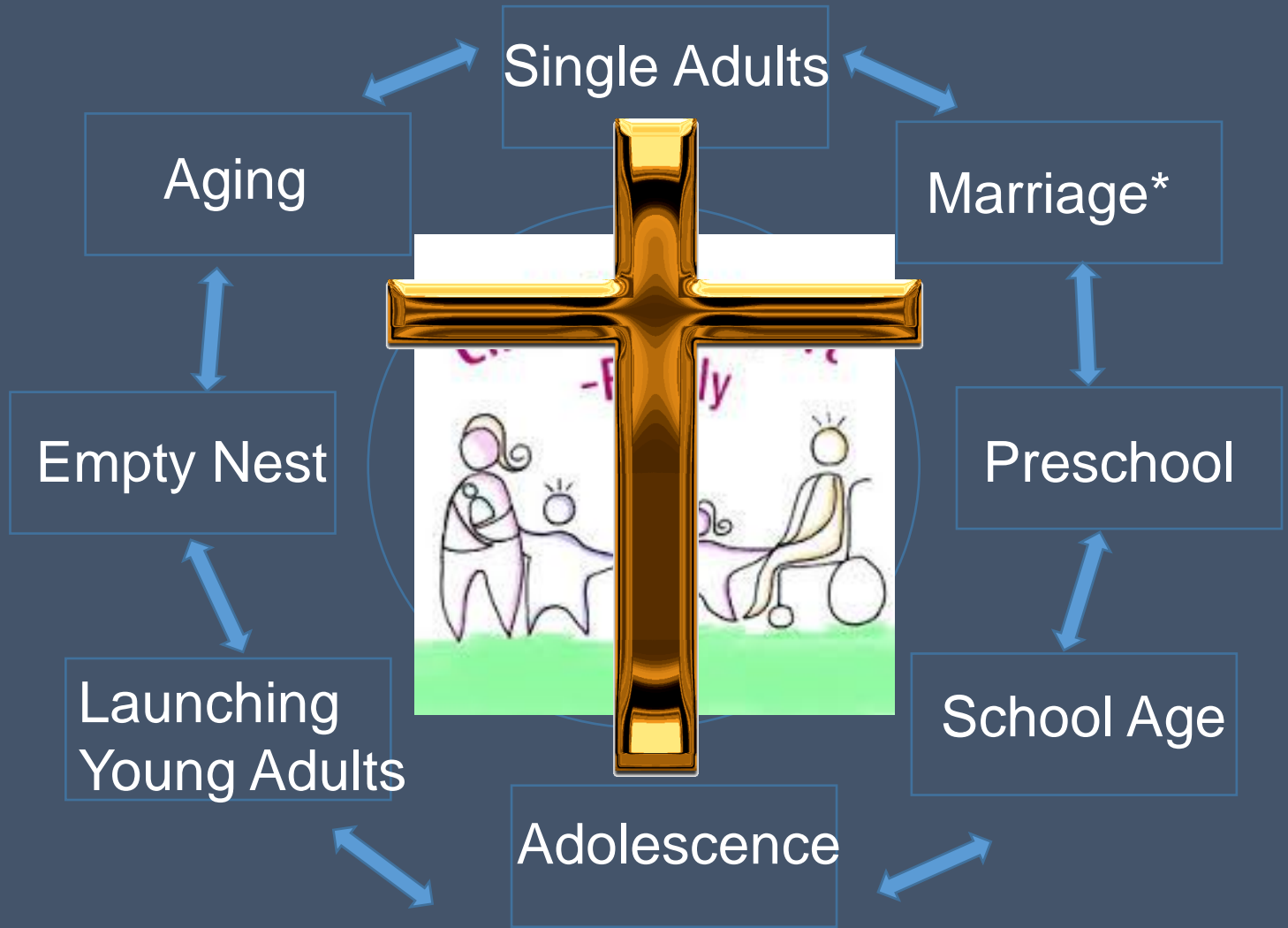
THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING



RELEVANCE:

No matter what generation –
parents **do** care, children **still**
matter, and families are **the best**
place for love, life and learning to
happen!

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



HIGHLIGHT AND SHARE



3 R's of Family Faith Formation

- **Relationship**

- Invitational and collaborative planning
- Flexibility & humor
- Honor their time

- **Religion**

- Honor content
- Evoke and Examine

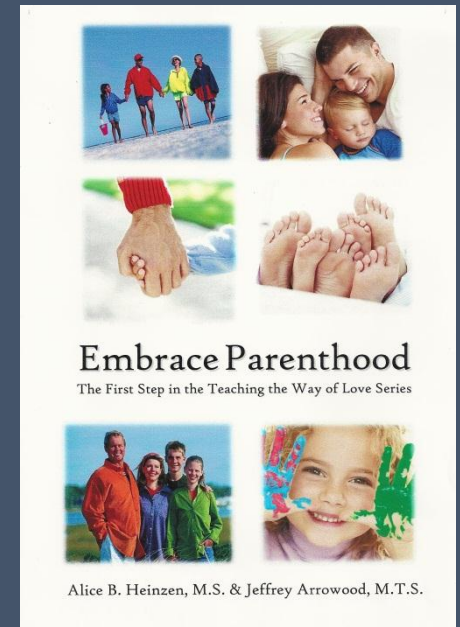
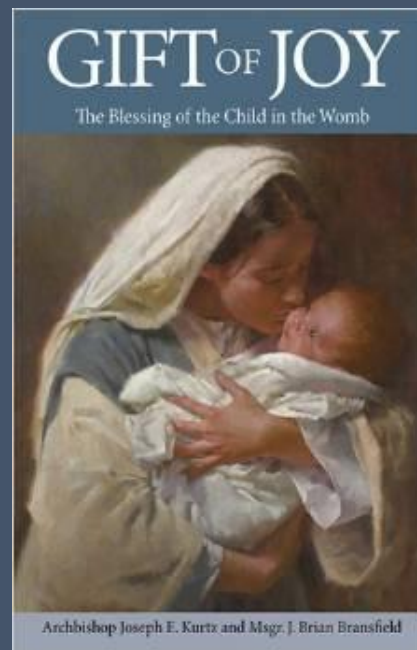
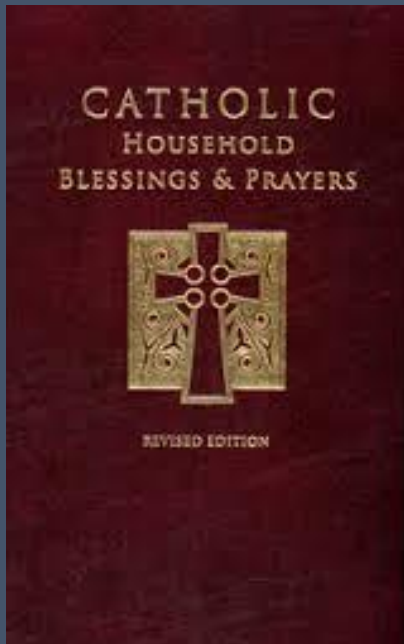
- **Relevance**

- Purpose and Meaning
- “Backdoor Catechesis”
- Attractive digital presence



Early Family Faith Milestones

- New Home
- Blessing of the Child in the Womb
- Birth/Baptism & Baptism Anniversaries

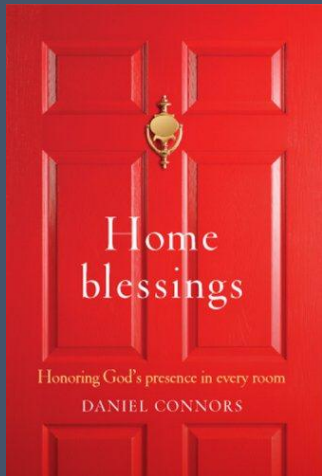


Baptism Ministry and Staying Connected



Setting the Stage for Faith in the Home

- Windowsill devotions
- Religious art
- Sunday readings in car
- Bibles & prayer books
- Holy water and blessings
- Advent to Lent candle



HIGHLIGHT AND SHARE



School Age Family Faith Milestones

- Starting School & Blessing Backpack Medals
- First Reconciliation & Communion
- Bringing Home & Losing a Pet



Faith Journey Process & Domestic Church



Sacramental Ministry

“Keep the end in mind”

- What do you hope and desire for your child?
- How will you get there?
- How will you prepare?
- What are the challenges?
- Process not perfection...



Faith Journey Process & Domestic Church



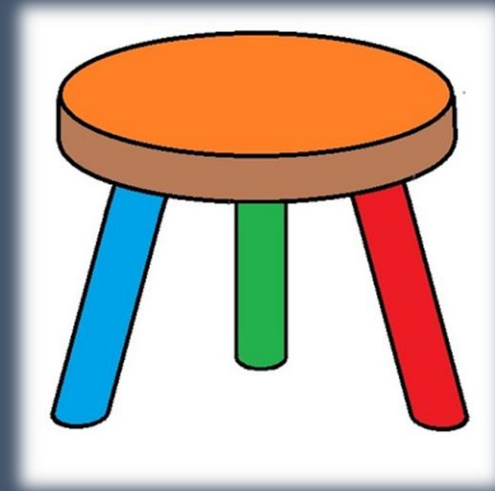
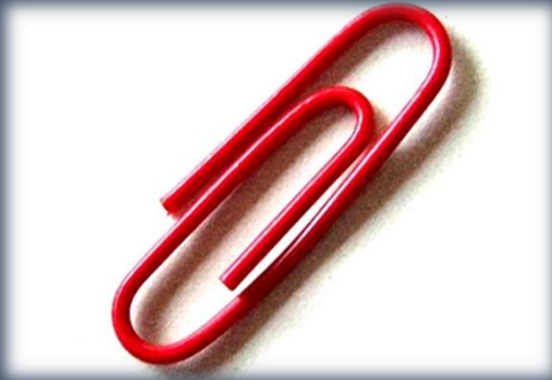
Activities families are *willing* to do: RELATIONSHIPS



Activities families are *willing* to do: RELIGION



Activities families are *willing* to do: RELEVANCE



Catholic families have an *incredible* MISSION (*Familiaris Consortio* #17)

How do we help families to be:

1. a community of persons,
2. who serve life,
3. participate in the development of society, and
4. share in the life and the mission of the Church?



How do we help families form a mission statement of faith – to be

Happy Healthy and Holy?

Family Mission Statement

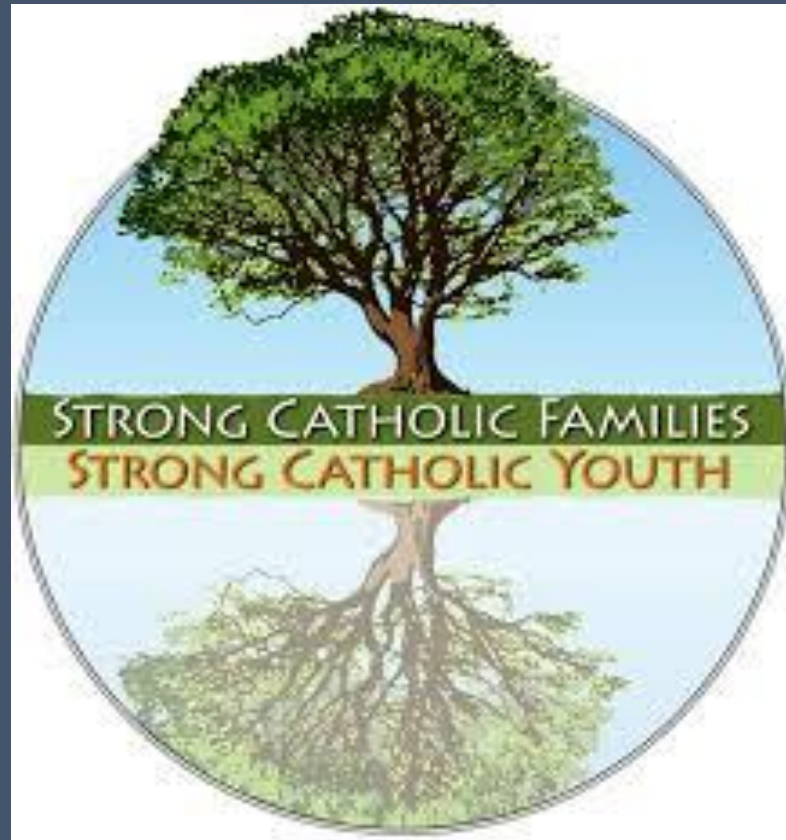




HIGHLIGHT AND SHARE



WHAT DO PARENTS WANT?



Youth and Young Adult Family Faith Milestone Opportunities

- Quinceañeras
- Blessing of New Drivers
- Confirmation
- Graduations
- Engagements
- Marriage & Wedding Anniversaries



RELATIONSHIPS:



RELATIONSHIPS: Once there was ...

EMBEDDED



RELATIONSHIPS:

But now there is ...

EMBEDDED



NETWORKED INDIVIDUALISM



RELIGION & Teens

- Affiliative to Searching Faith
- Religious Literacy
- Authenticity
- Service – Missionary Discipleship
- Community



RELEVANCE

Receptive to Organized Religion



RELEVANCE

Receptive to Organized Religion

Participating, but
Uncommitted

Vibrant Faith &
Active Engagement

Low

Hunger for God
& the Spiritual Life

High

Unaffiliated &
Uninterested

Spiritual, but
not Religious

Resistant to Organized Religion

RELEVANCE:

Targeted Strategies for Diverse Needs

Not
religiously
affiliated

Spiritual,
but not
religious

Minimal
Engagement
with
Church and
Community

Vibrant
Faith and
Active
Engagement



RELEVANCE

LEARNING MODELS

Intergenerational

Lifelong

Location
Church
Home

Groups or
Individual

Mentoring

Face to Face
Virtual
Blended



Brainstorming

- Small group work
 - Find your family interest area table
 - Brainstorm ideas for your family situation for each of the faith formation scenarios
 - Use handout and workshop notes as resources
 - Write ideas on post-it notes and place on large sheets
- *How can the La Crosse Diocese support you in this process?*

Choose one interest area:

1. Families involved in sports and extracurricular activities
2. Families with special needs child
3. Families preparing for baptism
4. Families with pre-school children
5. Families whose child is preparing for First Communion
6. Families of grade school children
7. Families with adolescents
8. Families with young adult children
9. Families with no children living at home
10. Families dealing with grief/loss

3 R's Online and in Person for Families



Vibrant
Faith and
Active
Engagement

- *Teaching the Way of Love* workshops
- Email parish website updates
- Invite to help with faith formation opportunities online & face-to-face
- Offer virtual Bible study
- Host a *MOMs* group
- Post downloadable weekly family faith sharing activities related to liturgical calendar
- Video links of family blessings rituals

3 R's Online and in Person for Families

Minimal
Engagement
with
Church and
Community

- Intentional use of email updates on selected topics related to ages of children in family, e.g. Internet Safety
- Personal invitation to help chaperone a parish youth activity
- Parent who is a CPA to help present program on family finances
- Links on parish website for specific family life/parenting/adult faith formation topics
- Invite parent to be RCIA sponsor

3 R's Online and in Person for Families

Spiritual,
but not
religious

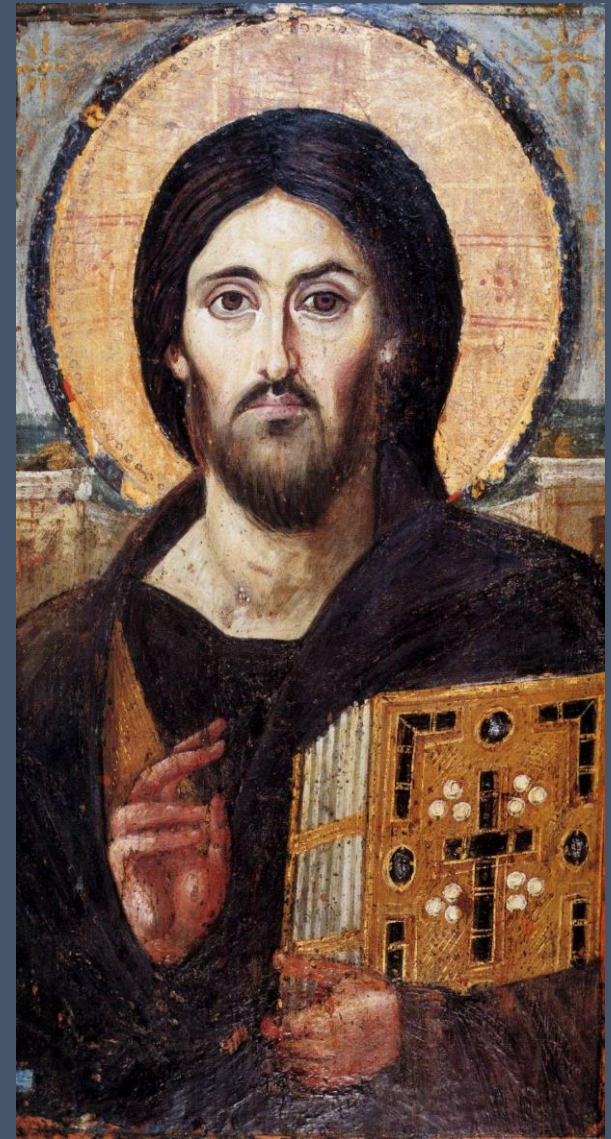
- Invite young mother to a MOMs group
- Post TED talk with faith commentary on website
- Offer virtual and real time book club
- Invite to participate in social justice project through *Meetup.org*
- Video link to movie and/or TV show with spiritual/faith theme
- *Rebuilt's* “Timonium Tim” approach for men
- Family finance information

3 R's Online and in Person for Families

Not
religiously
affiliated

- Website link on parish website for tips on parent discipline
- Welcome 12 step groups with stories and info regarding parish thoughtfully posted onsite
- Host community workshop that includes hospitality of parishioners and is electronically promoted
- Post information on social science studies on the benefits of marriage and faith life
- Offer *Love Languages* seminar

Closing Prayer



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