Presented by Dr. Bill Keimig

**How to *effectively* reach parents to truly enable them, not just exhort them and how the Catechetical Institute can help.**

1. **What are best practices in moving towards family-based formation?**
* **The *runway* is as important as the takeoff / stepping *back* is as important as stepping up / it is vital to look at *lived* models.**
* **Go slow and steady through parents’ issues of awkwardness with faith conversations / your heart attitude changes in the direction     of gentleness and a generous spirit to the degree you make time to meet with and listen to parents.**
* **Bottom-line of what to do:  Genuinely *discuss* what the workshops below challenge in your parish’s approaches; in your own views.**
* ***CI workshops that would help:*  The Family as the Context of Catechesis / Shifting to Family-Centered Formation / Partnering with Families in Youth Ministry / Family: Domestic Church and School of Holiness**

1. **What are strategies to engage families better in specific areas:  First Communion, Confirmation, Children’s Catechumenate, and Schools?**
* **Retreats – for adults – that aim at three things in Christ:  1) healing, 2) mercy, 3) kerygma.  Look for models.**
* **Use assignments to impact interactions among family members / see the goal of all assignments as fostering the health of the home.**
* **Bottom-line of what to do:  Discuss in your parish or school the degree to which your programs aim at supporting the centerpole.**
* ***CI workshops that would help:*  First Penance & First Eucharist Preparation / Confirmation Preparation / Family Systems in a Catholic School / Parent Saints / Mentoring within a Family / Fostering Holiness in Children / A Foundational Vision:  The Community of the Family**

1. **What are two key areas of engaging families that most parishes overlook, that if developed will produce strong results in parish life?**
* **Make infant Baptism preparation a ministry of *continuity* – abandon a moment-in-time view or a sacramental-pass-class.**
* **Make marriage preparation a ministry of *continuity* – build a serious like-to-like, pot-stirring, personal accompaniment.**
* **Bottom-line of what to do:  Ask yourself, if these two sacraments were the only preps available, what would we dream/dare to do?**
* ***CI workshops that would help:*  Mentoring Other Families / Theology of the Family / Conversion in Modern Culture / Dr. Gerard O’Shea’s growing collection of workshops on CI’s platform**