

## **Home Based Religious Education**

When a parish has religious education classes held in private homes, the following applies:

- Adult Training and Background checks per the Diocese of La Crosse's Protect and Heal Program is required for any adults present.
- Two unrelated adults should be present during arrival, class time, and departure time for every class session.
- The parish catechetical leader must perform random and unannounced visits to each home-based site within the program.
- Window coverings shall be fully open in the house while classes are being held.
- Students must remain in the designated learning areas of the house.
- At no time should students be allowed in bedrooms or other secluded areas of the home.
- To the extent possible, an individual student (other than the catechist's own children) should not be in the catechist's home alone.

### **Building Safety Issues**

- The use of any surveillance cameras inside the home, especially bathrooms, is prohibited when students are present.
- Functioning smoke detectors must be installed properly on each floor of the home.
- Emergency evacuation plan must be posted and practiced.
- A properly functioning and serviced fire extinguisher needs to be readily accessible and visible to the catechist.
- Handrails must be installed and properly maintained where there are two or more stairs that are to be used by the students.
- Snow, ice, and other hazards (bicycles, yard hoses, loose gravel, etc.) must be removed from walkways, driveways, and stairs prior to the arrival of the students.
- Emergency battery back-up lighting must be provided. (Flashlights are sufficient.)
- No unrestrained pets are allowed in the area where the students will be arriving or attending the class.
- There should only be one person in the bathroom at a time and the door should be closed while the room is in use.
- Bathrooms designated for students' use shall be free of medicines, drugs, and chemicals, including cleaning supplies.