## Family Faith Formation at Home

## Chat Questions & Comments

We love Family Faith. We offer in person family gathering as well as online activities, video lessons, workbook and 30 different family ideas each month. Reflection forms to share and process what they learned. Families love it.

What are family moments that we can ritualize for adolescents? I am thinking drivers licenses, proms, first dates...

Our pastorate is preferring Faith Formation on Sundays which bums me out, really because I feel like Sundays should be a family day.

I love that children reading the gospel!

Sundays is the only day we could get volunteer catechists. Evenings and Saturdays were not possible for a lot of people.

Our Family Program is on Saturday 9am-10:30am once a month. The parents take turns in the classroom when we break out by age group

The Lenten Tool box is an idea and great resource. Is it ok if we "borrow" your idea?

 Yes, the list of resources is online with the presentations.

Our family used to have special meals for feast days. I always got to choose hamburgers for St Patrick's Day! Seriously though, make the saints in your family a learning moment!

On your saints message, you could work to pick the patron saint for confirmation early and use that saint. Celebrate the parents' patron saint. Siblings...and guardian angels day and thank the guardian angels that protect our teens every day.

Our Faith Formation classes contributed food during Advent for the local homeless shelter.

Is anyone effectively running a similar program without online curriculum? If so, what are you using or generating?

Do you think that every parish needs to discern what is going to work best for their families? It seems to me that there really isn't a "one size for all" model.

Do you find yourself becoming a lay minister who is using a lot of time checking off their assignments?

What online curriculum do you use?

Yes! Discern what is best with parent input. Our model reflected their input so they owned our model so they were supportive of it.

Is childcare provided for the parent only sessions?

We use MARTHA an cloud based online teaching portal - part of Faith and Family Catholic Life Catholic ministry which does have total online or box based

Looking for a good Catholic Family Journal - any suggestions?

Any favored curricula to look into for family catechesis?

I was wondering if you write your own scripts for the plays or get them from somewhere?

Any good resources already in Spanish‚ looking for bilingual materials.

What are the best ways to encourage Mass attendance?

We do a meal for an hour, breakouts by age group for apps 30 minutes, and then adoration and confession for the remaining 30 minutes. 2 hours total, but very flexible, and families know they can drop in and leave as needed.

Our question is how to best address in a group setting with families with a large age range in children. What kind of curriculum?

We offer one of our family formation sessions in between our Masses to encourage families to go to Mass and then to formation.

Our question was about accountability. What measures have you taken or do you recommend for holding parents and families accountable for doing the at-home activities? Making video responses, online quizzes, etc.

How do you mitigate the detrimental effects of parents who want you to do it their way (classroom/drop-off only), when you also have families who do want to participate in family formation?

How many kids are you tracking...that seems time intensive

Bilingual materials at familyfaithformation.net.

Catherine, I am impressed (and a little overwhelmed) by everything you do for families all year round. But it occurred to me that you took what was already happening at the parish, making it family faith friendly, and then building from there. Yes? How many years to make this vision an ordinary aspect of the life of your parish community?

3-5 years to change the mindset

I find accountability to be a useless time waster. If parents aren't practicing the faith, checking quizzes/tests/reading isn't going to impart the faith.

Flocknote is great for quick responses and tracking link clicks

It's important that we not get caught up in the checking of work. It is our purpose to spread the message but we have to rely on God for the message to be received.

We offer both programs: family and drop off. Sometimes, we are engaging parents through their children even for a drop off! Are parishes have forced family programs only. The families that don't like it come to me. Judging the needs of your families is paramount.

I'm curious what publisher(s) are offering a user friendly program to view and see samples for the family model

We don't do Sundays because it should be for family time and that also includes catechists and myself as a director.

We have been slowly changing models and have been at it 7 yrs. Not quite where we want to be yet but moving forward.

We use Sophia Institute, Families of Faith

We have no choice but Sundays due to availability of facilities

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies works really well for it like it is.

For anyone... if you are not offering sessions on Sundays, what week night works best (sports etc)?

We do Sundays attached to Mass...three back to back on weekend and two sessions back to back on another weekend. Maas attendance is improving

The challenge is that many of our parents do not have good catechetical backgrounds and therefore do not feel comfortable doing this. We need to partner and accompany them but also include them in the formation process so they can develop a deeper faith.

I provide the family lessons for Alive in Christ and Discover by St. Mary's Press.

How does your Youth Ministry participate in this. Are they included, do you meet face to face, what about big conference trips like LifeTeen?

Unfortunately, we are finding there is not one good day or evening for families in a week. There is something every day, including Sundays.

I agree! It's a total mindset shift. I'm in the first year of Family style and it's just starting to be more accepted and I'm sure next year will be even better.

What about sacrament prep? Is this under your purview? If so, is it virtual too?

I believe Teens need to have both parent interaction and peer interaction. They are starting to spread their wings and need to hear from other adults, not their parents, and other teens.

How many people helped get this off the ground. I am by myself with any kind of formation (child/youth/adult/school aged sacraments) in the parish.

How many volunteers does it take to run these types of Family Faith Formation events? Are they more or less volunteer heavy than the traditional classroom model?

As part of our transition and response to COVID, we used Pastoral Center's Faith Stories. It spells out what the parents do and say to their kids. Parents really liked working with their kids

We are looking for other diocesan and parish leaders already at work in partnering with parents and grandparents, godparents, etc. - in fostering the faith of families.

Catherine, thank you for using the word 'invite.' I don't like 'welcome,' because its welcome to what...invite is actionable and goes further. You have great ideas...

Maybe parents feel lack of confidence because they feel judged? Welcome, hospitality and acceptance should come before assessments. Assessments imply being graded for being a good Christian Catholic.

Build a team of parents, other adults and if you can involve some teens.

I am the DRE for our parish. I have only 3 volunteers and also teach both adults and kids. This sounds wonderful but overwhelming. Mine is a parttime 20 hr/week position.

Like partnering and inviting! Less intimidating!

Evaluate what went right and what went wrong and try again and again.

Yes! partnering and inviting...great language

I would also like to know about how many volunteers does it take to run these types of Family Faith Formation events? Are they more or less volunteer heavy than the traditional classroom model?