Generations of Faith
Part 3: Conducting Intergenerational Faith Formation

Overview
This session guides leaders in developing the skills for:
1. facilitating intergenerational catechetical programs and
2. designing home faith-sharing activities.

Intergenerational Learning

Features of Intergenerational Learning
1. Inclusive of all ages and generations, single or married, with or without children.
2. Builds community and meaningful relationships across all the generations in a parish.
3. Provides a setting for each generation to share and learn from the other generations.
4. Involves the whole family in learning together and equips families with the knowledge, skills, and faith-sharing activities for nurturing faith at home.
5. Provides an environment where new ways of living one’s faith can be practiced.
6. Provides adult role models for children/teens.
7. Promotes understanding of shared values and a common faith, as well as respect for individuals in all stages and ages of life.
8. Helps to overcome the age-segregated nature of our society and church programs.
9. Enhances people’s identification with their parish and integration within the community.
10. Incorporates a variety of ways to learn: prayer, community building, interactive and experiential presentations and activities, group discussion and sharing.
Research on Lifelong Faith Formation

Research Findings
1. Involvement of all ages
2. Intergenerational relationships created
3. Strengthened the parish community
4. Led to greater involvement in parish life
5. Addressed adults’ hunger for learning
6. Families enjoy praying, learning, being together; sharing faith together

7. Environment for learning, asking questions, growing in faith
8. Variety of learning activities; faith sharing and personal experience
9. Need adequate meeting space
10. Learning is exciting—enthusiasm is contagious

Intergenerational Learning

Principles of Intergenerational Learning
   - Know-what
   - Know-why
   - Know-how
2. Create an environment of warmth, trust, acceptance and care that promotes group participation, activities, and discussion.

3. Incorporate real-life application of learning by:
   - engaged people in the events of church life
   - applying learning to daily living as Catholics
   - experiencing new ways to practice their faith which promote the transfer of learning to their daily lives
4. Utilize participants’ experience and prior knowledge.
5. Focus on a moderate level of content that is recycled several times using different learning methods.

6. Respect the variety of learning styles among the participants.
   - direct, hands-on, concrete experiences
   - reflective observation
   - exploration and analysis
7. Respect the people’s multiple intelligences and ways of learning.

Intergenerational Learning Process
1. an all-ages learning experience for the whole assembly
2. age-appropriate in-depth learning experiences for families with children, adolescents, young adults, and adults
3. an all-ages contributive learning experience in which each generation teaches the other generations
4. reflection on the learning experience and interactive group sharing
Intergenerational Learning

Intergenerational Learning Process
Meal and Community Building (30 minutes)
Part 1. Gathering and Prayer (10+)
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience (20+)
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience (75-90)
  ▪ Formats: Whole Group, Age Group, Activity Center
Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application (15-20)
Part 5. Closing Prayer (5-10)

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

Examples:
- table sharing
- dramatic presentation
- game or simulation
- video or media presentation
- art project
- storytelling
- participating in a ritual
- praying together

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Whole Group Format
- Intergenerational learning activities and age-appropriate learning activities for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults at table groups
  ▪ Option 1. Entire session intergenerational
  ▪ Option 2. Presentations to entire group with age-specific table group activities

Age Group Format
- Parallel learning groups with age-appropriate learning plans for:
  ▪ young children (pre-school)
  ▪ families with children (grades 1-5)
  ▪ middle school youth
  ▪ high school youth
  ▪ young adults
  ▪ adults

Whole Group Example: Triduum Program

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: Triduum Quiz
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience: Guided Tour of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil
  1. Present the Gospel story or excerpts.
  2. Reflect on the story.
  3. Present the ritual.
  4. Experience part of the ritual.
  5. Engage in a creative activity.

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: Triduum Quiz

Examples:
- Triduum: Quiz
- Death of the Messiah: Prayer—Stations of the Cross
- Justice—Rights and Responsibilities: Simulation
- Easter: Dramatizing Gospel Stories
- All Saints: Saints of Fortune Game
- Advent: Images of the Messiah in Word, Art, and Music
- Justice-Solidarity: A Global Banquet Stories and Foods from around the World

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Intergenerational Learning

Age Group Example: Easter Program
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience:
Exploring the Resurrection
- Families with Children Learning Plan:
  Discovering the Risen Jesus
  - Part 1. Exploring the Stories of the Resurrection
  - Part 2. Creating an Easter Banner
  - Part 3. Decorating a Family Easter Candle

Intergenerational Learning

Adolescent Learning Plan: Meaning of the Resurrection
- Part 1. Activities on the Resurrection (Options)
  1. Magazine story on Easter
  2. Presentation on the Resurrection
  3. Advertisement for the Resurrection
  4. Top 10 Reasons Jesus rose from the dead
  5. Debate: Importance of the Resurrection
  6. Television Report on Easter
- Part 2. Emmaus Reflection

Intergenerational Learning

Adult Learning Plan: Meaning of the Resurrection (Small Group Format)
- Part 1. Exploring the Meaning of Resurrection
- Part 2. Growing in Our Relationship with Jesus Christ
- Part 3. Living the Resurrection

Intergenerational Learning

Activity Center Format
- Learning stations or centers with a variety of structured learning activities on a common theme
  - Age-specific
  - Intergenerational

Intergenerational Learning

Activity Center Example: Jesus, Son of God
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience:
Experiencing the Son of God through Gospel Stories—Intergenerational Activity Centers
- Dramatic presentations / role plays
- Creative art activities
- Storytelling / Scripture imagination activities
- Media presentations
- Music
- Prayer and ritual
- Group discussion / family conversations

Intergenerational Learning

Activity Centers
1. Jesus is Born (Infancy Narratives)
2. Jesus is God’s Beloved Son (Baptism and Transfiguration)
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God
4. Jesus Heals People
5. Jesus Forgives Sin
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead
7. Jesus Feeds People
Intergenerational Learning
From Content to Learning Format
- For content that is all-ages appropriate and requires a sequential presentation consider the whole group format
  Examples:
  - Sacraments (Eucharist—four movements of the Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Baptism)
  - Triduum liturgies

Intergenerational Learning
From Content to Learning Format
- For content that requires age-appropriate concepts and methods consider the age group format
  Examples:
  - Justice
  - Morality

Intergenerational Learning
From Content to Learning Format
- For content that can be designed into individual learning activities and does not require sequencing, consider learning activity centers.
  Examples
  - Advent traditions (Advent wreath, Jesse Tree, prayer traditions, Scripture stories)
  - Lent traditions (praying, fasting, almsgiving)
  - Jesus Christ, Son of God (stories from the Gospels that reveal Jesus' divinity)

Role of GOF Website and Harcourt
- Both have fully developed intergenerational sessions
- Both follow the format we explored
- Neither should be used “as is”; you need to fit them to your parish and its unique realities
- Check out the Eucharist sampler

Intergenerational Learning
What are you thinking?
✓ What would this type of learning do for your parish?
✓ What are you excited about?
✓ What are you apprehensive about?

Family and Household Faith Formation
Question:

How do you help families share faith at home?

Household Faith Formation

What Do We Believe About Families?

- The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called the domestic church” (CCC 2204).
- “As Christian families, you not only belong to the Church, but your daily life is a true expression of the Church” (Follow the Way of Love, p. 8).

Household Faith Formation

"A family is our first community and most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us and acts in the world. The early Church expressed this truth by calling the Christian family a domestic church or church of the home. . . . Your domestic church is not complete by itself, of course. It should be united with and supported by the parishes and other communities within the larger Church” (Follow the Way of Love p. 8).

Household Faith Formation

Become Who You Are...

Four Tasks of the Family

( Familiaris Consortio, John Paul II)

- Form a loving community.
- Serve life . . . bearing and educating children.
- Participate in a caring and just society.
- Share in the life and mission of the Church.

Household Faith Formation

“The Christian family is ordinarily the first experience of the Christian community and the primary environment for growth in faith. Because it is the “church of the home” (FC, no 11), the family provides a unique focus for catechesis. It is a place in which the word of God is received and from which it is extended.

Household Faith Formation

With the Christian family, parents are the primary educators in the faith and “the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children” (LG, no. 11). But all the members make up the family, and each can make a unique contribution to creating the basic environment in which a sense of God’s loving presence is awakened and faith in Jesus Christ is confessed, encouraged, and lived.” (NDC 100-101)
Seven Ideals of the Christian Family

1. Intentional. Parents are the first and most influential educators of their children. Families provide the foundational setting in which a young person’s faith is formed.

2. Daily Life. Families grow in faith when they “stop, look, and listen” in order to recognize God’s gracious activity in their daily lives.

3. Wholeness and Well-being. When families build healthy relationships with each other through positive interactions, sharing meals, solving conflicts, and the like, they also grow in faith together.


5. Religious Practice. When families practice their faith—through conversation and discussion, ritual and celebration, outreach and service to others—they grow in faith together.

6. Worship. When families participate in the liturgical feasts, seasons, and rhythms of the Church, they make connections between their faith encounters and the faith life of the larger community.

7. Contemporary Culture. Families meet the challenges of contemporary culture by articulating their values, establishing clear priorities, and making careful decisions—all in an atmosphere of community support.

Nurturing Household Faith through Intergenerational Learning

1. Providing shared learning experiences
2. Modeling and demonstrating faith practices
3. Providing resources for the home: Home Kit
4. Encouraging household faith reflection
Household Faith Formation

Framework for Household Faith Formation

- Learning the Catholic Faith Story
- Celebrating Rituals
- Praying Together
- Enriching Relationships
- Serving and Working for Justice

Things to keep in mind...

- Keep it simple and focused.
- If they create it, they will use it.
- Provide both household activities for all ages and age-appropriate activities for children, teens, and adults.
- Packaging is important.
- Give households the tools and resources they need.
- Provide a “user’s guide” for the home kit.

Household Faith Formation

Design Process

1. Decide on your Target Audiences.
2. Design or Select Home Activities.
3. Design a Format(s) for each Activity.
4. Determine a Delivery Method.
5. Develop a Timeline and Implementation Plans.

Step 1. Target Audiences

- Entire congregation: Sunday Mass
- Participants in intergenerational programs
- Family life cycle stages
- Developmental stages and age groups
- Participants in parish meetings and leadership groups

Step 2. Activities

- Focus on know-how, know-what, know-why.
- Incorporate the five ways of nurturing faith:
  - Learning
  - Celebrating rituals
  - Praying
  - Serving
  - Enriching relationships
- Extend and expand learning from the intergenerational program and event.
- Give them everything they need.

Step 3. Formats

- Decide on the purpose and use of the format.
- Make it user-friendly: inviting, accessible, simple, easy to use.
- Design it to fit into flow of family life:
  - Meal times, car times, bedtime, exits and entries
  - Family sharing times
  - Memory-making times: key family moments, celebrations, rites of passage
Household Faith Formation

- Note card
- One-fold stand-up card
- Newsletter
- Booklet
- Magnet
- Placemat
- Bedpost/door hangers
- Calendar
- Poster and artwork
- Prayer card
- Bookmark
- Symbols and images
- Music CD
- Video
- E-mail
- Web site
- Journal
- Visor prayer

Household Faith Formation

**Step 4. Delivery Methods**

- Distribute at intergenerational programs.
- Include in parish newsletter or Sunday bulletin.
- Distribute at Sunday Mass.
- Distribute at parish meetings and leadership groups.
- Publish home activities on the parish web site.
- Send targeted activities via e-mail.
- Deliver materials to the homebound.

Household Faith Formation

**Church Year Example: Advent Home Kit**

- **Prayer**: morning and nighttime prayers for December, prayers for every day of Advent, table prayers for Advent and the Christmas Season, weekly prayers for the Advent wreath
- **Rituals**: a blessing before the Christmas meal and the Christ candle, a blessing for a Christmas crèche, a blessing for a Christmas tree, a blessing upon opening gifts, a ritual for Our Lady of Guadalupe

Household Faith Formation

- **Learning**: Jesse Tree and/or an Advent wreath; day-by-day Advent calendars for children, teens, and adults; Advent reflections books for the family-as-a-whole, for teens, and for adults, a list of Advent-Christmas storybooks and DVDs/videos, a guide to reading the Advent and Christmas Lectionary
- **Service**: a guide to Advent-Christmas service projects (collections, “adopt-a-family” projects), alternative gift-giving suggestions, a list of organizations for making charitable donations
- **Family Enrichment**: recipes for family baking activities, ideas for making gifts, meal time activities

Household Faith Formation

**Sacraments: Eucharist Home Kit**

(Theme: The Four Movements of the Mass)

- **Learning**: short articles for adults, parents, and teens on Eucharist; guide for children on the Eucharist; Scripture readings and reflections on the Eucharist; explanations of the symbols and ritual moments in Eucharist
- **Prayer**: prayers before and after meals, seasonal table prayers
- **Rituals**: table rituals on Eucharist themes, family meal traditions
- **Service**: service projects focus on feeding a hungry world
- **Family Enrichment**: celebrating a family meal, ideas for making meal time special, baking bread (recipe or bread mix) with a family activity
Household Faith Formation

Justice and Service Example:
Lent and the Option for the Poor

- **Learning**: print and web resources for further learning on poverty, Scripture readings and reflections on the Bible’s preferential option for the poor, a summary of Catholic social teaching on option for the poor, stories of saints who served the poor, stories of Catholic organizations like the Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services who serve the poor, a family magazine on option for the poor

- **Service**: “Action Projects Booklet” with local, national, and global projects that individuals, families, and the whole parish community can adopt and get involved in serving the poor

- **Family Enrichment**: purchasing fair trade products, getting involved as a family in a service project, eating a simple meal each week and giving the money to an organization that serves the poor

- **Prayer**: prayers for every day of Lent with a focus on justice and option for the poor, table prayers for Lent

- **Rituals**: an Ash Wednesday home ritual, celebrating the Stations of the Cross as a family

Household Faith Formation

New Life in Christ Home Kit

**Household**
- People of Faith Magazine, Following Jesus: New Life in Christ
- Table Reflections during the Easter Season
- Prayers for the 50 days of the Easter Season
- Service project ideas focusing on new life, such as activities to care for God’s creation, celebrating Earth Day, etc.
- Family activities such as decorating Easter eggs, baking Easter bread

**Adult**
- Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead by Bill Huebsch from the Growing Faith Project
- Catholic Update: We Believe in the Resurrection by Thomas Groome (Catholic Update, March 2005)

Household Faith Formation

What would you put in a Home Kit for your first session?

**Brainstorm….**

Contact Us!

Leif Kehrwald  
lkehrwald@cmdnet.org

Mariette Martineau  
mariette@cmdnet.org

Joan Weber  
joanweber@cmdnet.org

www.generationsoffaith.org  
Center for Ministry Development