

Session 3: Comprehensive Faith Formation

Proposition Definition: Develop an intentional faith formation plan at every parish and Catholic school in which parents encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, and are supported in teaching their children the Catholic faith and living their identity as a beloved child of God.

- Provide meaningful sacramental preparation that emphasizes a personal encounter with the living Christ.
- Create educational, prayer and retreat experiences where the whole family can be formed in the faith.
- Identify, invite, form and equip catechists and Catholic school teachers to provide an authentic and credible witness of the faith and the joy of Christian life.

Other Key Points:

- Formation consists of many elements. Learning through both human experiences and formal catechesis are ways that can lead a person to better understand the faith and enables them to explore and judge their experience in light of the Gospel.
- Our families and communities play a crucial role in providing formation for all individuals—children, youth and adults.
- The Church teaches that the Christian family is the primary environment for growth in faith. This is where members of the family learn their basic prayers, the traditions of the church, and the importance of having a relationship with God.
- Working with our families, our parish communities provide a place where the Christian faith is nourished through the pastor, parish catechists, and members of the community.
- In all areas of formation within the parish, catechesis is an integral part of comprehensive faith formation.
- Utilizing a solid curriculum and providing opportunities for a conversion of the heart such as retreats, and opportunities for service, are essential to helping form disciples.

Pray With:

*For just as from heavens the rains and snow come down
And do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful,
Giving seeds to him who sows and bread to him who eats,
So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;
It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.
(Is 55:10-11)*

Reflection Questions:

1. How would you define comprehensive catechesis?
2. What most touched your heart as it pertains to the teaching?