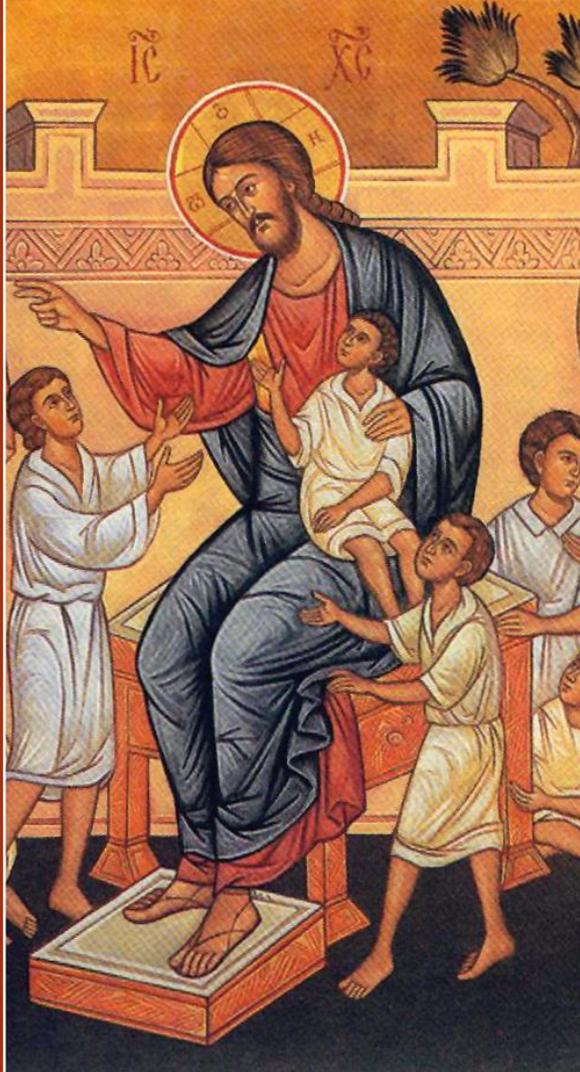


SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO
COME UNTO ME



SACRAMENTS GOD WITH US

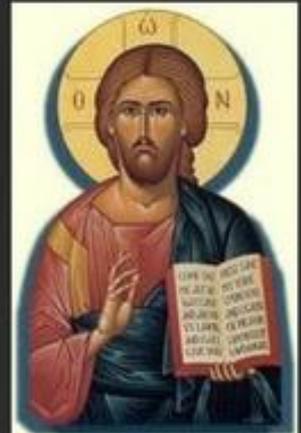
Engaging Parents in Sacramental Preparation

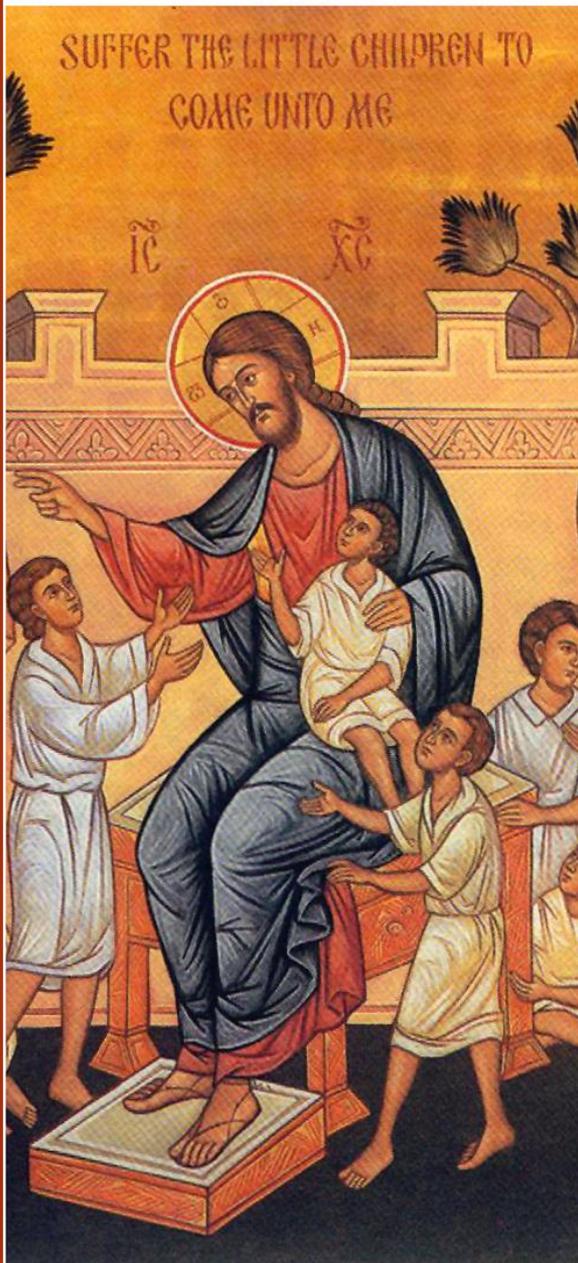
BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

THE DEFINITIVE AIM OF CATECHESIS...

...IS TO PUT PEOPLE NOT ONLY IN TOUCH, BUT ALSO
IN COMMUNION AND INTIMACY WITH JESUS CHRIST.

ST. JOHN PAUL II ~ CATECHESI TRADENDAE





SACRAMENTS GOD WITH US

Adapted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1131

Sacraments are

- *efficacious (having the power to produce a desired effect) signs of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.*
- *visible rites which make present the invisible graces proper to each sacrament*

They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions. (the predominant or prevailing tendency of one's spirits)



**WHAT IS OUR PREVAILING
DISPOSITION?**

**CAN OTHERS SEE AND
EXPERIENCE THE FRUITS OF
THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR
LIVES?**

PUTTING PARENTS AT THE CENTER

Build Relationships with Parents



Belonging leads to believing. People come to believe in God because of the relationships they build in the Church community.

PUTTING PARENTS AT THE CENTER

Evaluate Current Adult Faith Formation Activities



Parishes that do sacramental preparation well are the ones that not only prepare families for the sacrament but connect them with the parish community.

PUTTING PARENTS AT THE CENTER

Let Parents Do the Formation



Every sacramental preparation program needs to have one thing:

Opportunities for kids and parents to gather together to talk about faith.

And parents need to lead it.

Providing effective at-home faith sharing resources is key.

WELCOMING PARENTS



- Pray for the parents of the children in your care daily.
- Welcome parents with joy. Affirm their decision to enroll their children in Faith Formation.

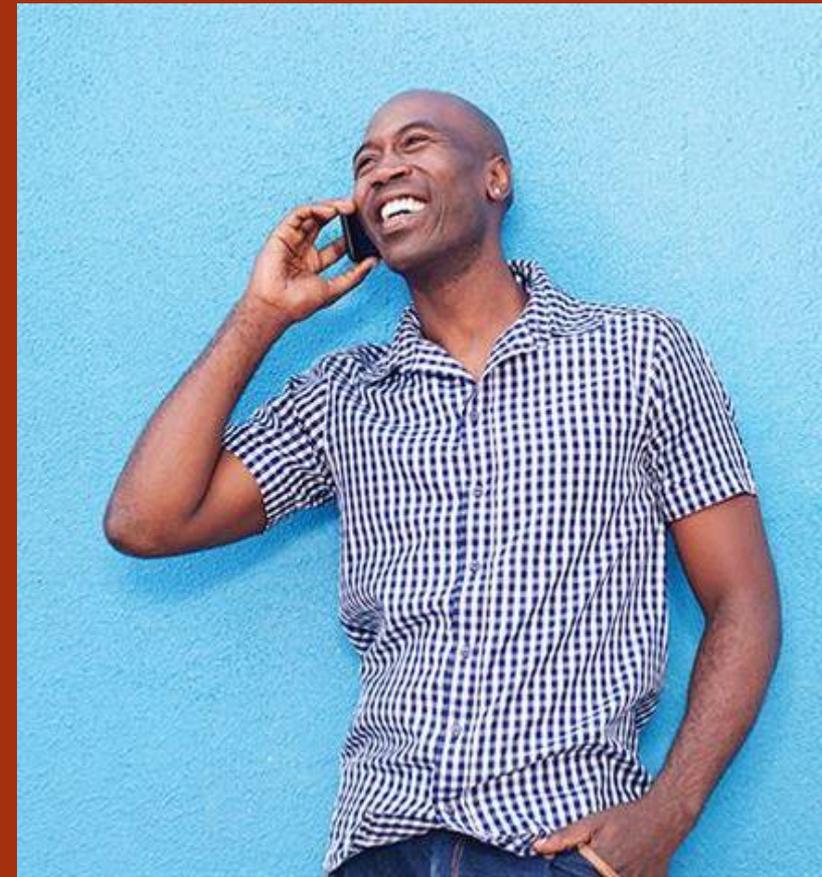
WELCOMING PARENTS

Sample Parent Welcome Phone Call:

Begin with a prayer. Share the purpose of meeting and the time frame.

Some “getting to know you” questions to consider:

- What role did faith play in your parents' lives?
- What difference did this make in your life?
- What is the hope or dream you have for the role that faith will play in the life of your child when they are adults?
- What obstacles get in the way of this wish/hope coming true?
- How can we support you in making your hopes for your child come true?



WELCOMING PARENTS



Parent Welcome Phone Call:

- Explain the program, curriculum, format, guidelines, and expectations
- Offer parents the opportunity to ask you questions.
- Introduce parents to parish resources and invite to parish ministries. Share your personal experience of being an active member of your faith family. What difference has this made in your life?

Ensure parents that you and the parish family are there to support them.

End with a prayer and an invitation to contact you for on-going support.

REMINDER OF RITE OF BAPTISM

CELEBRANT: What do you ask of God's Church for your child?

PARENTS: Baptism.

CELEBRANT : You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith and of bringing him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.

Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

PARENTS: We do.

The Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead and invite your parents (and godparents) to do the same.



REMINDER OF RITE OF BAPTISM



PCL: What do you ask of God's Church for your child?

PARENTS: *Faith Formation*

PCL: You have asked to have your child *enrolled in faith formation.*

In doing so, you are now accepting the responsibility of partnering with us to help bring your child closer to Jesus by fully participating in our program to the best of your ability.

Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

PARENTS: We do.

PCL: *Our parish welcomes your family with great joy. In its name and in the name of Jesus, I enroll your child in our faith formation program.*

I welcome us to make the sign of the cross and pray the Our Father together as a sign of our commitment to walk closely with Jesus.

Engaging Parents in Sacramental Preparation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **How can I better live a sacramental life?**
- **In what ways am I a living witness to the beauty and power of the sacraments?**
- **What Adult Faith Formation opportunities exist at my parish? Am I involved in any of them? Do I know the adult faith formation leaders in my parish?**
- **In what ways can I encourage parents to share faith at home?**
- **What resources do I use to help effectively engage parents in sacramental preparation?**
- **What are my biggest fears/ apprehensions about engaging parents?**

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