

## Formation for Next Generation

(Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative)

### Guidelines and Expectations

Diocese must have identified two site coordinators per site - a *core* group- along with a diocesan-level coordinator.

1. A **parent-lead**, specific to that parish community. The parent-lead should help confirm other parents, grandparents, caregivers, and elders to attend the session.
2. A **parish or faith leader**, specific to that community.
3. A **diocesan-level coordinator**: a diocesan Religious Education or Formation Coordinator who can oversee the site(s) in your diocese. This individual should work with core group for each site, as needed.

A **partnership agreement must be signed** by the core group and diocesan-level coordinator. All parties must agree to phase 1 and 2, see below:

#### Phase 1: Consultations.

Upon approval, Catholic Extension will underwrite the convenings of parents & caregivers with their religious education, parish, and faith leaders to discuss ways in which they can support Christian faith formation of their children: through teaching, ritual, and daily practice. Catholic Extension will designate a facilitator to be present at your convenings.

- Core group will organize convenings, providing a few date options that best work for the community (parents, faith leaders, catechists, etc.)
- Facilitator will travel to your community on a date that has been mutually agreed upon with core group.
- Once date is confirmed, the **parent-lead** contact and **parish-lead** will invite and confirm attendance of parents, caregivers, elders, catechists, and parish leader(s) who will provide their input and ideas for cultural teachings unique to their community and demographics.
- **Facilitator** will enable dialogue and document ideas that surface in these consultations.
- A few sample questions to address: What are your challenges when it comes down to passing on the Catholic faith to your children? What are your strengths? What are the unique cultural practices and traditions that speak to our faith? How could I be more involved as a parent in the teaching of my children's faith?
- Facilitator will provide a report of these key ideas that result from this meeting, which will become the basis of step two, described below:

# CATHOLIC EXTENSION

## Phase 2: Implementation (2-3 weeks after consultation)

Once these consultations have occurred, the core group will work together to design a program/project to submit Catholic Extension for approval.

- Diocesan coordinator will submit this project that reflects the input of both parents and caregivers. A template will be provided for submissions.
- Project should be submitted within three weeks after consultation has taken place.
- These programs/projects will be eligible for implementation funds; select sites may receive up to \$15,000.
- Catholic Extension will review program outlines beforehand to ensure that they adequately respond to ideas surfaced in the convening between parents & faith leaders. Through implementation, we hope participants develop new approaches and tools that support parents and caregivers at the local level to pass on the faith to their children.

## **Reporting**

Once communities have moved to the implementation stage, sites will provide short stories, reports, and videos capturing how the new tools and resources developed with the input of parents and caregivers were put into practice. This will be an annual collection of results from all participating communities. In addition to this, all dioceses will provide standard grant reporting within our system.

Finally, at the end of the program in three years time, Catholic Extension will convene a gathering of religious education leaders and all program participants (CORE leaders and others) at a national conference to discuss the learnings from this initiative. Dates will be announced at a later time.