



INTERGENERATIONAL MODELS FOR CATECHESIS

THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION AND LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY RECOMMENDS:

1. All parishes will explore the need for intergenerational or whole parish catechetical processes in order to promote interaction among all age groups within the parish community and to respond to emerging needs.
2. All new catechetical processes will provide the necessary elements of knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, worship and apostolic works.
3. The Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry will provide parishes with resources, training and support for intergenerational catechetical processes.

STRUCTURE

- The goal of all intergenerational processes for catechesis is to build a vibrant parish life and to assist all parishioners in their knowledge and spiritual growth.
- Parishes may offer schedules and processes that are best suited to their particular circumstances.
- Intergenerational catechetical processes should be designed and structured to allow for full participation by ALL parishioners and allow individuals to learn in ways best suited to their age, circumstances, and learning abilities.
- Special care should be taken to provide age-appropriate experiences for children, youth, and adults. Lecture-style presentations are discouraged, especially for children.
- The Diocesan Curriculum for Catechesis will be followed to determine topics and learning objectives.
- Years may be structured by topic (according to the Diocesan Curriculum) or topics may be mixed in each year.
- Topics should relate to upcoming events in the Liturgical Year, Lectionary, or Sacramental cycle. Sessions can be developed around current contemporary issues with topics from the Curriculum for Catechesis.
- Intergenerational catechetical processes must use approved resources and/or texts, and meet the minimum diocesan requirement of 36 hours for Elementary/25 hours for Youth Ministry. Some examples are:
 - a. Monthly all-age gatherings with separate age-level breakout groups, plus take-home packets for family learning between sessions.
 - b. Monthly all-age gatherings with participants rotating through learning centers, plus take-home packets for family learning between sessions.
 - c. Periodic all-age gatherings (2 - 4 times per year) plus age level based learning.
 - d. Periodic all-ages gatherings (2 -4 times per year) plus small group family sessions gathered at the parish or in homes.

CATECHISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS WILL:

- Meet the standards and qualifications of catechists.
- Work toward the appropriate level of diocesan certification.
- Comply with the Diocese of Youngstown Safe Environment Policy.

ADMINISTRATORS WILL:

- Formulate a yearly plan that includes all catechetical processes available and provide a calendar of activities, and parish events. This plan should also include opportunities for catechist formation.
- Provide opportunities for families and extended families to participate in intergenerational learning, service opportunities, and community-building activities at the parish.
- Take attendance at each session and keep age/grade-level rosters.
- Inform parents/guardians of the means by which the catechetical processes assist them in their responsibility for the faith development of their children.
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination between all ministries of the parish in developing and implementing intergenerational processes.
- Develop a method of supervision/evaluation of all catechists involved in all catechetical processes.
- Conduct regular assessment of participants' development within the process and the overall effectiveness of the process.
- Provide the Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry with full descriptions of all catechetical processes including goals, objectives, activities, methods of instruction, and evaluation.