



# Catechizing and Supporting Parents

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OCIA Adapted for Youth

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# The Key

## Involving Parents

**Warm Hospitality & Encouragement**

**Initial Interview**

- **Parent Survey**

**Supporting Parents in the process**

**Involvement in the Parish**

**Engaging Sponsors and Mentors**





# Parent Interview

- *"The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute."*

CCC 2221

- Why do they want this for their children?
  - What is their background?
  - What kind of formation did they have?
  - How did their own families live their faith?
  - Outline the commitment and the beauty of providing a faith life for their children with commitment to lifelong growth
  - Explain the process to the parents and the necessity of their involvement.
  - Reception of their own Sacraments  
Reconciliation; Confirmation and Eucharist,  
Matrimony
  - \*Older youth could be present for parent interview. If youth are present both parent and youth could complete surveys
- \*See sample surveys



# Children/Youth Survey



- NOT a Test
  - Serves as an Assessment
  - Catechesis can be targeted
- \*See Sample — Filled out during initial interview or first class



# Practical Support for Parents

*“It is not enough for parents to have children know their prayers and memorize certain articles of faith. The children must grow in their faith. Of course, you as parents must understand what you believe if you are to explain to your children the meaning of their faith. Growing in our Faith is a lifelong daily process.”*

*Fr. John hardon, SJ*



# Support and Foster Faith in the Home

Require parents to be present at classes and attend Mass with the family

Ask the parents to do lessons at home with their children

Provide catechetical resources for parents

Provide discussion questions for families to talk about at home

Provide examples for structured family prayer time in the home

Involve families in the life of the parish

**\*See Role of Parents Guide**

# Involving families in Parish Life

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## Participation in Family Faith Formation

Offering parish-wide family prayer and celebration opportunities that are built into your OCIA process

- Family Adoration ½ hours w- ice cream social
- Saint Day Celebrations
- Family-friendly Lenten Stations of the Cross with hot pretzel social
- Group Service Projects
- Rosary Groups
- Youth group





# Engaging Sponsors and Mentors

- Look to those who are living their faith fully and are willing to be actively involved in the catechumen/candidate's journey.
- Well-formed and can welcome and support
- Perhaps someone who has a similar faith background or journey
- Couple or individual with children who can invite the family to parish events, meeting them for Mass etc.
- Grandparent figure

# Involve the Parish and School Communities

Ask the parishioners to pray

Invite prayer warriors to adopt an OCIA Youth to pray for

If youth is in Catholic school, inform school and ask for prayer and support.

Is there another student at school or in the parish who may be a good support/buddy?

Invite youth of Youth Ministry age to YM events. Introduce to Youth Minister.

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Mark 9:33-35

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”

But they remained silent.

They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”