

Year of the Eucharist/ Catholics Come Home Resources for Faith Formation: Parents of Children Preparing for First Eucharist

Prepared by the Religious Education Office



Families whose children will receive First Communion in spring of 2010 will be the first of two groups whose preparation should reflect the increased emphasis Bishop Sartain has asked parishes to put on good formation about Eucharist. There will soon be an official diocesan list of approved resources, but the REO realizes that for most parishes, the important parent meetings for spring 2010 will take place before that list is completed and approved. Here are just a few ideas for resources you can use right now as you prepare for parent meetings. We realize there are many more resources, but this is a starter list. Please note that these are suitable for use any year and for helping to form parents returning to the Church as a result of Catholics Come Home.

Suggested Formation for Leaders Preparing Talking Points:

Building a Eucharistic Community: A Handbook for Liturgical Catechesis Mary J. McDonald. 2001 Resource Publications. Chapter 6 – Rites, Signs and Symbols – pieces can be incorporated into your talk – reflection questions for leaders can shape how you talk about the Mass.

Eucharist by Rev. Robert Barron. 2008 Orbis Books/RCL Benziger. A lively, readable discussion of what really matters and what the Eucharist really means. Also available as a book on tape.

Living the Mass: How One Hour a Week Can Change Your Life, by Fr. Dominic Grassi & Joe Paprocki, 2005 Loyola Press

The Mass is Never Ended: Rediscovering Our Mission to Transform the World by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce, 2007 Ave Maria Press. Theology of faith and work: how the Mass equips us for the workday world.

The Sacrament of Charity (Sacramentum Caritatis) Pope Benedict XVI. 2007, USCCB Publication 7-002. The Holy Father's post-synodal apostolic exhortation is a readable update on the theology of the Eucharist.

Resources for Gathering, Connecting, Sharing:



Embracing the Vision: Sacramental Catechesis for First Reconciliation and First Communion, by Sr. Linda Gaupin. 2007 Twenty-Third Publications (available through Harcourt Religion) Focus on liturgical prayer and adult conversion. Sessions for families are included, with handouts, CD-Rom.

Eucharist: Source and Summit of life and Mission of the Church, by Maureen Gallagher and Jean Marie Hiesberger. 2004, Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Liturgical Publications, Inc.) A six-session resource suitable for small groups. Includes history of the Mass, parts of the Mass, and Eucharistic Devotions. This resource has been used successfully with small faith-sharing groups of parents of children preparing for Eucharist: an excellent strategy to connect them to one another. (See family home supplement under "Domestic Church" on the next page)

Forming the Assembly to Celebrate the Mass – by Lawrence E. Mick. 2002 Liturgy Training Publications. Recommended: use the information in chapters on Word and Sacrifice, and the accompanying discussion questions.

Gather in My Name: Eucharist. Sadlier. Web-based plan for whole-community gathering about Eucharist – <http://www.webelieveweb.com/gather.cfm?page=eucharist>

Keeping Faith First: A Resource Supporting the Whole Community of Faith - Session 8 “Eucharist and the Mass” RCL/Benziger.. Master for a reproducible handout for a complete adult session.

Threshold Bible Study: Eucharist by Stephen J. Binz. 2005 Twenty-Third Publications. Choose from 30 Scripture-based sessions that consist of a reading, reflection and discussion and prayer.

What Does it Mean to Be Catholic? Engaging Adults in Meaningful Conversation (Gathering Sessions) by Jane Regan & Mimi McReavy Bitzan. 2005 Loyola Press – Finding God series) Session D: Invitation to the Feast.

Liturgical Catechesis Videos to Show at Parent Meetings:

Come and See/Vengan y Verán (DVD – two versions, English and Spanish) Loyola Press. The section called “Ritual Matters” (9.5 min.) is a powerful celebration of how family and religious rituals are related, to help parents understand why Mass has elements of repeated ritual. “Your Role at Mass” (23 min.) is an engaging way to help parents learn how they, and their children, fit into the celebration of the Mass. (Available in the Diocesan Media Center - Order # LLWX0094)

Why We Go to Mass: Liturgy and Our Lives Rev. J-Glenn Murray, SJ, Loyola Productions on DVD or VHS Challenging and engaging, Murray uses story and example to show why Mass REALLY is necessary to us. Three 30-minute segments. (Available in Diocesan Media Center - Order # LLTX0032)

Resources for the Domestic Church;

Catholic Parent Know-How: Preparing your Child for First Communion 2005, Our Sunday Visitor. Colorful magazine with pointers, scripture and more.

People of Faith/Generations Learning Together Magazines: Eucharist (Harcourt Religion) – a colorful magazine on Eucharist filled with family learning activities.



My First Communion (Supplement to Eucharist Source and Summit) by Kathie Amidei. 2004, Liturgical Publications, Inc. Six home sessions correlate to adult version – child’s book and family guide.

(This list was prepared by the Religious Education Office and will be expanded in the near future for Year of the Eucharist. For more information, contact Joyce Donahue at jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org)

Diocesan Media Center Top Picks: Video Resources

For Parents of Children making their First Eucharist

(from Jeanne Pirc, Media Librarian)

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the right video must be worth 10 times that – and using video media is a key way you can reach people with important messages about Catholic Faith. During the Year of the Eucharist, The Joliet Diocesan Media Center can be your partner in enhancing parish meetings with parents of children preparing to receive First Eucharist.

Celebrating our Faith: Eucharist - Families (produced by Harcourt Religion), is a perennial favorite. Fr. Joe Kempf does a good job presenting and informing. Without using the entire 52 Min. tape, there are sections that would work wonderfully with parents. Order #: SREX0061

Grandma's Bread, one of the truly universal favorites, is an 18 minute short story that warms the heart. It's all about family and Eucharist. Order # SREX0022 DVD: SREX0097

Videos that work well with Whole Parish Faith Formation:

First Communion a Family Journey, 20 Min. that shows typical Eucharist services and what to expect. Order #: SREX0087 DVD: SREX0109

What Catholics Believe About... is a wonderful series in a refreshing, question and answer session on all kinds of subjects. (Eucharist tape is 30 Min. Order #: SREX0058 DVD: SREX0094

Eucharist: God's Way of Embracing Us or **Eucharist, the Source and the Summit** are great for parents who want something more. Order #: SREX0095

In addition, there are lots of videos that are appropriate with well-known presenters, such as Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI, Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, and Margaret Bowman, Gaynel Cronin and Fr. Jack Rathschmidt as well as videos that go along with published Eucharist preparation programs.

How to Find a Video:

The media library catalog is online at:

<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/videoLibrarySearch.asp>

- Simple searches are always recommended so that results are quick and more items come up. Making sure items are well cross referenced has been an ongoing process for us, so please know that some search results may not be exhaustive lists. For instance, try searching the category, Sacraments: Eucharist. It is pretty easy to search through the 21 records found.
- When choosing a resource, keep in mind how you really want this resource to function: story, theological, sacramental, spiritual, just a short rundown, as an introduction or as a more thorough adult approach.
- Most often showing just a quick film clip is best. For example, there is a short portion of the feature film PHENOMENON, where John Travolta is explaining to two children about his upcoming death using an apple. Once eaten, the apple becomes part of that person. Under the right circumstances, that is a pretty powerful clip.
- There are quick links to lists made up of current subjects and instructions on how to use at the top of the search page. Possibilities for using these video resources are endless, and please don't be afraid to call or email to ask for help. .

Media Center Notes

The Media Center is available for you to come browse, check out or preview items. Our hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm except for Fridays 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. and closed when the St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center is. There is a membership available; however anyone can use it for a small fee. There is a hold system, that enables you to reserve all your resources for the year, and we offer UPS shipping and return. Call 815-834-4062 (Media Center) for any help, or office number: 815-838-6475. Our fax is 815-588-6003. Email: jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org. We are here to serve you and your recommendations are always welcome.



The Media Center online catalog is now updated to include all new materials, as well as oldies but goodies on DVD - VHS. Visit the online Catalog at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/videoLibrarySearch.asp>

Membership: A Way to Save Time and Money: If you have not already done so, please renew or sign up for your parish's Media Center membership. You can access the form and information about membership at <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/Membership.asp>

Transferring Media Resources from VHS to DVD: We are working on this important update. It will take a little longer to complete the transfer onto DVD of VHS resources that we have obtained permission to copy, so keep checking with us. I have also included a space for a web connection hoping this will be a useful tool for users because sometimes you can copy them yourself online.

Want to be the First to Know When New Items Arrive? We have started an email list for those who would like short updates of new DVD's. Please call the Media Center 815-834-4062 or email Jeanne at jpirc@dioceseofjoliet.org so you can start receiving them. They will only go out when new items are available.



Help us Find the Lost!

If your parish has been a regular Media Center user, please have your catechists and staff check the shelves for VHS/DVD with the REO bar codes – some items are still missing. Call Jeanne Pirc at 815-834-4062 if you need a return UPS shipping tag. Thanks once again for your help!