

Partnership with Parents

Workshop Outline

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce

- ✚ parish catechists
- ✚ school teachers
- ✚ and parents or guardians

to the notion and practices of coaching parents to help form their own children in faith formation. It is a two-hour workshop, but of course, you may adapt it to serve your needs.

Before this workshop is held

As a parish team, you need to find some time to talk together and plan a little, using the Planning Guide and Worksheets we provide at no cost.

- ✚ Study and read *Great Expectations*. This workshop is based on that book, and we recommend that, before this workshop, you obtain a copy for each parish leader who is involved in expanding the role of parents.
- ✚ Visit the two key web sites:
 - <http://pastoralplanning.com/Partnership-Parents.html>
 - <http://growingupcatholic.com>
- ✚ Work through the steps outlined in the Planning Guide
 - Discuss and plan for each of the 5 dimensions
 - Baptism prep
 - dual approach
 - Post-Baptism
 - keep the connections tight
 - First Sacraments
 - Middle Elementary Years
 - Youth Ministry & Confirmation
- ✚ With **The Plan** in hand, schedule this workshop and be ready to share with both parents and catechists what may happen going forward:
 - In some parishes, these meetings may be split:
 - First the catechists or school teachers
 - Followed by the parents

What is needed

- ✚ Name tags for each participant
- ✚ A copy of *Great Expectations* for anyone who is a leader, and any participant who wants to purchase one, unless you intend to provide copies for all.
- ✚ An LCD projector and computer or the PowerPoint

- ✚ Prayer sheets photocopied – 2 persons can share each copy
- ✚ The Handouts (found at the back of this packet) printed – one per household
- ✚ Possibly a CD player for sacred music
- ✚ Refreshments
- ✚ A printed copy of the PowerPoint presentation’s “notes pages” where you will find the talking points for the presentations.
- ✚ Preparation is needed beforehand using the **Planning Guide**.

The Schedule

8:30 AM **Gather** with hospitality

9:00 AM **Prayer** (10 minutes)

Use the Prayer provided in the back of this packet. Reproduce freely for use in your own parish.

9:15 AM **The Leader presents** a 30 minute talk about the role of parents or guardians in the faith formation of children.

Use the PowerPoint presentation. If no LCD is available, print and use the PowerPoint as notes for this talk.

In preparation for this talk, parish leaders should work out their plan for implementing a greater role for parents. Use the Planning Guide provided on the web site and in the back of this packet to sketch your plan.

9:45 AM **Discussion.** Use [Handout #1](#) provided at the back of this packet to invite participants to respond to the talk.

If your group is small, you may wish to hold this discussion in the large group. If it is large, divide into smaller groups to get rolling. After 7-10 minutes, call the large group together and invite each small group to report.

10:00 AM **Break**

10:15 AM **The Parish Plan** – parish leaders sketch the expectations they have of parents in the program moving forward.

Discussion. Use [Handout #2](#) to invite participants to respond.

11:00 AM **Adjourn**

The flow of the Workshop

Have PowerPoint slide #1 up on the screen as people arrive. Have sacred music playing in the background. Be sure everyone is greeted and feels welcome. Give everyone a name tag. Have hospitality available, as a way of saying “welcome.” Seat people at random for this workshop.

Before you begin, print the PowerPoint notes pages, where you will find a full set of talking points for this presentation. Review the slide giving the order of the day, and then turn to prayer.

Prayer

Talk Number One

Purpose: to help parents or catechists and teachers see the deep teachings of the Church about the real role which parents must play in the formation of their children. Also use *Great Expectations*, chapters one and two, as your resource here. The PowerPoint slides reflect much of what you find there.

Distribute copies of *Great Expectations*, and ask everyone to open to page 8, Chapter One. The talking points for your presentation (in the file marked as such in this packet of files) will cover the key points in this chapter. On page 15 are discussion questions which you may use to help parents and others understand how vital the role of parents really is.

Discussion per the notes on the PowerPoint slides & Handout #1 and page 15 of *Great Expectations*.

Break

Talk Number Two

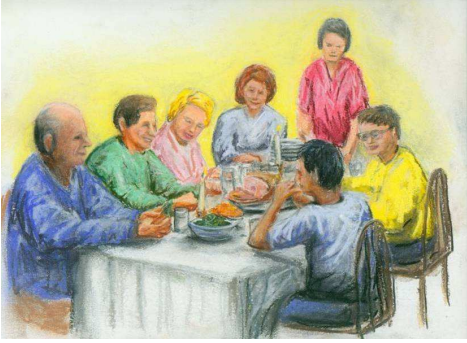
Fewer talking points are given on the slides. As a parish, you will prepare for this by working through the Planning Guide and laying out your own plan.

Discussion per Handout #2. Use the sample coaching resource in the Appendix of the Planning Guide and *Great Expectations* to help parents understand how coaching works.

Closing

It is very important to assure the participants that you as parish leaders are in this with them. You are NOT “turning this over to them” and setting them out on their own. There is a key parish role to play, which is to reinforce what parents do at home. It is important to emphasize that we can only do that. We cannot possibly become the primary formation influence on their young lives.

Thank everyone generously and share your own enthusiasm for what is to come’



Mark Hakomaki

Communal Prayer For the Domestic Church

by Bill Huebsch

Plain type: leader **BOLD TYPE: ALL**

Leader: (using these or similar words)

Let's all take a moment of silence
here in the midst of our busy lives
in order to collect the events of today
and bring ourselves, body and soul,
into this prayer.

A moment of sacred silence.

Leader: (using these or similar words)

Friends, we now gather here as God's family.
Each of us comes from our own household
called to live our faith in our everyday lives.
May we enter into this time now
conscious of this high calling
and open to God's voice within and among us.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

Reading

Reader: A reflection based on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council:

In a real sense
the family is the school of life.
But in order for the household
to provide this training ground,
and to flower fully,
it must be filled with affection.
It must be a place of love.

The role of the parents is essential in this.
Without underrating women's social advancement,
time must be provided

to allow mothers to care for their children
and fathers to take their part as well.
Children should be raised with freedom,
but also with discipline and faith.
Various generations come together
in the Christian household
in order to make this happen best.
From Article 52

Lead Faith Sharing

Leader: As we consider this reading from Vatican II, I invite you to share about it with the rest of us. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

Question for Sharing: What role do you believe parents should have in the faith formation of their children?

Prayer of the Church

Jesus, Lord and Giver of Life
we come to you in faith seeking your grace.

WE COME IN FAITH.

Empower us to live our everyday lives at home
with the same faith we express in our parish celebrations.

**MAY YOUR SPIRIT GUIDE US
TO FILL OUR LIVES WITH FAITH.**

And for this daily living we need your grace.

LET YOUR POWER FILL US.

You bring us together here with our weakness and frailty
BUT YOU STRENGTHEN US FOR YOUR OUR WORK.

MAY WE SING YOUR PRAISES FOREVER.

AMEN.

Blessing:

May God who loves us deeply
O GOD WE LOVE YOU WITHOUT END.

May the Spirit who is our Guide
O SPIRIT WE LISTEN TO YOUR VOICE.

And may Jesus Christ in whose name we gather
O JESUS WE ADORE YOU.

now bless us,

direct us,

and be with us in love, now and forever.

WE RECEIVE YOUR BLESSING WITH FULL HEARTS. AMEN.

Handout #1

Church Teaching about the Role of Parents

Read each of these statements in your group.

- ✚ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (CCC #2223).
- ✚ Vatican II
 - “The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute”
(*Declaration on Christian Education*, #3).
- ✚ *General Directory for Catechesis*
 - “Parents are the primary educators in the faith” (GDC , #255).
- ✚ The Rite of Baptism
 - To the parents: “You are accepting the responsibility of training [this child] in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring [this child] up to keep God’s commandments...”
(Rite of Baptism, #77)
- ✚ *General Directory for Catechesis* (religious education)
 - “The religious awakening which takes place in the household during childhood is, simply, **irreplaceable**.
 - It is most powerful when parents take the time to explain to their children the religious meaning of **life’s moments**:
 - including holy days, family events,
 - and social, political or moral questions.”
(GDC 226)
 - The local parish must, therefore, help parents **by whatever means works best**, to prepare for and assume their responsibility, **of educating their own children in the faith**.
(GDC 227)

What is your experience as a parent regarding this? How do you take on the primary role in the formation of your own children? In practical terms, how could this play out in this parish?

What role does the parish continue to have, in reinforcing the work of parents?

Handout #2
Parish Plans for Faith Formation

What excites you about this plan?

1

2

What scares you about it?

1

2

What do you need to succeed with us?

1

2

What do you need at home?

1

2

How will you commit yourself to playing this role, **in partnership** with us here at the parish?

1

2

Other comments: