Families of children preparing for First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation should receive good adult formation, along with strategies to connect them to the community of faith. Here are some ideas for parent meetings, along with home resources, suitable for use any year, especially for parents who are returning to or minimally connected to the Church.

**Background Preparation for Parish Leaders:**


*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 Our Sunday Visitor) Focus on liturgical prayer and adult conversion. Sessions for families are included, with handouts, CD-Rom.

*The Evangelizing Liturgy, (DVD)* Fr. Frank DeSiano, Paulist Evangelization Ministries, 2012. This 40-minute video looks at the Mass through the lens of evangelization—how the Word of God comes to us, and how we respond – and five parts of the Mass that express and deepen our conversion experience.

*First Eucharist and First Reconciliation Parent talks (videos)* – Tom Quinlan. Recorded at Our Lady of Peace, Darien, these are useful as examples or as make-up videos for parents who miss your live presentations. Find and download the complete videos here: [http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/subsectioncontent.php?secid=6&subsecid=18](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/subsectioncontent.php?secid=6&subsecid=18)

*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.


**Threshold Bible Study: Eucharist** by Stephen J. Binz. 2005 Twenty-Third Publications. Choose any of 30 Scripture-based sessions, consisting 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.

**Short Videos to Supplement 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 the Mass. “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) or [http://www.loyolapress.com/godsgift-sacramental-preparation-come-and-see-dvd-09.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/godsgift-sacramental-preparation-come-and-see-dvd-09.htm)


**Send-Home Guides & Resources for the Domestic Church:**


**The Catholic Home: Celebrations and Traditions for Holidays, Feast Days and Every Day** – Meredith Gould, 2004, Doubleday. Dissolve the boundaries between church and home by making the liturgical year special in the home.

**Catholic Parent Know-How: Sacraments Series,** Our Sunday Visitor. Colorful magazines with pointers, scripture and more.

**Catholic Update Guides** (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and the Mass available) - Mary Carol Kendzia, 2011, Liguori Publications. 50-page booklets of brief essentials on the Sacraments)

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

**Prayers and Rituals for the Home: Celebrating the Life and Times of Your Family** – Kathy Hendricks, 2013, Twenty-Third Publications. Uplifting prayer rituals and practices for the home.


(For more information about these and other resources, contact Joyce Donahue of the Religious Education Office at jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org) 815-221-6146.