



## Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative

### *Formation for the Next Generation*

#### **Guidelines and Expectations**

Diocese must identify a diocesan-level coordinator (diocesan DRE, Family Formation Coordinator, or similar) who will accompany the parish(es) through the process and be present at the listening sessions.

Diocese must also designate two (2) site leaders for each parish:

1. **Parent-lead:** The parent-lead should be an advocate for all parents in the parish. They should help confirm that parents, grandparents, caregivers, and elders attend the session, provided that they share their challenges, struggles, ideas about cultural teachings unique to their community and demographics.
2. **Parish or faith leader:** The parish leader should help confirm catechists, parish leaders, and other faith and religious education staff will be present for the session.

A **partnership agreement must be signed** by the two site leaders and the diocesan project coordinator. All three parties must complete a Zoom interview as a part of the application process. We ask that you provide your availability and date preferences within the application.

Upon approval, parishes will begin with phase 1: listening sessions. After sessions take place, select sites will be funded to move forward with funds (up to \$15,000 per parish).

#### **Phase 1: Listening Sessions**

Catholic Extension will underwrite the convenings of parents & caregivers with their religious education, parish, and faith leaders to discuss ways in which they can support Christian faith formation of their children: through teaching, ritual, and daily practice. Catholic Extension will designate a facilitator to be present at your convenings. Designated site leaders should save their receipts and email to Odette Barrientos at [obarrientos@catholicextension.org](mailto:obarrientos@catholicextension.org)

- Parish leaders and parent-leads will organize the listening sessions, procure a space, and purchase food/materials.
- Facilitator will travel to your community on a date that has been mutually agreed upon.
- Once date is confirmed, the **parent-lead** and **parish-lead** will invite and confirm attendance of parents, caregivers, elders, catechists, and faith leader(s) who will provide their input and ideas for cultural teachings unique to their community.



- Facilitator will enable dialogue and document ideas that surface in these listening sessions.
- A few sample questions to address in the listening sessions:
  - *What are your challenges when it comes down to passing on the Catholic faith to your children? What are your strengths as a parent and as a collective parish? What are the unique cultural practices and traditions that speak to your faith? How could I be more involved as a parent in the teaching of my children's faith?*
- Your facilitator will provide a report of the listening session, including ideas and priorities that are agreed on by both the parents and parish leaders as a result of this convening.

### **Phase 2: Implementation of Parish Projects**

- Once these sessions have taken place, the parish leader and parent-lead will have **(3) weeks** to work together to create a project and a budget, based off feedback.
- Site leaders should create the project with the guidance of their respective Facilitator, addressing any major questions as they go.
- Site leaders will submit their project and budget to the diocese.
- These projects will be eligible for implementation funds; select sites may receive up to \$15,000.
- Catholic Extension Society will review program outlines and ensure that they adequately respond to ideas surfaced in the convening between parents & faith leaders. Through implementation, we hope participants develop new approaches and tools that support parents and caregivers at the local level to pass on the faith to their children.

### **Reporting**

Once communities have moved to the implementation stage, sites will provide short stories, reports, and videos capturing how the new tools and resources developed with the input of parents and caregivers were put into practice. This will be an annual collection of results from all participating communities. In addition to this, all dioceses will provide standard grant reporting within our Grants portal.

Finally, at the end of the program in three years time, Catholic Extension will convene a gathering of religious education leaders and all program participants (parish leaders, parent-leads and others) at a national conference to discuss the learnings from this initiative. Dates will be announced at a later time.