**2016 Family Faith Formation Symposium**

Families at the Center of Faith Formation

October 20-22 Minneapolis, MN

**Milestones Ideas for Home and Community:**

Name it – Birth of a Sibling

Equip it – Family works together to prepare the baby room and talk about being an older sibling

Bless it – Welcome baby with lighting a candle and prayer/bless room

Gift it – T-shirt for siblings (ex. “I am the older sister”

Reinforce it – Quarterly reminders the first year

Name it – New Job

Equip it – Create a pilgrimage and take the route to work

Bless it – Use prayer points and “greatfulness” reminders along the route

Gift it – Key chain/object to sit on desk

Reinforce it – Quarterly/monthly meetings at church to encourage, celebrate new jobs, provide mentorship for anyone in transition

Name it – The Cross of Hope

Equip it – Bless cross at religion class before Christmas

Bless it – Send home a prayer of blessing which includes the parents praying with child, involving whole family

Gift it – Crucifix

Reinforce it – Incorporate reference in Homilies after Christmas and during year/ ask school of religion teachers to reference crucifix during classes

Name it – Baptismal Milestone

Equip it – send a card on yearly anniversary of baptism/go to past baptismal records to find date

Bless it – include a prayer for child and blessed water

Gift it – ask parents to get out baptismal robe/candle/photos

Reinforce it –

Name it – Youth going to college/Job after graduation

Equip it – Send a “thinking of you” card to show we care

Bless it – Put a blessing in the card

Gift it – Give them a bookmark (“We prayed for you…”

Reinforce it – Follow up with more cards at holidays, etc.

Name it – Young adults going to college/moving out of the house

Equip it – Parents and siblings help gather stuff for new place

Bless it – blessing the young adult on their new journey/make sign of cross on forehead (back, hands, feet)/blessing of room or apartment

Gift it – a wall hanging/plaque/scripture verse/cross

Reinforce it – send the verse via card/email/text

Name it – Learning to ride a bike

Equip it – Recognize gifts God had given us to be able to do new things/thanks to those who helped them learn

Bless it – bless the child and the bike

Gift it – give a new piece to use or the bike kick stand/cup holder

Reinforce it – do a short bike ride

Name it – First Rejection (audition/tryout,etc.)

Equip it – Caring Conversation –you are delivered by who you are as a child of God. Not by the rejection/disappointments

Scripture verse: possibly Psalm 139 or Jeremiah 29

Bless it – baptismal remembrance

Gift it – a certificate to remind them that they are a Child of God – already chosen

Reinforce it – remember it - conversation

Name it – The Every Moment Setting of My Life

Equip it – Welcoming grief and loss into my life/ Take time on October 28, 2016 to celebrate, grieve, and be grateful for Mama in my life

Bless it – bless the grief out loud, feel it, and name God’s blessings from Mama and the ways I have blessed her

Gift it – *decide on physical reminder*

Reinforce it – plan a time to do this/ask others to come/follow up to root it

Name it – Blessing for Spring Cleaning (Easter) and New Year (Advent)

Equip it – talk about ideas of “home” and “house” and where we live into our faith

Bless it – send home with bottles of holy water (font is blessed at Easter) to bless the home, rooms, etc.

Gift it – Holy Water bottles

Reinforce it – Have families and individuals take pictures of their homes and bring in to the church/show, discuss, share a story of how the blessing event went or how God is present in the home

Name it – New Job

Equip it – getting set for work/finding support from others in that line of work/pilgrimage on the journey every day and back

Bless it – blessing of the person

Gift it – keychain (symbol of family)/something for office/reminder of gift they are to have at place of employment

Reinforce it – business lunch

Name it – Beginning of Menstruation

Equip it – Scripture reading/conversation about fears and joys, meaning of gift of sexuality

Bless it –pray/bless girl – family prayer for everyone to respect gift of bodies

Gift it – tampon case/ Book/ necklace

Reinforce it – something during cycle

Name it – Engagement

Equip it – Scripture about marriage/Book of Tobit/Song of Songs

Bless it – prayer for wisdom, knowledge, discernment, rejoicing in two lives coming together with God at the center

Gift it – praying hands/angels – importance of praying together as a family

Reinforce it – gather with parents and other couples for wisdom/guidance as preparing for life together

Name it – Engagement/joining of two families

Equip it – pray/talk about meaning (significance) of marriage to us

Bless it – blessings for couples/hopes for marriage

Gift it – faith symbol for home (statue/tree)

Reinforce it – send things/books/share stories when gathered (about finance, anger, forgiveness, etc)

Name it – Getting a New Instrument

Equip it – Psalm 150

Bless it – blessing talent (with water)/ blessing instrument as gift/ give prayer and thanks to God

Gift it – medal of patron saint of music (Saint Cecilia)

Reinforce it – bring instruments to church/playing it

Name it – Seniors/Juniors in High School Financial Peace

Equip it – talking and learning about good financial practices with their parents/book by Dave Ramsey

Bless it – Generous God, we praise you for all the gifts you have provided us. Help us be good stewards of all your gifts so that we may bless others generously and live into the abundant life you have given and promised. Amen./ Scripture

Gift it –

Reinforce it –

Name it – Spring Planting

Equip it – Recognize the new season, preparing and caring for vegetables or flower gardens/ conversation: favorite things to plant/struggles/joys and concerns/new & tried & true

Bless it – Gen 1:27-31 (vs 29 – “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon…)

Gift it – plant or garden gift

Reinforce it – meet or do garden tour

Name it – Completion of a Sport (especially if state)

Equip it – providing prayers before last game/story of patron saint

Bless it – blessing song at mass

Gift it – St. Sebastian medal

Reinforce it – note of congratulations from pastor

Name it – Performing in a Play/Musical

Equip it – providing prayers to before a performance/ story of patron saint

Bless it – blessing song at mass

Gift it – St. Genesius medal

Reinforce it – note of congrats from pastor

Name it – Lost Tooth

Equip it – Luke 12:7 “very hairs on your head….”/\*loved and known by the Father/count remaining teeth – can you count your hair

Bless it – blessing prayers on the growing. Physical body and knowing God’s love

Gift it – Tooth Fairy idea? /new toothbrush/funny pictures/save your teeth book

Reinforce it – There are many more teeth to lose- each one is an opportunity for follow up

Name it – Retirement

Equip it – gather as many family members as possible: how does each of us feel?/what are we looking forward to?

Bless it – Scripture: There is a time …. (For everything a season…)

Gift it – a calendar

Reinforce it – Facebook group where people share this in faith and in job during retirement years

Name it – Empty Nested Transition

Equip it – mentor/walk with new empty nesters

Bless it – Where is God in this?/devotions

Gift it – a picture of…./journaling

Reinforce it – monthly gatherings with mentors

Name it – Kiss-Off Chemo

Equip it – Luke 4:4/provide references to the healing narratives in Scripture

Bless it – have participants bless (with the sign of the cross on the forehead) or offer a brief prayer for the survivor

Gift it – an engraved bell (bells are used symbolically and rung when chemo is over)

Reinforce it – service at cancer clinic (Hope Lodge, Relay for Life, etc)

Name it – Prayer Service for the Adoption of a 5 year-old Boy

Equip it – passing of child from one family to the new family

Bless it – bless child and both families

Gift it – gifts given to child

Reinforce it – address difficulties and grow as a family (can be angry at first)

Name it – New Pet

Equip it – care for creation/prayer of St. Francis

Bless it – bless the pet

Gift it – collar and tag

Reinforce it – remember this blessing and celebrate birthdays

Name it – Elders Moves to Assisted Living

Equip it – God is here before me doing something new

Bless it – Matthew 28:20 /who are your new friends?/what belongings did you bring with you?/tell about what you let go of/ song: Be Not Afraid

Gift it – “Next Chapter” bookmark

Reinforce it – pastoral call, communion serving, or Bible study in new home

Name it – First Paycheck

Equip it – Mark 12:44/teach about tithing

Bless it – blessing would include something about being fiscally responsible with God’s gifts

Gift it – wallet or open checking account

Reinforce it – talk about continued ways to tithe

Name it – Swimming in the Deep End

Equip it – pray and practice the test for doing so /scripture(Moses parting the Red Sea?)

Bless it – May the waters of the pool hold you up as you swim just as the waters of your baptism hold you up thoughout your life.

Gift it – Beach towel/diving rings

Reinforce it – go swimming as a family and give thanks for water in all it’s forms

Name it – Children Moving Out/Empty Nesters

Equip it – talk about excitement and fear/find scripture verses that relate (let them go- Proverbs 22:6)/act of service: care for each other in the transition

Bless it – lay hand son each other and pray as a family

Gift it – heart (“home is where the heart is”)

Reinforce it –

Name it – Blessing of the Kindergarten Bible (for children in church school)

Equip it – providing an opportunity for parents and children to hear about Jesus

Bless it – bless the children and the bible/ pray for their family

Gift it – Bible (to use through the year)

Reinforce it – talk to parents about using the Bible at home/put scripture children will be doing each week in a newsletter sent regularly to tell parents about what their children are doing in Christian studies and where the lesson can be found in the Bible so that they may read it together as a family at home.

Name it – Closing of a Workplace (factory in town/favorite store, school, church, etc)

Equip it – meet to share stories and memories of the place/read Bible verse about moving on and take photo of of group and individuals in front of building

Bless it – pray for those affected

Gift it – bricks or pieces of the building/books/plants/seeds from a tree

Reinforce it – follow up stories a year out

Name it – Buying a New House (especially first house

Equip it – help pack and move

Bless it – pray at new home

Gift it – doormat or art for wall (bless this home verse)

Reinforce it – celebrate at intervals of 1 year

Name it – Death of a Pet

Equip it – select a reading from Scripture (sparrow reading)

Bless it – make a cloth or cross that can be written on and each family member writes a “thank you for…” on cross or cloth that is buried with pet or placed in a special place where the pet “hung out”

Gift it – frame a picture of the pet and place collar or tag in frame also

Reinforce it – Gather on anniversary of death each year to remember and give thanks

Name it – First Sleepover

Equip it – pack /Deut: 11:19

Bless it – pray over suitcase - God watch over and protect \_\_\_\_\_\_ while we are in different places. Let us enjoy our time apart so we have stories to share when we see each other again.

Gift it – small stuffed animal

Reinforce it – share stories: how did it feel? /what was different?/what was the same?/where did you see or feel God with you?

Name it – Getting Braces

Equip it – talk about what it is like to get braces/Scripture Philippians 4:6-7

Bless it – prayer about God loving them as they are

Gift it – cup with straw

Reinforce it – when braces come off share stories and take time to reflect

Name it – Critical Illness/Cancer

Equip it – support group and caring conversations/Scripture/Service and Rituals or Healing Mass/Anointing

Bless it – bless at many points along the way (during Chemo)/pray during each treatment/pray with surgical staff

Gift it – prayer shawl/1000 cranes for peace and hope

Reinforce it – journal of the journey/Relay for Life

Name it – First New Pet

Equip it – Read from Genesis about how God created animals and asked humans to be caretakers/make list of things you promise to do (or not do) for your pet (care,love,hurt)/celebrate “Gotcha Day” (day of adoption or birthday)

Bless it – bless the pet as a beloved creation of God/bless caregivers/pray for help. Patience, and grace

Gift it – food dish/picture frame

Reinforce it – regularly ask about the pet/invite annually to blessing of the pets worship service (if you have one)/offer or direct towards pet-centered service projects and opportunities

Name it – Soccer Season Kickoff

Equip it – Special snack- caramel apple

Bless it – Prayer litany for coaches, athletes, parents, and refs

Gift it – water bottle/wristband

Reinforce it – Pizza party at the end of the season