### Archdiocese of Newark - Family Faith Formation Innovation Lab

## *Family Faith Formation Project Planning*

#### Family Strategies

1. **Discovering God in Everyday Life**: guiding families to reflect on God’s presence in their daily life
2. **Forming Faith at Home through the Life Cycle**: equipping and resourcing families to practice their faith at home through prayer, devotions, reading the Bible, rituals, milestone celebrations, service, learning, and more (with activities and resources delivered online)
3. **Forming Faith through Milestones**: celebrating one-time milestones and annual milestones through experiences at home and in the congregation that activities of *naming*, *equipping*, *blessing*, *gifting*, and *reinforcing* (with activities and resources delivered online)
4. **Celebrating Seasonal Events through the Year**: celebrating church year seasons and calendar seasons at home, at church, and in the community (with activities and resources delivered online)
5. **Encountering God in the Bible through the Year**: reading and studying the Bible through Sunday worship and the lectionary, learning experiences, and at-home devotions and reading (with activities and resources delivered online)
6. **Connecting Families Intergenerationally**: developing intergenerational programs and experiences that engage families with other generations through learning, service, community life, etc.
7. **Developing a Strong Family Life**: cultivating a strong family life and strengthening developmental relationships through parent programs, whole family programs, family mentors, life cycle support groups, and online activities and resources.
8. **Empowering Parents and Grandparents**: developing parenting competencies and skills, promoting the faith growth of parents, and developing the faith forming skills of parents



#### Digitally Enabled Strategies

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

#### Personalizing Faith Formation

**Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**

1. Develop pathways of faith maturing
2. Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
3. Upload playlists to a digital platform

**Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**

1. Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people

Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper

1. Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
2. Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

#### Designing a Pathways Model for Discipleship & Faith Growth

1. Identify a target audience(s): children and parents, adolescents, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, older adults.
2. Describe the life stage and religious-spiritual characteristics of your target audience.
3. Identify how you will use the Pathways model, for example:

* Sacraments/milestones: Marriage, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, beginning church faith formation, etc.
* RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
* Gathered faith formation events and programming
* Parenting meetings
* Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups,
* On-ramps where people in your church might start the discipleship journey

1. Develop the characteristics of faith growth you want to use in your Pathways model. For example:

* Option 1. Use characteristics of faith growth specific to the life stage (such as family faith practices) or the content of the event (such as preparing for confirmation)
* Option 2. Use characteristics of maturing faith (see the “Faith Maturing Characteristics” below)
* Relationships with Jesus Christ
* Living the Christian way of life - discipleship
* Living with moral integrity
* Learning and articulating the teachings of the Christian tradition
* Praying and seeking spiritual growth
* Studying and reading the Bible
* Engaging in service and mission to the world
* Worshipping with the community

1. Develop a ‘discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth, for example:

* Inquiring---Getting Started---Making Progress---Going Deeper
* How true is each statement for you: 1= not true from me , 3=somewhat true for me, 5=very true for me