Queensland Clergy Conference 2018
Reimagine Faith Formation for the 21st Century
Session 3. Family

FAMILIES & FAITH
Forming Faith: Family

- Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults

Family Religious Transmission

_The primary mechanisms by which Catholic identity becomes rooted in children’s lives are not Catholic schooling or sacramental preparation, but rather the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities._

(Burtkus and Smith)
Family Religious Transmission

- Parents by the power of their personality, practices, and way of being, model and generate the culture of the household (both explicitly and implicitly).
- Parents produce, induce, and interpret the household’s experiences of Christian faith.
- Parents are one influence among others - they are nevertheless the dominant influence which orders and shapes the way children experience other influences, i.e. they constellate children’s experiences of various cultural currents, including religion.

One of the most basic suggestions of our findings is that young adults arrive at a sense of their fundamental identity and worldview not by weighing all possible intellectual arguments for and against a proposed way of life, but rather by roughly adopting the worldview of those mentors who left the deepest impression upon them—and who loved them and cared for them the most. It should come as no surprise, then, that the emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.

(American Catholic Religious Parenting, Burtkus and Smith)
Parental Influence

1. Sponsor of the Faith: point of access between church and home
2. Gatekeeper of the Faith: control over how much and what sorts of religious content their children encounter
3. Interpreter of the Faith: meaningful embodiment of the Christian faith in the lives of children

Family Religious Transmission

1. Parents’ personal faith and practice
2. Parent-child relationship: close, warm
3. Parents’ modeling and teaching a religious faith
4. Parents’ involvement in church life and Sunday worship
5. Grandparents’ religious influence & relationship
6. Religious tradition a child is born into
7. Parents of the same faith
8. Family conversations about faith
9. Family religious practices: prayer, reading the Bible, service to others, celebrating holidays/rituals
Practices that Make a Difference

1. Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
2. Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
3. Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
4. Participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family
5. Being involved in a faith community and serving in church as a family and as young people
6. Eating together as a family
7. Celebrating rituals and holidays at home
8. Having family conversations
9. Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts
10. Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences
11. Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
12. Providing moral instruction

Parent Practices

1. Parents participated in mission trips as a family as their kids were growing up.
2. Parents participated in service projects with their kids as they were growing up.
3. Parents frequently shared Christ with unbelievers as their kids were growing up.
4. Parents personally read the Bible several times a week or more as their kids were growing up.
5. Parents encouraged their teen to serve in the church.
6. Parents typically asked for forgiveness when they messed up as their children were growing up.
7. Parents encouraged their children’s own unique talents and interests as they grew up.
8. Parents attended churches that emphasized what the Bible says as their kids were growing up.
9. Parents taught their children to tithe as their kids were growing up.
Fundamental Shift
What if we fashioned faith formation around the family?

What do we believe?

- God is actively present in family life.
- Parents and the family are the most important religious influence on religious transmission.
- Faith is formed through the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it.
- Faith is formed when there is a substantial investment of thought, time, and intimacy by parents in faith transmission.
- Faith is formed in relationships – at home and in the intergenerational faith community.
- Faith is formed in developmentally-appropriate ways over time.
Family Faith Formation Strategies

1. Faith Practices @ Home
2. Milestones
3. Seasonal Events
4. Bible through the Year
5. Family & Intergenerational Programming
6. Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers
Family Formation Plan
Age Appropriate Programming

- 0-5 Young Children
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible

- 6-10 Older Children
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible

- 10-14 Young Adolescents
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible

- 14-19 Older Adolescents
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
How to Create a Habit

1. The Cue
2. The Reward
3. The Routine

When _(cue)_, I will _(routine)_ because it provides me with __(reward)__.

Family Faith Formation @ Home & Church

1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation
Discovering God in Everyday Life

**Examen for Children**
1. Quiet the children before bedtime.
2. Ask them what made them happy over the past day.
3. Ask them what made them sad over the past day.
4. Ask them what they look forward to tomorrow.
5. Remind them to thank God for what made them happy, ask for God’s help when they are sad, and pray for God’s presence in the coming day.

Parent Faith Formation @ Home & Church

**Faith Forming Skills & Practices**
- Parental Faith Formation
- Knowledge & Skills for Parenting

**Key Content**
Milestones throughout Life

1. Ritual and blessing
2. Home celebration/blessing
3. Learning program –
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth

Milestones

- Birth / Baptism
- Baptism anniversaries
- First prayers
- First Bible stories
- Starting school year
- Receiving a first Bible
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- Graduation

1. Church ritual/blessing
2. Home celebration/blessing
3. Learning program – at church or home
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth
Forming Faith through Milestones

1. a ritual celebration or a blessing marking the milestone with the whole church community
2. a home ritual celebration or blessing marking the milestone
3. a learning program, often for the whole family or intergenerational, that prepares the individual and the whole family for the milestone and for faith practice at home
4. a tangible, visible reminder or symbol of the occasion being marked
5. resources to support continuing faith growth and practice after the milestone

Preparing

• What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing

• How will you design the event?
• How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living

• How will you sustain/extend the event?
• What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?
Forming Faith through Milestones

Rooted in FAITH

Celebrating Seasons

Calendar Year
- New Year’s Eve and Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Valentine’s Day
- St. Patrick’s Day
- Earth Day
- Mother’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Father’s Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Start of School
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving

Church Year
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost
- St. Francis Day—Blessing the Animals (October 4)
- All Saints and Souls (Nov 1-2)
### 40-Day Lent Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home</th>
<th>Online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Fasting</td>
<td>Lenten learning resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenten Sunday</td>
<td>Praying</td>
<td>Lenten calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liturgies</td>
<td>Service/</td>
<td>Daily Lenten prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stations of the</td>
<td>Almsgiving</td>
<td>Weekly table prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenten prayer</td>
<td>Lectionary reflection</td>
<td>Video resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenten retreat</td>
<td>Family Lenten activities</td>
<td>Online retreat experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenten service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenten soup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suppers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Earth Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community cleanup</td>
<td>Ecumenical prayer service</td>
<td>Recycling activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting a</td>
<td>Intergenerational program on</td>
<td>Planting a family garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community garden</td>
<td>theology of caring for creation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All ages workshop on</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meal time creation prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caring for</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily Bible verses for April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story time at the</td>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>library on</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td>Storybooks and videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>awareness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Home audit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Encountering God in the Bible

1. Scripture in Sunday Worship
   • Lectionary
   • Sermon Series

2. Exploring the Bible—Family or Intergenerational Programs
   • A Tour of the Old Testament
   • A Tour of the Gospels
   • Walking with Jesus
   • Journeys of Paul

Extend Worship into the Home

Church Event or Program  At Home & Daily Life
Encountering God in the Bible

Scripture in Sunday Worship
Intergenerational & Home Faith Formation

September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
November: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
December: 2nd Sunday of Advent
January: Baptism of the Lord Sunday
February: 1st Sunday of Lent
March: Palm Sunday
April: 4th Sunday of Easter
May: Holy Trinity Sunday

Family Worship
Family Learning

Join us for an intergenerational “Adventure Anchored In Christ.” This special camp provides grandparents and grandkids with adventure-filled days to pray and play together. Life-long memory-making adventures can be expected!

Grandparents and grandkids entering 1st – 4th grades will stay in the comfortable, adult-friendly accommodations of the Christian Center, but spend their days at Pelican Lake. Feel free to bring your motorhome if you prefer.

Family Camp

Imagine a powerful Bible camp experience for all ages — from infants to seniors, and everyone in between, not just a camp for kids. We’ve been doing this for almost 50 years! This year we have seven camps to choose from, each one will fill you and your family, with an authentic joy and peace that comes only from experiencing the gospel at camp.

We gather together as a community, families and staff from around the nation and even world. Come play, study, and grow in this beautiful, spirit filled place. Click on camp want to find out more information and to register.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change. Note: ALL of our 2018 Family Camps will include elements of the “FAMILY BLAST” model we introduced last summer!

**2018 FAMILY CAMPS**

**Family Mini-Camp #1**
June 22-24 — Family Blast Sampler
The Abundant Life
Special outdoor concert with Peter Ellef on Friday Night

**Family Camp #2**
June 30 – July 6 — Family Blast
Cybercamp: Wake-Up Week + Youth Workshop with Nato Huf, Dave Welden
Special Music for Youth/Children

**Family Camp #3**
July 13
The Message of Soul in the Old Testament
with Beth O’Harra-Hansan, Dan Stirling, & Jillian Jones
Family Service

Practical Strategies

1. Develop a family faith formation website.
2. Seasonal family festivals and gatherings.
3. Connect to Sunday worship.
4. Schedule a yearlong plan for milestones.
5. Make faith practices a seasonal focus.
6. Create family immersion experiences.
7. Develop a monthly seasonal event.
Parent Faith Formation

- Tailored to the four spiritual-religious identities of parents—active, occasional, spiritual/uninvolved, and unaffiliated
- Developed around the faith maturing characteristics:
  1. Developing a relationship and commitment to Jesus
  2. Experiencing the presence of God in daily life and relationships with others
  3. Praying and growing spiritually
  4. Using Christian moral and ethical values to decide what is right or wrong
  5. Serving those in need and applying faith in the world
  6. Reading and studying the Bible
  7. Developing a well-informed Christian faith
  8. And More
### Faith Forming Practices

1. Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
2. Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
3. Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
4. Participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family
5. Being involved in a faith community and serving in church as a family and as young people
6. Eating together as a family
7. Celebrating rituals and holidays at home
8. Having family conversations
9. Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts
10. Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences
11. Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
12. Providing moral instruction

### Parenting & Family Life Practices

1. Expressing care to young people by listening to them, being dependable, encouraging them, and make them feel known and valued
2. Challenging young people by expecting them to do their best and live up to their potential
3. Providing support for my young people by encouraging their efforts and achievements and guiding them to learn and grow
4. Treating young people with respect, hearing their voice, and including them in decisions that affect them
5. Inspiring young people to see possibilities for their future, expose them to new experiences and places, and connect them to people who can help them grow
6. Demonstrating a warm and affirming parenting approach
7. Creating a warm, caring supportive family environment.
8. Practicing effective communication skills
9. Managing “screen time” and social media use
10. Learning effective discipline practices
11. Creating a warm, caring supportive family
Three Parental Faith Roles

- **Sponsor of the Faith**: point of access between church and home
- **Gatekeeper of the Faith**: control over how much and what sorts of religious content their children encounter
- **Interpreter of the Faith**: meaningful embodiment of the Christian faith in the lives of children

Parent Role

Parent Programming

1. Parent website
2. Parent programs: Progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses for each life stage
3. Laboratory experiences
4. Parent mentors
5. Life cycle or affinity groups for parents
6. Have parents practice new skills with their own children during program sessions.
7. Design programs that engage parents in the learning experience.
8. Use a variety of environments and methods to engage all parents, anytime and anywhere.
9. Use online platforms and digitally enabled strategies.
10. Give parents a plan.
Digital Faith Formation Strategies

Forming Faith: Digital Approaches

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
Extend the Event

Church or School Event or Program

At Home & Daily Life

Tri-Saints Lutheran
Hardy, NE
One Event/Program, Multiple Formats

- Gathered
- Small Group
- Independent
- Online

Event/Program

- Digital Content to Extend & Provide New Ways to Experience

Website

- Interaction
- Connection
- Communication
- Demonstration

Social Media

Build on an Event/Experience

Preparing
- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing
- How will you design the event?
- How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living
- How will you sustain/extend the event?
- What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?
Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life
Exploring the Content
- print, audio, video, activities

@ The Program
Applying the Content:
Create – Practice - Perform - Participate

Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Daily &amp; Home</th>
<th>Online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Ash Wednesday
• Lenten Sunday liturgies
• Stations of the Cross
• Lenten prayer
• Lenten retreat
• Lenten service
• Lenten soup suppers | • Fasting
• Praying
• Service/Almsgiving
• Lectionary reflection
• Family Lenten activities | • Lenten learning resources
• Lenten calendar
• Daily Lenten prayer
• Weekly table prayer
• Video resources
• Online retreat experience |
Online Prayer

Webinar Live Presentation

Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you’re out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the UDLPC Facebook page at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our Facebook event with a friend! - Keith

Program Description

The mall. Public parks. Friends’ houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through “networked publics,” and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.
Application

Develop ideas for improving the congregation’s response to families and parents using the ideas contained in the five strategies. Build on your current strengths and identify new initiatives that you want to implement. Review the strategies before you begin.

1. Nurturing Family Faith Practices
2. Celebrating Milestones
3. Celebrating the Seasons of the Year
4. Reading the Bible through the Year
5. Equipping Parents and Grandparents as Faith Formers

Family Formation Plan
Age Appropriate Programming

- Young Children
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- Older Children
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- Young Adolescents
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting

- Older Adolescents
  - Faith Practices
  - Bible, Prayer, Service, Learning
  - Milestones
  - Seasons
  - Bible
  - Parenting