

## **“Best Practices” for Faith Formation in Parishes:**

### **Be a Welcoming Parish**

Make Parish, Rectory, Church User-friendly, warm, and inviting

Encourage Multi-culturalism, Be Catholic, encourage registration of all members

Make Available: The PILOT, publications, documents, publication, parish web-sites, and bulletins

Have an accessible library: DVDs, Father Barron, etc meeting spaces, coffee- hours after Mass

Provide Bible Study Groups, Participation in Parish life: Welcome New members join groups: Vincent de Paul, Sacramental Preparation, babysitting for Mass, Pastoral visitors to the sick and homebound

### **Encourage Prayer- & Faith-Development in Parishoners**

All emphasis on Eucharist as source and summit of Christian life: enhanced Liturgies, homilies strong emphasis on Catechesis of Adults and youth

Provide Prayer moments outside Mass: Adoration, Rosary, Novena dates,

Witness talks from the altar

Active participation of parish ministries: (awareness of their deep significance to the Church of Christ: Hospitality ministers, altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, secretaries, choir members, musicians, RE Teachers, Pre-Canna instructors, St. Vincent de Paul members

Speakers on Topics of: Social Justice, Liturgy, Scripture, Sacraments

Significant Diocesan events: Walks, Vigils, Speakers, Youth Meetings, Vocation discernment days, Parish retreats, Pilgrimages, missions, etc.

### **Develop an Understanding of and Commitment to Evangelization**

Provide Parish resource materials, Books concerning: Evangelization, Building up Parish Life

Propagate Theology of Vatican II, “Forming Disciple in Mission”, have discussion groups

Develop a zeal for souls

Work collaboratively with near-by parishes: Penance Services, Advent/Lent Speakers, Community building resources, Anti-Drug/Violence Speakers & resources

Awareness of foreign Mission: Response to Third World Nations, refugees, immigrants, homeless, addicted, veterans

Publish Parish council meeting dates