

## LIVING FAITH

### AN APPROACH FOR CRADLE-TO-GRAVE CATECHESIS



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



On September 22-23, 2017 catechetical leaders from across the Archdiocese of St. John's came together to dialogue and discuss our approaches to Family Catechesis. This provided for a great two day forum for all involved: Pastors, Parish Catechetical leaders, Hospital chaplains, Seniors Homes chaplains, those involved with Sacramental Preparation along with those involved with Liturgy of the Word with children.

We are engaged in a myriad of approaches with Family Catechesis. **Living Faith**, Our weekly catechetical resource continues to support needs throughout the Archdiocese on a weekly basis. Our **Living Faith** resource is distributed in our parishes, nursing homes, senior's homes, hospitals and penitentiary. Besides being developed, printed and distributed, our resource is available digitally by emailing [familycatechesis@rcsj.org](mailto:familycatechesis@rcsj.org). Our digital resource contains many educational hyperlinks to further reflect on the weekly Gospels.

#### LIVING FAITH - WEEKLY FAITH-SHARING RESOURCE FORMAT

- FRONT PAGE:
  - THE GOSPEL FOR THE DAY
  - A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL, WRITTEN IN APPROACHABLE LANGUAGE
- SECOND PAGE:
  - FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- THIRD PAGE:
  - LINKING THE GOSPEL FOR THE DAY TO DOCTRINE
- BACK PAGE:
  - TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME— A LOCAL STORY OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THEME
  - SOME REFLECTION QUESTIONS
  - HYPERLINKS TO INVITE FURTHER READING OR REFLECTION

#### LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

##### THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 22:15-21

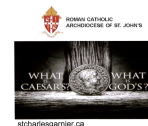
Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

##### REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

"Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." There has been a lot of debate on this Gospel passage. Many people read have understood Jesus in this passage to be making a distinction between two spheres: one sphere relating to Caesar and the matters of this world, and the other sphere relating to God and matters of God's world, with the conclusion that we should recognise and respect what belongs to each sphere. We are to respect the secular, or civil, sphere ("give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's"), and also respect the religious sphere ("Give to God the things that are God's").

The keen reader of this passage will realize that Jesus' answer satisfied those who only listened on the surface, while it raised a more pressing question for the person listening with the ears of faith— For the person of faith, can the secular and the sacred really be separated? The answer, of course, if "no." If we see with eyes of faith, we see all of life through those eyes. Faith colours how we see and how we respond. So, the Christian must give to the emperor, or the state, what must rightfully be given, but what is God's? Everything.

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Along with our weekly resource, a series of Family Gatherings for parishes continue to be developed and shared among our group of catechetical leaders for use in our parishes. Exemplars include:

- JESSE TREE
- ADVENT WREATH-MAKING
- EPIPHANY— GIFTS FOR JESUS
- BAPTISM OF THE LORD
- ASH WEDNESDAY
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR FAMILIES
- GATHERING IN HONOUR OF MARY
- THANKSGIVING
- NOVEMBER – MONTH OF REMEMBERING

Accompanying this, we have developed a number of sessions for families celebrating Sacraments of Initiation. These are coupled with Rituals developed to be incorporated in the weekly Sunday liturgy with the parish community.

### **LIVING FAITH**

#### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION RESOURCES

- FOCUS SESSION FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION
- RITUALS TO BE EMBEDDED IN PARISH LITURGIES:
  - ENROLLMENT
  - SIGNING OF THE SENSES
  - PRESENTATION OF THE WORD OF GOD
  - PRESENTATION OF THE CREED
  - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER
  - PRESENTATION OF THE BEATITUDES
  - PRESENTATION OF THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY
- FOCUS SESSIONS FOR PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION
- FOCUS SESSIONS FOR PREPARATION FOR EUCHARIST
- FOCUS SESSIONS FOR PREPARATION FOR RECONCILIATION
- PARENT BROCHURE FOR PARISH USE
- REGISTRATION FORMS

We also continue to develop and share a number of blessings used with families during Liturgy.

### **LIVING FAITH**

#### **BLESSINGS**

- START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
- CLOSE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, BEGINNING OF SUMMER
- MOTHER'S DAY
- FATHER'S DAY
- GRANDPARENTS
- EXAM PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

This year we continue to grow our catechetical resources. It is our intent to create digital space on our Archdiocesan webpage for the sharing of resources and best practices among catechists. Additionally, the creation of a Facebook page for catechetical leaders supports members on a daily basis

From our September meeting and reflection, we continue to engage with Family Catechetics. We have met with much success throughout the year, particularly with the cooperation and support of Archbishop Currie and his vision. Indeed the support and cooperation of our priests, parishes, and ministries throughout our Archdiocese has especially assisted the office of Evangelization and Catechesis in its work. We are blessed with all involved in this Ministry as we look forward to an exciting 2017-18 in growing our initiatives to meet the needs of our local Church. Going forward we continue to reflect and engage with the following characteristics which capture our approach to Family Catechesis:

- *THE CERTAINTY THAT CATECHESIS IS FOR EVERYBODY*
- *THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CATECHESIS IS MORE THAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*
- *THAT CATECHESIS IS THE WORK OF THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY*
- *THAT CATECHESIS AND LITURGY ARE INTEGRALLY LINKED*
- *THE AWARENESS THAT THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF FAMILIES*
- *A HOPE THAT WE CAN EMPOWER FAMILIES TO SHARE FAITH*
- *A DESIRE TO SUPPORT PARENTS IN FULFILLING THEIR ROLE AS THE FIRST AND, HOPEFULLY, BEST TEACHERS OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WAYS OF FAITH*
- *INTUITION THAT CATECHESIS IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY IN LIFE'S TRANSITION MOMENTS*
- *POPE FRANCIS' ASSERTION THAT WE MUST MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AND ACCOMPANY THEM*

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