

WHY FAMILY FORMATION?

A careful reading through the documents of the Catholic Church quickly reveals the Church's great expectations for the family. **"The family is a domestic church."** *Lumen Gentium, 11* It is so because it is in the family that the Truths of the Faith are taught and lived on a day-to-day basis. **"The right and duty of parents to give education is essential ... original and primary ... and it is irreplaceable and incapable of being entirely delegated to others."**

Familiaris Consortio, 36

As a Church, we recognize our ineffectiveness in catechizing children if their parents are not involved in the process. Through *Family Formation*, parents are evangelized and catechized and come to understand what the Church is asking of them. By giving them support and encouragement in their mission, we are responding to the Church's call.



In a nutshell, this is the goal of *Family Formation*. The adult formation sessions teach and encourage parents and provide them with the tools to share the Good News and the beauty of the Catholic Faith with their children and to form them into true disciples of Jesus Christ.

We had such positive written statements from our families about the program that I am making a sample booklet of their responses to share with the other parishes at our monthly meeting sessions. Thank you for all your gifted work in making this available for distant parishes.

-DRE in Illinois

We have a group called Young Disciples here this week for our vacation bible school. They are awesome. They have been in our parishes this summer and have seen a noticeable difference in the knowledge the kids have and how much more interested they

are in their faith. They made a comment to this even before they knew what program we were using for catechesis. Isn't that good news!!!

-DRE in North Dakota



OUR VISION

Transform the world one family at a time.

OUR MISSION

Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children"* and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith.

* *Gravissimum Educationis, 3*

WHAT IS FAMILY FORMATION?

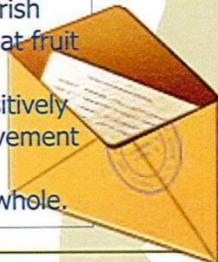
Family Formation is a unique family catechesis model which supports parents in their role as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith. Family Formation is a tried-and-true curriculum developed over many years by regular parents who were searching for a better option. The materials are engaging, down-to-earth, and easy to understand. With the help of games, quizzes, stories, and music, the lessons transmit solid Catholic teaching and bring the Faith to life within the family. Since its beginning in 1988, Family Formation has grown to serve thousands of families all across the United States, in Canada, and beyond.

Family Formation

- ~ is written by parents for use in families
- ~ follows the three-year liturgical cycle
- ~ is driven by Sacred Scripture
- ~ is faithful to the teaching of the Magisterium
- ~ references the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- ~ has received the imprimatur of Rev. Harry J. Flynn, former Archbishop of the Diocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

After using *Family Formation* in our parish for so many years, we are seeing great fruit

- † in our families
- † in the youth who have been positively impacted by their parents' involvement in their religious education
- † and in the parish dynamic as a whole.



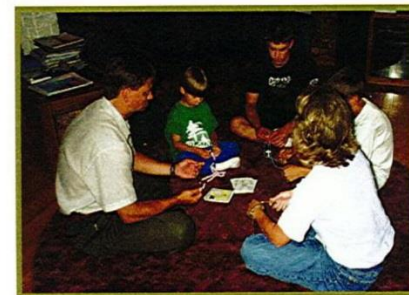
Simply stated:
Family Formation
is working!

I want to take a moment and let you, and all of the dedicated members who make Family Formation possible, know how much my family truly enjoys it. The Little Lambs program has enriched our lives for the past three years. It amazes me at how rich it is in our Catholic Faith. I watch my children get so excited when the packets come in the mail. You have helped to form my family and allowed me to grow in my own faith as well. I have learned so much while teaching them.

~ Angela in Texas

HOW DOES IT WORK?

IN THE HOME. At the heart of *Family Formation* is the domestic church. Weekly Home Lessons provide the backbone for children's spiritual formation and cover all the major principles of the Catholic Faith.



Saint John Paul II said, "*Families, become who you are.*" The teachings in the Home Lessons help families become the domestic churches they are called to be. By devoting approximately one hour per week throughout the school year, fully incorporating the Catholic Faith will soon become a way of life.

Lessons include hands-on activities for the whole family, memory verses, audios, stories, games, and booklets to aid families in developing traditions that integrate the liturgical seasons of the Church.

Blazing a trail

Family Formation
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IN A PARISH where *Family Formation* is utilized, families gather together once a month. Using the lessons provided, trained catechists teach the children in grade-level classrooms while parents attend an adult teaching on the same topic. Parents are then provided all of the Home Lesson materials they will need for the rest of the month to teach the Faith to their family.