



Helping Your Child Grow Up Catholic

Facilitator's Notes

Helping Your Child Grow Up Catholic is a facilitated conversation among parish leaders (pastor, staff, and/or parishioner leaders) and parents. It is a beginning or continuing point in the process of coaching parents to form their own children. This conversation often also includes catechists, Catholic school administrators and/or faculty members, and other interested parish members, including those who are grandparents.

Helping Your Child Grow Up Catholic provides much-needed encouragement and formation for parents as parish leaders help parents appreciate their role in the development of their child's faith, and the formation of a household of faith. This conversation also provides a building block for a beneficial relationship between parents and the parish community, and among the parents who participate. The parish leaders who are part of this process will also hear what is of benefit to parents and their children, and they will learn what families need from the parish as the partnership with parents grows and deepens.

The outline for this gathering is simple:

1. Prepare the room for the gathering in advance. If possible, seat people at tables, with handouts and pens for each person. If you are using the PowerPoint, make sure all the participants will be able to see the screen.
2. Begin with prayer. A prayer handout is provided. Invite someone to lead the opening prayer, and another to read the passage from Matthew. Invite participants to share a few brief reflections following the Gospel, as indicated on the sheet.
3. The content and process for the gathering is provided in the PowerPoint that is part of this resource. Notes have been added to the slides, to guide your preparation and your facilitation for the gathering. Be sure to read through the slides and make notes, and remember, the parents themselves are part of the "content" for the gathering! This time together will help them recognize and affirm what they are already doing to help their child grow up Catholic as well as teach them things they will find helpful for the future.
4. Be sure to include non-Catholic parents, and other supportive adults. This gathering truly is for everyone!
5. Be attentive for opportunities to affirm and support the parents who come, and encourage them to invite their friends and neighbors to future gatherings.
6. Invite those who participate to be part of any future planning process that follows this gathering. The more they are involved in the process, the more likely they will be to act on what they experience together!