

Consecration in Truth®

Family Catechesis™

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time for a family to have their “Family Catechesis Time”?

The best day and time depends on the family. The program is flexible enough to be accommodated in the family schedule. The important thing is that the family agrees on a day and time and stays committed to it.

Sunday afternoons could be chosen as a way to keep the day centered on God and the family. Saturday afternoons help the family prepare for participation in Sunday’s liturgy.

If needed, the family can spread out their “Family Catechesis Time” over several days. If they do so, it is still recommended that they choose one day when they can do most of the lesson and activities.

When would be the best time to implement the adult program in the parish?

The best time would be the time of the parish religious education program for the children. Parents will already be coming to drop off their children and can easily stay for their own formation.

Members of parish organizations and movements can incorporate the *Family Catechesis* into their regular meetings or meet another time. All interested parishioners and members of organizations and movements could also meet together to build a wider community.

What if the parents are not familiar with the faith?

One major advantage of the program is that the parents can learn the Catholic faith simultaneously with their children. The thrust of the program is for a family to enjoy learning and living the faith TOGETHER. The program aims for a shared learning experience so family members can support each other as they live the faith.

The parents don’t need to be experts. *The Apostolate’s Family Catechism* presents the entirety of the faith in an easy-to-understand question and answer format. The video presentations with Francis Cardinal Arinze provide clear explanations. If the parents would like to learn more about a topic, *The Apostolate’s Family Catechism* contains excerpts from and cross-references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other church documents.

What if the facilitators for the adult catechesis application are not that knowledgeable in the faith?

Facilitators guide the participants through the session rather than serve as experts in the faith. *The Apostolate’s Family Catechism* and Cardinal Arinze’s video presentations provide the necessary teaching. The facilitator ensures that the meeting is progressing as it should be, engage the participants in discussion and keep the

discussion focused on the week's topics. If questions arise that are not covered in the topics for discussion, the facilitator can look up the answer in *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* and answer them at the next session.

Does it need a lot of preparation time for the parents or the facilitators?

No. They should read through the Discussion Guide a day before to familiarize themselves with the questions to be covered and if necessary, the materials needed for the activities. This is an experience of learning the faith together.

Is the program expensive?

The program is very affordable. A participant or family needs to buy only one reference book to use over the 3-year cycle, *The Apostolate's Family Catechism*. Purchase of this book gives access to the Discussion Guides. Cardinal Arinze's video and audio presentations are available for free download at www.familyland.org.

Does my family need the program if my children go to Catholic school or parish religious education?

As we all know, parental example powerfully shapes the children's value and character. If the parents love and respect their faith, their children will learn to value it even when they become adults. The program offers parents a simple and enriching way to demonstrate weekly their love and respect for the Catholic Faith.

The program also offers parents unique ways to deepen their family's faith. Learning the faith together as a family offers them many opportunities to (1) reinforce positive attitudes in living the faith through shared experiences, (2) incorporate into daily experiences family traditions that make the family unique and help family members relate better to God, to each other and to the community, and (3) strengthen family unity.

Faith formation in the home complements the religious education received in school or in the parish. Through *Family Catechesis* parents are able to support, supplement and if necessary make up for what their children are learning in school or in the parish.

My children are of various ages. Will the program capture their attention?

The program is designed for the family. It uses various teaching methods such as video presentations, theological illustrations and the basic question and answer format to accommodate the different capabilities of the adults and children. The weekly activities are designed to involve every member of the family.

The key however is for the parents to show enthusiasm for learning the Faith. One of the advantages of the shared learning experience is that the family can teach each other and thereby learn how to share their faith with others.



**APOSTOLATE FOR
FAMILY
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