



Family Catechesis™ in the Parish



- *Family Catechesis* can be easily adapted for adult formation in the parish and RCIA.
- If the program is being used for the catechetical formation of catechists, members of movements or parish organizations, the weekly catechesis can be incorporated into their meetings or held separately. The parish can also gather all the groups at the same time every week.
- If the program is used for RCIA, the first year can be used to fulfill the requirements for RCIA. The following two years will provide the needed follow-up formation.
- The meeting can be led by the Coordinator appointed by the pastor. A team of facilitators lead the small groups.
- The formation meeting follows the same *Discussion Guide* used for the home-based catechesis.
- Participants watch all the video segments from *The Apostolate's Family Catechism Commentaries* by Francis Cardinal Arinze.
- They then break into small groups with a facilitator for each group. They go through *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* segment for that week's Discussion Guide. They share their insights on the video and the topic/s covered in *The Apostolate's Family Catechism*.
- Participants are encouraged to read on their own some or all of the quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Vatican II, papal documents and the other related cross-references indicated in *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* pertaining to the questions covered in the meeting. They can also watch or listen to the corresponding commentaries of Cardinal Arinze on those cross-references. These are available online for free at www.familyland.org.
- They are also encouraged to go through the *Discussion Guide* or do the family activity with their respective families.



Time

1. Adults gather weekly in the parish for one to one and a half hours. This will be the "Adult Catechesis Time".
2. They could meet while their children attend their religious education classes.



Location

Any gathering hall with a TV set.



Materials

1. The Apostolate's Family Catechism (at least 1 per participating couple)
2. The Apostolate's Family Catechism Commentaries with Francis Cardinal Arinze
 - Available on DVD and CD or free download on www.familyland.org
3. Discussion Guide for the week



Roles

1. Coordinator - Guides the formation session.
2. Assistant – Prepare the video. Photocopy the Discussion Guides (one copy per participant).
3. Small Group Facilitators – Lead the small group discussions. 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. Facilitators ensure 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 facilitators can look up the answer in *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* and answer them at the next session.
4. Music Leader

Format for Weekly Meetings (see Discussion Guide)

1. Opening Prayer with music if available
2. Video Segment with Cardinal Arinze
3. Read the Apostolate's Family Catechism Questions and Answers
4. Discussion
5. Closing Prayer



- A few days before the scheduled “Adult Catechesis Time”, the facilitators should read the *Discussion Guide* to familiarize themselves with the topics to be covered.
- Before the formation night, research the liturgical calendar information.
- Distribute the *Discussion Guides* to all participants during the meeting.