

Family and Intergenerational Learning Model

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James White, in *Intergenerational Religious Education* (Religious Education Press, 1988) identified four patterns of relationships that have become the basic pattern of intergenerational learning experiences: 1) In-Common Experiences, 2) Parallel Learning, 3) Contributive-Occasions, and 4) Interactive Sharing. Most churches design their family-intergenerational learning programs using these four movements, adapting the process to fit their particular needs.

1. **In-Common Experiences.** Intergenerational religious education begins with a multigenerational experience of the theme that all the generations share together. In-common experiences of generations are usually less verbal and more observatory than in the other three elements. In this pattern there is something “out there” or “over there” for us to see or do, something that equalizes the ages. Thus, at the same time and place and in a similar manner, different-aged people listen to music or sing, make an art project, watch a video, hear a story, participate in a ritual, pray together, and so on. In-common experiences for the most part remain at what Jean Piaget calls the “concrete operational” level, where all can learn together.

Shared experiences are absolutely critical for building IGRÉ. They are the stuff by which other patterns of relationships are built. To the point, Fred Rogers, of television’s *Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood*, makes the case for what is prescribed here when he asks rhetorically, “How can older and younger people respond to each other if they have no experiences together?”

2. **Parallel Learning.** Parallel learning is the second major IG relational pattern. With it the generations are separated in order to work on the same topic or project, but in different ways at a “best fit” development, interest, or skill level. Some of the developmental levels we are talking about are cognitive, psychological, physical, moral, valuational, and so on—all the ways that make people different and special.

Though age groups may be separated, each one is focusing on the same learning task or topic. One of the major criticisms of IGRÉ is “the tendency to view equality or persons across the age spectrum with uniformity of experience,” with that experience only from the vantage point of the child. By engaging in parallel learning, however, this IGRÉ shortcoming is avoided.

3. **Contributive-Occasions.** The third pattern of learning is that of contributive-occasions. These occasions are often the step after parallel learning. What is involved is a coming together of different age groups or classes for the purpose of sharing what has been learned or created previously. The joining or rejoining becomes a contributive-occasion where separated pieces to a whole are added together for everyone’s benefit.

Contributive-occasions are more participatory than the other three patterns. If the contributions come from a previous period of parallel learning, the last part of that parallel learning would have been concerned with how to communicate acquired insights or behaviors to other age groups. By engaging “in mutual contribution” to one another, IG learners discover that the educational whole is great than the sum of its parts.

4. **Interactive Sharing.** Interactive sharing is the fourth major pattern in IGRÉ relationships. It is a distinctive style or way of learning. Here persons are provided with an opportunity for interpersonal exchange, which may involve experiences or thoughts or feelings or actions. At its best, interactive sharing facilitates a “crossing over” to hear and respond to another’s perspective.

In an ideal IGRÉ program or event, all four of the patterns of relationships will be enacted. People come together and have an in-common experience. Then they break to separately investigate the common subject at a level appropriate for their highest learning abilities.

They come back together to present their insights and work in a shared program. Finally, different generations interact with one another, giving and receiving in the exchanges. In the latter case the participants are sharing, reflecting, debating, and dreaming from the side of the other but for their own edification. (White, *Intergenerational Religious Education*, 26-30)

Together with my colleagues at the Center for Ministry Development (Mariette Martineau, Leif Kehrwald, and Joan Weber), we developed a model of intergenerational learning based on White's four patterns, which is being used by Catholic parishes in the Generations of Faith Project and in the intergenerational sessions for the *People of Faith* series (a 6-volume series of intergenerational programs from Harcourt Religion). This process is also described in the book *Intergenerational Faith Formation* by Martineau, Kehrwald, and Weber (Twenty-Third Publications).

In this model, intergenerational learning experiences are designed around a four movement learning process.

- Welcome, Community Building and Opening Prayer
- 1. An **All-Ages Learning Experience** for the whole assembly that introduces the theme or topic for the program.
- 2. **In-Depth Learning Experiences** that probe the theme or topic, organized for all ages (intergenerational) or for specific age-groups (families with children or children-only, adolescents, young adults, and adults), and conducted in one of three formats:
 - *Whole Group Format*: learning in small groups with the whole group assembled in one room (age-specific or all ages small groups)
 - *Age Group Format*: learning in separate, parallel groups organized by ages
 - *Learning Activity Center Format*: learning at self-directed or facilitated activity centers (age-specific and/or all ages learning centers)
- 3. An **All-Ages Contributive Learning Experience** in which each generation teaches the other generations.
- 4. **Reflection** on the learning experience and interactive group sharing. Preparation for living one's faith at home and in daily life.
 - Closing Prayer

Approaches & Ideas for Intergenerational Learning

1. Develop a faith formation curriculum for the whole community using intergenerational faith formation as the primary learning model.

Many churches across the country have adopted intergenerational faith formation as their primary learning model. The intergenerational curriculum becomes the core faith formation curriculum for the whole Christian community, supplemented by age-specific topics for children, teens, and adults. For example, many churches offer monthly intergenerational learning sessions for the whole faith community. They may offer the same intergenerational program several times each month to accommodate the number of people in the church, using different days and times to make it easy for people to participate.

Churches organize their curriculum in a number of different ways using the rich resources of the Christian tradition, such as:

- the three-year cycle of readings in the Sunday Lectionary
- Bible themes
- Christian practices
- core beliefs and practices of the Christian faith, such as the following schema for the Catholic parishes: liturgical year feasts and seasons, the Creed, sacraments, morality, justice and service, and prayer

2. Extend a topic featured in the faith formation program for children or teens, to the whole community through intergenerational learning.

A topic that the children are studying can be extended to the whole community through intergenerational learning. For example, if the children are studying about Jesus, consider offering an intergenerational program on the identity of Christ. Schedule it within the same timeframe that the children are studying the unit on Jesus.

If the young people are preparing for a service project or mission trip, use the opportunity to conduct an intergenerational session on Christian service, and get everyone engaged in supporting the teenagers. Intergenerational learning provides a common learning experience for the whole community that can support age group learning programs. Examine your age group curriculum and look for the opportunities and topics for extending age group learning to the whole community.

3. Replace a topic in the children or teen program with intergenerational learning on the same theme.

Intergenerational learning can provide a different learning model for teaching the same content that would have been taught to the children. For example, replace the children's sessions on prayer with one or more intergenerational sessions on prayer for all members of the community. Children will benefit greatly by learning together with their parents and the other generations of the Christian community.

4. Add intergenerational learning to sacramental preparation and celebrations.

Sacrament preparation offers a marvelous opportunity to offer intergenerational learning for the whole community and/or the extended family of the one preparing for the sacrament. The celebration of a sacrament, such as baptism or Eucharist, is an opportunity to enrich the faith of the whole community. For example, your church can offer intergenerational learning each year around the celebration of First Communion, focusing on different aspects of the Sunday liturgy within the context of the sacrament. During the Christian initiation formation process (RCIA), intergenerational sessions can be offered on initiation themes, such as the baptism and conversion. In addition, many Catholic parishes conduct intergenerational learning programs to prepare the community for the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation in Advent or Lent.

5. Conduct intergenerational faith formation before liturgical year feasts.

The church calendar is rich with possibilities for intergenerational learning for the whole community. Conduct intergenerational programs to prepare all generations for major liturgical feasts and seasons, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Pentecost, as well as significant events in the life of your church, such as the anniversary of the founding of the church, stewardship Sunday, or a ministries fair. There are dozens of opportunities for preparing the whole community to participate more intentionally and meaningfully in church events.

6. Add intergenerational learning to a vacation Bible school or summer program.

Many churches sponsor summer programs for children. This is another opportunity to add an intergenerational learning program for the whole

community. Take a theme from the summer program and offer an intergenerational program on that same theme for families of the children and the whole community. For example, if the focus of the program is being a friend of Jesus, the church can sponsor an intergenerational program on becoming a disciple or living as a disciple.

7. Conduct intergenerational learning for justice issues and action projects.

Justice issues, events, and action projects provide opportunities to engage the whole community in the work of justice and service, as well as learn about the biblical teachings on justice. For example, prepare the community for a justice and service project, such as helping to feed and clothe the poor in your community, with an intergenerational program on poverty and the needs of the poor. Celebrate the national holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr., by conducting an intergenerational program on racial equality or peace and nonviolence, and then engaging in an action project. Enlist the whole community in supporting the work of national and international organizations by adopting an organizations' project, such as building homes through Habitat for Humanity, and then conducting an intergenerational program on housing and poverty.

8. Sponsor an intergenerational retreat for the whole community.

Many churches conduct a community-wide retreat over several days each year, usually with weekend and evening sessions. This is a great opportunity to enrich the faith of the whole community. Organize your retreat by conducting intergenerational sessions, rather than sessions for individual groups. Develop a focus, such as following Jesus, or growing in prayer, or what we believe as Christians. Select individual topics for each session of the mission and provide participants with materials to continue the retreat at home.

For Further Reading

Generations Learning Together. Volume 3.1. Winter 2009. *Lifelong Faith Journal*.

"Best Practices in Intergenerational Faith Formation." John Roberto. Volume 1.3-4 Fall/Winter 2007. *Lifelong Faith Journal*. Go to www.LifelongFaith.com for the article.

"Lifelong Faith Formation for All Generations." John Roberto. Volume 2.1 Spring 2008. *Lifelong Faith Journal*. Go to www.LifelongFaith.com for the article.

Designing Intergenerational Faith Formation

Welcoming Participants

Meal

Depending on the time of day, a meal begins the program. Use the meal time to introduce people into the theme of the learning program, build community among the participants, do table activities (especially for children) or model at-home practices, such as prayer or a table ritual.

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Welcome people to the program, provide an overview, and lead the opening prayer service.

Part 2. All-Ages Learning Experience

Conduct an All-Ages Learning Experience to introduce the whole assembly to the theme/content of the program. Select or design learning activities that will engage all ages.

Examples of all-ages learning activities include:

- ritual or extended prayer service
- dramatic presentation of a Scripture passage or real life story
- storytelling or retelling a Scripture passage with contemporary examples
- witness presentations by church members (of all ages)
- learning games or TV game show formats
- film or media presentation using art/photos and music
- table group activity and discussion in intergenerational, family and/or age-groups.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

Conduct learning activities that explore the theme or topic, organized for all ages (intergenerational) or for specific age-groups (families with children or children-only, adolescents, young adults, and adults), and developed in one of three formats.

1. **Whole Group Format:** learning in small groups with the whole group assembled in one room in one of two ways:
 - age-specific groupings
 - intergenerational groupings
2. **Learning Activity Center Format:** learning at self-directed or facilitated activity centers targeted to specific age groups, or organized by family and/or all age:

- age-specific learning centers
- family-centered learning centers
- intergenerational learning centers

3. **Age Group Format:** learning in separate, parallel groups organized by ages:

- pre-school children or parents with young children (ages 3-5)
- parents with children (grades 1-5)
- young adolescents (middle school)
- older adolescents (high school)
- young adults
- adults

Part 4. All-Ages Contributive Learning (Sharing Reflections and Home Application)

Determine what each participants will bring back from their In-Depth Learning Experience to share/teach the whole assembly or their small group. This can include reports from each age group, presentation of a project or skit, small group sharing, and so on.

After the presentations, engage small groups in sharing reflections on the learning experience.

Explain the home resources that will extend the learning from the session and demonstrate how people can use them in their daily lives.

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Resources

Intergenerational Faith Formation: All Ages Learning Together. Mariette Martineau, Joan Weber, and Leif Kehrwald (New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2008)

Intergenerational Religious Education. James W. White (Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1988)

Intergenerational Program Examples

Jesus Christ, Son of God

(From *Professing Our Faith* by John Roberto.
Harcourt Religion, 2006)

Format: Intergenerational Activity Centers

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: Who Do You Say That I Am?

- Conduct the learning activity to help participants name who Jesus is for them.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience: Experiencing the Son of God through Gospel Stories

1. The focus of the activity centers is to discover the qualities of God by exploring a variety of Gospel stories that present the words and actions of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. Each learning activity center provides an interactive and experiential way for people to explore one aspect of Jesus' divinity through Gospel stories.
3. Activity centers will engage participants in presentations, discussions, and activities. Several centers include dramatic presentations, while others engage participants in creative arts or prayer or a ritual activity. One center includes a film presentation. There is even one that includes eating. If the children get tired, there is a storytelling center just for them.
4. Each center is staffed by a team who guides participants through the learning activities.
5. Each center is designed for all ages, participants can select the centers that interest them the most. Families with children stay together.

Activity Centers

1. Jesus is Born (Infancy Narratives)
2. Jesus is God's Beloved Son (Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration)
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God
4. Jesus Heals People
5. Jesus Forgives Sin
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead
7. Jesus Feeds People
8. Stories of Jesus (Storytelling Center)

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Death and Resurrection of Jesus

(From *Professing Our Faith* by John Roberto.
Harcourt Religion, 2006)

Format: Whole Group

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

- People are organized into intergenerational table groups for the whole program

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience: Triduum Quiz

- Test everyone's knowledge of the Triduum through an activity that matches symbols, ritual actions, and events from the Lectionary readings with the correct Triduum liturgy.

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

A. Guided Tour of Holy Thursday

- Present the Gospel story of the Last Supper from Matthew, Mark, or Luke in word, drama, and/or visuals (artwork or the film, *Jesus of Nazareth*).
- Guide people in reflecting on the story. Provide commentary on the reading.
- Celebrate a table ritual modeled on the Last Supper.
- Present the Gospel story of the Last Supper from John in word, drama, and/or visuals.
- Guide people in reflecting on the story. Provide commentary on the reading.
- Celebrate a table ritual modeled on the washing of feet with people washing each other's hands.

B. Guided Tour of Good Friday

- Present Gospel excerpts of the Passion of Christ in word, drama, and/or visuals.
- Guide people in reflecting on the Passion; provide commentary.
- Explain intercessory prayer and pray together intercessions modeled on the Good Friday liturgy.
- Explain the tradition of the veneration of the cross and process with the cross in the meeting room while people pray and sing.
- Guide people in making their own cross for their home.

C. Guided Tour of the Easter Vigil

- Provide a brief overview of the major elements of the Easter Vigil liturgy.
- Celebrate a Service of Light modeled on the Easter Vigil. Use the prayers from the Easter Vigil liturgy. Lead the group through the ritual and explanation of the symbols on the Easter

Candle. Light individual candles and sing an appropriate song.

- Present selected Lectionary readings with accompanying prayers from the Easter Vigil liturgy, for example: Genesis 1:1–2:2, Exodus 14:15–15:1 (consider showing the crossing of the Red Sea scene from *The Prince of Egypt*), Romans 6:3-11, and the Gospel reading from the current liturgical year in word, drama, dramatic reading with visuals, or film (*Jesus of Nazareth*).
- Introduce the sacrament of Baptism as central to the Easter Vigil liturgy and to how your church initiates new members every Easter. Guide people through the initiation rite: pray a short version of the Litany of the Saints, bless the bottles of water at each table, explain the celebration of Baptism and Confirmation, renew the baptismal profession of faith, sprinkle the people with holy water, and sing an appropriate song.

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Justice and Solidarity

(From: *Acting for Justice* by John Roberto, Harcourt Religion, 2005.)

Format: Age Group

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

- Activity 1. Where Are You From?—tracing each individual or family journey to the U.S.
- Activity 2. If the World Were a Village of 100 People

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience: Age Group Format

1. Activity 1. How Are We Connected to People around the World?
 - Family Activity: What's Inside Your House? (from around the world)
 - Adolescent and Adult Activity: What's in Your Life? (from around the world)
2. Activity 2. The Journey of Interdependence
 - Option 1. The Journey of the Chocolate Bar (all ages)
 - Option 2. The Journey of the Banana (all ages)
 - Option 3. The Journey of Coffee (teens or adults)
3. Activity 3—Presentation: Solidarity through Fair Trade

4. Activity 4. What do the Scriptures and Church Teachings Say about Solidarity?
 - Activity: The Good Samaritan for Today
 - Activity: Who Do We Need to Be in Solidarity With?
5. Activity 5. How Can We Build Solidarity among People?—Developing Action Projects

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

Part 5. Closing Prayer

The Christian Practice of Forgiving

(From: *Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life* by John Roberto, www.LifelongFaith.com)

Format: Whole Group or Age Group

Part 1. Gathering and Opening Prayer

Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience

- Stories the Challenge of Forgiving
- Telling a Story of Forgiveness
- “Forgiveness Quiz”—8 Reasons to Forgive (Continuum Activity)

Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience

1. Challenge of Forgiving: Video Presentation and Discussion: Nooma Video by Rob Bell: *Luggage or Lump*
2. Biblical Teaching on Forgiving
 - Courage (Story of Joseph); Mercy (Unforgiving Servant); Faith and Love (Pardon of Sinful Woman); Restoring Relationships (Prodigal Son); Way of Forgiveness (Matthew 5)
 - Activity Options: 1) Read and Report, 2) Rewrite a Bible Story, 3) Dramatize the Story, 4) Create a Forgiveness Ad
3. Ways to Live the Christian Practice in Daily Life
 - Film: Power of Forgiveness (Segments: “The Amish” and “Paths to Forgiveness)
 - Developing the Practice: Strategies & Ideas: “Ten Ways to Forgive;” Role Plays, Demonstration of Forgiveness; Costs and Benefits of Forgiving

Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application

- Practice Plan for Living the Practice of Forgive Daily
- Writing a Letter to Someone You Are Struggling to Forgive

Part 5. Closing Prayer

Profile: Holy Infant Catholic Church, Durham, NC

(www.acswebnetworks.com/holyinfantchurch/hi_life)

(Download their faith formation handbook at <http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/443/HllifeHandbook.pdf>)

Holy Infant Catholic Church has made a serious commitment to promote lifelong faith formation and to devote our full attention to whole community catechesis. In whole community catechesis, faith formation is not just for children. Embracing the vision (as stated in the *General Directory for Catechesis*) of the parish as a learning community, we aim to:

- Transform the focus on children-only by implementing lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, including and especially adults.
- Transform “start and stop” catechesis by implementing lifelong and continuous faith formation—learning for a lifetime through involvement in the events of Church life.
- Transform age segregation by implementing intergenerational faith formation—making connections among the generations in learning programs and parish involvement.
- Transform the focus on the “textbook as the curriculum” by utilizing the events of Church life as the curriculum for all ages and generations—tapping into the educative and transformative power of the Church Year, sacramental celebrations, community prayer, and works of justice and service and by providing catechesis that prepares everyone for learning by participating in the events of church life.
- Transform catechesis as a separate “program” by implementing a more collaborative and integrated process that involves all of the parish’s ministries in faith formation. Catechesis is interconnected with liturgy, sacraments, the Church Year, justice and service, and prayer.

At Holy Infant Church households come to our faith formation Gatherings together. Parents are empowered to live out the promises made at their child’s Baptism to “be the first and foremost teachers of the faith and to keep the flame of faith alive” (Rite of Baptism). Our **HI-life** process is based on the Generations of Faith approach, which integrates home and parish into a comprehensive model of faith formation. Empowering and equipping individuals and families to live their faith at home and in the world are constitutive of this

approach to faith formation. The Generations approach views the family as the church of the home, and a community of learning and practice. The parish-wide focus on a common theme helps build a partnership between the home and parish. The key components of HI-life are the parish core curriculum, intergenerational parish Gatherings, home activities, and celebrations of events.

HI-life (Holy Infant) is the name that our parish has chosen for this process of whole community catechesis.

- **Learning together:** We come together for a monthly gathering at the parish to unite people of all ages and generations.
- **Inspiring one another:** We encourage communication, understanding and cooperation among family members and parishioners.
- **Following Jesus:** We follow the church calendar of events of Christ’s life in our formation as disciples of Christ.,
- **Embracing the ordinary:** We are guided by the “everyday” holiness of St. Francis de Sales as we try to “Live Jesus” at home and in the world.

HI-life aims to help households grow in their Catholic identity and emphasizes:

- participation at the weekend liturgy and other special feasts
- praying and living the faith at home
- rediscovering our Catholic traditions
- making decisions through the lens of our Christian values

Through our **HI-life** process we cover the core tenets of our Catholic faith over a six year period:

1. celebrations and seasons of the liturgical year
2. sacramental life of the Church
3. justice and peace
4. the Creed
5. morality
6. prayer

Parish HI-life Gatherings

We invite parishioners of all ages to participate in our **HI-life** Gatherings—our intergenerational learning gatherings, which are the foundation of our life long faith formation process at Holy Infant. Our monthly gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.

1. Sharing a Simple Meal Together

No cooking - just come and enjoy

At a typical gathering you are welcomed by greeters in the Hospitality Room and escorted to a table in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a simple meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At your table there may be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, and an empty-nest couple. There may be a table blessing and a couple of questions to focus the table talk.

2. Whole Group Opening Experience

Introduction of the topic to be experienced

After the meal, everyone will move to the church for an opening prayer and an activity to set the tone for the evening, such as a story or video segment. Each household will receive their **HI-life Home Kit**, which they will learn to use throughout the evening.

3. Exploring the Topic through Age-Specific Learning Activities

All ages learning about the same topic according to their stage in life

Then the group will divide into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A typical evening might have adults staying in the church for a speaker and group discussion, young adults in meeting room #6, JYM youth in meeting room #3, TYM youth in the Hospitality Room, and parents with young children (approximately ages 5-11) together in the Fellowship Hall. There will be lead catechists for each group to teach and guide the learning activities of the evening and trained facilitators to assist the parents and children at each table.

4. Whole Group Sharing Experience

Closing of the Gathering for all ages and distribution of the HI-life Home Kits.

To conclude our evening, everyone will reunite in the church to share what has been learned, to pray together, and to be sent forth to continue learning at home in preparation for the church event or season which is the focus of the month.

HI-life Gatherings for 2008-2009 "Life is Fragile—Handle with Prayer"

Our fifth year of whole community catechesis focuses on Prayer and Spirituality. Our theme is *Life is Fragile—Handle with Prayer*. We will look to St. Francis de Sales and the Salesian saints to guide us through an exploration of the rich spiritual heritage of our Tradition. We will also explore many aspects of contemporary spirituality. Hopefully, everyone will learn to be better "pray-ers" through our **HI-life** process this year.

- September: We Are Called to Pray
- October: Is There a Wrong Way to Pray?
- November: Praying as Jesus Prayed
- January: Praying with St. Francis de Sales
- February: Lent – Refocus and Reflect
- March: Holy Week and Easter through Mary's Eyes

Meeting Times

Thursday	5:45-8:30pm
Friday	5:45-8:30pm
Sunday	3:00-5:30pm

Friday and Sunday Gatherings are for all ages.
Thursday Gatherings are for adults and older teens.

Profile: St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Acton, MA

(www.seoh.org/generations.htm)

Based upon the Gospel and the call of Pope Benedict XVI and his predecessors for a new evangelization and stronger catechetical effort, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish uses a liturgy-centered, lifelong, and intergenerational approach to Catholic faith formation. The goal is to help and support everyone who wishes to become a better disciple by integrating faith, worship, and life in light of the Gospel. Since this is an ongoing, lifelong task, everyone in the parish is invited to participate.

Generations of Faith is an innovative approach to faith formation that equips the parish to become a community of lifelong learning. Faith formation is centered in the events of church life, embraces all ages and generations, and promotes faith growth at home. Through worship, learning, service, and community, GOF offers whole community catechesis to support everyone's Christian journey no matter one's age or stage. A program of lifelong, intergenerational formation, GOF has three basic components, all of which are essential:

- The first and *most important* component of faith formation is regular and active participation at Sunday Mass.
- The second is the monthly intergenerational learning session.
- The third is a personal, daily effort to live as a good Christian, and to increase in faith, hope, and charity. This is how a faithful people makes its way back to God.

The key is to bring these three activities together such that each one supports and is supported by the other two. Faith formation requires us to bring faith, worship, and life together, and respond to the power and insight that emerges when we do that. The goal of faith formation is to know, love, and serve the Lord ever better and more fruitfully.

The Structure

The Generations program offers three means of catechesis. Each component is critical to the overall effectiveness of this method of faith development.

First of all, each month's formation theme will come from selected Sunday readings.

The scriptures provide the foundation for

liturgical catechesis around each theme which will be developed through the music, homily, and prayers during Mass. Experiencing church life, events, and seasons through the liturgies is the source for the Generations formation approach. As formation sessions are designed to prepare and reflect on the readings from Mass, it is important to attend Sunday liturgies.

The second part of the Generations program is attending the monthly formation session.

Formation sessions include comprehensive faith formation including the following:

1. Knowledge of the faith
2. Liturgical life
3. Moral formation
4. Prayer
5. Belonging to a community
6. Missionary spirit

Formation sessions provide activities and content consistent with the readings and experiences in the selected Mass. Sessions include a meal, large group activities, reflection, prayers, and instruction, and breakout sessions based on developmental levels. All households have been assigned to a particular formation session.

Finally, the third component of the Generations of Faith model is the home kit.

The Catholic Church sees the family as "the domestic church," integrating home and parish into a comprehensive model of faith formation. The home kits are designed to help extend and expand the learning from the formation sessions and Masses. The goal is to create a pattern of family faith sharing that is integral to family life and woven into the fabric of daily life. Home kits will include materials to enable the following:

- Celebrating traditions and rituals
- Learning the Catholic faith story
- Praying together
- Serving others and working for justice
- Enriching relationships and daily life

Generations of Faith 2008-2009

The Curriculum

- September: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- October: Crop Walk
- October: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- November: Christ the King
- December: 3rd Sunday of Advent
- January: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- February: 1st Sunday of Lent
- March: 5th Sunday of Lent
- April: 3rd Sunday of Easter
- May: 7th Sunday of Easter

Monthly Program Schedule

1. Wednesday 5:30—8:00 p.m.
2. Saturday 6:15—8:45 p.m.
(kindergarten session offered)
3. Sunday-1 12:00—2:30 p.m.
(kindergarten session offered)
4. Sunday-2 5:00—7:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Program Model: Age Appropriate Learning Groups

The breakouts are subgroups that participate in developmentally-appropriate activities and instruction during the intergenerational learning program. They are designed to enhance parents' participation in their children's faith formation, build community among participants of similar age and experience, and promote the formational process in general. Most of the monthly sessions include breakout sessions.

1. Primary Level (Grades K-4) & Parents

Parents and children work together under the direction of trained leaders and facilitators to explore each month's focus area. Large group, small group, and individual instruction are provided, but the parent serves as the primary catechist for each child. This level is designed for children in K – Grade 4. Younger children are welcome to come to be with their family,

but there will not be specific catechesis for them. Additionally Kindergarten sessions will be only offered during the Saturday evening and the Sunday afternoon sessions. Grade 5 students and parents who are more comfortable working in this setting for part or all of the year are welcome to stay with their family. (All children preparing for First Eucharist register for both Generations of Faith and First Eucharist.)

2. Middle or Intermediate Level (Grades 5-8)

Middle grade children gather with group leaders to explore each month's lesson in a developmentally appropriate way. This may include reading, discussion, drama, hands-on activities, and/or service work. This level is designed for younger adolescents in grades 5-8. Parents are welcome to attend all or part of this session with their children or they may attend the adult session. It is required that a parent be on site during the entire GOF session.

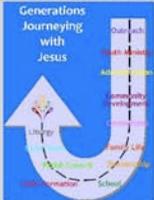
3. Senior Level (Grades 9-12)

High school students gather under the leadership of the parish youth ministry coordinator and group leaders to explore the month's theme at a deeper and more personal level. The goals of this session include using the focus area as a call to spiritual development and service to others. Parents and/or Confirmation sponsors are most welcome to attend these sessions with their teens. This level is designed for older adolescents in grades 9-12. (All Confirmation candidates must register for both Generations of Faith and Confirmation preparation.)

4. Adult Level

Parents, couples, single adults, and retired adults gather to explore the focus area using techniques and processes that have proven effective for adult learners. Confirmed teens in grades 11 and 12, and/or young adults living at home are welcome to participate in the adult breakout session. (GOF registration is free for seniors 65 and older.)

Profile: Resurrection Catholic Parish, Green Bay, WI

September	October	November	December	
 <p>Generations Journeying with Jesus 2008-2009</p>	<p>1 Generations Study It! Journeying with Jesus through the Parables Meals: \$2.00/person / \$1.00 seconds 5:15—Meal—Walking Tacos/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth Session 6:10-7:40—Adult Session **Sign up for December Bell Ringing!</p>	<p>5 Generations Study It! Journeying with Jesus in Prayer National Speaker: John Angotti 5:15—Meal—Hotdog/PastaSalad/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Speaker: John Angotti</p>	<p>3 Generations Study It! Journeying with the Messiah 5:15—Meal/Spaghetti/Bread/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth/Adults</p>	
<p>10 Generations Study It! Journeying with Jesus 6:00-7:30 PM Prayer Our Journey begins... Social</p>	<p>8 Generations Pray It! Journey to Robinsonville Time to be determined Journey with us to the Robinsonville Chapel to celebrate their 40th Anniversary as we walk and pray the rosary! Confirmation Pray It Choice Sign up by October 1!</p>	<p>12 Generations Pray It! Praying with St. Paul 6:30-7:45 PM How St. Paul's Letters inspire us! and **6:30-7:45 PM Sacrament Night for First Reconciliation Families and Confirmation Youth</p>	<p>10 Generations Pray It! Advent Reconciliation 6:30 PM All are welcome to celebrate this beautiful sacrament with our First Reconciliation and Confirmation families.</p>	
<p>17 Generations Live It! Okolona, MS 6:30-7:45 PM Hear from Chris VanAlstine, chair of Resurrection's Twinning Committee Live It! by helping Okolona children go Back to School Admission: school supplies—for further details go to www.gbres.org</p>	<p>15 Generations Live It! The Good Samaritan 6:30-7:45 PM Hear all about Helping Hands from Mary Meisinger, pastoral minister Live It! by being a Good Samaritan for our parishioners who need assistance! Confirmation Live It Choice</p>	<p>19 Generations Live It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Reconciliation Families and Confirmation Youth</p>	<p>17 Generations Live It! Parish Bell Ringing December dates 17, 18, 19, 20th Confirmation Live It Choice</p>	
<p>24 Generations Share It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Communion and First Reconciliation and Confirmation Families Registration is needed!</p>	<p>22 Generations Share It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Reconciliation Families and Confirmation Youth and Sponsors</p>	<p>Generations Share It! Thanksgiving Nov 27  9:00 AM Mass Bring your food offerings!</p>	<p>24 Generations Share It! Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass 6:30 PM Mass 10:00 PM Mass </p>	
January	February	March	April	May
<p>7 Generations Study It! Journeying with Jesus as a Family of Believers 5:15—Meal—Pizza/Salad/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth Session 6:10-7:40—Adult Session with speaker, Leisa Anslinger, "Here Comes Everybody"</p>	<p>4 Generations Study It! Journeying As Servants of God 5:15—Meal—Chili/Crackers/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth Session 6:10-7:40—Adult Session</p>	<p>4 Generations Study It! Journeying with the Suffering Servant 5:15—Meal—Hamburger/Chip/Dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth Session 6:10-7:40—Adult Session Mar 8,9,10—7:00 PM Parish Mission—Fr. Conrad Kratz</p>	<p>1 Generations Study It! Journeying with the Resurrected Lord 5:15—Meal Chix patty/dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth/Adults</p>	<p>6 Our Journey continues... 5:15—Meal Subs/chip/dessert 6:05—Prayer 6:10-7:40—Children/Youth/Adults</p>
<p>14 Generations Pray It! A Prayer Quilt Journey 6:30-7:45 PM Confirmation Pray It Choice</p>	<p>11 Generations Pray It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Communion Families and Confirmation Youth</p>	<p>11 Generations Pray It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Communion Families</p>	<p>Generations Pray It! Apr 9, 10, 11 Triduum  Holy Thursday—7:00 PM Mass Good Friday—1:00 PM Service Holy Saturday Vigil—8:00 PM</p>	
<p>21 Generations Live It! Multicultural Event 6:30-7:45 PM</p>	<p>18 Generations Live It! Take a "Virtual" Journey to Haiti 6:30-7:45 PM Sacrament Night 5:00—10:00 PM Confirmation Retreat Feb 21 Confirmation Practice and Celebration</p>	<p>18 Generations Live It! Gifts for the Journey Family Stewardship 6:30-7:45 PM</p>	<p>22 Generations Live It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM First Communion Practice</p>	
<p>28 Generations Share It! Sacrament Night 6:30-7:45 PM Confirmation Youth</p>	<p>25 Generations Share It!  Ash Wednesday 6:30 AM Mass 8:05 AM Mass 6:00 PM Mass</p>	<p>25 Generations Share It! <i>Spring break Green Bay/NDA March 23-27</i> <i>Spring break De Pere April 13-17</i></p>	<p>29 Generations Share It! Spring Fever Fun Night 6:30-7:45 PM</p>	