

TOGETHER IN MISSION

"THE CHURCH'S PASTORAL ACTION MUST FOLLOW THE FAMILY, ACCOMPANYING IT STEP BY STEP IN THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF ITS FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT." POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II - FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO #65

Experience

DEFINING HUMAN EXPERIENCES OF THIS TIME IN LIFE

There are issues that can be experienced in all stages of life. These include struggles with:

- Finances
- Health
- Immigration status
- Technology
- Work/life balance
- Addictions (including pornography)
- ...and many others

Young Adults

18-35 years old

- Seeking independence (freedom/isolation)
- College debt
- Direction in life (discernment)
- Relationships
- Desire to make a difference

Newly Married

- From single to couple
- New family system
- Career
- Spirituality/faith practice
- Family planning & infertility

Families with Young Children

0-5 years old

- Parenting/caring for children
- Couple time/communication
- Societal expectations
- Work/home balance
- Children with special needs

Families with School-Aged Children

6-12 years old

- Bullying
- Over-commitment
- Encountering diversity
- School/home-schooling
- Passing on the faith
- Loss

Families with Adolescents

13-18 years old

- Self-discovery/individuation
- Mental health
- Social media impact
- Developing relationships
- Sexual development
- Shift in parent/child relationship

Single/Married Adults

No minors in the home

- Changing spousal relationship
- Parent/adult child relationship
- Intergenerational caregiving
- Wellness
- Assuming leadership roles

Golden Years

- Retirement
- Financial adjustments
- Loss and loneliness
- Health issues
- Losing independence
- Mortality/end-of-life issues

Parish Response

COMMON PARISH RESPONSES

- Be mentors on Youth Ministry Team
- Pre-Cana

Marriage

- Include spouse in previous parish involvement
- Godparents/sponsors

Becoming a parent

- Baptism
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Preschool programs

School age

- Catholic School
- Religious Education
- Reconciliation/Eucharist Preparation

Children become adolescents

- Confirmation
- Youth Groups
- Catholic High Schools

Launching young adult children

- Parish Ministry Leadership
- Fraternal Organizations

Retirement

- Bingo
- Senior Social Groups
- Traditional Organizations

Evangelization

COMMON PARISH RESPONSES

PRE-EVANGELIZATION

Meet where they are

- Faith & Finance Program

- NFP info sessions

- Men's Group

- Single-parent support strategies

- Just-for-Parents Discussion Group

- Caregiver Workshops

- Transportation Ministry for Seniors

KERYGMA

Proclamation of the Gospel

- Retreat Programs
- Life in the Spirit Seminar

- Life in the Spirit Seminar

- Elizabeth Ministry

- New Life Retreat; St. Andrews School of Evangelization

- Kerygma: A Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Cursillo International

- Marriage Encounter

DISCIPLESHIP

Living the faith

APOSTLESHIP

Go and make disciples

- Marriage mentor couples

- Serving together as a family

- Chastity programs

- Marriage Encounter
- Marriage Ministry

- Spiritual Grandparenting

- Spiritual Grandparenting

CHRISTIAN FAMILIES ARE MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Christian families are missionary families, in their everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith!

POPE FRANCIS

Homily of the Holy Father/Family Day

Saint Peter's Square, 27 October 2013



Copyright 2017 - Diocese of Trenton

EVANGELIZATION IS THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Its aim is to lead each human person to an encounter with Jesus Christ through whom salvation is offered. Evangelization brings about conversion; changes of heart, changes in thinking, changes in attitude and action throughout the whole of a person's life. So it follows that in each phase of life, there must be opportunities to grow in faith and into intimate union with the Lord.

Every person belongs to a family. Families are the foundation of the Catholic parish. In the midst of the family and the parish community, people encounter Christ and learn to be his disciples. Family and Parish are the primary environments in which evangelization takes place.

Together in Mission is a tool that has been created to help pastors, parish clergy and staff, parish ministry leaders and families become more intentional about evangelizing at every phase of life. It offers an organizing principle or framework for understanding how the ministries of parish life are related to one another and how they can support the real lives of Catholic families growing in faith.



WORKING WITH THIS TOOL, YOU CAN...



TOGETHER IN MISSION

Evangelization & Family Life

