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Administration, Budget, and Bosses	High School Campus Ministry	Scripture and Youth
Adolescent Catechesis Models/Systems/Structures	Hispanic Ministry	Sexuality/ Theology of the Body
Adolescent Catechesis Practice/Strategies/Methods	Junior High Ministry	Sharing Faith
Advocating for Youth/Youth Ministry	Justice and Service	Spirituality
Balance in Ministry	Leadership Development	Substance Abuse
Best Practices	Leading in a Diverse Church	Technology in Ministry
Building Relationships	Marriage and Ministry	Teen Culture/Understanding Teens
Certification	Media/Social Media	Teens and Violence
Church Issues and Tensions	Mission/Workcamps	Teens in Crisis/Counseling and Referral
Collaboration Skills	Missionary Discipleship	The Spirituality of the Minister
Confirmation Models and Methods	Multicultural Issues	Theological Updates (Jesus Christ, Sacraments, Church)
CYO/Sports	Multiparish Ministry	Urban Youth Ministry
Dealing with Conflict	Outreach/Service	Volunteer Recruitment and Training
Dynamic Liturgies	Parent Involvement	YM Related Research
Evangelization	Prayer and Worship	Young Adult Ministry
Family Ministry	Resources	Youth At-Risk
Forming Catholic Identity	Retreat Models and Planning	YM Models/Systems/Structures
Gender Based Programming	Rural Youth Ministry	YM Practice/Strategies/Methods
	Sacramental Catechesis	
	Scouting	

3

Top 5 Workshop Topics Requested at NCCYM from 2006-2018							
2018	'16	'14	'12	'10	'08	'06	Topics
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Involving Parents
2	4	10	9	NA	NA	NA	Family Ministry
3	2	2	3	6	3	2	Leadership Development
4	7	NA	6	10	NA	NA	Best Practices
5	3	6	8	9	10	5	Advocating for Youth/YM

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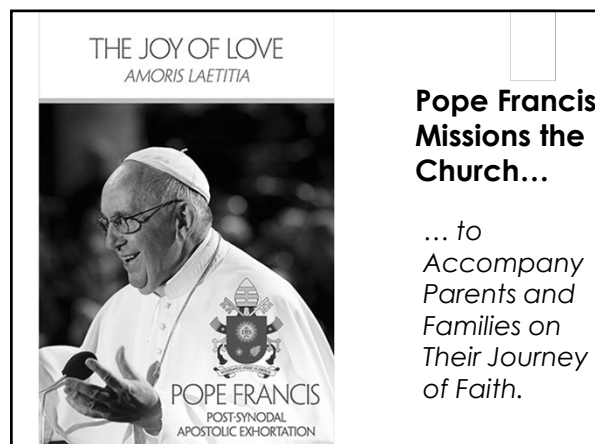
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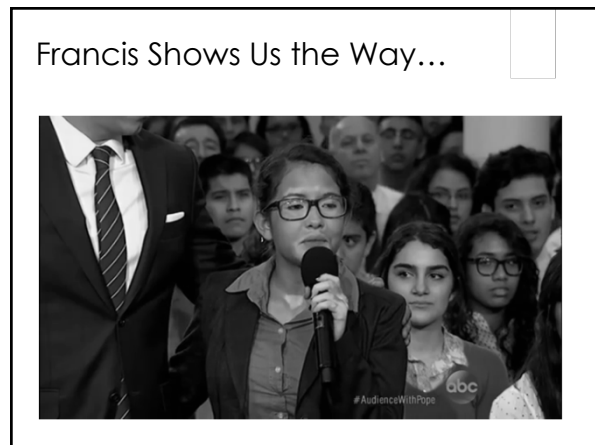
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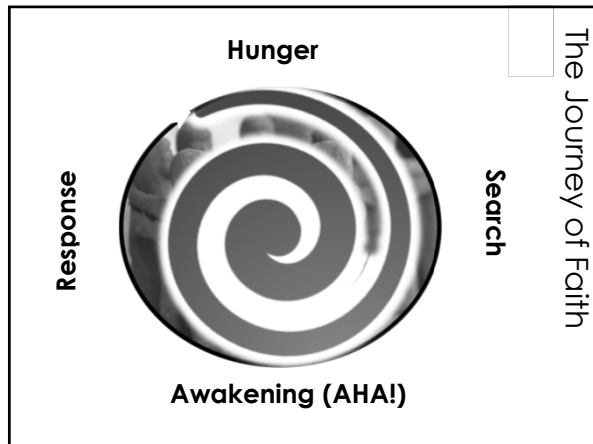
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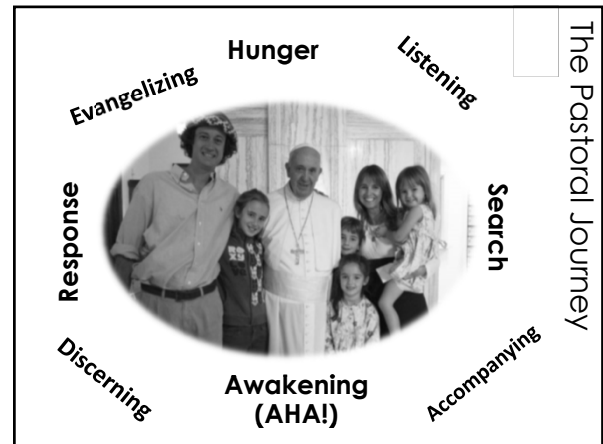
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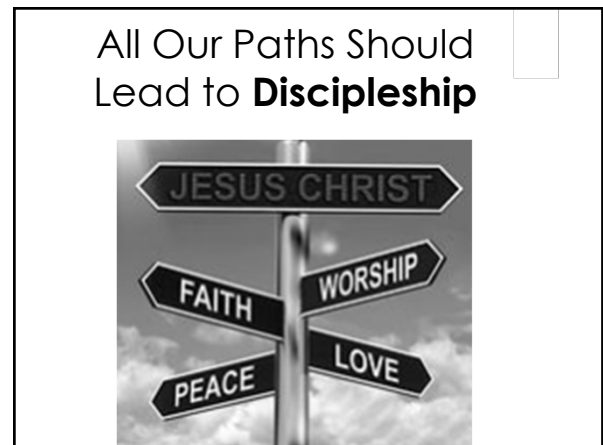
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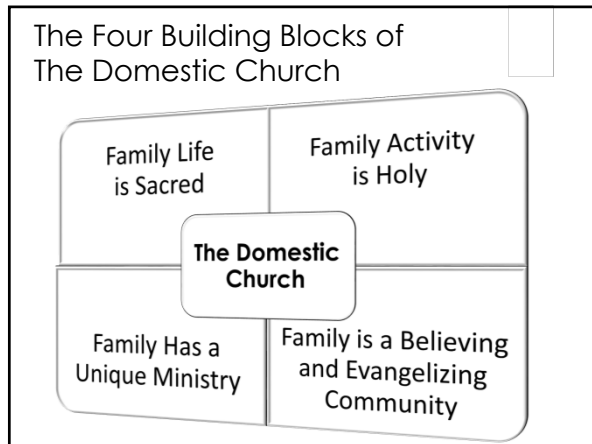
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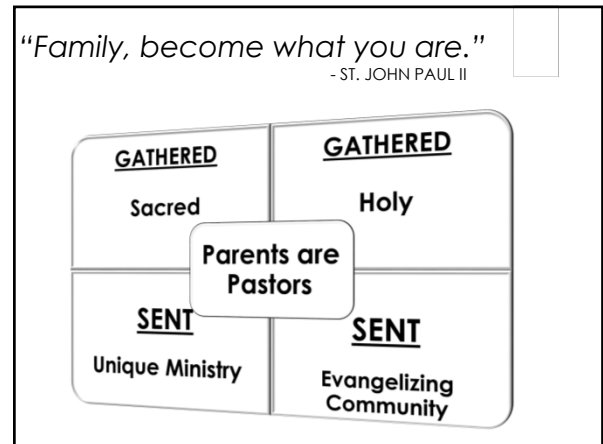
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Three Parental Roles for Pastoring a Domestic Church

The Bridge

The Interpreter

The Gatekeeper

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"If parents do not introduce the Catholic faith to their children, they usually will not be exposed at all."

22

Interpreters: Connect Life with Faith... Everyday

**Our Story** **The Story** **Faith Growth**

Where is God?



23

"...parents are like a faucet, determining whether religious content will arrive in children's lives at an occasional drip or in a regular flow."

A Report On American Catholic Religious Parenting by Justin Barkus and Christian Smith.

24

Who Has Power Between the Sundays?

*"Parents are the single most important influence on a child's faith."* (NSYR)

25

Empower Parents to Go BIG!

The Bridge

The Interpreter

The Gatekeeper




26



Where do we start?

27


Invite A Deep Gaze Into Their Parental Mirror to Ask...

What Am I Reflecting?



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Taking a Family Faith Inventory...



A Tool to Help Parents Determine Their Starting Point

The Strong Catholic Family's Family Faith Inventory

Free Online at:  
<http://nfcym.org/scfresources>

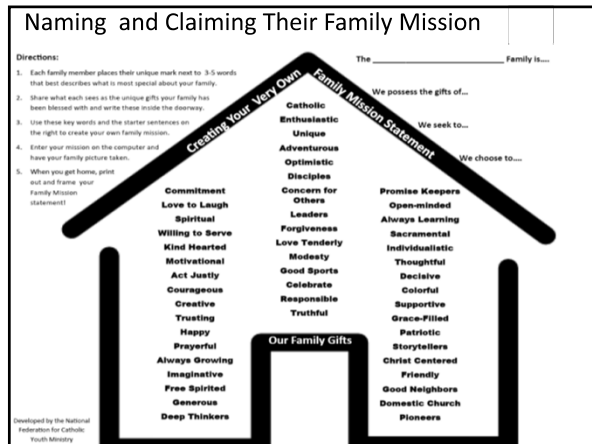


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Assist Families in Defining Their Mission


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### The Gonzalez Family Mission

*The Gonzalez's are a Catholic, Christ-centered family striving to love one another through words and deeds, remembering WWJD.*



*We follow Jesus by loving tenderly, serving others, being generous, learning and growing in our faith, enjoying one another through laughter, play and prayer to share in God's glory.*

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### Engage Families Through Their Mission

**GROWING AN ENGAGED CHURCH**

**Engaged - 16%**  
**Actively Disengaged - 35%**  
**Not Engaged - 49%**

*How can the Church help you/your family live out your faith in the world?*

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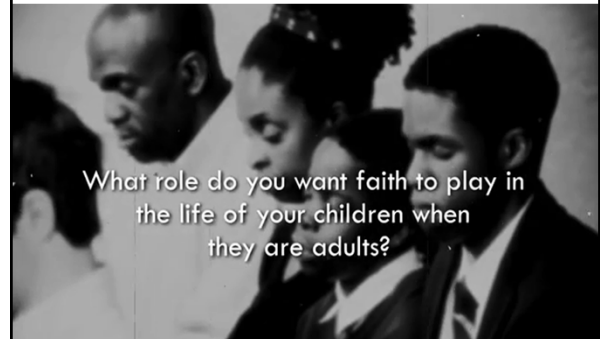
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### What Do Parents Wish/Want for Their Children?



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### The Sacred Wish...



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### And What Do Teens Wish For?

*"If you could change anything about your family situation, what would it be?"*



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*"To become a parent"*  
*"Teens"*  
*"Why do you want to be a parent?"*  
*"I don't know"*



**Two-thirds of teens and three-quarters of parents say they would be willing to give up a weeknight activity if it meant they could have dinner with their family.** (CASA, 9/2009)

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers.

40

### The Recipe for Family Faith Growth

"The Church can contribute significantly toward strong, life-shaping families for young people by equipping, supporting, and encouraging families with adolescents to:

- engage in family faith conversations
- teach moral values
- develop healthy relationships
- good communication skills
- celebrate family rituals
- pray together
- participate in shared service activities
- explore and discuss vocations
- nurture close parental relationships and parental faith."



Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, USCCB 1997

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### And the Secret Ingredient is...

"The Church can contribute significantly toward strong, life-shaping families for young people by **equipping, supporting, and encouraging families** with adolescents to:

- \* engage in family faith conversations
- \* teach moral values
- \* develop healthy relationships
- \* good communication skills
- \* celebrate family rituals
- \* pray together
- \* participate in shared service activities
- \* explore and discuss vocations
- \* nurture close parental relationships and parental faith."

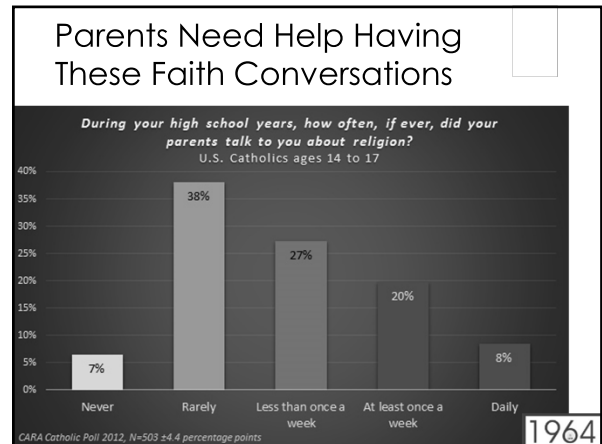


Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, USCCB 1997

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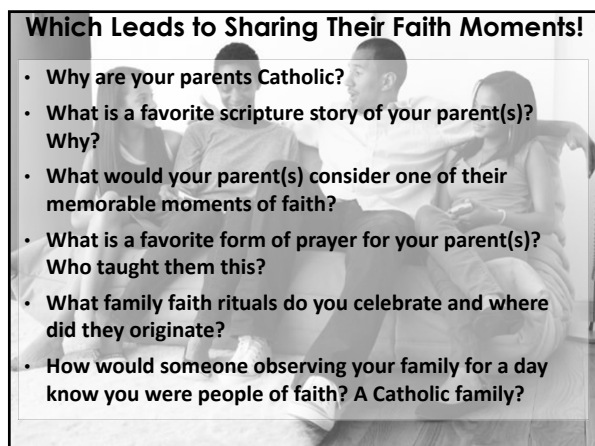
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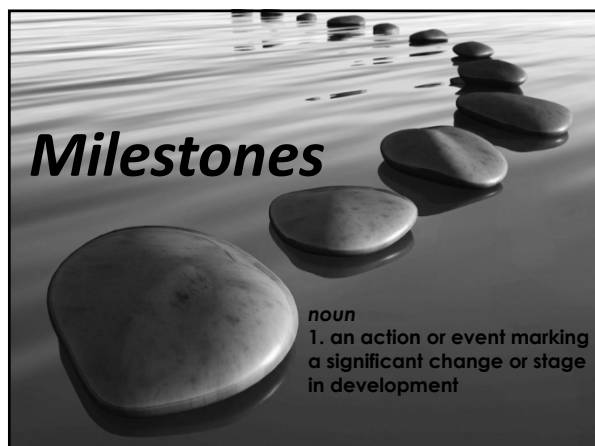


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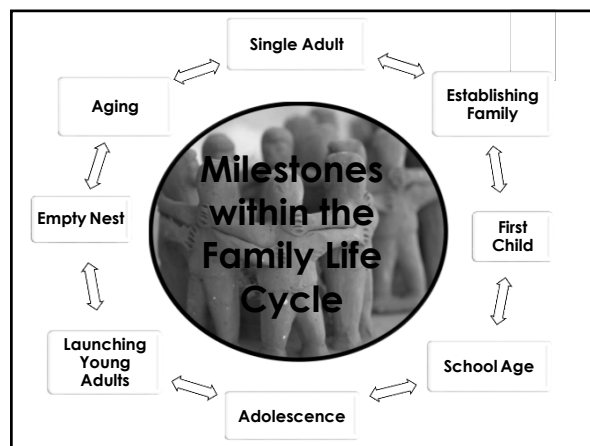


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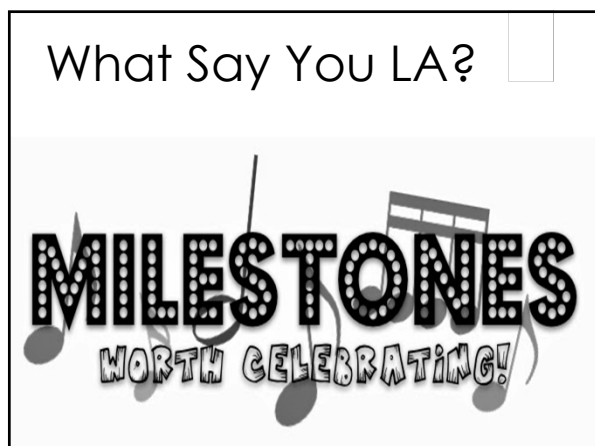
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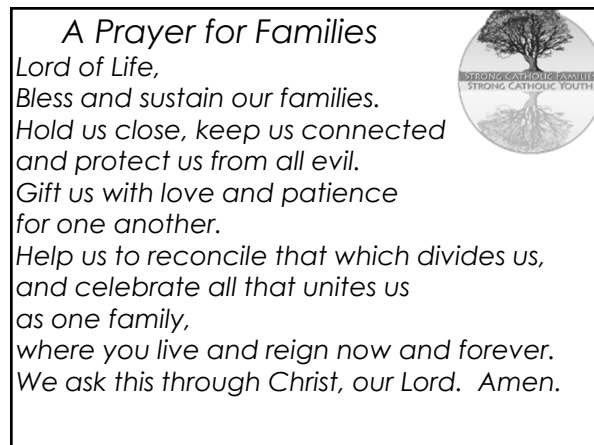
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## Directions:

1. Each family member places their unique mark next to 3-5 words that best describes what is most special about your family.
2. Share what each sees as the unique gifts your family has been blessed with and write these inside the doorway.
3. Use these key words and the starter sentences on the right to create your own family mission.
4. Enter your mission on the computer and add your family picture to it.
5. Print out and frame your Family Mission Statement!

**Create Your Personalized**

**Family Mission Statement**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family....

*Possesses the gifts of...*

*We seek to be...*

*Therefore, we choose to....*

**Commitment**  
**Love to Laugh**  
**Spiritual**  
**Willing to Serve**  
**Kind Hearted**  
**Motivational**  
**Act Justly**  
**Courageous**  
**Creative**  
**Trusting**  
**Happy**  
**Prayerful**  
**Always Growing**  
**Imaginative**  
**Free Spirited**  
**Generous**  
**Deep Thinkers**

**Catholic**  
**Enthusiastic**  
**Unique**  
**Adventurous**  
**Optimistic**  
**Disciples**  
**Concern for Others**  
**Leaders**  
**Forgiveness**  
**Love Tenderly**  
**Modesty**  
**Good Sports**  
**Celebrate**  
**Responsible**  
**Truthful**

**Our Family Gifts**

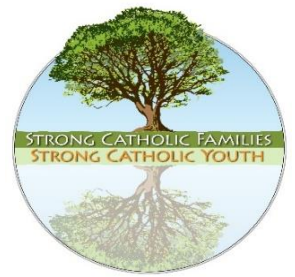
**Promise Keepers**  
**Open-minded**  
**Always Learning**  
**Sacramental**  
**Individualistic**  
**Thoughtful**  
**Decisive**  
**Colorful**  
**Supportive**  
**Grace-Filled**  
**Patriotic**  
**Storytellers**  
**Christ Centered**  
**Friendly**  
**Good Neighbors**  
**Domestic Church**  
**Pioneers**



Adapted with permission from  
"The Secrets of Happy Families"  
by Bruce Feiler. Visit  
[www.brucefeiler.com](http://www.brucefeiler.com) for more  
family resources.

Developed by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry  
([www.nfcym.org](http://www.nfcym.org))

# Taking a Family Faith Inventory...



*This is a short inventory identifying ways that faith can be practiced and lived out in the home. It is not a test, rather a personal assessment to help your family determine how you can continue to grow in faith as a family.*

*To best use the inventory, each adult should individually rate each statement. Then go back through the ratings and check the ones that you would like to change in the coming year. Next share the results with one another. Do not feel that you have to tackle everything at once. Chances are, most of the things you will want to see happen will happen if you start with just a couple of actions, like sharing meals together, participating in Mass, or spending a few minutes reading Scripture and sharing faith together prior to or after a meal.*

This inventory was developed for the Strong Catholic Families national initiative ([www.strongcatholicfamilies.org](http://www.strongcatholicfamilies.org))

**Family and Community:** *How well does our family recognize the sacredness of a family meal and discover God in the ordinary moments of family and parish life?*

**1. Eating dinner together is a priority in our family schedule.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**2. Being Catholic is a significant part of our family identity.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**3. We participate in social and community events at our parish (outside of Mass).**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**4. Religious art, images, and Bibles can be found throughout our home.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**Prayer and Worship:** *Does our family recognize and embody the centrality of prayer in Catholic life, both individually and collectively?*

**1. We attend Mass together on a regular basis.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**2. I pray on my own (outside of Mass).**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**3. We pray together as a family (outside of Mass).**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**4. Family members take turns leading prayer.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**5. We celebrate the seasons of the liturgical year (e.g., Advent, Lent) with special prayers, actions, and rituals at home.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**6. Special family occasions are marked with blessings and/or prayers.**

☐ Never ☐ Very Little ☐ Somewhat ☐ Fairly Often ☐ All the Time

☐ Okay or ☐ Change

# Family Faith Inventory *(continued)*

**Formation:** *How important is learning and growing in the faith to our individual and family life?*

**1. I read Scripture on my own.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**2. We read Scripture as a family.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**3. We put a high value on learning more about our Catholic faith.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**4. I participate in faith formation opportunities (e.g., classes, spiritual reading, and spiritual direction).**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**5. I make sure my children/teens participate in faith formation opportunities (e.g., youth ministry, religious education, retreats, mission trips, etc.).**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**Justice and Service:** *As individuals and as a family do we seek opportunities to perform works of mercy in our neighborhood, church, or other organizations?*

**1. We discuss current events in light of the values and beliefs of the Catholic faith.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**2. I model discipleship (following Jesus) for my children and/or teens.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**3. In our family, we talk about morality and how to judge between right and wrong.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**4. I am involved in regular justice and service in the parish and/or wider community.**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**5. We expect family members to be involved in parish ministry or service in addition to Mass and religious education (e.g., lector, usher, catechist, choir, vacation Bible school, etc.).**

☐ Never    ☐ Very Little    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ Fairly Often    ☐ All the Time    ☐ Okay or ☐ Change

**Two Things:** *What next steps you will take in the coming months, as an individual and as a family.*

**Individually reflect** on your own inventory ratings and decide on two things you will do on your own to grow in faith in the coming months...

Thing One:

Thing Two:

**As a family** decide together on two things the family will do to grow together in faith in the coming months...

Thing One:

Thing Two: