

## DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD BOOK DISCUSSION

### ENGAGE EVERY FAMILY

A Parish Guide to Integrated Faith Formation

Book Discussion – June 22, 29, July 13 & 20

10:00am – 11:00am Central Time

*Followed by optional Q & A with the author*

### AT A GLANCE

#### WEEK ONE: JUNE 22

Part 2: Chapters 3 & 4 / Guiding Essentials

#### WEEK TWO: JUNE 29

Part 1: Chapter 2 Lessons 1-3 (What's Working)

#### WEEK THREE: JULY 13

Part 1: Chapter 2 Lessons 4-6 (What's Working)

#### WEEK THREE: JULY 20

Part 3: Chapters 5 & 6 / Vision and Design

### WELCOME!

Welcome to this book discussion. This study guide is meant simply as that – just a guide. I want to spend time discussing whatever might be most helpful for you. Ask your own questions; offer your own reflections. Let's dig in!

### SCHEDULE:

- Introductions
- Opening Prayer
- Guiding Essentials Overview
- Overview Chapter 3: Connecting with Parents
- Questions from Chapter 3
- Overview Chapter 4: Holy Listening: Sacred Ground
- Questions from Chapter 4

### OVERVIEW

#### CH 3 CONNECTING WITH PARENTS

- Reframing Parenthood as Calling
- "The ministry of evangelization carried out by parents is original and irreplaceable." FC#53

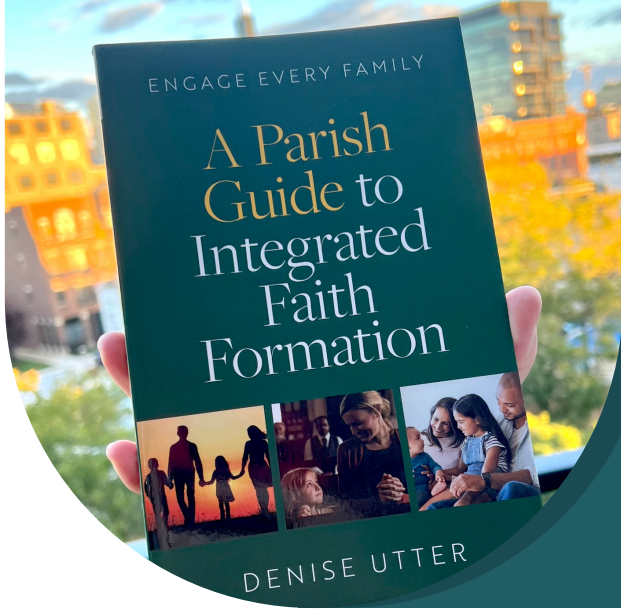
#### CH 4 HOLY LISTENING

- Holy Listening as Sacred Ground
- The Church will have to initiate everyone... into this 'art of accompaniment'." (EG #169)

### WEEK ONE: JUNE 22

Rather than taking a linear approach with this book, we're going to start with the Guiding Essentials. What do you absolutely need to keep in mind as we reimagine faith formation? As we attempt to engage families in new and transformative ways?

Let's take a look at Chapters 3 & 4.



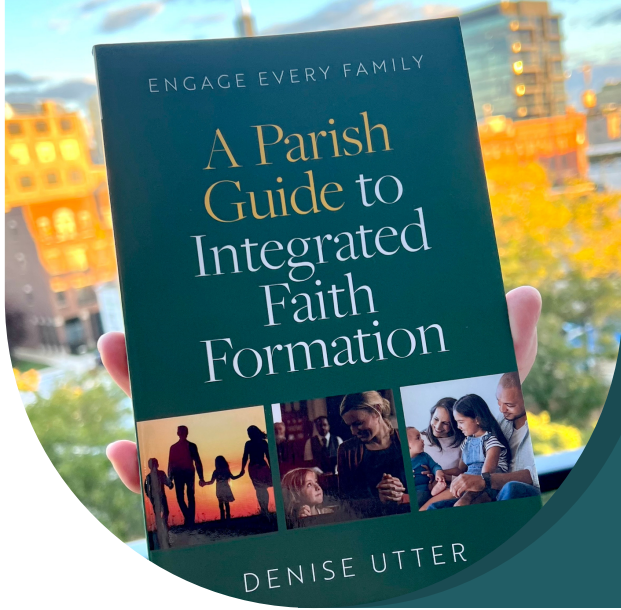
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### CHAPTER 3

- This chapter is primarily about reframing our relationship with parents, but it's also about helping parents see their own parenthood as a calling from God. How might it affect the way a parent sees their role as Mom or Dad? How might that affect your ministry with parents, and/or your ministry to their children?
- Parents are being countercultural just showing up at your church, bringing their children for faith formation or for sacrament preparation. How do you affirm parents for just "being there"? How might we embolden them further to share their faith with their children and with the broader community?
- What do parent meetings look like in your faith community? Have you reimagined them to be conversations about parenting and calling? What might be the benefits of reimagining parent meetings/gatherings in the way described here?
- Some people who have hesitated to implement family faith formation recognize the need for a supportive pastor, but may not have one. How can you advocate for family faith formation in that case? How can a leader form his or her parish leadership and staff in the need to engage parents and all families?
- What resonates in chapter 3? What challenges you? Or what would you challenge?



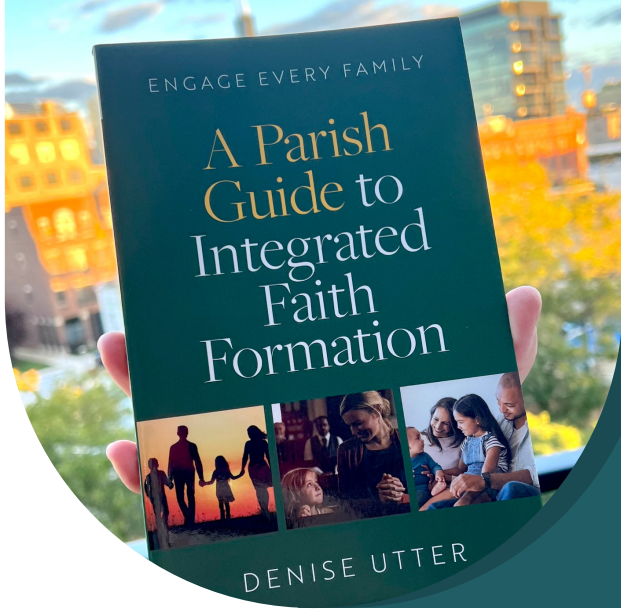
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#### CHAPTER 4

- So much of the journey toward a family-centered approach to faith formation depends on accepting our own call to "accompaniment" ministry. This chapter presents this discipling skill as Holy Listening and the space around us when we do this kind of listening as Sacred Ground. Keeping this in mind, reflect on the following questions:
- Who has been Eli for you, helping you hear your call? Who have you accompanied in that listening journey?
- Pope Francis talks about a "listening Church." What might that look like in your setting?
- Did your parish participate in synodal listening sessions in preparation for the 2023 synod? If so, what did you hear? How will you affirm that participants were heard? If you did not participate in synodal listening sessions, why not?
- Could listening be our greatest service as ministry leaders? Why or why not?
- If trust is the first threshold of conversion, how do you build trust in your ministry?
- How might you hold listening sessions to help plan for, design, or implement a family-friendly faith formation approach? If you currently offer such an approach, how have you included listening (to parents and catechists) as part of your discernment in the past? How might you include this kind of listening moving forward?
- What resonates in chapter 4? What challenges you? Or what would you challenge?



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## NOTES