

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: Focused primarily on 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

WEEK TWO: JUNE 29

Chapter One is primarily our "why". Why do we need to reimagine faith formation? I will briefly touch on that (very briefly) and then we really jump into Chapter 2: Lessons 1-3. These three lessons address some things that are working today for a number of parishes – using technology, digital tools and methods, and the two things research says have the greatest impact of the faith formation development of young people: God talk and faith practices.

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!

AGENDA:

- Opening Prayer
- PART ONE: Overview
 - Why reimagine faith formation?
 - What's working? Chapter Two: Lessons 1-3
 - 1-2 Technology, Digital Tools & Methods
 - 3 God-talk and faith practices
- Discussion Questions – Breakout and Large Group Exploration of those discussions

OVERVIEW

PART ONE

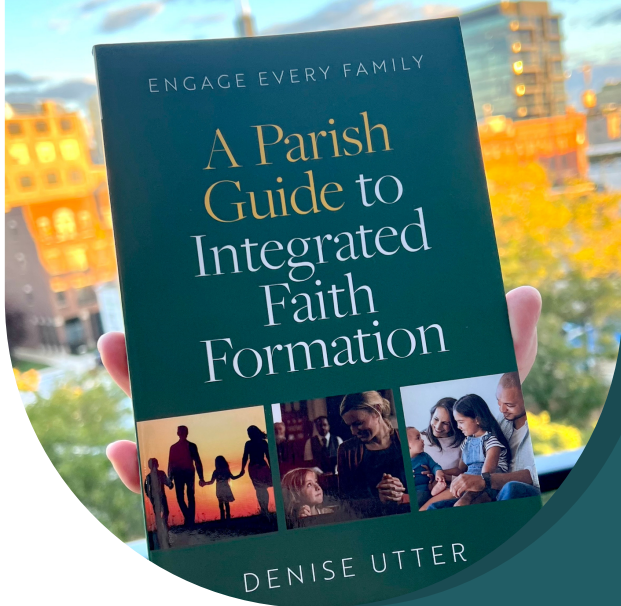
- The need to reimagine faith formation
- Liminal space

CH 2 LESSON ONE AND TWO

- Using technology to evangelize and catechize
- Exploring digital tools and methods for ministry

CH 2 LESSON THREE

- Focusing on God-talk (faith conversations) and Faith Practices



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PART ONE - CHAPTER ONE

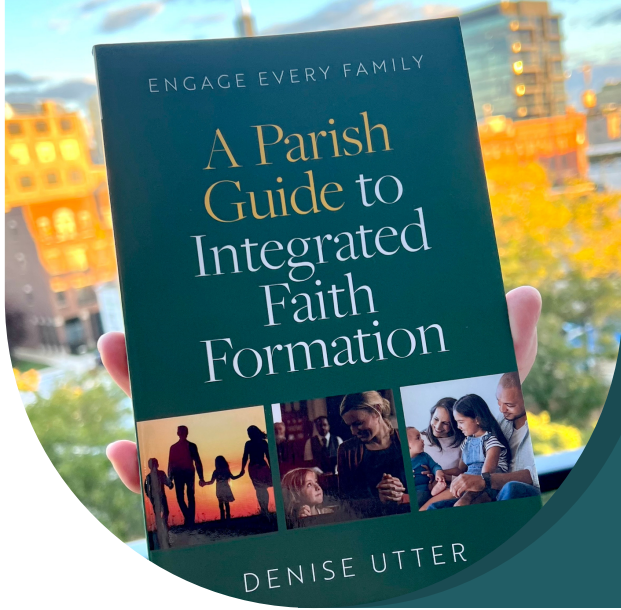
The need to reimagine faith formation took on a whole new sense of urgency in 2020. The research has been telling us this for decades. The pandemic just escalated it (the issues/the disaffiliation). And we're still in liminal space. We know more about what ministry looked like yesterday (10 years ago) than we do about what it will look like tomorrow (10 years from now). Understanding that reality, reflect on the following questions:

- What gives you hope today?
- What is challenging you within this liminal space?

PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSONS 1 AND 2

We have begun to use technology, digital tools, and digital delivery methods to a much greater degree. These first two lessons of Chapter Two outline some of that change. Reflect on those lessons as you answer the following questions:

- How did you/your parishioners experience community during the pandemic?
- Do you include liturgical catechesis in your ministry? How or where?
- What connections have you made between the domestic church and the parish? How might you strengthen these connections?
- How might you strengthen that sense of community? The sense of belonging?
- In this chapter we also discuss the Road to Emmaus, unpacking meaning, and that Jesus gives us a model for ministry here: Walk alongside, ask questions, listen (really listen), tell stories, share your blessings and your brokenness, and your hope with one another (go tell). How do you do that in your ministry? How does technology help you do that?
- Dr. Nancy Going suggests that we need to "give ourselves space and time to drop back and study what has happened and is happening in the lives of the next generation of Christ-followers... what is happening in the discipling and formation work of churches." How could you and your parish leaders "drop back and study" what is happening? How can you plan that space and study intentionally?



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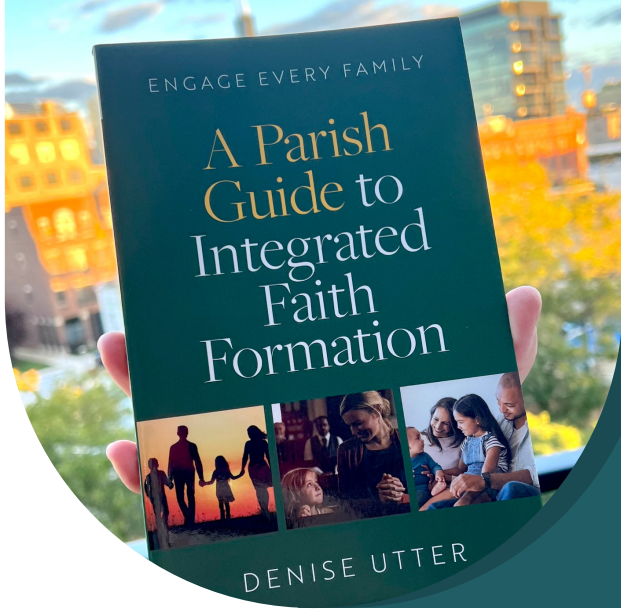
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PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSONS 1 AND 2 CONTINUED

- Has the use of Zoom impacted your ministry? Will you continue to use it? If so, what have you learned about using it? How might you use it differently?
- What technological tool or digital app was most helpful to your ministry these last few years?
- Did you use playlists in your ministry? What did that look like? or what might it look like?
- Is there a digital tool you used or hope to use with families? Describe how you would use it.
- Do you experience curiosity, wonder, or resistance when you think about the use of virtual reality in ministry?
- What resonates in this exploration of lessons 1 and 2?
- What challenges you? Or what would you challenge?

PART ONE - CHAPTER TWO: LESSON 3

- Two things have the greatest impact on the faith formation of young people: God-talk and faith conversations. This is where archdiocesan, diocesan, and parish leaders excelled during the pandemic. How did your ministry focus on encouraging and equipping faith conversations and faith practices in families during the pandemic?
- How might this experience lead us to form our faith communities in the need to engage families in faith formation? How might we build that support for this effort?
- Did you gather families' stories? What methods did you implement for families to share their experiences? If this was not a part of your ministry efforts during this time, how might it be in the future?
- If you curated reflections/stories from families, how did you share those stories with the parish community? If you did not, how might you do so in the future?
- How do you build trust (among leaders and catechists) in parents' capacity to embrace their role as primary teachers or primary witnesses (as Pope Francis calls them) of the faith?
- How do you support parents in this effort?
- What resonates in this exploration of lesson 3?
- What challenges you? Or what would you challenge?



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