

**SOME CHURCH TEACHINGS**  
*(from various documents)*  
**ON THE CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND PARISH**  
**AS THEY SHARE FAITH**  
**WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION**

- a) Vatican II, in its *Declaration on Christian Education* (#6), affirms the “primary and inalienable right and duty” of parents to educate their children.
- b) “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.”  
*(Catechism of the Catholic Church #2223)*
- c) “The parish community must continue to be the prime mover and preeminent place for catechesis.”  
*(On Catechesis in Our Time #67)*
- d) “The proclamation, transmission, and lived experience of the Gospel are realized in the particular Church (parish).” *(General Directory for Catechesis #217)*
- e) “The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community ... where God’s people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church’s life.”  
*(Communities of Salt and Light, NCCB)*

**Because the all-encompassing responsibility and privilege of life-long catechesis includes four components: Message, Community, Worship and Service, faith and Catholic community life are not only to be taught and learned from a book; they are experienced and lived within the Catholic community. Catechesis is done by and in community.**

*General Catechetical Directory, Sacred Congregation for the  
Clergy, 1971, #17*  
*National Catholic Directory, US Bishops, 1979, #32*  
*On Catechesis in Our Time, Pope John Paul II, 1979, #20-26*  
*General Directory for Catechesis, Sacred Congregation for  
the Clergy, 1997*

## PARISH CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CATECHESIS IN THE HOME SETTING

*Because of the integral partnership of family and parish, both have a unique and irreplaceable role in the responsibility for lifelong catechesis. When parents choose catechesis in the home setting, the following practices can link the family to the parish community:*

1. The family should be registered in the parish and in the Religious Education Faith Formation program before requesting assistance and approval for catechizing their children at home.
2. Parents should request a meeting with the Pastor or his delegate who may be the Director of Religious Education to discuss their request to catechize their children at home, to select materials, and to discuss the importance of participation in the life of the parish.
3. Parents who catechize their children at home are invited in their role as catechists to attend catechist formation opportunities in the parish or vicariate and planning meetings to enable their on-going faith growth and development of skills for passing on the faith.
4. Sacramental preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and First Penance:
  - a) In addition to the catechesis in the home setting, children and parents would benefit by participation in the community and parish components of the parish sacramental program (eg: parent meetings, service, liturgies, retreat, family events, etc.).
  - a) The readiness of the child to celebrate a Sacrament is determined in collaboration with the parents, Pastor, and DRE.
  - b) Sacraments are celebrated within the parish community according to Archdiocesan Policies # 11, 12 and 13. *(Manual and Handbook for Catechetics/Religious Education, 1991)*
5. On-going communication and collaboration with the Pastor and the Director of Religious Education are encouraged. Areas of discussion might include:
  - a) Periodic conversations concerning the home program and process of the catechesis in the home setting.
  - b) Gatherings of the parents - and/or families - who are involved in catechesis in the home setting.
  - c) Evaluations of the effectiveness of catechesis in the home with those participating in catechesis in the home setting.

*The above points are given to assist parishes as each determines guidelines for its own local community in collaboration with Parish Pastoral Councils, Education Commissions and Pastoral Staffs.*

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