

Establishing a Vision for Adult Faith Formation

It is important that everyone involved in Adult Faith Formation be in agreement as to the mission and purpose of Adult Faith Formation in the parish. A key component towards formalizing and finalizing a parish pastoral plan for adult faith formation is discernment in prayer (Intercessory Prayer).

Recommended Process of Discernment

1. The AFF Team should gather no more than three times to pray and discern their mission and vision of AFF formation within the parish community.
2. The Pastor's role in this process is extremely important as he is the one who sets the stage for success.
3. The AFF Team serves as a gauge and sounding board for the Pastor to discern and determine the charisms needed for a successful AFF process.

To provide effective adult faith formation requires first of all "the accurate identification of the typical characteristics of Christian adults." What are these characteristics? What does mature adult faith look like in those who respond generously to God's call? The *General Directory for Catechesis* says that it is "a living, explicit, and fruitful confession of faith." By this, a human being makes a total and free self-commitment to God (DV, no. 7). A full and rich development of these three characteristics is what we aim for in adult catechesis and Christian living.

OHWB 49

"I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest."

Jn 4:35

The Desire of the Faithful

We are reminded:

People are ready to gather in groups to read the Scriptures, study the teachings of the Church, and talk about the importance of Christ in their lives. They seek out these opportunities wherever they can find them, whether in their own parishes, in ecclesial movements or associations, in small communities of faith, or with people of other Christian traditions.

OHWB, 26

A. Discernment of Gifts

1. Understanding someone's strengths and talents is extremely important when developing a vision and mission for AFF.

2. The time spent in prayer, in particular the discernment of those who would benefit from a strong and vibrant AFF process is the priority.
3. What current ministries are already present that can assist in forming a comprehensive AFF process within the parish?

At the heart of all we are and do as the Church is a revelation of great Good News: God, who is love, has made us to enjoy divine life in abundance, to share in the very life of God, a communion with the Holy Trinity together with all the saints in the new creation of God's reign. Faith, which is a gift from God, is our human response to this divine calling: It is a personal adherence to God and assent to his truth.²¹ Through searching and growth, conversion of mind and heart, repentance and reform of life, we are led by God to turn from the blindness of sin and to accept God's saving grace, liberating truth, and sustaining love for our lives and for all of creation.

OHWB 45

Understanding the Story

As you begin to establish some of the key components in your AFF process, it's important to understand to whom you're developing this for and for what reason(s).

- A. The process of AFF is geared towards embracing those who have fallen away on multiple levels. It's not aimed for us to make us feel good.
- B. At the heart of this process is establishing an opportunity to bring Christ into the life of the faithful. (Catechesis In Our Time, 5)
- C. We are called to come to an awareness of:
 1. Who we are as children of God.
 2. Understand our own human condition and the battle between good and evil.
 3. Our inherent desire to be united with Christ for all eternity.
 4. Our duty and responsibility to share in this unity with Christ.
 5. Provide avenues for all to hear the Gospel and embrace it.

"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Jn 15:8