Whole Community Catechesis Resources

Books


  In this book, Ainslinger leads catechetical and pastoral leaders through implementation of whole community catechesis. She provides a practical approach to whole community catechesis from her experience of implementing the framework in her home parish. It illustrates the Catechumenate as model, discipleship, households of faith, assemblies, catechetical options, team formation and suggestions for assemblies. Publication includes discussion questions at the end of each chapter and could be used to explore possibilities of the whole community catechesis model in a parish.


  This annual resource contains the texts of the Sunday readings for the liturgical year, the responsorial psalms, and scripture reflections. It also includes questions for study and discussion. It is a good resource for developing a "Question of the Week."


  The Lectionary is made up of selected passages from the Bible, placed within a literary and liturgical context. This new context calls for a consideration of the liturgical character and setting of the Lectionary readings. Preaching the New Lectionary: Year A offers readers that interpretation.

  Preaching the New Lectionary is unique. First, it employs a literary-liturgical way of interpreting all the readings of each Sunday and major feasts of the liturgical year, including the often overlooked responsorial psalm. Second, it explicitly situates the interpretation of each day within the theology of its respective liturgical season. This theology is drawn from the specific themes of the readings that comprise that particular year rather than from more general themes associated with the season. The meaning of the entire season becomes the context for understanding the individual parts of it. Third, the lections are also read in sequential order from the first Sunday of that season to the last. This reading interprets the function of the literary forms, thus providing yet another way of interpreting the riches of the readings.

  It offers creative insights for those involved in the liturgical preparation for the celebration of feasts and seasons. It can also act as a valuable resource for liturgical catechesis. The material in Preaching the New Lectionary contributes toward enhancing the liturgical lives of the faithful.


  A comprehensive liturgical, scriptural and catechetical resource designed to explore the meaning and implication of the seasons, feasts and the Sunday liturgies of each cycle.


  This large-format book contains a lectionary-based service for each week of the year with additional services for major feasts and seasons of the Church year. There are more than fifty creative, engaging 20-30 minute prayer services for children in grades kindergarten through six. The services can be adapted for children's Liturgy of the Word, special events, classroom
use, times of reflection and days of retreat. DREs, teachers, liturgy planners, musicians, pastors and deacons will all want to use this book.

  A collection of articles on various aspects of whole community catechesis by leaders in the field. Topics include and overview of the whole community catechesis framework, liturgical integration, family, and community.

  This program has 5 years worth of books – each book is one year of religious education to be used by groups of families who form community together and meet in each others' homes.
  This is a resource to use with FIRE (above) or on it's own. These are large group gatherings for intergenerational groups. A great resource for getting started in that you can use one or two of these gatherings alone.

  Practical resource for small-group programs, this book of presentation-starters for classes and other group activities is a practical, yet profound tool that will help youth group leaders, parish DRE's, and family education program leaders transform a simple gathering of individuals into a faith community.

  As a distinguished New Testament scholar and preacher, Donahue is the perfect guide to the Sunday Scripture readings in the Year B. Behind his concise and always fresh comments on the texts are his many years of research on Mark’s Gospel and his remarkable ability to bring it to bear on Christian life today. This volume is a great resource for all who pray and preach on Scripture.

  For use with a large group (20-30 families) – this program covers the bible in 3 years with nice story books for home use and intergenerational activities for once a month parish based gatherings.

  The Faith Days in this book offer everything you need for whole-community, intergenerational faith formation gatherings: planning tips, preparation guidelines, and complete “session plans” with engaging activities and content for people of all ages. Not only will these nine doctrinally solid “events” save you loads of time, you can feel confident that the faith formation taking place is truly touching both the young and old of your community – not always an easy thing to do.


“...The author contends that we meet our God in time and space and because these encounters are sacred in our memory, we have to take the time to name and reverence them. For this reason, the Church has a liturgical year that is filled with celebrations of feast and season. We remember and bring into our present lives those mysteries of our God and heroic deeds of our saints that inspire us in our lives as Catholic Christians. Catholic literacy requires familiarity with the terms and concepts that we as members of the Catholic community use to name what we do and who we are. Catholic literacy is, of course, an essential ingredient of whole community catechesis and lifelong faith formation.

Each of the twenty-seven intergenerational identity games in this book focuses on learning more about our faith, particularly through our liturgical seasons and experiences. The questions range from easy to challenging and can be used as icebreakers, for review of content already learned, as discussion starters, to share basic information, and for sacrament preparation. The process is informative and enjoyable and through it the whole parish community will share lively discussion and renewed interest in the Catholic faith.”


Assists leaders in planning and implementing assemblies for whole community catechesis. Provides actual assembly celebrations with breaking open the word activities for primary, intermediate, teen, adult and intergenerational groups.


Want to involve your whole parish community in "Gospel Theater"? Want to turn your faith formation gatherings into fun and interactive teachable moments? This invaluable resource will do both. Its ninety-two short and easy-to-stage gospel plays can be reproduced - whenever you need them - for all your parish catechetical gatherings. Each play is accompanied by "Background Notes" that situate the gospel message for catechists, teachers, and parents. They also include directions and recommended props. There are also "For Discussion" questions, one for before the play and one for after. Each play also has a "Prayer Experience," that relates to the scriptural theme of the play and a "Follow-Up Activity" that can be done by an individual, family, or a group to further develop the theme from the gospel. Extras include: a chart that lists Sunday and feast day gospels in each liturgical cycle that have a corresponding play in the book; and a topical index that correlates the plays with the curriculum being used. These short gospel-based plays are perfect for faith formation sessions, intergenerational gatherings, all-school assemblies, summer Bible school, and family faith sharing. It is a great asset for "whole community" gatherings of every kind!


“...Here is a collection of essays that brings together the latest ideas regarding religious education from a group of highly regarded people in the field. What is new is the emphasis given to adult and young adult faith formation in the context of total catechesis. This wise and
far-thinking volume takes a holistic approach to religious education, is a source of encouragement, and offers valuable insights to all who serve in catechetical ministry.”

  Offers a comprehensive resource for intergenerational assemblies, community gatherings, parish meetings, and retreat days. These prayer services, written in the spirit of whole community catechesis, provide a service for each week of the liturgical year. Includes prayer, readings, question of the week for faith sharing and personal reflection, and litanies. Includes music and refrains by this well-known composer.

- Harcourt Religion. The Call to Faith Lectionary Link: Breaking Open the Word.
  This wheel has a simple-to-use format. It displays the Sunday lectionary readings along with compelling faith-sharing questions for different ages on an interactive 24-inch wheel. Available for Cycles A, B & C.


  This is a practical guide for parishes that are engaged in intergenerational catechesis. Easy-to-follow scenarios of how to build a whole parish catechesis process are illustrated.


  Pastors, what do you want for your parish? If you are like most pastors, you want active parishioners, a well-trained staff, and harmony within the parish, enough money, and above all, a place where everyone feels welcome. The good news is that pastors around the country are learning that whole community catechesis leads to a lifelong process of turning to Christ, of falling in love with Christ. While not a panacea, whole community catechesis provides doors for breaking open the Word and faith-sharing; intergenerational faith formation; more active participation in the Sunday Eucharist; and well-developed households of faith.

  In "A Pastor's Guide to Whole Community Catechesis," author Bill Huebsch points out how this form of catechetical renewal can make a real difference in every parish. He shows that there is a solid basis for this approach in Church documents and recent movements within the Church.

  “Here Bill Huebsch offers a blueprint for how to bring the dreams and visions for a great parish to fruition. He shows parish leaders and ministers how to move in the direction of lifelong faith formation by offering adults in the parish powerful conversion experiences. He also offers a clear and consistent plan for step by step growth, with special emphasis on excellent liturgies, strong and effective catechist and teacher formation, and developing households of faith. In this definitive guide, he not only shows parishes how to get started but also how to keep going until lifelong faith formation is a reality.”

Are you looking for a fresh approach to a life-changing catechesis that involves all the members of your parish family, from children to mature adults? Have you heard of whole community catechesis but don't know how to implement it in your parish?

In part one, Bill provides both the principles and the nuts and bolts for making whole community catechesis a reality in your parish. He explores seven principles for catechesis that are found in the General Document on Catechesis, then turns to the bishops' document and suggests nine ways to make adult catechesis the norm in your community. Many of the pages throughout this user-friendly book are reproducible to use for presentation, teaching, and discussion. Pastors, parish staff, DREs and CREs--indeed, anyone involved in catechesis will find Bill's book to be an indispensable handbook for success in implementing whole community catechesis in their faith.

A practical follow-up to "Whole Community Catechesis in Plain English", this publication includes principles of whole community catechesis, suggestions based on the Adult Faith Formation Pastoral “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us,” scope and sequence, bulletin announcements and reproducible handouts.


The challenge offered here by Bill Huebsch is that every parish leader embrace a new vision: "whole community catechesis" that involves the family, the parish, and every member of the parish in the process of lifelong faith formation.

Bill Huebsch offers concrete suggestions for a step-by-step process (the nuts-and-bolts) for implementing this catechetical model: linking liturgy and catechesis, making Christ the center of catechesis, focusing on the household, organizing assemblies and more. With sample outlines, handouts, prayers and organizational tools, this is a must-have manual for pastors, catechetical leaders and all parish staff.


This compilation of articles on various aspects of whole community catechesis by leaders in the field including Kathleen Casey, Gaynell Cronin, Jane Deren, Steven Ellair, Jean Marie Hiesberger, Tom McGrath, Robert Piercy, Edith Prendergast, RSC, Reverend Jack Rathshmidt, and Nick Wagner. Topics include and overview of the whole community catechesis framework, liturgical integration, family, and community.


When the church of the home and the church of the parish work together, then lasting faith formation occurs for all ages. In "Families and Faith: A Vision and Practice for Parish Leaders," eight authors—all of whom are experienced in family and parish ministry—show how the family’s ability to be a center of religious activity can be rekindled. Key to this is supporting, nurturing, and providing the tools for persons of all ages to develop a pattern of religious practice at home. The authors found in Families and Faith are: Judith Dunlap, Kathleen Finley, Jenny Friedman, Leif Kehrwald, Mariette Martineau, James Merhaut, Mary Jo Pedersen and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain. They give the reader a wealth of ideas and strategies for helping families grow in faith with essays that focus on practical steps for connecting faith and life, family faith and spirituality, families and Christian practice, families and serving others, and more. Leaders and team members in various roles in the parish—pastors, pastoral associates, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, coordinators for whole community catechesis, and others—will discover here practical ways and means for developing a vision and practice of partnership with families in lifelong catechesis. "Families and Faith: A Vision and Practice for Parish Ministry” serves as a companion to two other books produced as part of the “Generations of Faith Project: Generations of Faith Resource Manual and Generations of Faith Sourcebook.”

This is advertised as a companion to “Generations of Faith Resource Manual, Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners and Families and Faith”. As do those resources, it looks at learning in an intergenerational setting, provides a case for this successful avenue of learning, explores some of the practices and the necessary elements for multigenerational learning, and shows how all ages can be integrated into the faith community. Chapter five details a basic learning format that can be applied and adapted to almost any parish situation.


"Forming Ministers for Whole-Community Faith Formation” is a new kind of ministry manual for a fresh approach to community faith development. Because more adults are seeking formation, the movement is toward integrated ministry. In the past parishes implemented compartmentalized ministries — each having a specific job that rarely interfaced with other ministries. Catechists were here, liturgical ministries were there, community outreach was elsewhere, and the parish administration, support, and pastoral staff were entities unto themselves. Today, integrating ministry shifts the paradigm from isolation to collaboration.

Echoing a call from Vatican Council II for adult-centered faith formation, today’s church leaders are strengthening the resolve to provide life-long formation in discipleship that is liturgically grounded and mission focused. Findings in the recent National Study on Youth and Religion show that the most powerful force affecting the faith lives of youth is the presence of faith-filled adults, adults whose faith practices serve as models and who immerse their families in the culture of a practicing community. More parishes realize that the future of the church is not just in the formation of children but also in the ongoing formation of adults who all — parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends, and ministry leaders — take on catechetical roles in the community. This shift requires much more coordination, communication, and shared planning among ministry leaders.

In addition to training that provides ministers with mechanical ministry tools, parish ministers also need ongoing spiritual formation. Because the activities of the church are directed toward the liturgy and flow from its powers, the liturgical year is the natural source for faith formation (see Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #10; from the documents of Vatican II). As we join in the Eucharistic celebration and share the communal meal, we are called to become the bread broken and the cup poured out for others. All formation explores the meaning of this mystery on ever-deepening levels.


"The Gospel for All Ages” is a simple and effective way to launch a program of intergenerational, parish-wide catechesis. The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies and the publications of Good Ground Press (for senior high teens and adults) provide the right approach and the range of materials to draw all ages into a solid formation program centered on the Sunday Eucharistic assembly.

The Program Director’s Manual will help you get your parish team organized and ready to take advantage of this enriching and lively approach. It contains everything you need to get more value out of your subscriptions to the lectionary materials from Pflaum and Good Ground Press.


Provides a resource for parish leaders as they implement faith formation for the parish community using the model of whole community catechesis. This resource is to be used with the Call to Faith religion program published by Harcourt Religion, but also provides articles on whole community catechesis by Leisa Anslinger, John Roberto and Bill Huebsch. A feature of
this publication, which includes a CD with PowerPoint presentations, is adult catechetical gathering outlines in English and in Spanish.

- **People of Faith: Generations Learning Together** was developed in association with Center for Ministry Development.
  
  Program manuals for six intergenerational sessions in 8 subject areas - includes music CD, CD-ROM of resources, magazines for households, and more. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Religion Publishers.

  
  The key in the Generations approach to faith formation is that it builds on the strengths of a parish's current catechetical program, while creating a lifelong faith formation plan and intergenerational learning programs that gather all the generations to learn together and nurture faith at home throughout the life cycle. The companion CD-ROM includes PowerPoint presentations for each chapter, along with articles by religious education theorists who have been instrumental in developing a new paradigm of lifelong faith formation. The book is ideal for parish pastoral and catechetical leaders, as well as university courses in religious education and pastoral ministry.

  
  Specifically written to guide parish staffs and faith formation leaders, this resource offers planning processes and practical tools for fashioning and implementing a lifelong curriculum and developing leaders for lifelong catechesis. It also offers processes and tools for designing intergenerational learning experiences, resources for household faith formation and meeting outlines correlated to each chapter in the book. It comes with a CD-ROM with PowerPoint presentations for each chapter as well as all the necessary worksheets and handouts to implement the process of lifelong faith formation.

  
  The meaning and importance of whole community catechesis is explained. Jo Rotunno Builds on the whole community catechesis work of Bill Huebsch and the intergenerational approach of John Roberto. She provides next steps for whole community catechesis. Includes questions for adults and for children based on the Sunday Readings for Years A, B, and C. It also has a structured scope and sequence of content that can be incorporated into programs for parish members of all ages is provided.

- Simeone, Denise. *The Word to Go/La palabra para llevar 2009-2010*: Bilingual Weekly Handouts for Faith Sharing. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2008. (You have the option to obtain digital copies via download or on CD-ROM, making it easy to add this material to bulletins or parish publications.)

  “The *Word to Go/La palabra para llevar*” builds community by allowing your parish members to transcend divisions of age, language, and experience to find common ground from which to reflect and act upon the liturgy and Lectionary readings. It accomplishes this with bilingual materials, reflection questions that are applicable to families and individuals of all ages, and suggestions for activities and service. Youth and adult packets also include bilingual (Spanish/English) prayers. The whole community focus of the program is reflected in the scope of the resources, including developmental age-level packets for ages 3 through adult.

It's never too early to start teaching your children the values that will make them responsible caretakers of the bigger world that awaits them. Each “family night” plan offers readings, activities, and treat ideas that are built on themes such as ecology, nonviolence, homelessness, conflict resolution, and awareness of other races and cultures.


  This is advertised as a companion to “Generations of Faith Resource Manual, Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners and Families and Faith”. As do those resources, it looks at learning in an intergenerational setting, provides a case for this successful avenue of learning, explores some of the practices and the necessary elements for multigenerational learning, and shows how all ages can be integrated into the faith community. Chapter five details a basic learning format that can be applied and adapted to almost any parish situation.

**Websites:**

- [www.cmdnet.org](http://www.cmdnet.org)
  The Center for Ministry Development’s attractive, easy to use and very informative website. What do you need to know about the movement toward lifelong faith formation and whole community catechesis? They have it all.

- [www.findinggod.org](http://www.findinggod.org)
  This website is associated with the Finding God program by Loyola Press. It gives weekly preparation activities for the Sunday readings for use by families at home.

- [www.generationsoffaith.org](http://www.generationsoffaith.org)
  This section of the Center for Ministry Development website is for is a subscribers only. It contains many resources for parishes using an intergenerational learning style.

- [www.harcourtreligion/wcc.asp](http://www.harcourtreligion/wcc.asp)
  This Harcourt Religion website offers an explanation of whole community catechesis, answers frequently asked questions, provides a “Faith at Home” section for each month and offers “Questions of the Week” based on the Sunday Scriptures in English and Spanish for children and adults.

- [www.lifelongfaith.com](http://www.lifelongfaith.com)
  Generations of Faith founder John Roberto’s new site for resources for intergenerational learning.

- [www.livingthegoodnews.com](http://www.livingthegoodnews.com)
  Published 3 times a year, Fall, Winter and Spring, this program features lectionary-based catechesis for all age groups, training manuals for catechists, intergenerational gathering sessions, etc.

- [www.PastoralPlanning.com](http://www.PastoralPlanning.com)
  The Pastoral Center for Lifelong Faith Formation supports lifelong faith formation at every level of the parish. The Center for LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION is the location on this web site where you will find materials to support you as a parish or school minister - whether paid or volunteer. We are so grateful for your service to the church! Thank you!
This Resources for Christian Living website includes description of whole community catechesis and answers frequently asked questions. Provides “Questions of the Week” based on the Sunday Scriptures for children and adults.

www.sbgreligion.com
Click on “Blest Are We” button on top, and then go to “Sunday Reflections” link on left. Short exegesis of each reading is followed by reflection questions for adults and children.

www.webelieveweb.com
This Sadlier website provides free online materials for Seasonal Events which bring together people of all ages to learn about and share their faith. Click on link to Gather In My Name and scroll down to Whole Community Catechesis, Weekly Faith Sharing area. You will find a variety of events complete with detailed leader's guides, preparation charts, handouts, promotional ideas, and organizational materials. Weekly faith sharing (“Question of the Week”) includes activities, prayers, and discussion ideas centered on the Sunday readings. These can be used with the entire parish in a variety of ways. All materials are provided online and are free. Materials also available in Spanish.

www.wholecommunitycatechesis.com
This Resource for Christian Living website includes description of whole community catechesis and answers frequently asked questions. Provides "Questions of the Week" based on the Sunday Scriptures for children and adults.

Videos/DVD

Big AL LIVE: Gospel Values for Children. (DVD Set/Individual Titles; Harcourt Religion Publishers)

Are you looking for a way to help faith come alive? Each DVD in this set presents ten different Gospel values. These brief and engaging presentations include a short Scripture reading, a reflection from Father Joe, a discussion with Big Al, and a prayer.

The messages in this DVD series were written for people of all ages to explore and share together. These DVDs are excellent for beginning a parish meeting; parent programs of any kind; intergenerational faith gatherings; or for children to watch by themselves. They are ideal for children’s Liturgy of the Word; conversations between parents and children; religious education classes; or for many other intergenerational gatherings.

Also included on each DVD are several bonus features. The first is Big Al’s theme song, “God Lives in You and Me”. Additional bonus features include outtakes and other fun and useful material.

Seven Key Principles. (VHS 45 minutes; Twenty-Third Publications)

In these creative presentations, Bill Huebsch focuses on the 7 Key Principles that are the foundations for whole community catechesis. Bill’s hope is that parish leaders will use these presentations with their parishioners to engage them in fruitful discussions, and thus enter into these new ideas with grace and unity.