

# Introduction to Faith First Legacy Edition

## A Workshop For Parents

This workshop provides a two-hour video-assisted orientation to *Faith First Legacy Edition* for adult members of the children's families. The video component of the workshop is the *Faith First Legacy Edition* awareness video. You should have received this video with your sample pack. If you do not have this video, you can obtain one by calling 1-877-275-4725.

### Workshop Materials

- Copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition (1997), the *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997), and the *National Directory for Catechesis* (2005)

- *Faith First Legacy Edition* awareness video
- *Faith First Legacy Edition* student book for each family
- Copies of *Faith First Legacy At Home Family Guide*, activity booklet, and assessment tool booklets for each table
- Blackline activity master worksheets for every family
  - “How Our Family Learns” worksheet (page 126)
  - “Questions from Parents About *Faith First Legacy Edition*” (pages 127 and 128)
  - name tags
  - pens or pencils
  - Bible, crucifix, and candle for each table

### BRIGHT IDEA

If this is your first meeting with parents this year, you may wish to use this icebreaker as a get-acquainted activity before family members are seated at tables. You may already have a blackline activity master for this activity in your files; if not, here are instructions for creating one and directions for play.

#### Human Bingo

- Create a square grid of twenty-five spaces—five columns in each direction.
- Place a descriptive phrase in each box, such as “new to St. Ann’s Parish,” or “has traveled to Mexico.”
- Participants play by mingling and questioning others and asking the person to initial the box if it relates to them.
- Collect the game sheets as all are seated.
- Draw a winner from the game sheets of all those who complete the grid, and give a simple prize, such as a paperback Bible.

### Preparation Checklist

Follow the preparation checklist and guidelines for workshop environment given for teacher workshops on page 76.

## Part 1

45 minutes

## How Do Children Learn?

### Introduction

- **Welcome.** Greet family members as they arrive. Distribute workshop materials.
- **Begin.** Seat participants at tables of six or eight. Begin on time.
- **Pray.** Begin with a service of enthronement of the Scriptures. You can reproduce the prayer service on page 68 of *Keeping Faith First: A Resource Supporting the Whole Community of Faith*. Replace the ritual/prayer with a procession of enthronement of the Bible, and invite each person to bow in reverence toward the Sacred Scriptures when they reach the prayer center.

- **Break the ice.** After participants return to their tables, invite them to turn to the person on their right and introduce themselves. Have each pair introduce their partner to the large group or to their table group, depending on the number of participants and the room structure.

### *How Our Family Learns*

- **Begin.** Distribute the “How Our Family Learns” worksheet. Invite family members to begin to fill in their answers and discuss their responses at their tables. Tell the group that there are many ways to learn. Often our frustration in trying to teach new information or behaviors to children comes from not remembering some of the basic rules of how people learn.
- **Presentation.** Hold up copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *General Directory for Catechesis*, and the *National Directory for Catechesis* and explain the differences among them. Tell the families that the National Directory for Catechesis is the guide for religious education in the United States.
- **Eight Methodologies.** Point out that a key passage in the National Directory names eight methodologies, or ways, that we learn about the faith. These ways are consistent with the ways we learn most other things. Present a slide or other visual device listing the eight ways of learning (see page 99 of this manual). Ask volunteers to share with you ways in which the various methodologies have been used in their own faith journeys.
- **Reminder.** Remind the families that they are the strongest influence in the faith lives of their children. Developing certain knowledge and skills about the faith will help them hand on the faith to their children.

- **Response.** Invite participants to look at the eight methodologies and write down two of the eight that were strong influences in their own faith journeys. Then have the participants write, under the two methodologies that they identified, two others that they think are most important for them to utilize with their own children.

## **BREAK** · 15 minutes

---

### **Part 2**      **Orientation** **30 minutes**      **to Faith First**

---

- **Program goals.** Ask parents to name what motivated them to register their children for the Catholic school. Record their responses on newsprint or on an overhead transparency.
- **Summary.** Summarize the parents’ insights and share with the group the goals of your school’s religion program.
- **Video.** Introduce the *Faith First Legacy Edition* awareness video. Tell the parents that the textbook series the school has chosen for religion has three goals: information (Catholic beliefs and practices); formation (deeper conversion to Jesus Christ); and transformation (taking up Jesus’ work of transforming the world).
  - Tell the parents that the video provides them with a short overview of *Faith First Legacy Edition* and shows them how the three goals you identified work together.
  - Ask them to jot down features about the student books and other aspects of the *Faith First* program that impress them as they watch the video.
  - Show the video and invite responses from the family members.

- **Student Books.** Take time to reiterate the key features of the *Faith First Legacy Edition* student books, including the following elements. Make sure to point out the “With My Family” pages in each chapter and emphasize their importance.
  - Contents pages
  - “Welcome to *Faith First!*” chapter
  - Doctrine chapter
  - Scripture chapter
  - “We Celebrate” lessons
- **At Home Family Guide.** If you are using the *Faith First Legacy Edition At Home Family Guide* booklet in your program, make sure that parents understand how to use the booklet successfully.
- **Conclusion.** Remind the parents that on the journey of faith, all of us are co-learners. We are inviting young people to join us on a lifelong journey of faith into the mystery of God. An essential role that we have as the caregivers of children is to extend the invitation to faith and to walk with them and give them a good map to follow during these first years of their journey.
- **Browsing time.** Invite the families to browse through all the program components at the end of the session.



### *Closing Prayer*

For the closing prayer, invite all to remain seated at their tables. Have the facilitators invite all the participants at their table to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of their families. The facilitators should follow this prayer of thanksgiving with a short prayer of their own. Then read aloud Philippians 1:3, 9 and conclude by inviting all at the table to make the Sign of the Cross as you pray, “May God bless us in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Invite all to respond, “Amen.”