

## **Some Implications for Parishes from Neil Parent's Workshop on the Changing Face of Adult Faith Formation**

**The following ideas were generated in the table discussions at the workshops on 9/10 and 9/12**

Parishes need to:

Consider blogging Invite pastor to blog

More Use of the Internet

Get better at assessing parish needs

Set clear learning outcomes for programs

Establish objectives in planning stage

Listen to and respond to the diverse interest and needs of parishioners

Use the experiential model to develop catechists

Individualize our programs

Consider smartphone applications

Develop questions to stimulate contemplation, learning, put on the website

Promote the sacredness of daily life

Adapt presentations to audience in style and approach

Use journaling throughout the RCIA

Parish programs should focus on helping people find God, to help them develop their personal spirituality

Parishes need to be clear and precise about desired learning outcomes

Start with the heart

Tease with questions

The current times require new conversations

Tap into the spiritual concerns and aspirations of the community

Focus adult faith formation on helping people grow closer to God

Change focus of adult faith formation to 1/3 information, 1/3 formation and 1/3 transformation

Give people opportunities to share their experiences in a welcoming environment

Build teams for Adult Faith Formation

Focus on prayer

Ask, how do we make "our church" "their church"? (We pass on the values that are unchanging and give them the opportunity.

Ask, how do we connect the communities? Parish website; get involved in relationships that lead to catechesis.

Resource the learners

Tailor programming to mini communities

Look at Mission Statement to see what we are saying and not saying

Stir the imaginations

Teach lectio divina technique at the beginning of RCIA rather than beginning with the institution

Keep in mind the "seekers."

Stress opportunities more than obligations

Have better homilies that make connections

Create a culture of life long learning

Remember that the mission field is now here

Teach adults to think rather than spoonfeed them.

Relook at RCIA –get whole parish involved and stress community service

Change parent letters from mandatory to invitations to learn

Remember that God is in the process whether we are “dwellers or seekers.”

Ask the question, “What is your story that brought you this far?”

To meet young adults in a communal/service/relational experience of Church rather than dogmatic. They will ask the questions needed

Advertise

Require parents to attend one religious formation a month while their children attend re

Request better use of diocesan website.

Take advantage of marriage prep and all sacramental prep

Grow in our understanding of evangelization and mission

Examine the way in which they advertise and put things in print.