



Adult Faith Formation Newsletter

“Planning the adult faith formation program” Part III

September 16, 2009

“There are four basic and interlocking aspects to planning a program. They are: *needs assessment, program designing, implementation, and evaluation.*”

3. Implementation programs for AFF Learning Processes

For certain kinds of program goals, it may be useful to design programs around some widely used learning processes in religious education. These processes provide a step-by-step framework or a guide for choosing learning activities. These models are designed to help learners do basically three things.

- Reflect on their life experiences in light of the Catholic Christian tradition
- Discover the religious significance and meaning of their experiences
- Move to some kind of decision for action. (the processes can be used irrespective of the content of the program.)

Shared Praxis
Developed by noted religious educator Thomas Groome, this process works best when the goal is to help adults connect their life experience with some aspect of the ‘faith tradition.’ It is a *conversion model* in the sense that its general goal is to help learners not only know the faith tradition but also to discover its meaning for their lives by engaging in critical dialogue with the tradition.



D/CAFF meeting

Our next D/CAFF meeting will be on Friday, September 18 from 11:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus, Maple Glen, contact Joe Gilbert at 215-646-0180 to RSVP.

FORM
INFORM
TRANSFORM

Resources for your library

A Concise Guide to Adult Faith Formation
By Neil Parent

In the newest addition to The Concise Guide series, Neil Parent lends his authoritative voice to the issue of adult faith formation. Parent articulates his view that learning about the faith in adulthood is not merely an extension of basic childhood religious education, but is rather a continuous, lifelong process.

Available from Ave Maria Press.

Naming Present Action/Experience: Looking at Life
Participants are invited to remember their experience in relation to the theme of the program.

Critical Reflection: Sharing Our Life
Participants are asked to probe beneath the surface of their experience in order to better understand its meaning.

Christian Community Story and Vision: Knowing Our Faith
The ‘faith tradition,’ i.e., some aspect of Scripture, doctrine, etc., is presented.

Dialogue Between the Story (Tradition) and Our Story (Individual): Making the Faith Our Own
Participants are invited to ‘wrestle’ with the meaning of the tradition of their lives.

Dialogue Between the Implications of the Story (Tradition) and Our Story (Individual): Living Our Faith
Participants are invited to explore new ways of living as a result of new insights into their faith.

(Nurturing Adult Faith: A Manual for Parish Leaders, p. 38)