



Adult Faith Formation Newsletter

“Planning the adult faith formation program” Part III

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

Implementation programs for AFF

Support systems

An adult faith formation budget is an important way in which a parish expresses its educational priorities. The fact that a team has a budget to work with is an example of parish support and an indication that the work of the planners is vital to the parish. The level of funding will be unique to each parish. Adult formation should, however, command a priority place in the funding process. In 1972, the U.S. bishops stated that “the continuing education of adults is situated not at the periphery of the Church’s educational mission but at its center” (To Teach As Jesus Did, no. 43) and reiterated that again in *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*.

In addition to funding, other expressions of the priority nature of adult faith formation lie in the allocation of space for offices and for meetings and programs, the availability of equipment, and access to secretarial and support staff.

October 21, 2009



D/CAFF meeting

Our next D/CAFF meeting Friday, November 20, 2009 at St. Andrew, Newtown, to RSVP call Mai Pham at 215-968-2262.

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.

Scheduling, Timing, and Environment

Starting times are a consideration. In urban areas, for example, people do not want to be out too late at night. In agricultural communities, it may be necessary to start an evening program as late as possible because of the importance of daylight hours for farming families.

Timing also includes the immediate preparation for the program itself and the setting up of a comfortable environment. The place where the program is held needs to be open and a person is needed to greet the participants. The pre-registration process will give the planners an idea of the number of people expected. This will enable the meeting space to be well prepared in terms of the number of chairs, tables, worksheets, coffee, cookies, or doughnuts. The arrangement of chairs, tables, etc. will depend on the program model or format chosen. A discussion format, for example, would not be served well with chairs arranged in rows.

(Nurturing Adult Faith: A Manual for Parish Leaders, p. 39)