

Creative Solutions!

(Suggestions compiled from
Parent Meetings 3-22-10 & 3-23-10)



| | PROs | CONs |
|--|---|---|
| Smaller class size | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to teach • More order -> more time to teach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have 1000 children to fit into sessions |
| Additional adults in Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent volunteers • Require families to volunteers 1-2x/year • Families play a role in class (lead opening prayer?) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More order -> more time to teach • Better family tie-in w/ Faith Formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some families may be unwilling to participate - those children may feel left out |
| Inspirational Parent meeting (mandatory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help parents understand their critical role in catechesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance |
| Reward being on time (use movie clips, etc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce tardiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time taken away from catechesis unless tied into lesson • Equipment availability |
| Catechist long-term planning retreat/meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson planning for whole year • Everyone familiar with the same policies and procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance |

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| Test children on prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before sacraments • Every 3 months? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will know their prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time available • Making 'testing' enjoyable |
| Homework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforces what is taught in Faith Formation • Family knows what is happening in Faith Formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents say there is no time • FF staff would prefer not sending home traditional 'homework', but family packets |
| Need more days available where Faith Formation meets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time in class | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall space is shared with other ministries • Holidays, etc. make it difficult to staff with catechists |
| Family Oriented Service Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children able to practice their faith in the context of home and community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some service ministries not open to children • Need more volunteers to coordinate |
| Start sessions with a child leading the prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages the children to learn their prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some children may be uncomfortable |
| Closing doors at class time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might encourage families to arrive on time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More disruptive when families arrive late • Negative reinforcement |
| Reward children who arrive on time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might encourage families to arrive on time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost |

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| Penance to parents who arrive late with children (i.e. 2 'Our Father's and 3 'Hail Mary's) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might encourage parents to bring children on time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative reinforcement • Enforcement? |
| Standardize homework (make-up work for sessions missed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote new standards • Help fill in lesson plans (not just 'busy work') | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires catechist cooperation and participation in catechist meetings to understand procedures and standards • Not all classes run the same |
| Textbooks should refer to the bible more | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are scripture references in the texts • More scripture can be used aside from text | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are unlikely to change texts this year |
| Catechists should send regular e-mails to parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps parents informed of what materials is being covered • Allows parents to reinforce lessons • Helps with absenteeism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time consuming for catechists |
| More catechesis for parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many (most?) adults have not been formally catechized since 8th grade or high school • Knowledge will give parents confidence to catechize their children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to convince parents of importance • Difficult to convince parents that attending sessions/retreats/workshops could be fun! |

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| e-mail communication from Faith Formation needs to be more succinct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter messages will get read • Shorter messages easier to digest and remember | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter messages = more e-mails |
| Move sessions away from Mass time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend more time in classroom • Less likelihood of being preempted by other ministries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer families will attend Mass with their children • Difficult to create enough sessions without using the weekend times already used. |
| Start classes 15 to 30 minutes earlier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time with students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 minutes may not be possible because of Mass schedules • Too much longer may be too much for smaller children |
| Hold Faith Formation after Mass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time to catechize • Can serve a snack if needed (children have had Communion) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer length of time • Parking issues |
| Give parents copies of standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can see the 'goal' for the year • Parents can help fill the gaps where necessary | |
| We need a family book (similar to First Eucharist or First Reconciliation book) to be completed by the family during the year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More family time • Great family faith/learning experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance • Cost • Availability - would we need to write our own? |

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| Quarterly family events (celebrations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring Faith Formation families together as a community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space |
| Twitter, Facebook for Faith Formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker information • Not all pieces of paper get read • More up-to-date means of communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook may soon be changing? • Deciding what kind of info to post |
| As many weekends as possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time with children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of catechists |
| Mandatory orientation sessions for parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate new guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance |
| Webinars and PowerPoint presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all mandatory meetings - allows those unable to attend to access the information • Archive info for later use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology needs to be purchased for webinars |
| Attendance "red cards" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May decrease tardiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishes children for parents inability to get them to session on time • Emphasis on negative reinforcement |
| Sequential Sign-in sheet with time (Dr's office style) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to track "tardies" for attendance awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes a little longer to check children in • legibility |