



Dear Pastors and Catechetical Leaders,

The Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC) invites you to participate in the *Parish Accompaniment Project*, a branch of the newly launched ELM Initiative. The ELM initiative is designed to cultivate vibrant parish faith formation and form committed lay leaders in service to the Archdiocese of Hartford. As a follow up to pastoral planning, the OEEC is offering a process based on a model of accompaniment that will help parishes develop dynamic, lifelong faith formation. This opportunity is intended for newly merged parishes starting the process of envisioning a fully merged faith formation program as well as parishes with well-established faith formation programs who desire to expand or redesign a specific aspect of outreach. The OEEC will accompany parishes to help design, implement and resource lifelong faith formation in a customized manner. This opportunity will combine training, coaching and support for reshaping faith formation, so that all parish communities are growing, learning and serving together. The Parish Accompaniment Project seeks to help parishes to:

- develop a lifelong faith formation plan that integrates everything they are doing and identify areas for growth
- discern and address new areas for growth such as adult faith formation or family faith formation
- support catechetical leaders in providing high quality faith formation for all ages and generations

I invite you to prayerfully read the following description of the project and consider joining the first cohort of parishes to participate in this new initiative of the OEEC.





Evangelizing Catechesis | Lifelong Formation  
Missionary Discipleship

## The Parish Accompaniment Project Archdiocese of Hartford

### *Developing Vibrant and Vital Lifelong Faith Formation for All Ages & Generations*

*Developing Vibrant and Vital Lifelong Faith Formation* provides the training, coaching, support, and resources that will help your parish. . . .

- Φ create a new lifelong parish plan for faith formation that is lifelong—from children though older adults, that builds on your current strengths, and provides a trajectory for continuing growth and development
- Φ engage all ages and generations in the life of the parish community
- Φ nurture faith at home, develop family faith practices, and enable parents and grandparents as faith formers of their children
- Φ design dynamic faith formation experiences for children, youth, and adults
- Φ develop approaches for reaching and engaging people who are uninvolved and unaffiliated
- Φ design faith formation that effectively uses digital media and methods to engage families and all ages in learning and faith growth

*Developing Vibrant and Vital Lifelong Faith Formation* incorporates a number of services to support your work of developing a plan for lifelong faith formation that works for your parish.

- ◆ **Three One-Day Workshops** to provide the knowledge, skills, and processes
  1. Envisioning Lifelong Faith Formation in Parishes
  2. Developing a Plan for Lifelong Faith Formation
  3. Designing New Projects in Lifelong Faith Formation
- ◆ **Coaching and Support** to assist in creating and implementing a plan
- ◆ **Webinars** to provide regular support and assistance
- ◆ **Tools and Resources** for designing and implementing lifelong faith formation, available online

*Developing Vibrant and Vital Lifelong Faith Formation* begins in February 2018 with the first cohort of parishes.

<b>March 1, 2018</b>	Applications due
<b>March 10, 2018</b>	Workshop #1. Envisioning Lifelong Faith Formation (9:00 am- 4:00 pm)
<b>March-April</b>	Homework: Assessing Strengths and Areas for Growth Homework: Researching the Needs of Target Audiences
<b>April 21, 2018</b>	Workshop #2. Developing a Plan for Lifelong Faith Formation (9:00 am-4:00 pm)
<b>May</b>	Homework: Design Work
<b>June 16, 2019</b>	Workshop #3. Designing New Projects in Lifelong Faith Formation (9:00 am-4:00 pm)
<b>Summer</b>	Homework: Design Work
<b>Summer</b>	Webinar #1. Launching New Projects in the Parish Community
<b>Fall-Spring</b>	Parish Implementation of Projects
<b>Fall</b>	Webinar #2. Guiding Implementation
<b>Spring</b>	Webinar #3. Evaluating Progress and Impact
<b>June</b>	End-of-Year Gathering

Each participating parish develops a **Lifelong Faith Formation Team** to participate in the workshops, engage in design work, and implement new projects. This team includes the pastor, parish catechetical leadership, Catholic school leadership, youth and young adult ministry leadership, adult faith formation and RCIA leadership.

***Developing Vibrant and Vital Lifelong Faith Formation*** will be guided BY John Roberto, who will conduct the workshops and webinars, in coordination with the OEEC faith formation staff. John is on the Vibrant Faith Leadership Team where he serves as the coordinator of training services. His latest publications include *Families at the Center of Faith Formation*, *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*, *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, *Generations Together*, and *Faith Formation 2020*. He is the founder of LifelongFaith Associates in 2006 and the Center for Ministry Development in 1978. He has worked in Christian ministry and Catholic faith formation for 48 years. He lives in Naugatuck, CT.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with further questions regarding this opportunity.

Yours in Christ,

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