



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 parishes 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:

- develop a lifelong faith formation plan and discern and address new areas for growth
- support catechetical leaders in providing high quality faith formation for all ages and generations

Due to the generous support of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation, there is no tuition cost for this first cohort of 20 parishes.

**I invite you to prayerfully read the following description of the project and consider applying to be a part of this new initiative of the OEEC.**

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

Yours in Christ,

*Kelly Henderschedt*

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Evangelizing Catechesis | Lifelong Formation  
Missionary Discipleship

## **The Parish Accompaniment Project** **Archdiocese of Hartford**

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

This process 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

***The Parish Accompaniment Project*** 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** on site at your parish to assist in creating and implementing a plan
- ◆ **Webinars** accessible at your parish location to provide regular support and assistance
- ◆ **Tools and Resources** for designing and implementing lifelong faith formation, available online

***The Parish Accompaniment Project*** begins in February 2018 with the first cohort of parishes. This is an 18 month process, however parishes in this cohort will be ready to implement improvements in the fall of 2018.

Each participating parish develops a **Lifelong Faith Formation Team** to participate in three workshops, engage in design work, and implement new projects. This team can include the pastor, parish catechetical leadership, Catholic school leadership, youth and young adult ministry leadership, adult faith formation, RCIA leadership or an active catechist or parishioner who wishes to be involved in this process.

***The Parish Accompaniment Project*** 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.