



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 ELM Initiative. The tenets of ELM are Evangelizing Catechesis, Lifelong Formation and Missionary Discipleship. The ELM initiative is designed to cultivate vibrant parish faith formation and form committed lay leaders in service to the Archdiocese of Hartford. 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.

- ◆ **Two One-Day Workshops** to provide the knowledge, skills, and processes in the following areas:
 - Envisioning Lifelong Faith Formation in Parishes
 - Developing a Plan for Lifelong Faith Formation
 - Designing New Projects in Lifelong Faith Formation
- ◆ **Coaching and Support** to assist in creating and implementing a plan
- ◆ **Onsite Parish visits** for ongoing consultation
- ◆ **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.

December 16, 2019

Applications due

January 4, 2020

Workshop #1: Envisioning Lifelong Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Homework:

- *Assessing Strengths and Areas for Growth*
- Researching the Needs of Target Audiences

February 22, 2020

Workshop #2. Developing and designing a plan for Lifelong Faith Formation - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

February – Spring

Homework: Design Work

March – May

Onsite Parish visits for coaching and consultations

Fall 2020

Parish Implementation of Projects

Winter – Spring 2021

Evaluating Progress and Impact

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 21st 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 50 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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