



Circle of Grace and Family Faith Formation

Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* states, “Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain “safe environment” programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people....”

Many dioceses have adopted the *Circle of Grace* curriculum to assist them in being compliant with the above Article 12 and a number of parishes throughout the country have adopted the *Family Faith Formation* model of parish catechesis which supports parents in their role as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic faith.

The following are suggested ways to implement the *Circle of Grace* curriculum into the *Family Formation* model:

1. In planning the yearly calendar, identify the date/dates on which the *Circle of Grace* curriculum will be taught. Some parishes find it helpful to start the year out with this curriculum, others choose to get to know students better before introducing it.
2. Plan the curriculum so that there be no more than two weeks between lessons.
3. Become familiar with the *Circle of Grace* vocabulary and reinforce it throughout the year and within parent sessions. Ask parents to do the same at home.
4. The *Circle of Grace* parent letter as well as, “The Common Questions of Parents” must be sent out prior to the implementation of the curriculum.
5. An advantage to the *Family Formation* model is that parent attendance is required monthly. While the students are being taught, this is a prime opportunity to present the concept, philosophy and objectives of *Circle of Grace* as well as *K-12 Parents First* resource to parents.
6. Administrator/Director should review how to handle sensitive issues with each leader. It is important for leaders to report all concerning situations to their Administrator/Director. A “Quick Reference Guide” is included in the Administrator/Director section of the *Circle of Grace* manual.

The above are intended to assist those using the *Family Formation* approach to Parish Religious Education with the implementation of the *Circle of Grace* curriculum.

If you have found additional ways to implement and would like to share them with others, please contact Mary Beth Hanus (mbhanus@archomaha.org).