

WHAT ARE WE PROVIDING FOR ADULT FAITH GROWTH?

(A tool for Adult Faith Formation Committees, Education Commissions and other parish planning groups)

As you plan for adult faith formation, in all its many formats/venues, in your parish (it doesn't only happen, for instance, in a structured program with a speaker for three weeks), you may wish to use the following charts to "visually diagram" what your parish is currently providing for the various groups within your parish, in the various content areas, through various formats/various methods.

A Few Reminders:

❖ There are four suggested charts, each looking at possibilities *through a different lens*. The four lens are:

- The Lens of Faith Development
- The Lens of Church Membership/Discipleship
- The Lens of the Everyday Life Needs of Today's Adults
- The Lens of the six Content Areas in *Our Hearts Were Burning within Us*

At any given time, you may wish to use only one of the charts to view your parish offerings. In different years you may choose to use a different chart. Or, as mentioned below, as you involve others with you, each group might use different charts.

❖ Don't do this alone.

- Adult faith formation is all-encompassing; it happens in a myriad of situations.
- Invite the Parish Pastoral Council, other commissions, other leadership groups, many parishioners to "complete" the chart(s) with you. They may have a "picture" of the parish of which you're not aware.

❖ Many offerings/opportunities will apply to more than one group.

For instance, many of the groups listed here overlap

e.g. a four-week Scripture Study on "Jesus: Person of Prayer" will meet the needs of various groups.

❖ Feel free to add other groups which fit the demographics of your parish.

(Naturally, not all groups listed here will necessarily be within one parish. At the same time, don't assume!)

- Don't worry about filling in every square; that would be unrealistic.
- Not all formats will apply, of course, to each situation.

❖ Hopefully, this "picture" will help in planning for the future: for a pastoral plan, for one year, three-year, and/or five-year goals.

- Remember, too, that even though you are planning for three or five years, you can't do everything even in that span of time.
- Choose what's realistic – what can be done well.
- What can be done collaboratively within the groupings of parishes in a geographical area?
- Don't feel that you have to do everything: are there things going on within the community, at other churches, etc. and your role would be to alert your parishioners to these offerings.