

## Home Schooling

Generally, formal catechesis of children takes place in parish religious education/faith formation programs. Our religious education program is four dimensional (message, community, service and worship). When a child does not meet with other parish children, one or more of these dimensions may be missing from his/her formal religious formation. The parishes will work to support and assist the family in their home schooling decision. Home catechesis is to be in accord with all applicable diocesan policies for catechesis, including **assessment** and **evaluation**. Home Schooling is not acceptable in the year of the sacrament (grade 2 for Eucharist and First Reconciliation, and grade 11 for Confirmation) as we already have attendance as a pre -requisite for the sacraments. Families establish the process of home catechesis with their parish communities in the following manner.

1. Parents/Guardians and the coordinator enter into a dialogue regarding mutual responsibilities, time frames, material fees, and expectations for catechesis in the home. This dialogue culminates in a written agreement, to include time schedules and a regular review process, among the coordinator, family, and the child.
2. The coordinator/board of education provides parameters and guidance in the selection of text and other materials to ensure their conformity with the Church's catechetical documents.
3. The family and coordinator witness to and provide for the communal dimension of catechesis, to include:
  - \* Participation in Parent/Family sessions.
  - \* Invitation to catechist formation sessions and the provision of information regarding offerings for catechist/parent formation throughout the diocese.
  - \* Participation in sacrament programs, retreats, liturgical celebrations, etc.
  - \* Interaction with peers and the parish community in worship and other events as determined by the shared dialogue.
4. The coordinator will provide resources and support for home based catechesis, including material and opportunities for the parents' faith development.