## Models of Intergenerational Ministry

## & Faith Formation

### Caring

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| Models/Programs | Description |
| Grandparents-grandchildren retreat | “Speed-sharing” for child/adult circle activity |
| Photo book for every senior when they graduate |  |
| Quilt ministry |  |
| Bibles – congregation signs/ highlights favorite verse |  |
| Intergenerational workshops | Cooking, rosary, beach walking, etc.; bridged generations by sharing what they love |
| Sharing meals |  |
| Phone calls | Showing concern for each other |
| Youth visit homebound | Sharing hymn favorites of homebound with congregation |
| Care groups | Every ministry; accessibility by all ages |
| Intergenerational Sunday school mixer | Seating mixed ages at every table |
| Baptism family reunion | Yearly |
| Intergenerational orchestra |  |
| Intergenerational banquet |  |
| Name tags – key words |  |
| Community care fund | Local and specific |

### Celebrating

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| Models/Programs | Description | Factors |
| 1st Reconciliation | Families/children, parent of Advent reconciliation service | Invites all to be part of the community; sharing the sacrament together intergenerationally |
| Reverse Trick or Treat on All Saints’ Day | Service was on Halloween, people dressed like saints, got chocolate bars | Church reclaimed Halloween |
| Baptisms at Sunday Mass | At regular Sunday Mass; everyone is invited to surround the font, great babies | Experiential, up close; community greets new members |
| Logos | Worship skills development; “freeze frame” drama representing scriptures | All ages on equal level of participation; brings young people into worship leaders |
| Families and whole community invited to prayer for 1st Communion and Confirmation candidates | Photos with first name, last initial on a banner; parish invited to take one and prayer | Raises community awareness of their role in the formation of these children |
| Tour of church | Explaining the furnishings and objects used at worship | Connects everyone – children and parents – to the worship experience |
| All ages services | All attend; inclusive language; interesting themes that reach across ages | Parents’ primer 2 weeks out; empower parents; give and take style |
| Present of Bibles to children | Milestones celebration; intergenerational – oldest present and tell stories about their Bible experiences; bookmark also presented | Immediate connection to older adults; parents are part of process, more meaning for ritual |
| Preaching | Engage all ages: dramatic, visual, movement, storytelling, Q&A | Engages all ages |
| Intergenerational music ministry | Mixed ages from P-K through grandparents; each participates by ability; all children | Builds community; encourages participation from community |
| Palm Sunday procession | Families create hosanna banners at IG learning program and use for procession at Mass | Engagement; ownership; invested in service; enter into story |
| Vesper service | Parish worship service; families create materials at IG learning and were catechized | More ongoing participation at event; better understanding of little understood liturgy |

## Learning

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| Models/Programs | Description | Factors |
| IG Learning | Once per month, intergenerational small groups between services | Old learning from the young; young learning to lead |
| IG Learning | Twice per month: Wed, dinner, family activity, evening prayer in church, age-group instruction, closing prayer | More connectedness to parish life, belonging; care about Wed. community; more prayer experiences |
| IG Learning | Twice per month: small group, families, breakfast, age group instruction | Parents are more engaged |
| Confirmation preparation | Inclusion of parents and sponsors; multimedia approach (parables through pictures) | Children met where they are; parents interested in process |
| Planning a church | Meeting around tables, Bible-based, worship followed by study | Children getting deep message, lives more rooted in God’s word |
| Explore 4 – one component of a multi-component program | Life of the parish – parish as curriculum - people choose from parish learning events, prayer, etc.; elective; | People choosing their experiences; create network of leaders/facilitators; organic |
| Family faith formation | Once per month; family stay together | Parents enjoy being together |
| Intergenerational faith formation theme integrated into other ministries | Learning theme emphasis across groups in parish and home | Community all zoned-in on this them; and it attracts those who don’t have children to intergenerational program |
| Peers, mentors, sponsor families | Assigning families who volunteer to sit with new/or resistant young people and adults | All ages learning together; positive role models |
| Open the Door | Package and distribute Christmas ornaments to invite people in | Brought people together and affective people positively |
| GIFT – IG Learning | Skits, arts, crafts, Scripture, ritual, history | Increased with more adults without children; inclusive and adaptable |
| Faith 4 Life Sunday | Liturgy, learning session, meal, fashioning faith | Joy of learning together; “on fire;” pastor helps |
| Family faith formation | W.I.P. |  |
| *WE* - IG Learning | mid-week dinner and learning activities | Random people together |
| Sharing Dominican Life – IG Learning | Sharing, meals, stories, lives, and dancing | Everyone enters into each other lives, inclusivity |
| HI-Life – IG Learning | “Generations of Faith” model | Leadership formation, breaking down silos |

## Praying

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| Models/Programs | Description | Factors |
| Advent Prayer Partners | People volunteer, submit a prayer intention if they want, a potluck breakfast on the Sunday after Christmas, meet one another (secret to them) | Highlights season; connects people |
| Secret Santa | Randomly pull name, pray for that person, then send a Christmas card to reveal identity |  |
| Prayer Pals | Pair those preparing for First Communion with those prepare for Confirmation, write letters to each other through the year | We see the letters, it renews our faith that the teens are getting it. |
| Adults writing letters to children preparing for sacraments |  |  |
| Teaching meditation in the family | Wanted to observe more silence at IG program, used a prayer gong, they would go into silence, gradually increased time, then talked about how to do this at home | Fantastic: people were eager for the silence, encouraged doing it 2, 3, 5, times a week; by end of year they were asking to continue all summer; children crave that experience. |
| Confirmation | Wanted them to learn spiritual practices, did a retreat, mentors came, did labyrinth, gave materials for creating sacred space at home; also used mentors for conversations on faith topics |  |
| Children and youth in worship on Communion Sunday |  | Adults enjoy seeing them; the children benefit for worship roles. |
| Developing adult leaders as people who relationship with Jesus and read the Bible and pray | Training session, 10 minute segments with picture of icons, reflect, teach them how to think as a teacher, also how to phrase teaching points as questions; deepened their prayer life-based on key points of the Lord’s Prayer; short, concise, grounded in tradition, practical techniques |  |
| Opening Prayer for Meetings | For leaders to use in their meetings; connects them all, includes a hymn used in liturgy that week |  |
| IG Worship Service | Based on Anne Lamont’s book*, Help, Thanks, Wow*; added “Sorry”; had different colored strips of paper for each of those 4 prayers with scripture for each; had people write their own prayers on the back; these were made into a prayer chain that was brought back at the end of the service | Visual depiction of community bound together in prayer |
| Bible Times Marketplace | Bible Times: Bethlehem, Jerusalem; basket shop, metal, wood, perfume, food, etc. | Hands-on experience utilizing learning styles; interfaith |
| Seder Dinner | Recreated at a church or at temple; visiting other faith communities; intergenerational Seder meal with a rabbi | Interfaith learning experiences |
| Garden at Senior Center | Families would weed, water, and together with the seniors harvest and share the crop | Learning a creative way to serve others; hands-on creation |
| Intergenerational worship service | All ages remain together | All ages experience all aspects of worship together |
| Advent breakfast | Made mosaic crèche: pieces cut ahead of time, each day the scene would build (out of foam), foil covered box | Create an excitement, anticipation around the season; family can do together |
| Workshop rotation model | Bring adults in for conversations on prayer | Caring/sharing conversations; no teacher-student; learning for each other |
| Communion workshop: “Everyday and Sunday Too” | Families come to breakfast; opened ended conversations |  |
| Prayer workshops | Small groups: how many ways can we pray, how do we prayer, hands-on prayer activities | All ages; could speak to how it changed them |
| 3-week communion education program | Saturday 4-5:30; 10 families – all ages including parents and grandparents; them of belonging, ending with blessing; created Last Supper scene; shared communion in church |  |
| Celebration of the Bible | 1st half of service was regular; 2nd half moved to a large area for learning centers related to the Bible: Bible jeopardy, Bible verse drill, Bible bookmarks, sharing a meal of biblical foods, exploring Bible translations puzzle (7 minutes each) | Older people learning from young people |
| Prayer shielding | Every child is prayed for by an adult | People are prayer; relationship building; belonging |
| P.T.A. prayer | Small groups used model: Praise, Thank, Ask | Teaching people to pray |
| All Souls Day vesper service – praying for the dead | Scroll with names placed in basket; candles lit; music and scripture (comfort, shared stories), praying for each other |  |
| Prayer vigils | Providing a place for people to gather; safe place to mourn and reflect |  |
| Faith fest | Teach/show prayer; develop prayer life; written prayer added to community prayer books; allows opportunity for people to ask questions |  |
| Secret prayer partners | Identified and kept secret during all 3 years of confirmation; letters are written and sent on a regular basis to let the person know they’re being prayer for | You know you’re being prayer for during your middle school years |

## Serving

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| Models/Programs | Description | Factors |
| Youth doing ministry | Intergenerational with youth leadership: going-paying-praying; visiting-singing-praying; plan according to interests; integrated with church activities; older participants with youth | Personal ministry plans; relationship building; incorporating interests into plan; feeds hunger for extended family |
| Love Our City | Service Sunday (3rd Sunday); sign up for 1 hour of service in neighborhood; shared meal; shared stories | Bonding; awareness of life around the community; equalizing effect |
| Hockey competition | Fundraiser; event in entire congregation | Community building, awareness of the congregation |
| Youth mission | Adult and teens mission trip; mentors emerge | Adults drawn into the mission; experience the joy of the gospel |
| Parish service day | Catholic Relief Services meal packs; families and individuals; family groups go outside the community | Awareness of social issues; people of all ages working together; children have a purposeful task, not busy work |
| Monthly meal for those in need | Prepare and serve food; set up tables, cleanup | Everyone has a gift they give |
| Thanksgiving baskets | Put together and deliver to homebound | Ministry of presence |
| Monthly birthday party | For homeless shelter; cards, cake, book gifts | Side-by-side relationship building |
| Adapt-a-shelter for Christmas | Meals, gifts, cards | Families serving families |
| Weekly ecumenical service project | Churches take turns leading for homeless; prepare and provide meal | Helps grow compassion |
| Weekly program for children | Hot breakfast, bag lunch, 2 hour activity | Real learning for advantaged children and making connections |
| Blankets for those hurt by storms | Cut, tie fleece, package with prayer | Possible to do large and intergenerational service projects; provides a common experience |
| Food drive | Donate, organize, bag food |  |
| Campus cleanup | Care for God’s creation |  |
| Christmas gifts | Donate necessary items for homeless and those at the soup kitchen; combine learning experience about homelessness and sharing |  |
| Lenten foot washing | For people from the soup kitchen | Mutuality; volunteers being able to receive sharing; intergenerational service |
| Helping hands | Assemble ingredients in container to produce on pot meal | Empathy |
| Memory Café and over 60s banquet | Meal for Alzheimer’s caregivers and patients; with 5th graders; meal and discussion | Relationship building |
| Social media crash course | Senior high teaching older parishioners how to use social media | Desire to learn (adults); desire to teach and connect (teens); connection to world; role reversal |
| Turkey baskets for military families | Assemble baskets; all generations participate | Accomplishment; processing |
| Angel tree | Youth get needs from ACS and cult angels, purchase | Accomplishment; processing |
| Easter baskets | Candy, cookies, school supplies | Accomplishment; processing |
| Intergenerational mission trip to Peru (every 2 years) | Prayer ministry with VBS children and the whole congregation | Establish relationships, shared relationships, adventure |
| God’s Work, Our Hands | All of congregation sent out on mission | Served together as church |
| Missionary employed as global missions intern | Served across ministries to share mission experience | Help ground missionaries at home church; helped church to realize we are all missionaries |
| Food Fast | Middle school and high school; adult and college mentors; 24 hour famine during Holy Week; reflection on Stations of the Cross; lead prayers; world hunger awareness; communion service |  |
| Friendship ministries | Grades 5-7 and adults; special needs ministry | Holistic ministry |