

Models of Intergenerational Ministry & Faith Formation

Caring

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

Models/Programs	Description	Factors
1 st 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 1 st 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

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 theme; 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

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, <i>Help, Thanks, Wow</i> ; 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	Create an excitement,

	day the scene would build (out of foam), foil covered box	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 pray, 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	1 st half of service was regular; 2 nd 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

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 (3 rd 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 5 th 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