



Faith in Action

(Generations of Faith)

core group of faith in action

Generations of Faith – Does it sound strange to our parishioners? How does it relate to our programme recently promoted? Faith in Action – 信仰動力 What is it about?

For over thirty years, our Church has offered a comprehensive and compelling vision of faith formation and learning - lifelong, for all ages and generations, rooted in the life of the Church. Yet in this everchanging world, the traditional model of faith formation gradually becomes inadequate. Embracing the vision of faith formation in the General Directory for Catechesis requires moving away from the schooling paradigm to a “community” or “whole church” paradigm of faith formation.

To become more fully a learning community, parishes are implementing a new approach to faith formation.

Faith in Action provides an integrated and comprehensive approach to faith formation that equips the parish community to become a community of learning by creating lifelong faith formation that is centered in the events of church life, embraces all ages and generations, and promotes faith growth at home, through parish preparation programs, and most importantly, through participation in church life.

There are **Six Key Features** for Faith in Action to be introduced in our parish:

1. Faith Formation is event-centered - Church events (the Church Year, Sacraments and Liturgy, Prayer and spirituality, justice and service, etc.) are used as catechetical moments. Preparation before a church event enables our parishioners to participate actively and meaningfully.

2. Faith Formation is cyclic, episodic, continuous and lifelong - The events of church life form a spiral curriculum that immerses people more deeply each year into the faith of the Church. Our catechetical task is to continually deepen their understanding and practice.

3. Faith Formation is emergent – The beliefs and

practices for living as a Catholic today comes from the life, events, and practices of the faith community. The beliefs and practices for living the Catholic faith are embedded in the events of church life. Our catechetical task is to uncover the theological and doctrinal message within the event.

4. Faith Formation is a cyclic process of learning – Faith in Action prepares all ages and all generations for meaningful participation in church events, engage all ages and generations in the events, and assist people to reflect on the significance and meaning of the event and apply the learning to their lives as Catholics.

5. Faith Formation provides alignment of learning – The key in event-centered learning is that the whole parish is focused - everyone is preparing for the same event with the same theological focus.

6. Faith Formation integrates home and parish – Empowering and equipping individuals and families to live their faith at home and in the world is constitutive of this approach to faith formation. Our catechetical task is to provide individuals and families with the resources and tools they need to extend and expand their learning from a preparation program and their experience of the event to their lives and home.

The First Event of Faith in Action will be launched on 1st December and 4th December, 2004 (Identical programs on Wednesday and Saturday) at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church. Our most Rev. Archbishop Emeritus Adam Exner has been cordially invited to lead a sharing session in our event. Activities (prayers, games, art & craft, sharing and reflection etc.) will be conducted to enhance the parishioners' understanding of Advent. Participants will also be invited to share and to reflect on the preparation of Savior's coming. Parishioners of all ages are welcome to join us in such a new experience in Faith.