



NCCL

# Parents & Families

AT THE CENTER OF **FAITH FORMATION**

*A Special Program for Parish Leaders in the Catholic Families Project*

## Accompanying Parents of Young Children: *From Baptism to First Eucharist*

### Goal

*Accompanying Parents of Young Children* is designed to assist parishes in developing a plan and learning the processes and skills to accompany parents from Baptism to First Eucharist using an intergenerational mentoring approach which connects parents of young children with an adult from the parish community for support, encouragement, and faith sharing.

This program of training and program development is led by Ron DeVries and Anna Radcliffe who lead the Generation Spark Project, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Generation Spark partners with church leaders to provide a research-based action plan that builds successful, authentic, and safe intergenerational mentoring relationships that spark intimacy with Jesus, a sense of mission, and meaningful connection.

### Program Plan

#### 1. Orientation Program – January 28, 2026 at 1 pm ET on Zoom (1 hour)

Learn about the vision of intergenerational mentoring and the design of the program which includes five educational sessions and the facilitated planning of an accompaniment program for parents of young children.

Join the Orientation on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83992911297>.

#### 2. Five-Session Online Program – Wednesdays, February 11 – April 8, 2026

Register to participate in the Accompaniment/Mentoring Program:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/vyY9Hua8RjWpYxA4bGDWrQ>

You will receive a Zoom link that will be used for all five sessions.

Your registration includes the five-session online program and the facilitated design work.

**Session 1. Understanding Today's Parents**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 1 pm ET on Zoom (90 minutes)**

This session focuses on generational perspectives of parents of young children (in their later 20s, 30s, and early 40s); and how to work effectively with them.

**Session 2. Forming Intergenerational Relationships of Mentoring and Accompaniment**

**February 25, 2026 @ 1 pm ET on Zoom (90 minutes)**

This session focuses on the skills and approaches building intergenerational relationships between older members of the community (who will be mentors) and young members of the community (parents of young children).

**Session 3. Developing a Practical Approach to Mentoring**

**March 11, 2026 @ 1 pm ET on Zoom (90 minutes)**

This session focuses on how to organize a mentoring program in a parish: recruiting mentors and equipping mentors with the skills for working with young parents.

**Session 4. Engaging in Storytelling**

**March 25, 2026 @ 1 pm ET on Zoom (90 minutes)**

This session focuses on the importance of storytelling and the practices that are necessary for engaging mentors and young parents in storytelling. It will also explore how storytelling can influence the culture of the whole parish.

**Session 5. Designing Parent and Family Faith Formation – with Mentoring - from Baptism to First Eucharist** (A design session facilitated by the Catholic Families Project Team)

**April 8 @ 1 pm ET on Zoom (90 minutes)**

**3. Design Work – Facilitated by the Catholic Families Consultants – April-June, 2026**

Work in cohort groups to create an accompaniment program in your parish, guided by the Consultants in the Catholic Families Project.

Implement your plan by Fall 2026.

**Questions**

**Contact John Roberto at: [jroberto@ncclcatholic.org](mailto:jroberto@ncclcatholic.org).**