

# Passing on the Faith Takes Collaboration

By Diana Dudoit Raiche

As Jesus' disciples, we are urged to work together always and in all ways. All Catholics are responsible for passing on the faith—priest or parent, certified catechist, Catholic school teacher or parishioner. Jesus reminded us of the need to work together to when he appointed his disciples to go out “in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit.” (Luke 10:1) This mutual support of one another in sharing faith, or collaboration, is an attitude that is needed perhaps more than ever in a society which encourages extreme individualism.

Helping to form disciples of all ages according to the good news of Jesus Christ in Scripture, Catholic Tradition, and Church teachings is the task of every baptized person. Jesus directed his command to all his disciples, past, present and future: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

Passing on faith happens first in a family that believes in Jesus. In the domestic church of the home, we learn about Jesus, about prayer and about the ways we can serve others. The domestic church belongs to the larger Church and in the parish we are graced through liturgy and sacraments. Together we gather to follow Jesus' command to “do this in memory of me” at Eucharist. (Luke 22:19) Every faith community is a catechetical collaborator with a specific role. The community of believers gathers for the Eucharist on Sunday, to actively share the gospel message, to support each other's faith and to challenge each other to growth.

Only with God's grace will catechesis bring about mature faith in a person. Working with God's grace, we support the faith development of members through relationships made in the faith community. All the baptized are called to be believers who share the good news of Jesus Christ. We are sent to a world that needs to be transformed into the kingdom of God which Jesus proclaimed while he was on earth. That is why catechesis is a community process that never ends.

## WAYS TO IMPLEMENT

### In Class

The Second Sunday of Easter readings highlight the role of the community of believers. Using the Lectionary reading from the Acts of the Apostles, have students discuss the ways that the community helps people to grow in faith. Have them design a flyer “The Community Helps Us Grow in Faith” that highlights the parish role today. Use the flyer as a bulletin insert, a take home page for youth, or a resource on the parish/school web site.

### At Home

Talk together about the people—in your family and in the larger community—who have helped each of you to grow in faith. Express your gratitude to these people by calling them, or sending a note. You might send an e-card. Log on to [www.WEBELIEVEweb.com](http://www.WEBELIEVEweb.com) for free e-cards to use