

# **Intergenerational Model** ***Gather in My Name*** ***We Believe™*** and ***We Live Our Faith™*** ***Catholic Identity Editions*** Grades K–8



## Dear Catechetical Leader,

Whole community catechesis brings together people of all ages to learn about and share faith. Whether your catechetical program is a fully intergenerational model, or you are looking to create new opportunities to bring the entire parish community together for faith sharing, Sadlier resources can help. This document describes the digital intergenerational resources available for your use, in conjunction with *We Believe* and *We Live Our Faith Catholic Identity Editions*, and suggests models for implementation and best practices for your whole community events.



## Implement Flexible Resources for your Intergenerational Model

### Enhance Catechesis with Digital Liturgical Resources

#### Question of the Week (Religion.SadlierConnect.com)

Sadlier's *Question of the Week* feature, based on the weekly Gospel, inspires intergenerational faith sharing and discussion. Whole community activities are provided for each week. These can be done anywhere and at any time. The activities have been specifically written so that they may be adapted to your particular needs. Consider supplementing your catechetical program with this feature to inspire whole community faith sharing and discussion.

#### ***Gather In My Name* (Religion.SadlierConnect.com)**

*Gather in My Name* is an approach to whole community catechesis that brings together people of all ages to learn about and share faith. It provides a framework for whole parish catechesis, supplementing the *We Believe Catholic Identity Edition* and *We Live Our Faith Catholic Identity Edition*. *Gather in My Name* provides a model for intergenerational catechesis when used in conjunction with *We Believe*.

*Gather in My Name* events usually focus on a particular theme based on the Liturgical Year or highlight themes found in *We Believe*, such as a celebration of Mary, the Eucharist, or Scripture. These free events provide detailed Leader's Guides, preparation charts, handouts, promotional ideas, and organization materials in English and Spanish. Each event is approximately two hours in length but can be adjusted to suit the particular needs and interests of your group. Flexible *Gather in My Name* events take place in addition to the regular *We Believe* catechetical programs in the parish, but can be customized in many ways.

### Customizing Gather in My Name Events

Two options are provided for gathering groups. Choose the one that best suits your program's size, needs, and interests. **Choose Option 1** for a fully intergenerational event in which children, youth, and adults gather together for prayer, sharing, and learning about a particular aspect of our faith. Use this option as a way to build upon the corresponding chapters in *We Believe Catholic Identity Edition*. **Choose Option 2** for an intergenerational event with age-level breakouts in which children, youth, and adults break into grade-level or cluster groups. This option draws upon the corresponding chapters in the *We Believe Catholic Identity Edition* program within the context of the whole community.

### Implementing Grade-Level Groups

- As part of Option 2 for *Gather in My Name*, children in grades Pre-K through Junior High meet in either grade-level or cluster groups after the opening prayer. They rejoin the adults and older youth for the closing prayer.
- The grade-level groups work with corresponding chapters in the *We Believe* program. Outlines for Grades K through 6 contain references to chapters and/or specific sections of chapters to use.
- It is recommended that the regular catechists for Grades Pre-K through 8 plan and implement these sessions.
- Additional aides or volunteers might be recruited as desired.

### Resources for Intergenerational Catechesis Model

Resource	Description
<i>Gather in My Name</i> Events <b>Religion.SadlierConnect.com</b>	Detailed Leader's Guides, preparation charts, handouts, promotional ideas, organization materials, articles, reproducible handouts
<i>Question of the Week</i> <b>Religion.SadlierConnect.com</b>	Weekly faith-sharing including activities, prayers, and discussion ideas centered on the Sunday Gospel readings
This Intergenerational Model document	<i>We Believe</i> and <i>We Live Our Faith Catholic Identity Editions</i> chapter correlations to <i>Gather in My Name</i> events



<i><b>Gather in My Name Events and We Believe Connections</b></i>		
<b>Theme</b>	<b><i>We Believe</i> Chapter Connection</b>	<b><i>We Live Our Faith</i> Connection</b>
Advent	Grades K–6: Chapter 13	Grades 7–8: Page 277
Christmas	Grades K–6: Chapter 14	Grades 7–8: Page 281
Ordinary Time	Grades K–6: Chapter 7	Grades 7–8: Page 301
Lent	Grades K–6: Chapter 20 Grades K–6: Chapter 21 (The Three Days)	Grades 7–8: Page 285 Grades 7–8: Page 289 (Triduum)
Easter	Grades K–6: Chapter 27	Grades 7–8: Page 293
Pentecost	Grades 1–6: Chapter 27	Grades 7–8: Page 297
Eucharist—Come to the Lord's Table	Grade K: Chapter 24 Grade 1: Chapter 22 Grade 2: Chapter 15 Grade 3: Chapter 16 Grade 4: Chapter 12 Grade 5: Chapter 10 Grade 6: Chapter 23	Grade 7: Chapter 16 Grade 8: Chapter 22
Mary	Grade K: Chapter 15 Grade 1: Chapter 25 Grade 2: Chapter 25 Grade 3: Chapter 25 Grade 4: Chapter 26 Grade 5: Chapter 19 Grade 6: Chapter 19	Grade 7: Chapter 23 Grade 8: Chapter 24

## Conducting a *Gather in My Name* Event

### Assembling a Team

The first step in preparing for *Gather in My Name* is assembling a team of both planners and implementers.

The **planners** can help in the following ways:

- Reading through the Leader's Guide, preparation chart, and all other materials
- Deciding which option to use
- Communicating with the pastor and other parish leaders about the *Gather in My Name* event and enlisting their support and participation
- Securing a date, time, and site for the event that does not conflict with other parish activities
- Creating a budget that includes funds for materials, food, and childcare needs
- Assigning the role of event leader, one that might be shared by two people
- Making sure the event is accessible and attuned to those with special needs or other considerations
- Recruiting volunteers to publicize and implement the event, including the provision of a meal (optional)
- Planning grade-level or cluster group sessions (Option 2) in collaboration with parish catechists and/or Catholic-school teachers
- Developing a plan for publicizing the event
- Planning prayer services in collaboration with parish musicians or liturgists
- Following up on the event by compiling evaluations and providing feedback to pastoral leaders, participants, and the parish at large

Planners will need to meet three or four times prior to the *Gather in My Name* event and at least once afterwards to assess its effectiveness and celebrate its success.

**Implementers** can help in the following ways:

- Assisting with mailings, phone calls, and other publicity plans
- Planning and preparing a meal and/or other refreshments
- Providing care for children under the age of four
- Helping with registration of participants
- Copying handouts and organizing other materials
- Providing transportation for elderly participants and those with special needs
- Preparing and facilitating the sessions for adults, children, and youth
- Providing music for prayer
- Assisting with clean-up and follow-through tasks

Implementers will need to meet two or three times with various planners to organize tasks and responsibilities. Some meetings might take place by phone or through e-mail.

When recruiting a team, keep in mind the need to consult with parish staff or other pastoral leaders. Their ideas and involvement will be a key factor in ensuring a catechetical event that involves the whole parish. Catechists who teach in both the parish and school programs should also be consulted and recruited as helpers, according to the options selected. Other potential sources for volunteers are:

- Parents, grandparents, and guardians
- Youth and young adults
- Parish organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, seniors group, Women's Auxiliary, or groups such as MOPS (Mothers of Pre-schoolers)
- Parish committees, especially those dealing with catechesis, family, youth, or spirituality

**Qualities** to look for in planners and implementers:

- *Cooperation*—It will take some organizing to put all the plans in place and then to see them through. Team members need to be able to work well with others and be responsible for individual tasks and responsibilities.
- *Flexibility*—Those working with groups of mixed ages, especially children, will need to “expect the unexpected.” A flexible attitude among planners and implementers sets a tone of ease and an atmosphere of welcome.
- *Diversity*—In order to ensure that the event is open to the entire parish, recruit a team that is representative of a wide variety of ages, interests, experiences, and family and cultural backgrounds. Encourage the group to be sensitive to the diversity of the participants who may attend, and to be intentional in their efforts to make all feel welcome.
- *Prayerfulness*—As a catechetical event, the purpose of *Gather in My Name* is to foster a deeper ownership, appreciation, knowledge, and application of our faith. Team members should be people focused on this task and rooted in their own commitment to Jesus Christ. As a way to foster prayerfulness, use the Team Prayer at the start of each planning or organizational meeting.

## Logistics and Resources

In addition to a team of enthusiastic volunteers, a parish will need:

- A gathering space that is accessible and that can accommodate a large group, preferably around tables that seat eight to ten people
- Between four and ten meeting spaces for cluster or grade level groups (Option 2)
- A room to provide childcare for infants and toddlers
- A microphone and sound system
- A small table and other items as listed in the Leader's Guide and suggestions for setting up an environment for prayer
- Refreshments, including an optional pre- or post-event meal

- Copies of handouts and other resources for all participants as noted in the Leader's Guide and preparation chart
- A flip chart or blackboard
- A CD player, and *We Believe* Music CDs, or instrumental music and speakers
- Registration materials, including nametags and pens or markers
- Copies of the *We Believe* and *We Live Our Faith* student texts and materials for children in grades K through 8 and a Catechist Guide for each team of catechists (Option 2, grade-level groups)
- Cluster group outlines and materials for Pre-K and Junior High (Option 2, grade-level groups)
- Cluster group outlines and materials for Pre-K, Primary, Intermediate, and Junior High (Option 2, cluster groups)
- Information on parish and diocesan resources, appropriate to the theme of the event
- Additional books and other resources related to the theme of an event available to participants through a parish library, diocesan media center, or local Catholic bookstore

## Publicity

In order to reach as many parishioners as possible, use a variety of approaches when publicizing your *Gather in My Name* event. These include:

- Parish bulletin, website, and newsletter announcements. Vary these from week to week and use eye-catching and attractive art and graphics. See “Before We Gather” on the *Gather in My Name* section of **Religion.SadlierConnect.com** for sample bulletin announcements, invitations, and other promotional ideas.
- Personal letters. Address these to parents and families in catechetical and sacramental programs, to single-person households, and to parish groups, organizations, and committees. See “Before We Gather” on the *Gather in My Name* section of **Religion.SadlierConnect.com** for sample letters .
- Posters and banners. Enlist the help of children and youth to illustrate posters, and ask computer-savvy individuals to create banners from publishing programs. Move these around the parish from week to week so that they remain fresh to the eye.
- Flyers and bulletin inserts. Adapt bulletin announcements and use them as the content for flyers that list the what, when, where, and who of the event
- Radio and television announcements. Check local stations that provide free airtime for public service announcements. This is a good way to publicize the event among newcomers or hard-to-reach households.
- Newspaper announcements. Create press releases for both local and diocesan newspapers. Don't forget to include contact information.

- Personal invitations. Consider the use of telephone trees, direct e-mail, text messaging, and word-of mouth. Generate interest by recruiting a few “cheerleaders”—people whose enthusiasm for the event and outgoing personalities make them natural promoters.
- Pulpit announcements. Sunday liturgies are ideal times to reach regular attendees. Keep announcements short, and use them in conjunction with a flyer or bulletin insert. Recruit people who are articulate and enthusiastic about the event to make the announcements.

### **Post-Event Follow-up**

*Gather in My Name* does not end with the closing prayer. Maximize its potential to catechize the entire parish in the following ways:

- Post a summary of the event on your parish website, or use it as an insert in a weekend bulletin.
- Ask volunteers to speak about their experience of the event at their next parish group or committee gathering.
- Post the comments from the evaluation forms on the parish website or publish pictures in a newsletter. Be sure to use release forms in order to secure permission to use pictures, comments, and names as part of follow-up.
- Display the children’s activity sheets in various parts of the parish and draw attention to them in a bulletin or newsletter.
- Ask the pastor to refer to the event in the next week’s homily, drawing upon an anecdote or experience as a way to highlight one or two of the event’s catechetical objectives.
- Hold a “debriefing” session with the team, to celebrate successful aspects of the event and assess areas that need improvement. Submit a written report about the event to the staff, catechetical committee, school board, or parish council.
- Look ahead to the next *Gather in My Name* event.



## Use *Gather in My Name* with *We Believe* in Multiple Catechetical Models

Intergenerational catechesis can be an integral part of multiple catechetical models in your parish. Use *Gather in My Name* with:

- An **At-Home Model**, helping families feel part of the community. Build in several sessions during the year and let parents know this is part of the program during your orientation. You can also incorporate the Catholic Identity Retreats as part of your event, a great opportunity to engage families.
- A **Summer Model** of faith formation. If you do a two-week program, *Gather in My Name* could be a weekly family gathering at the end of each week, or a special culminating event at the end of your summer session. If you are inviting families to participate, be sure to include information in your registration materials. Publicize! Be specific so parents know exactly what they need to know to participate. Due to time constraints, the *We Believe* Liturgical Year lessons are not always included in the summer program but could be if part of a family event. Using the Catholic Identity Retreats can provide a great opportunity to have parents and families be part of a prayer experience with their children. Catechists can facilitate the retreats.
- A **Traditional Model**. If you use a school-year program, with a little planning you could schedule an event or two early in the year to get started and see how it is received. Use a Liturgical Year themed event as these can be easily integrated into the *We Believe* program. Following your “trial run,” you may wish to add other events. Many faith formation programs end in May, a special month for honoring Mary. You can plan a *Gather in My Name* event using the Mary theme as a culminating activity to close the year. The *Gather in My Name* Eucharist event could be used as part of your catechesis for sacramental preparation. Using Option 2, gather parents and children to start. While children participate in catechist-lead breakout sessions focusing on a lesson, parents can participate in adult catechesis. Parents and children would come together to end the session.
- *Gather in My Name* events can also be incorporated into any Family-Centered model of faith formation, using Option 1.