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The Family Catechesis Corner



Department of Faith Formation  
Diocese of Ogdensburg

## Catechetical Institute offers home-based options

By: Jessica Hargrave, *Secretary, Department of Faith Formation*

The start of the 2020-2021 school year has been a whirlwind for children, parents, and teachers as they adjust to new ways of learning. Like schools, many parishes are not allowing COVID-19 to sideline learning and are working on curriculums to keep faith formation programs going. Catechetical Leaders are reaching out to Catholic publishers and institutes for help in assisting parents with a more home-focused formation during the coming months, if not longer. The Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University is widely known for equipping catechists and youth ministers with the proper skills to interpret the Catholic Faith to the faithful. During these challenging times, the Institute is offering subscriptions that give parishes and parents access to small online workshops.

One such subscription called The Forming Faith at Home Track aims to help parents grow the Faith at home. The *Fostering Holiness in Children* workshop inspires children to develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus and gives parents an opportunity to do the same. *Family: Domestic Church & School of Holiness* outlines the concept that the parent is on the frontline of passing down the Faith to their children. Parents will learn how to make their home a domestic church with simple routines and how God saves through family and community.

Jamie Burns, a teacher at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, received her Director of Religious Education certification from what is now the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Burns says she would recommend subscriptions from the Catechetical Institute to anyone wanting to grow deeper into their Catholic Faith.

“The Catechetical Institute has experienced mentors who are on the teaching faculty, who are currently working in ministry, and who are available to offer support throughout the year. This Institute has truly made a difference in my life and I highly recommend it to all working in parish or diocesan ministries.”

If you're unsure whether purchasing a subscription is the right fit for your family or parish, their website [www.franciscanathome.com](http://www.franciscanathome.com), offers a free sample workshop called *Being Guided & Guiding Souls* which explores what it truly means to be “guided.”

Catechetical Leaders or families still exploring which direction to take their faith formation program can call the Department of Faith Formation at (315) 393-2920.