

## Part 5 — Expectations of Parents

Believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. (1656) Parents have the first and primary responsibility for the faith formation (religious education) of their children. (2223) Therefore, in support of the work by catechists to help form the faith of their children, parents of children in the Diocese of Marquette are expected to do at least the following things during each respective grade level of their child. Parents who fulfill these expectations will help reinforce the religious instruction given by their child's catechist(s).

The bishop, along with pastors, parish/Catholic school leadership, and catechists at schools, parishes, and missions will communicate these expectations to the parents of their students at the beginning of each school year. Reminders during the school year may also be necessary, so that the likelihood is high that parents understand their responsibility to their child and receive guidance on how to accomplish their part of the catechetical process.

The activities for parents cited in the lists below are the *minimum*. Parents and catechists are welcome (and encouraged!) to find more ways in which parents can be effective in developing the faith of their child. For example, because much of a child's faith is "caught," not taught, parents must be continually mindful of their own attitude toward their faith and their day-to-day practices. The parents' choice of words and their body language while talking about faith can have a major effect on their children. The parents' pursuit of their own faith formation (e.g., actively participating in Mass, personal Scripture reading and prayer at home) sets a good example for their children. Visiting the child's faith formation classes occasionally would "speak volumes" about the importance of the subject matter. Making the child's regular attendance at faith formation classes a high priority in the family is critical.

In most of our catechetical settings in the Diocese of Marquette, it should be easy for parents and catechists to get to know each other. Parents are encouraged to be closely attuned to what is happening in their child's faith formation classroom, to discuss the child's progress with the teacher, and to volunteer to help out when needed.

The *minimum expectations* of parents at each grade level are found in this section. These are the identical expectations of parents given in Part 3 of this document, "Curriculum by Grade." They are simply re-listed here in a concise way so that parents can readily see their role in the faith formation of their children and how they are expected to participate with their pastor and parish catechists.