

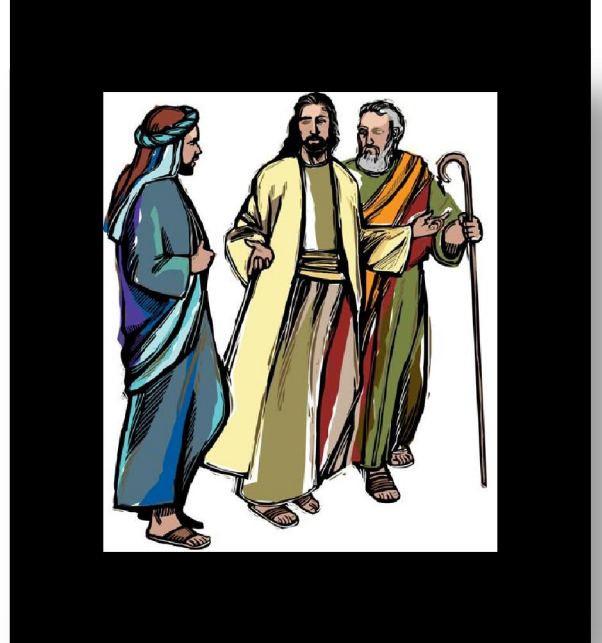
ON GOING ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Mission: The mission of On Going Adult Faith Formation Process at St. Christopher Church is to further implement the Bishops' vision to put *adult faith formation* at the heart of their catechetical vision and practice. *"Such a lifelong formation is always needed and must be the priority of the Church's catechetical ministry; moreover, it must be the "considered the chief form of catechesis. All the other forms, which are always necessary, are in some way oriented to it." (OHWB, no. 13)*

The Bishops' Plan for Adult Faith Formation is based on the gospel of Luke 24:32.

Our Hearts Were Burning within Us...

1. God is always the first one to invite us into His life.
2. The disciples were open to invite the "Stranger" into their lives amidst their frustration and disappointment. They were willing to listen to the questions of the Stranger:
3. They were willing to question the Stranger and to listen to his answers.
4. They listened with intent that their hearts were burning within them as the Stranger spoke. His words were so compelling that the disciples invited them to dinner to listen to him some more. When the stranger broke the bread they finally recognized him as the Messiah. They said to one another: *"Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us?"* They could not contain their joy so they went about sharing it with the other disciples.
5. God in Jesus takes the initiative to invite us into his life. The risen Jesus inserts his life into our lives. He asks us some questions just as he did with the disciples. He is there to answer them if we are open to listen to his Story. In the Word and in the Eucharist we **encounter Jesus**.
6. Most of all the Bishops state that *"in Jesus the disciples caught a glimpse into the heart of God and found their world made new. They saw for an instant the full scope of the Father's loving plan and its high point in Christ's death and resurrection."* (OHWB. No.11)



We Create an Intentional Adult Faith Formation Process:

We create an intentional Adult Faith Formation process that engages the whole person - that invites all participants into an ongoing and deepening transformation (conversion). This process:

Engages the mind

Touches the heart

Challenges and equips everyone for mission.

An intentional Adult Faith Formation process is effective only if it *"offers a comprehensive and systematic presentation and exploration of the core elements of Catholic faith and practice—a complete initiation into a Catholic way of life.* Such process helps the adults to possess a mature faith - a faith that is living, explicit and fruitful. This faith is a living out of our baptismal and Eucharistic spirituality.

I. An Intentional Adult Faith Formation already begun:

1. In 2006, as a result of the Bishops' document, *Our Hearts Were Burning within Us, A Plan for Adult Faith Formation*, we started:
 - a. Seven Week Parent Sessions;
 - b. Adult Faith Formation Week;
 - c. Bible Study series both in English and Spanish. With God's help these are still going on.
2. Small Faith Communities – 2007
3. A series of workshops and a couple of Bible Studies were offered in the Hispanic community. - 2009
4. An Evening of Recollection for Ministry Leaders and all Volunteers took place 2010

II. Intensive & Intentional Adult Faith Formation Follow Up:

1. **Welcome Home to Returning and Inactive Catholics.**
Last spring of 2010 we began the process of Welcoming Home Returning and Inactive Catholics.
2. **Intensive & Intentional Adult Faith Formation Follow Up: :**

- a. Welcome Home to Returning and Inactive Catholics.
- b. A Series of Workshops on Catholic Teachings
- c. Large Group Presentations

Schedule for the Intensive and Intentional Adult Faith Formation Follow.

For more information on how to implement,
Our Hearts Were Burning within Us,
The Bishops' Plan for Adult Faith Formation
OR

For information on how to be an Adult Catechist or to participate in the Adult Faith Formation Sessions, please call Isabel M. Dion, D. Min., at 951-571-8351.

