

Notes for Infant Baptism

Millennial Milestone Conference Calls Summary

- ✓ **Catholic Family Bible** A suggestion was made to provide resources for the Bible published by the Center for Ministry Development & *Our Sunday Visitor*
- ✓ The Center for Ministry Development is providing a workshop for parish leaders entitled “Connecting Catholic Families with the Bible”

<http://secure.cmdnet.org/index.cfm?CFID=717777&CFTOKEN=d711cd7ff1e55411-AA869BA0-1517-61B4-4837E68137DF0DD4>

<http://secure.cmdnet.org/index.cfm?ID=F510A8AD-1517-61B4-48A80D0785FA52D5>

- *Workshop coming to Buffalo on March 9 at Christ the King Seminary*

- ✓ **Meal ministry** –

Offering occasional meals for new parents.

These meals could include instructions for the meal and a family prayer. They would be provided for new parents in the first few weeks after the child was born.

- ✓ **Calls to parishioners to check in post Baptism**

These calls would follow-up with the families and see if there was anything that the parish could do for them. (babysitting, errands, meals, advice, listening ear)

- ✓ **Resources for young families**

Website information – about Baptism preparation and ideas for faith at home after Baptism

Pastor/pastoral visits of the families of all Baptisms celebrated – if they haven’t had any other Baptisms within 3 years

✓ **Volunteers from the parish to do follow-up**

Phone calls, personal visits, emails etc.

Activities post Baptism to keep families engaged in parish life

Parenting activities – including discussion on finances

One parish inserts in bulletin and also emailed to families of ideas for faith formation for parents

Suggest ways to reach young adult families – bulletin, website, calls, flyers, brochures, texting, Facebook or Yahoo groups – ways that can be accessed at convenient times including late night

Recruit young parents to visit, call or share information with other parents

✓ **Before the Baby is born:**

Invite expectant parent/parents – are encouraged to pray/receive a blessing at the Baptismal font after Mass

✓ **ABC = After Baby Comes**

Idea from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, North Evans, NY.

After the celebration of Baptism, bishop's committee members give a gift box (purchased from AC Moore a large picture box) to the parents of the newly baptized. In the box is a Book of Memories, 2 books from Our Sunday Visitor: Teach Me About Prayer and Little Acts of Grace, an Easter coloring book, diocesan Family Life dept. calendar, an Advent Wreath and candles, a post card for them to send in if interested in getting together to talk about any of the items in the box, and a flyer with a schedule of 3 times a year to get together with our parents of newly baptized (optional). Of course, items could be different for each parish -- some might add a rosary or some saint book or holy pictures.

New parents can turn to ABC for:

- * Telephone support
- * Home visits
- * Community resources
- * Parent support groups
- * Play groups
- * Education sessions

Parenting skills – provide pertinent websites and take-home items that could help

Blanket – knitted by the parish’s knitting ministry.

Online resources that may be helpful:

At Home with Your Faith publication by the Claretians

<http://homefaith.wordpress.com/>

Susan Vogt is a national speaker and trainer on parenting skills and faith:

<http://www.susanvogt.net/index.html>

The Catholic Family Movement:

<http://www.cfm.org/home.html>

- ✓ **Baptismal garments** – Ladies of Charity provide a garment at St. Pius X and Blessed Mary Angela parishes

Informational sheet could be included with teaching ideas around the garment including a prayer. Encourage parents to show the garment to their children around the anniversary of baptism.

- ✓ **Special sensitivity** given to single mothers and teenage mothers with prayers, announcements and prayer petitions

Use the imagery of the Baby Jesus in teaching parents about the sacrament and parenting skills – the novena of the Infant of Prague was mentioned

- ✓ Create a blog to share ideas or leave comments
 - Seen as an effective tool for parish volunteers and pastoral staff
 - Can be accessed at all times – especially effective for working volunteers