

**HERITAGE AND HOPE
OUR STORY AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

III. TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD OF GOD

Faith which is learned and lived must be rooted in both theory and practice if we are to address effectively the challenges faced by today's parish families. Following the model of the saints throughout history, we are committed to the *celebration of Eucharist and shared prayer* as essential elements of parish and family life.

Through the Eucharist and prayer, we, as a community of disciples within the Church, proclaim the gospel and are transformed by it, applying its principles in the context of our faith community and its most basic structural element – *the family*. Family members worshipping together create a common and rich ground from which grows a mature conscience and in which are sown the seeds of lasting faith.

Sacred Scripture in a family-centered, lectionary-based catechesis can and should become the teaching norm through which the children, adolescents, and adults of our parish communities experience "formal" instruction in the faith. The blend of Scripture, Catholic doctrine, and tradition provides meaning for important questions of contemporary life. Diocesan resources are at the service of all the communities so that life-long Christian formation for all the generations can be nurtured.

A *shared life and faith* emerges when, following the doctrinal norms established by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, families, parochial schools, parishes and small Christian Communities engage in this style of catechesis. Slowly, distinctions between the life of faith and our daily physical existence dissolve, giving birth to a lifestyle in which faith governs all of our actions. This penetrating experience impels us as individuals and as *community* to demonstrate faith in the authentic witness of our lives.

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