



## Welcome! Let's Get Started

Our vision is to begin **Families Encounter Jesus (FEJ)** after Thanksgiving, allowing pilot parishes the month of September to gather and prepare their teams. Parish Coordinators are encouraged to bring their FEJ team together and complete the recommended formation—using the steps and documents outlined below—so that everyone becomes familiar with the vision, structure, resources, and the role of the catechist.

On **September 23 from 7:00–8:30 PM**, Michelle and Patricia will host an online Zoom meeting for Parish Coordinators and team members. This session will focus on what you need for a smooth launch, with time for practical guidance and questions.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89590380066>

Following this period of preparation, parish teams can finalize their plans, pray for the families they will accompany, and be ready to begin the FEJ journey together after Thanksgiving.

**Follow the steps below to become familiar with *Families Encounter Jesus* (FEJ).**

### STEP ONE — PREPARATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in the seven weeks of online formation, attended the day of formation facilitated by Jim Anderson, Director of Missionary Discipleship Formation for the Diocese of Saint John, or joined us for the evening with the author, Dr. James Pauley. Teaching from your own encounter with Christ is the essential first step, because it is from that lived relationship that you can welcome families into sessions where they, too, can encounter Christ.

Coordinators who need to provide this formation for themselves or their catechists are asked to contact **Jim Anderson** at [janderson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:janderson@dioceseofsaintjohn.org).

If you have not yet read *An Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ*, we warmly encourage you to do so.

### STEP TWO — PROCLAMATION

Parish coordinators, please read the **Coordinators Guide – Preparing for Mission, Formation, and Families Encounter Jesus**. This guide will help you prepare to proclaim the “why” behind the cultural shift toward including families in parish catechesis.

Have the **Catechist Guide – With a Prepared Heart** ready so catechists can understand their role in this mission and begin living as missionary disciples.

### STEP THREE — EXPLANATION

Read **Families Encounter Jesus – A Guide Preparing Parish Catechists for Kerygmatic Family Catechesis in Our Parishes and Homes**. This document provides an overview of the framework and flow of each FEJ session.

### STEP FOUR — APPLICATION

Review the **Session Lead Sheet** and then the **Session Sheets** to prepare for the arrival of families. Also check out the supplement resources.

Any questions can be directed to:

**Patricia Lee** — [catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org](mailto:catechesis@dioceseofsaintjohn.org)

**Michelle D’aoust** — [catechetics@dioceseofcharlottetown.com](mailto:catechetics@dioceseofcharlottetown.com)

### STEP FIVE — CELEBRATION

Your catechist teams will now be well formed and ready to lead families in **Families Encounter Jesus**. To mark this moment, plan your **Catechist Commissioning**.