



Appendix 2: Family Impact Questions

In order to incorporate a family perspective in ministry, consider the following regarding the various policies, programs, ministries, ceremonies or services offered by your parish/school:

A CHRISTIAN VISION OF FAMILY LIFE

- Does it acknowledge the family as a Domestic Church by showing an appreciation of family life as sacred and family activity as holy?
- In what ways does it promote and strengthen family relationships rather than tax the family system?
- Does it encourage families to reach out to other families?
- Does it promote, support and encourage families to share and grow in faith within the home?

THE FAMILY AS A DEVELOPING SYSTEM

- Does it respond to the various life cycle issues of the participating families? Does it address the special needs of families in transition or crisis?
- Does it assist the individual/family to understand and deal with the influence of their family of origin when appropriate?
- Does it help individuals/families deal with changes that the program may encourage?
- Does it offer skills and build confidence in families so that they might hand on faith traditions and values to their children?

FAMILY DIVERSITY

- Is there a preferred family structure implicit in the program or policy? Does it reward or penalize certain kinds of families?
- Can families of ethnic, racial or cultural minorities express their differences and richness within the policy/program/ceremony?
- Does it address families with special needs ensuring that respect and consideration are given?

PARTNERSHIP OF FAMILY AND PARISH

- Does publicity and written material about the program or policy reflect that families are partners, or does it minimize parent involvement and responsibility?
- Do leaders involve families in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the program?
- Does it strengthen the family's ability to deal with such institutions as schools, hospitals, government, social service agencies, etc.?
- Does it concretely broaden the choices and options of participating families to lessen stress and not add to it?
- Does the program meet family's expressed needs and start where they are?

Adapted from *Families at the Center (USCCB)* by the Family Life Apostolate, Archdiocese of New Orleans.