



ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATORS

Co-ordinators are vital for the life and growth of Family Groups within a Parish; they need to be enthusiastic and committed to building community. They liaise with the Parish Priest, the Leaders, Regional Co-ordinators and lay Director of the Family Group Movement.

Usually a married couple take on this role; or it can be two people who feel happy to work together. The Co-ordinators do not necessarily need to have previous experience in organising parish affairs. They need to be approachable and sensitive to people's needs.

COMMUNICATION

Your support and encouragement of your leaders is one of the most important aspects of your ministry as Co-ordinators. Your care for them will extend to improve their care for their group.

It is important to communicate with the Leaders; to create and maintain a bond with them, keep in touch by phone, be available if problems occur – your support is very important.

It is important to have regular Leaders' meetings every two months. This encourages Leaders to form a bond with other Leaders and to share how the aims and goals of the Family Group Movement are being met, as well as any challenges they are experiencing in their group.

RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The role of co-ordinator is one that is actually delegated by the Parish Priest and part of this role is to keep him fully informed of the progress of the Family Groups.

The Co-ordinators work and communicate with the Parish Priest in helping Family Groups flourish in the Parish. He can tell you of new people wanting to join Family Groups and you can keep him informed of situations in groups, such as illness, etc., of which he may be unaware.



It is of great value when the Parish Priest appreciates the capacity to which Co-ordinators carry the struggle of others.

GROWTH OF YOUR FAMILY GROUPS – “MATTERS OF THE HEART”

Naturally, as the Family Group Movement starts to grow in your parish, new people will wish to join. To help you get the message of Family Groups across to them, you may wish to make use of the Family Group educational video, “Matters of the Heart”.

This video is all about family – a Movement bringing families together; creating community; breaking down barriers until we are brothers and sisters. It is of real people telling their story; what they have gained and given in Family Groups.

In adding new members to groups, it is essential that those joining have adequate and correct information about the aims of Family Groups. If they are not able to

attend an information session, please ensure that they are given a list of the aims and personally talk with them about those aims.

An information calendar placed in a prominent position at the back of the Church is desirable, with Leaders' names and contact phone numbers, plus details of monthly functions. It is most beneficial to the group to share a **weekend away**. Please encourage your Leaders to have a weekend away for their Family Group annually.

AWARENESS

Apart from what you learn at Leader meetings, it is important to know how people are feeling with the groups.

Try to attend a function of each Family Group once a year. People in the groups will get to know you and feel and feel comfortable in approaching you with any concerns. Whilst none of us have ready-made solutions for every situation, we can still share our experiences and help each other.

It is necessary to be aware of what is happening within your parish. It is a good idea to regularly remind parishioners of the open invitation to join Family Groups.

SUPPORT FOR CO-ORDINATORS

This is available to you from your Regional Co-ordinator and from the Director in your area. Do not hesitate to make contact if you have any concerns.



Once a year, there will be a special day for all Co-ordinators to come together with the lay Director to share and reflect on their ministry. You are encouraged to attend this day as it will help you care for and support your Parish Family Groups.

Good Co-ordinators are vital to the success of the Family Group Movement in your parish. As Co-ordinators, you are offered the unique experience of putting your Christianity into action in a very practical way and rewarding way.

