

WELCOME TO YOUR FAMILY GROUP

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This is quite a remarkable adventure on which you have embarked. It is exciting because of all the heartening and supporting relationships that will grow in your Family Group.

At the same time it can be a little frightening, because you are starting out on a journey with people who, at this stage, are still strangers to you. In either case you will find the rewards of joining a Family Group very worthwhile.

As you know, there is a Leader couple of your Group. Their job as Leaders is most definitely **NOT** to be the organizers of all that happens. They are Leaders as in **SERVANTS** to the Group. The adults share the workload in the practical matters of your Family Group life.

The Leaders are there to assist all members to get to know one another, to be aware of any needs in the group and know what is happening within the Group. They also keep in contact with the other Leaders and the Co-ordinators in the Parish.

One of the best ways you can support your Leaders and each other is by regular attendance at the various functions that your fellow members have arranged. It's great for bonding and morale when there is a good turn-up.

Some Considerations

1. **Be sensitive to, and grateful for, difference in personality.** These differences will sometimes frustrate you, but such differences also provide great potential for the enrichment of the group.
2. Help to organize a **"Family Group Calendar"** so that important dates, birthdays and anniversaries can be recognized and, perhaps, celebrated.
3. **It's fun to keep a Family Group Journal or Photo Album.**
4. **A Family Group Kitty** can provide for such items as flowers for sick members or little gifts for very special occasions such as the birth of a new little member etc.
5. **Plan well ahead for a family weekend away.** This is a very important time for the group because of the strong bonding that occurs so naturally. All members are encouraged to attend.
6. **It is the responsibility of the Group** to take it in turn looking after the organization of each monthly activity.
7. **New families** are always are always welcome and are placed in a Family Group by the Parish Co-ordinators in accordance with the spirit of the Family Group Movement.
8. The Golden Rule is **"Keep It Simple"** and **"Keep Smiling"**.

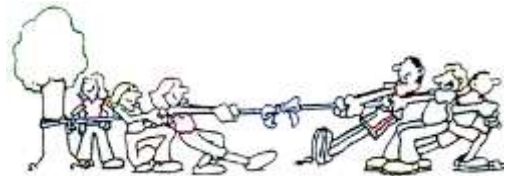


Some Suggestion for Family Group Activities

ADULTS: Casserole night
Soup and Sandwich supper or lunch
Wine and cheese evening
Progressive dinner
Simple catch up evenings with supper
Pot luck dinner
Bring a photo of yourself and tell the story
Christmas in July
International dinner evening
Men's cooking night



FAMILY: Weekend away (at least once a year)
Home Mass
Bush walk (geared to the youngest and oldest)
Tennis/Picnic day
Cricket match
Games night
Car rally/scavenger hunt ending with picnic
Family Group anniversary Mass
Bush or Line dance
Sports day
Mini Olympics



REMEMBER:

Leaders **do not** organize all the functions.
Members are requested to take it in turn.

All functions should be no cost or low cost. It's best to gear any function to the lowest common denominator so that nobody misses out due to funds.

It is strongly recommended that a weekend away is planned during the first 12 months. This is the best means of bonding the group, and should take place at an inexpensive venue. In our weekend venue book you will find many places allowing self-catering which cuts down on cost considerably.



The Aims Of The Family Group Movement

To get to know other
members of the Parish

To support each other, sharing each
others joys and sorrows, and so
building the Christian Community
as in the early Church.

To involve our children in our
Christian sharing directly, if possible.
If not, then indirectly by our example.