

What are we doing for Kick-Off Sunday next fall?

You might be thinking, whoa Carla, we're just trying to wrap up this formation program year. Who's thinking about next fall? But thinking **NOW** about next fall will really help you Kick-off to the first field goal of the new season.

First, take some time to reflect on this past formation season or year. Name the things that went well and name the things you think could have gone better. List your goals for next year in formation, and not just for the Sunday school class or youth group. List your formation goals for adult formation, stewardship, new comer orientation, baptismal and marriage preparations, etc.

Now, what pieces that you have in place already fit your new list of goals? What pieces are missing? Starting early means you'll have time to do solid resource research and pick the resources that will work best for your parish and context.

What is your timeline for each formation goal? I know we often think about "teaching stewardship" in the fall; but, stewardship is more than understanding how to complete a pledge card. Maybe the stewardship formation goal is "living a life that allows us to give back because God is so gracious." What formation opportunities and pieces of the puzzle need to go into place to meet the goal? What would yearlong stewardship formation look like?

Starting early often allows for more voices to be a part of the process and planning. Want to plan a successful youth program year? Then allow more time to hear from your youth and families about their hopes and ideas for the next year. Then select the ideas that fit that new goal. Doing less with high importance on quality and depth can take you further than trying to do more with little quality or depth.

Starting your planning process this early can also help your parish plan not only the formation goals; but, also how can you plan liturgical seasons and parish events to fit into your goals for the coming year. Sometimes we try to do too many good things, because they are good things, instead of focusing on the one **Better** thing that God is calling us to be at this time.

As always, if the Diocesan Resource Center can be a resource to you or you would like me or REGS Scheeler to meet with you to help in planning, we are just an email away.

Faithfully,

Carla +