



Kick-off Conversation Starters

This document contains a collection of questions for you to choose from when having conversations with parents. Each conversation will be different, but these key topic areas are intended to guide your discussion.

Introduction:

- Introduce yourself, your family, and your role and involvement at the parish.
- Explain the purpose of the conversation: to get to know them and answer any questions they may have.
- Be mindful of the environment and tone, following the conversation guidelines.

Family Life:

- Where do you work or go to school?
- Tell me about your family.
- What activities do you enjoy doing together?
- What activities are your kids involved in?

Parish:

- Why did you choose to send your kids to PREP?
- Do you know anyone at the parish? What brought you to the community?
- What do you enjoy about our parish?
- How long have you been attending Mass here? Which Mass do you usually go to?
- Are you currently involved in any parish ministries?
- Do you have any gifts or talents you would like to share in service to the parish?

Faith:

- How has God been present in your life?
- How did your parents nurture your faith? What do you remember learning about the faith as a child?
- Has becoming a parent changed your perspectives on God, faith, or the Church?
- What practices do you do as a family to pass on the faith? What would you like to implement? What does prayer look like in your home?
- How can the parish support your family's faith journey?

Parenting:

- What is the most challenging aspect of parenting for you right now?
- How could the Church better support parents?
- Do you feel connected to other PREP parents? If not, would you like to be?

Wrap Up:

- Do you have any other questions or concerns about PREP or the parish that we haven't already discussed?
 - Thank them for taking the time to talk.
 - Outline the next steps, following the conversation guidelines.
-



Guidelines for PREP Parent Conversations

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when planning and executing the conversations with PREP parents. The goal is to welcome parents, get to know them, and discern how to support them as parents and disciples.

Parent Liaisons need to have the ability to have these conversations with parents; however, may require support depending on the size of the PREP program. Large programs may require a team or targeted strategy. Thus, the Parent Liaison is accountable, but not responsible to interview all families by themselves.

Key Considerations

Desired Outcomes:

- Welcome and connect with parents.
- Understand their motivations for enrolling their children in PREP.
- Identify their needs and invite questions or concerns.

Who to meet?

- Prioritize families that are new to the parish/faith.
- Prioritize families preparing to receive sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.
- Consider assigning lower priority to families who are already engaged in their faith / parish life.

Principles to keep in mind:

- Environment: (1) *Ensure a private conversation and (2) hospitality: offer a drink of water, a place for younger children to play, etc.*
- Tone: (1) *Listen and ask questions and (2) seek first to understand before being understood.*

Scheduling:

- Offer different times of day or days of the week (e.g. during PREP, Sunday before after Mass, Zoom, etc.)
- Consider using a scheduling program (e.g. Calendly, Microsoft Booking)

Follow-up:

- Connect with parents to a ministry or group that they expressed interest in.
 - Seek answers to any questions they brought up.
 - Offer other appropriate next steps.
-