



ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD

Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life



Reimagining

Middle School Faith Formation

The Archdiocese of Hartford, through the work of the **Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life**, has begun an initiative to *reimagine adolescent catechesis in middle school* to help bring these youth into a lived relationship with Jesus Christ.

As part of this new initiative, the age of Confirmation will be lowered to spring of 8th grade or early fall of 9th grade. This matches the nationwide movement to lower the age when youth are confirmed so that they may receive the powerful grace of this sacrament during a time in their lives when they are experiencing challenges to their Catholic faith and morals.

The transition to lower the age of Confirmation, however, is part of a much larger vision that will include the following actions:

- Looking critically at the years leading up to early adolescence and how we are empowering parents to disciple their children with the support of the parish
- Redesigning our middle school faith formation methods
- Pastorally caring for adolescents through relational ministry and deep listening
- Creating robust high school youth ministry opportunities as part of a lifelong pathway of discipleship

For this change to bear the most fruit, we will take intentional and thoughtful steps towards full implementation. The *Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life* is working in consultation with priests and faith formation leaders to design the new model for middle school catechesis, to include sacramental preparation.

Parish leaders have been given the timeline for moving in this direction. Change comes with challenges, but can also bring about powerful transformations in the ways in which parishes are pastorally caring for adolescents.

I am very excited to see how the Holy Spirit will move through these efforts!

In Jesus' Name,

Kelly Henderschedt
Archdiocesan Director of Faith Formation and Parish Life
Archdiocese of Hartford