

## ***Working with Families***

### **Some Basic Guidelines:**

**ACCEPT:** Accept each family as people of worth with unique strengths, feelings and ways of reacting to life. This means being nonjudgmental and communicating honestly.

**RESPECT:** Respect each family for the job that they do. Respect the deep feelings involved in the family dynamics and relationships.

**SUPPORT:** Parents and families need friendly support and sympathetic understanding. Comfort often comes from airing problems to an understanding ear. Reassurance builds confidence.

**LISTEN:** Listening can be active, dynamic and vital. It can reflect each of the above; acceptance, respect and support. The very willingness to listen denotes an appreciation of what families have to share. It confirms a basic respect for the individuals and an interest in what they are saying.

**BE:** Availability promotes good communication. Explanation and discussion can eliminate misunderstandings. Attempt to develop a feeling of common concern, shared by catechist, volunteer, leaders and parents, for each other's growth.

**LEARN:** Parents and children can and will share many things that help catechists and leaders know and understand the family. Be genuinely receptive. Catechists and leaders too, can grow and change.

**INVOLVE:** Families can learn by participating and being involved in activities and programs. Be creative in developing ways to involve families. Discover and use their individual talents.

