Whole-person education is vital in the life of a child for soulful reasons and for the good of society. Because child-rearing also impacts the mission of the Catholic School, the Church now calls Catholic Schools to be agencies of formative education for parents as well as students. Therefore, teachers require formative support for their own professional development and to be prepared to offer practical resources to parents.

Formative education supports whole-person development, that is, education that fosters spiritual, social, psychological, emotional, and moral maturity.

Through publication, program development, and public speaking the Office of Formative Support focuses on issues of positive identity (self-esteem), character development, self-discipline, morality, discipleship, and spiritual growth.

“What is equal to training the soul, and forming the mind of one that is young?”

Saint John Chrysostom
4th Century Doctor of the Church

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“"What is needed is to prepare the lay faithful to dedicate themselves to the work of rearing their children as a true and proper part of Church mission.”

Pope John Paul II, 1988
The Members of Christ’s Faithful People
Presentations, In-Services, Workshops, & Retreats for:

Parents
Teachers & Catechists
Administrators & DREs
Adult Education Classes

Formative Issues for Parents & Teachers
• Self-Esteem
• Self-Discipline
• Moral Maturity
• Character Development
• Positive Soul Formation
• Parents & Teachers – Partners in Formation

Professional Development
• Catholic Schools – Agencies of Formation Education
• Classroom Management
• Working Effectively with Parents
• Working Effectively with Teachers
• Meeting the Needs of Middle School Students

Dr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM is an international formation education consultant. Her practical experience in education includes both classroom and administration experience at the elementary, secondary, and college levels. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in theology and sociology and a master’s degree in K-8 education, she holds a doctorate in private school administration. Currently, Dr. McCormack is director of the IHM Office of Formative Support for Parents and Teachers, Arlington, VA. She is the author of the “Parent Partnership Handbook” feature of Today’s Catholic Teacher magazine, numerous articles, and several books:

(1) Positive Soul Formation – A Teacher/Parent Guide to Child Development (2005), Pflaum Publications.

(2) Student Self-Discipline in the Classroom and Beyond (2003), NCEA.

(3) Fostering Student Self-Esteem in the Catholic Elementary School (1999), NCEA.

Companionship Christ in Mission
• ABCs of Catholic Identity
• The Principal – STEWARD of Compassion
• Mary – Mentor & Model for Ministry
• Evangelizing the Parent Community

Nurturing Spirituality (Retreat Themes)
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• Lent
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• Mary
• Holy Spirit
• Confirmation
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Family Life
• Catholic Family Character
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• Essential Elements of Happy Homes
• Mary, Family Guide for the Journey Home