



Defining an Interdisciplinary Model of Family Formation for Church Leaders

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- an immense *wealth*,
- a fundamental *lack*,
- and the *gap* between the two.



An immense wealth

A family-focused revitalization of our evangelization efforts across ministries is absolutely essential if the renewed interest in the faith that we are witnessing—and, in particular, in the Catholic faith—is to be sustained over time and transform our culture from within.



A lack

Many Catholic dioceses lack dedicated leaders for marriage and family ministry. Furthermore, we lack leaders from other ministries who know how to adequately handle the family dimension of their ministry—and the fundamental family dimension of each of the people they serve through it.



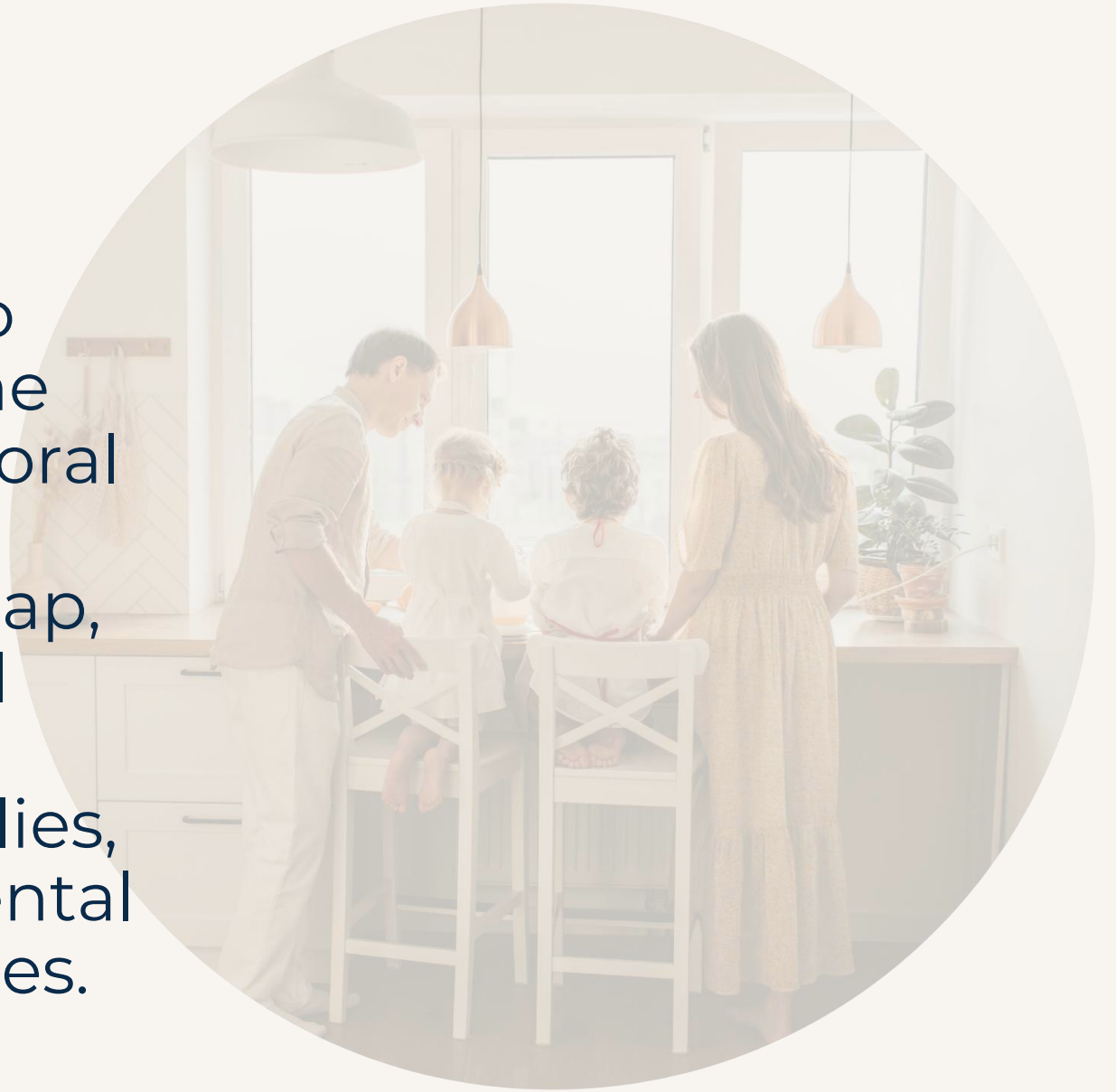
Called to the Joy of Love (USCCB, 2021)

It is of paramount importance that marriage and family life directors and other leaders entrusted with the responsibility of caring for couples and families receive spiritual enrichment, theological training, and ongoing formation in any areas that concern the well-being and promotion of married couples and families.



Bridging the gap

Our primary challenge is to bridge the gap between the Church's wisdom and pastoral practices in parishes and dioceses. In bridging this gap, a Family Life credential will equip pastoral leaders to effectively minister to families, recognizing their fundamental calling as domestic churches.



Bridging the gap

At CatholicIU we envision an academically rigorous yet practical, family-focused program to equip the Church's leaders with a comprehensive vision of ministry with families.

We need your help to design it in a way that truly meets the needs of Church leaders.



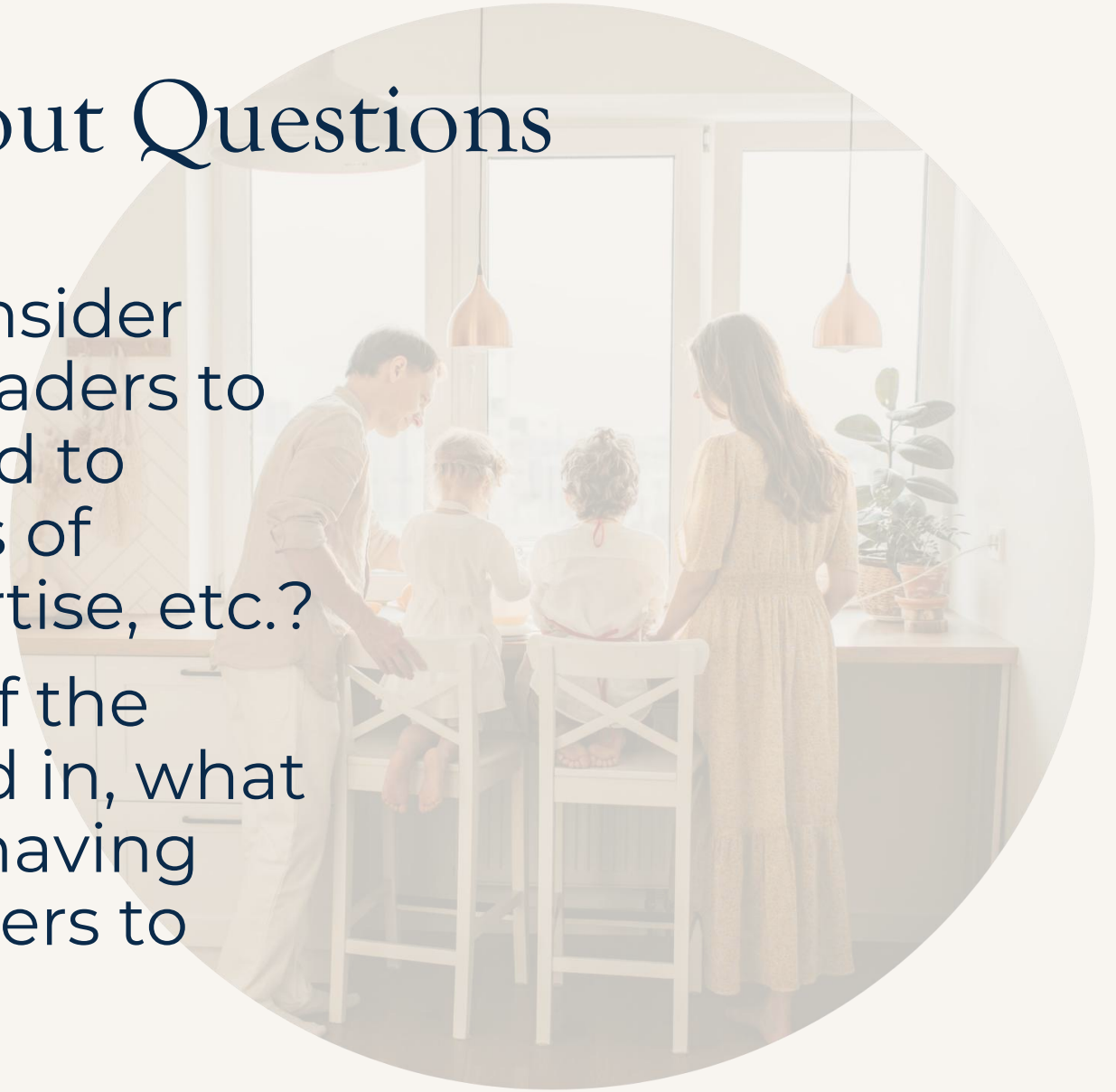
Workshop Objective

Participants will collaborate in working groups to develop a practical, mission-driven educational toolkit to support pastoral ministry with families and help shape this national formation initiative.



Small Groups: Breakout Questions

- 1) What aspects do I consider fundamental for Church leaders to be personally well-prepared to serve families today? Areas of knowledge, practical expertise, etc.?
- 2) From the viewpoint of the ministry that I am engaged in, what are the main obstacles to having well-prepared Church leaders to accompany families?



Small Groups: Breakout Questions

3) What are the relevant strengths for someone in my ministry to embark on a process of changing the paradigm of family accompaniment in the Church?

4) What would be the essential characteristics of a university program designed to enhance the preparation of Church leaders to help families live and build an authentic faithful family life?

