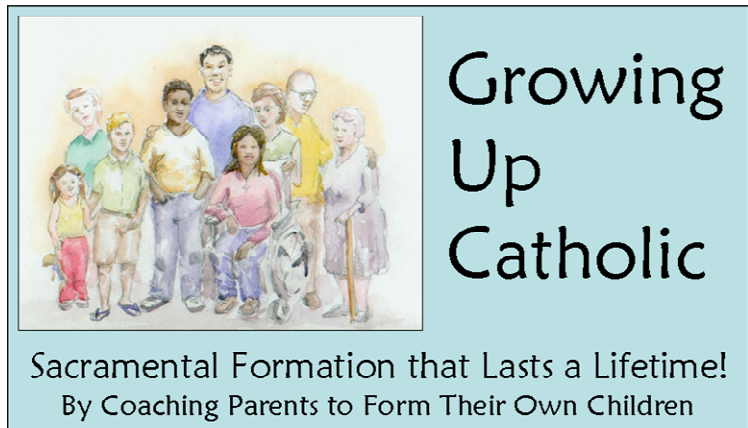


Parents who have gone through separation or divorce or are living in situations outside the norm of the Church

These parents, grandparents, guardians, partners, step moms and dads, and their children need special care. If the parents are the true catechists, then we may find ourselves in a position of having to coach both parents, even if they do not live together any longer. Both may well be involved in the faith lives of their children. With **Growing Up Catholic**, this is not a problem because you may simply provide copies of all the lessons to both parents. You may also send to both homes materials for missed sessions.



Note that **parents may also be single** (often intentionally) and **single parents may sometimes be dating other adults or living with a partner** with or without the intention or plan to eventually marry. This is very common. Again, in sacramental formation, we cannot hide these facts but we can invite all the parties involved with the formation of each child to participate. By doing so, we offer them a chance to reflect on their own lives and help them make those lives holy.

You may also have **gay or lesbian couples** within your parish who do not fall neatly into any category, but whose needs should still be met.

Whatever the living arrangements of our parents, we should open the door and invite them in. We can sort out later any "irregularities" which we may feel compelled to name and confront. But the important thing is to make sure they feel welcome among us, along with their children. We want these to be households of faith as much as we do those two-parent, both-Catholic, married-for-the-first time households.