

PARISH COORDINATORS

Passionist Family Group Movement



The Primary Qualities of Coordinators

- Enthusiastic and committed to building community in the parish.
- Be sensitive to people's needs, be approachable, be reasonably well organised and have good communication skills.

What Work Is Involved?

- Primary duty is to offer support and encouragement to the coordinators in each Family Group. This can be done through phone calls, but getting together on a social basis (e.g. having Group Leaders over for a meal) can build trust and confidence.
- Attend the annual Regional Leader Refresher sessions with their Group Coordinators.
- Commit to visiting one function of each Family Group annually..
- Together with the Parish Pastor, place new families into groups.
- Parish Coordinators are placed in a Family Group but are not asked to exercise leadership within the group.

Term of Service

- The initial appointment is for 12 months with the option to continue for a further 2 year term.

Meetings

- Call their Group Coordinators together regularly (every 6 weeks) for a meeting. These meetings allow all coordinators to share their 'stories', joys, difficulties, and ideas for promoting the Passionist Family Group spirit. There ought to be time for general conversation after the meeting.

Relationship with the Parish Pastor & the Parish

- Communicate regularly with the pastor to give and receive feedback on the PFGM in the parish.
- Complete an annual report on PFGM activities in the Parish for the Parish Pastor.
- Plan dates of meetings with group coordinators so that the pastor can attend wherever possible. However, remember that the pastor has more to be concerned

about than Passionist Family Groups, and they must be realistic in their expectations of him/her.

- Regional Coordinators will also attend the six weekly meetings from time to time (usually annually) so they also need to be given dates planned for meetings.
- Promote PFG activities and provide on-going awareness of the Family Groups in the Parish.
- Seek the recruitment of new members and ensure that old and new parishioners understand that they are welcome to join. Use some method (e.g. notice board, photo board, parish and school newsletter, speakers at masses) for advertising the existence of Family Groups within the parish. *Personal invitation has proved to be a very effective method of attracting new members.*

Sharing the Co-coordinating

- If there are more than eight groups, other Co-coordinators or assistant coordinators could be appointed to form a Parish Co-coordinating team.

Conclusion

The major support and direction for Coordinators comes from the Regional Coordinators and Passionist Directors. This is crucial for the growth of Family Groups in the local parish. It is the responsibility of the Passionist team to read the signs of the times, to adapt where necessary and to provide Coordinators with support, advice and ideas for continuing their role.