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Appendices

Appendix 1 Letter to South Central Zone of Priests

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10 Templetonia Rt
Canning Vale 6155 WA
Phone: 9212 9263
c.suart@ceowa.perth.Catholic.edu.au

Secretary
Southern Central Zone of Priests
[address]

Dear Fathers
Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Carmel Suart. I am a Doctor of Education (EdD) student at the University of Notre Dame. My study is being supervised by Dr Roger Vallance. I have been a consultant with the Archdiocesan Catechist Service for ten years, more lately working with Sr Margaret Anne Beech. During the past four years I have been working in the area of family catechesis within the Archdiocese. I have worked with many groups of parents throughout the State assisting them in their role as first educators of their children in faith.

As a result I have produced and published a *Parent Support Package* which accompanies the catechist Program *The Truth will set you free* and the family discussion papers, *Living, Loving, Learning*, which many priests have made available to the parents within parishes. My work in the area of family catechesis has led me to pursue an interest in the ways families nurture the faith of their children within the context of the home.

I am seeking approval to conduct part of my research towards my degree with a group of your parishioners. I am looking for the parents of primary school children who do not access Catholic schools. To inform this group of parents about the research and to invite them to participate, I would like to talk to congregations in various parishes about the purpose and nature of the research. The talk will be at notice time after communion, at your weekend Masses and will be approximately three to four minutes.

I also wish to place brochures on pews with information about the research at each Mass inviting parishioners, who fall into the categories eligible for the research, to participate. A tear off slip to register an expression of interest to participants in the research will be included in the brochure.

I am hoping that this request meets with your approval. I will contact you by phone in mid September to make an appointment to further explain the purpose and benefits of this research. I will also seek your permission for the research to be conducted in your parish. If you need any clarifications before I contact you in mid September, please contact me by email or by phone at the Catholic Education Office of WA.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours Sincerely

Carmel Suart

Appendix 2 Letter of Confirmation to Parish Priests

---

10 Templetonia Rt

Canning Vale WA 6155

31 July 2001

suart.carmel@cathednet.wa.edu.au

[address of parish]

Dear Father

Thank you for granting me access into your parish community to address your congregation on the nature and purpose of my study. I wish to confirm the following details from our conversation on [date].

Date(s)
Time(s)

As agreed, the talk will take place after the communion prayer; will be between three and five minutes; and the brochures will be place in the foyer of the Church.

I once again stress that it is not mandatory for the parish to participate in the study and parents will be invited into the study only if they fill out an expression of interest. The box for the reply slips will be collected from the foyer on [date].

Once again I thank you for your support. I am truly grateful.

Yours truly,

Carmel Suart

Appendix 3 Letter to Parish Priest in Merredin Zone

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10 Templetonia Rt

Canning Vale WA 6155

20 October 2001

suart.carmel@cathednet.wa.edu.au

[address of parish]

Dear Father

I hope you have settled into your new parish without too many headaches. I am sure that the people are very happy to have you as their parish priest.

Father, I am not sure if you are aware that in my other life, I am a Doctor of Education (EdD) student at the University of Notre Dame. I am conducting a study on the ways families nurture the faith of their children within the context of family life. The aim of the study is to develop resources that will better support parents in your efforts to nurture faith within the home.

I am seeking approval to conduct part of my research in your parish zone. I am appealing to the parents of primary school children who **do not** attend Catholic schools to assist me in my research. This particular group is an under researched group. I wish to tap into this group of parents to uncover how they nurture faith within the home and the struggles that they may be facing in doing so. Most research to date has centred on the Catholic school.

I am interested in both a city and rural perspectives. I have chosen Merriden zone, as I know that there are no Catholic schools in the immediate area and thus most Catholic children attend the local state school.

To inform this group of parents about the research and to invite them to participate, I am prepared to come into the community and talk at Mass, after communion on a weekend. The talk will be approximately three to four minutes. Alternatively, if there is a more practical way, I would be more than grateful for suggestions. I know your numbers may be small but every participant makes a valuable contribution.

Enclosed is the brochure with the information I give to parents, with a tear off slip to register an expression of interest for those are interested in finding out more about the study. What is required by the participant is approximately 45 minutes for an interview at a time and place which is convenient to them. Phone interviews would also be a consideration.

I am hoping that this request meets with your approval if you think the Merriden zone is a suitable area for the study. Please contact me by email or by phone on 9212 9263 at the Catholic Education Office to discuss the matter further. Your parish will be the only country parish in the study at this stage.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. Hope to hear from you soon.

Yours Sincerely

Carmel Suart

Appendix 4 Letter to Coordinators

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10 Templetonia Rt

Canning Vale WA 6155

29 July 2003

suart.carmel@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Dear [name of PREP Coordinator]

Thank you for assisting me in distributing this information to the parents in your PREP. I have enclosed a letter and a pamphlet in each envelope for you to pass on to each **family** in your classes. The letter explains the purpose of the study and invites parents to participate if they so wish.

I have requested that expressions of interest are returned to you at next [name day] classes or that they post them directly to me. I have enclosed a stamped and address envelope for you to send the ones that are returned to you next [name day].

I appreciate your support. I hope that some parents will want to participate in the study. If there are any problems please do not hesitate to contact me at work on 9212 9263 or at home on 9455 1837.

Thank you.

Carmel Suart

Appendix 5 Letters to Parent of PREP

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10 Templetonia Retreat
Canning Vale WA 6155
29 July 2003

Dear Parents

My name is Carmel Suart. I am a Doctor of Education student at the University of Notre Dame. I am conducting a study on the ways families nurture the faith of their children within the context of family life. The aim of the study is to develop resources that will better support parents in your efforts to nurture faith within the home.

I am appealing to the parents of primary school children who **do not** attend Catholic schools to assist me in my research. This particular group is an under researched group. Most research has centred on the Catholic school. I wish to tap into this group of parents who do not have the support of Catholic schools for the faith education of your children to uncover how you nurture faith within your homes and the struggles that you may be facing. To do this, I would like to conduct a face to face interview. The interview is a one off and will take approximately 45 minutes at a time and place which is convenient to you.

I need your help. I have the support of your parish priest to conduct the research in the parish. At this stage I am in need of at least 16 people for my study to be viable. I know you fit this category so your contribution will be invaluable to me. I will ensure that your responses will be confidential and that all reporting will preserve the anonymity of each participant and parish.

You will find out more about the study in the enclosed pamphlet. Please take a moment to read the information and give consideration to supporting the study by filling in the expression of interest slip on the brochure. Place the slip in the envelope provided and return it via your child within the next two weeks or post it to the above address.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Carmel Suart

Carmel Suart, College of Education, University of Notre Dame Australia.

Appendix 6 Brochure

Appendix 7 An undertaking of Research Confidentiality

This document is an explicit agreement that the subjects of my research will not be identified in any works that I publish or otherwise produce.

No parent who is the subject of my research will be identified by name or description.

The parish and situation that becomes part of my research will be dealt with in a manner that will prevent identification of people, places and particular parish.

Parents will be offered the chance to choose a name that will be used in all transcripts of the interviews. I will use this name of convenience in all work from the original transcription onwards.

Parishes will be similarly disguised with a numerical code for parishes and parish priests, and other names which may arise.

This undertaking of anonymity within my research process is my preferred way of ensuring that participants have confidence that they are adequately protected and that material from the research will not become prejudicial to their interests.

It is anticipated that findings of this research project will be written up in a doctoral thesis, form part of professional journal articles, and may be included within Chapters of a book about nurturing faith within the home. The undertakings of anonymity pertain to all uses of these data.

Signed Date

Carmel Suart, College of Education, University of Notre Dame Australia.

Appendix 8 Interview Schedule With Parents Of Primary School Aged Children Who Do Not Attend A Catholic School

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Thank you for volunteering to this interview.

I will tape this interview so that I can have an accurate record of our conversation? Is that OK with you?

The idea of this interview is to explore how faith is nurtured within your home.

Firstly, let's talk about your children.

1 How many children do you have?

What are their ages?

What are their gender?

Do they attend PREP?

How did they come to attend PREP?

[If children do not attend PREP]

Do your children receive formal Religious Education outside the home?

Where does this take place?

Did you attend a Catholic school?

Did your spouse attend a Catholic school?

2 Can you describe what faith is for you?
Why is **faith** important to you? (Why is it worth the effort?)

3 How do you put this understanding of faith into practice within your home?

4 What do you desire for your children in terms of their faith?

5 What are your main concerns about nurturing the faith of your children today?
What do you feel hinders you from nurturing the faith of your children?

6 What do you think will benefit you as a parent in assisting you to nurture the faith of your children?

7 What, for you, is the essence of nurturing faith within your home?
How could you sum up your experience for me with a metaphor, a simple picture or description?
What story about faith education do you want me to hear from you?

Thank you for volunteering your time.

Appendix 9 Parish Profile

Parish Profile

Name of Parish _____

Suburb_____

Approximate population of the parish less than 1000 ☐
1000 - 3000 ☐
3000 – 6000 ☐
more than 7000 ☐

Age of the parish (Years of establishment)_____

Average age of the parishioners? Mainly Young families ☐
Mainly Middle aged ☐
Mainly Retired ☐

Ethnic make up of the parish? _____

_____

_____

_____

Number of Catholic primary schools within the parish_____

Number of non Catholic primary schools within the parish _____

To protect the identity of the parish, parish priest and parents please choose a fictional name by which you would like to be referred to within the study.

_____

_____

Please return this form in the stamped self addressed envelope provided.