St. Simon parish CFF programs have been emphasizing on partnering with the parents to cultivate the faith for the children and families. Our leaders and catechists have been reinforcing what we teach at Church with the parents at home through newsletters and weekly lesson recap emails. These teaching techniques have built close relationships between the CFF office personnel, the catechists and parents.

When the Covid-19 pandemic brought us the suspension of all public Masses in the diocese and the order of “Shelter-in-place,” the CFF programs were quickly and smoothly transitioned to long-distance learning. We organized a Livestreaming First Eucharist retreat and Faith Formation handouts were mailed home for the parents. Online resources were emailed to the parents together with catechists’ lesson plans for the parents to facilitate the regular Faith Formation sessions at home. We encourage the parents and children to set up prayer tables at home for the online Masses and Faith Formation sessions. Our parish catechists are so amazing with their compassion and dedication. They shared their reflection and inspiration with the parents and encouraged the parents and children to pray with them during this difficult time.

The Parent Faith Formation sessions, during the CFF, also quickly turned to Sunday weekly Zoom sessions. We are blessed to have our dedicated staff and volunteers who have been working harder to walk with the families during this challenging time, assisting parents to bring the faith home and coach them to be the primary educators and catechists for their children.

Below are some of the pictures the parents have sent to us during the First Eucharist Retreat and Faith Formation session at home.