

CONSIDERATIONS ON CATECHESIS

FROM THE FONT

FROM THE FONT...

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THIS?



# LET'S FACE THE FACTS

- Our babies are disappearing after baptism.
- Only 23% of Christians came to faith after age 21.
- Many adolescents lack the ability to speak articulately about their faith.
- They believe that religion is not terribly important in daily life.
- Subscribe to watered-down belief system.



YOU SHALL TEACH THEM  
DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND  
SHALL TALK OF THEM...





# DEUTERONOMY

## 6:6-9

- "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."



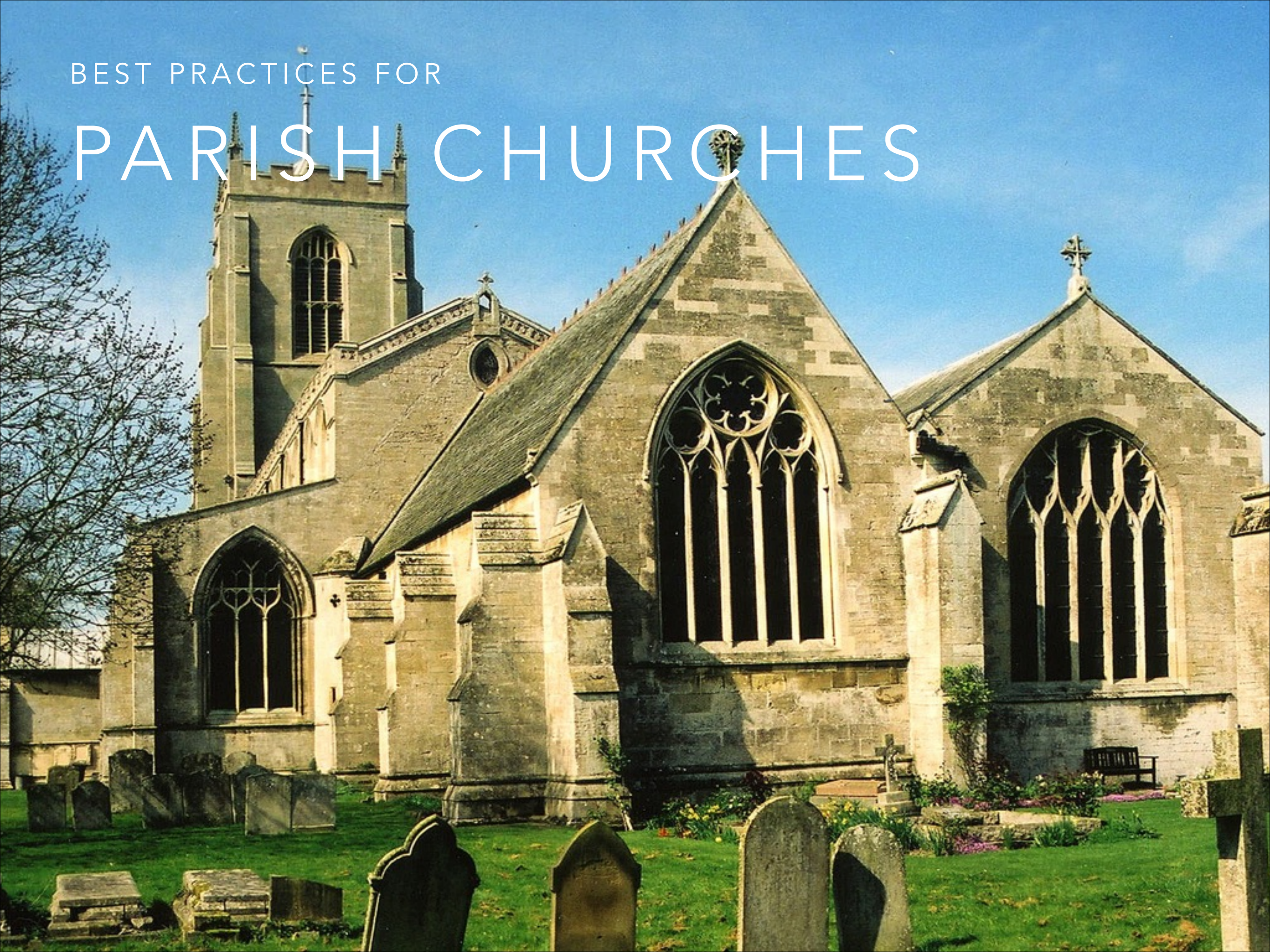
# HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT REFLECTS THIS...

- The household (oikos) is the primary agent of mission and evangelism.
- Whole households come to faith. (Acts 10, 16)
- Paul spends time instructing on family relationships. (Cor. 7, Ephesians 5, Col. 3, 1Tim. 3)
- The ancient church grew 40% every decade through procreation, adoption, and evangelism. (Stark)



BEST PRACTICES FOR

# PARISH CHURCHES





# LITURGICAL CATECHESIS

- The work of the Church in worshipping, administering the sacraments, observing the calendar, etc. all circumscribes a deliberate course of training in discipleship.
- The liturgy informs catechesis and catechesis informs the liturgy.
- Cradle to grave.



# BEST PRACTICES

- The parish church empowers families to live out their vocations, especially to parents as catechists of their children by:
- Actively encouraging participation of the whole family in liturgy.
- Providing resources to families (books, bibles, family liturgies, coaching.)
- Involving parents in existing programs (youth ministry, Sunday school, nursery ministry, VBS, etc.)

# BEST PRACTICES

- Parents are required to complete a course of catechesis prior to their children's baptism, preferably before marriage.
- Materials for children focus on Biblical content/narrative.
- Confirmation goes from graduation to ownership/commissioning/empowerment. Materials focus on conversion and doctrine.



# A FEW PRINCIPLES

- Subsidiarity - "One should not withdraw from individuals and commit to the community what they can accomplish by their own enterprise and industry."
- Solidarity - Goods - both temporal and spiritual - are to be shared.
- Parish churches need to be investing in and resourcing households for *from the font* catechesis.

QUESTION:

WHAT GOOD  
THINGS IS YOUR  
PARISH DOING  
FROM THE FONT?





QUESTION:

HOW CAN YOU  
INVEST IN  
FAMILIES?



QUESTION:

WHAT  
RESOURCES  
CAN YOU GIVE  
FAMILIES?





