In our time the demands on our personal/family life are unprecedented and especially so for families with members who have developmental disabilities:

We have many new family responsibilities:

in education (dealing with budget cuts and child abuse.)

in nutrition (dealing with pollutants, trans-fat, fast food, carcinogens in our food) with medical issues (the expense of care, the need to always be an advocate for the patient.)

Our lives are complicated:

We have more choices

There’s more demand for fewer quality supplies and services

We need always to be alert consumers…there’s a lot of gimmicks and dishonesty

There is a spiritual void in the services to our families. We have better medical services for our children; there are some inclusive recreational activities and Special Olympic sports; there are often good residential choices for our children; there are usually adequate or even exceptional educational and vocational opportunities and services for our children. But there is frequently a void in regard to healthy spiritual activities for our children. This is where Faith and Light fills the void. We offer warm, committed relationships which support the spiritual life of our families. More than CCD, we offer an extended family and a support in ordinary and extraordinary times.

**Suggestions on supporting leadership in Faith and Light**

Help your leaders:

* Make phone calls: inform people of coming events, share information about members
* Be a transportation coordinator; make sure every one has a ride to the meeting
* Be a snack coordinator
* Be the person in charge of setting up the meeting site
* Be the music leader; the lead singer, the organizer of the music, the planner of the songs for each meeting
* Help plan the meeting; the suggestions are already prepared for you in the guidelines
* Be the leader for the meeting; the coordinator of the community doesn’t have to lead each meeting
* Be the prayer leader for the meeting; plan the prayers; lead them
* Volunteer to be treasurer for the community, collect and send the dues