



Dear Parish Faith Formation Leaders, Youth Ministers and Sacramental Preparation Coordinators,

We know that you have been working hard this summer planning for faith formation during these uncertain times and we are so grateful for your dedication to those you serve. To assist you with your planning, the OEEC has developed Directives to help you discern whether or not your parish is able to safely gather children in person this fall. These Directives come from the State of Connecticut Department of Education for return to in-person instruction, but are adapted for faith formation settings. Father Michael Whyte, the Vicar for Education, Evangelization and Catechesis has approved these Directives for your use.

The first document, "Directives for In-Person Instruction" covers all that must be considered in order to gather children in-person this fall. This will help you discern if your parish is able to proceed with gathered sessions. If after reading through this document, it becomes clear that your parish can address the health and safety Directives, then you will be asked to develop an action strategy. The second document, "Return to In Person Strategy" is a template you will use to map out your action plan for in-person instruction. This plan is to be completed, signed by your pastor and returned to the OEEC by **August 24th**.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the OEEC with your questions and concerns at any time. Be assured of our prayers for you as you move forward with your plans for ministering to the children, youth and families.

May we all lean into the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we collectively work to build God's Kingdom in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly Henderschedt, Archdiocesan Director of Catechesis

Ana Maria Hernandez Alstrum, Archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Catechesis

