

Deanery Meeting Recap

July 15, 2020

For those who were unable to attend yesterday's deanery meeting on digital strategies for faith formation, here are some highlights from both the morning and evening gatherings:

- A comprehensive document on returning to in-person faith formation will be sent to you on August 1st. This will outline directives that stem from the State of CT for gathering children for in-person learning.
- A virtual meeting is being planned to learn more about Zoom as a potential platform for faith formation. This discussion will be led by Deb Pelletier and Gina Raymond, who both have extensive experience using Zoom in education settings. More details to come!
- Many parishes are planning on utilizing a blended approach with much of the faith formation happening virtually and with at-home resources. DREs are planning on using designated websites (or sections of existing websites), playlists of activities, take home kits, and virtual class-time using platforms like Zoom. Facebook Live and YouTube Live are also possible ways to connect with families at home. Flipped classroom models are also being implemented where children and youth would watch videos at home and then gather together for discussion and follow up.
- Some parishes are planning limited in-person faith formation with rotating schedules, reduced class sizes, and social distancing...for either all of the program, or for the sacramental years only. Parents who are not comfortable will be given options to utilize digital and at home faith formation.
- Two other platforms that are especially interactive for younger grades are the following:
 - [FlipGrid](#)
 - Here's a [webinar](#) from Our Sunday Visitor that looks more closely at FlipGrid and here's a [YouTube Video](#) that explains this interactive platform.
 - [Padlet](#)
 - This is like a free interactive bulletin board that children and families can interact with. Questions can be posted and children and families can upload their responses, pictures, videos. Here's a [blog post](#) called "30 Creative Ways to Use Padlet" And here's a [YouTube video](#) on classroom usage.
 - These are neat interactive tools, and could supplement other virtual platforms. Please keep in mind that it is too much to learn everything yourself! Poke around and pick what you truly think will benefit your families. Even if one or two teachers learned these platforms for their classes or families, that would be a start. If you have catechists who are also school teachers, they may already be familiar with their platforms. But you don't need to use everything out there!
- For those who are planning on really breaking open scripture with your families this fall, check out the excellent short [videos](#) from St. Mary's Press. These would be perfect in a playlist!
- This year's theme should be the following: STAY FLEXIBLE AND KEEP IT SIMPLE! This will benefit the families, your catechists and most importantly....YOU!

Let me know if how I can best support your efforts!

Peace, Kelly Henderschedt

Kelly.henderschedt@aohct.org



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