Spiritual Engagement of Adults in the Time of Coronavirus

May 5, 2020
1:00 & 7:00 PM
OEEC GoToWebinar

A Prayer in the Midst of the Present Crisis

God of all mercies, grant:
To everyone around the world, safety and good health:
To those afflicted with COVID-19, swift healing;
To the frightened, courage;
To the dying, comfort;
To the dead, eternal life;
To health-care providers, strength and stamina;
To our leaders, wisdom and compassion;
To our nation, unity of purpose;
To the Church, the grace to serve the suffering selflessly;
To all believers, strong faith in Your presence;
To the whole human family, unity of heart; and
To us, your servants, the reward of knowing that we are doing Your will when we spend ourselves in loving service of others.

Adapted from Pastoral letter from Fordham President Joseph M. McShane, S.J. 5.3.2020 Día de la Santa Cruz

Some Quick Points of Note Before We Begin:

This webinar will be recorded for future viewing. A link will be shared.

Webcams will not be shared; all attendees will be muted until the time of discussion.

You can control on the top of your screen whether you see all presenters, just the speaker, etc.

Feel free to add questions in the "Questions" tab or contribute to the "Chat" tab.

Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC)

Ana Maria Hernandez Alstrum

Archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Catechesis

Kelly Henderschedt

Archdiocesan Director of Catechesis

Lisa Orchen

Archdiocesan Director of Catechetical Initiatives

Nicole M. Perone

Archdiocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation

1. Remember that "adulthood" is a broad umbrella...

Older Adults

Mature Adults

Midlife Adults

Young Adults

... as is "spiritual engagement."

Missionary Discipleship

Discipleship

Evangelization

Pre-Evangelization

Consider the emotional stages as well.

Be not afraid!

Ask what people want and need.

2. Double down on digital efforts.

- If your parish is not already on Facebook, now is the best time to create a parish Facebook page.
- Plug in to meeting hosting software such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, or Google Hangouts (etc.)
- Review the OEEC's library of digital resources.
- Take suggestions from your community.
- Use your email blast system (Flocknote, Constant Contact, the parish website host, etc.) to cultivate weekly newsletters.

Be prepared to coach members of the community who are not super technologically literate!

It is worth the time
to increase connection and engagement.

A quick note on social media:

- Avoid the temptation to try to be all things to all people.
- Don't try to reinvent the wheel; just be your most authentic self as a community in the digital sphere.
- Asses what your parish does best in "normative times"; replicate those few things really well.

3. Get creative with what you offer.

Not everything has to be “overtly religious” but can instead be “back-door formation” or “back-door catechesis.”

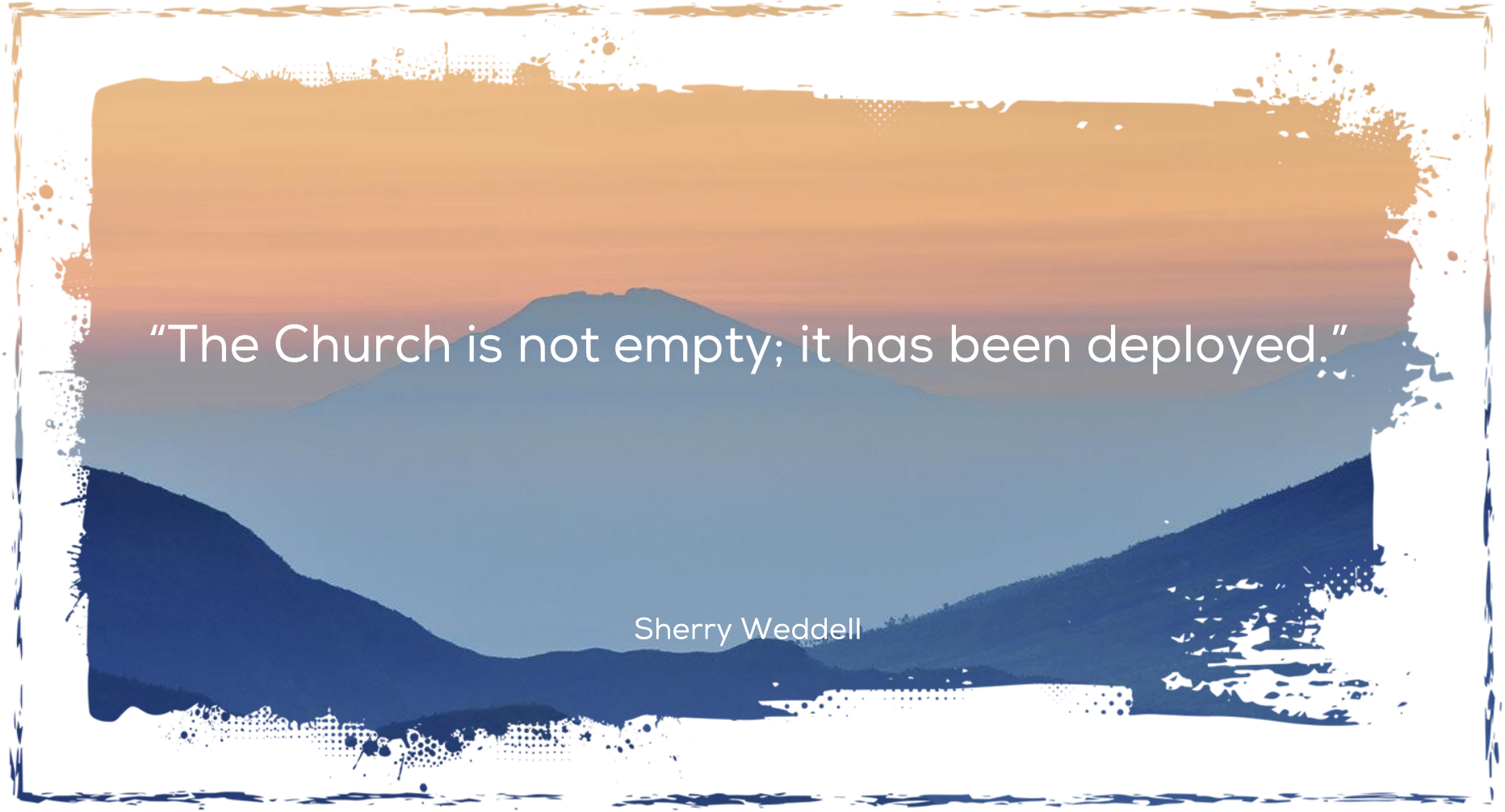
4. Works of Mercy are always appropriate.

Focusing your parish on both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy can be a way to engage all members of the community in Christian charity, while tying each back to the impact on our identity as disciples.

5. Let all that you offer be focused on joy and hope.

- Let the contagion you spread be the joy of the Gospel.
- Now is not the time to zone in on instructional catechesis on doctrine or suffering.
- “Sanctify this time”

"It is in times like these
when people are looking for
something to anchor themselves to.
Let it be our parish communities
that rise to the occasion
and serve the mission field
with courage, faith and creativity."
Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP


“The Church is not empty; it has been deployed.”
Sherry Weddell

Local Snapshot:

Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony, Hartford

Deb Pelletier
Coordinator of Religious Education
& Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Local Snapshot:
Saint Ann, Avon

Ann DiStefano
Director of Adult Education

Local Snapshot:

Saint Joachim, New Britain

Carmen Martinez
Coordinator of Religious Education/Faith Formation

Sharing and Conversation

Is there something you wish to celebrate, workshop, or clarify?

Attendees are still muted;
please click the “raise hand” option or indicate in the chat that you would like to speak.

Feel free to add questions in the “Questions” tab or contribute to the “Chat” tab – we will share them aloud for contributors to respond.

Thank You for Joining Us!

Questions or Follow-Up:

Contact Nicole Perone at:

Nicole.Perone@AOHCT.org