

Planning for Children's Religious Education

During the Covid-19 Crisis

Overview

1. Catholic Comeback
2. Settings for faith formation
3. Safe and Successful
4. Recommendations for Planning

Children's Faith Formation

Preliminary Thoughts

- This year will be different
- Parents are Key
- Community still important
- Safety, Flexibility, Creativity, Simplicity

Catholic Comeback: Religious Education

2020-2021 Beginning in Fall

1

Yes, with social distancing and less than 50 in attendance. Small groups encouraged. For family program, social distancing by household. At-home and online formation are options.

2

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3

Yes, but may still want to supplement with online and take-home options.

Possible Settings

- 1. In Person programs** as in the past – grade-level classes, large family gathering, etc.
- 2. In Person, with limitations** - smaller groups, social distance, staggered times, careful interactions.
- 3. Home-based formation** – resources & guidance for parents to foster learning / prayer in the family.
- 4. Virtual classes or gatherings** – students or families meet online.

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Options to Consider

- In person or Virtual?
- In the parish or at-home?
- Gathered or non-gathered?
- Real-time or asynchronous?
- Family-focused or age-specific?

Factors to Consider

- Impact on Families
- Facilities and Meeting space
- Readiness of Catechists and Staff
- Tech Capabilities
- Variable participation

In Person Programs

- Effective and Familiar
- Logistics for Safety
 - Smaller groupings
 - Social distance
 - Sanitizing
 - Masks
 - Materials
 - Coming and Going
 - Schedule – short periods, less frequent or staggered



Home-Based Programs

- Affirm Parents' Role
- Easy to implement
- Impact on Family?
- Participation and sustainability?
- How to assess?
- Family-friendly materials and process
- Parent expectations
- Simplicity



Virtual Programs

- Flexibility
- In the home, but connected
- Everyone have access?
- Technology issues
- Real-time and/or Asynchronous
- Shorter sessions
- Instruct on tech and etiquette
- Safe Environment



Planning

- **Plan B** – Ready to switch models, if needed
- **Blended or Hybrid** – Combining two or more models during year
- **Options** – Families choose one

Models of Faith Formation

- In Person Classes
- In Person Family Program
- Take Home Activities
- Flipped Classroom
- Virtual/Online Classes
- Smaller Groups / Alternate Schedule
- Home-based Family Formation
- Hybrid – alternating in-person and virtual
- Homeschool with Parent as teacher
- E-Learning using Learning Management System

Sample Menu of Opportunities

- September – October
 - Alternate In-Person and Virtual Classes
- Parent Gatherings once a month
- December
 - Advent at Home packet – learn, act, pray
- January-March
 - Alternate In Person and Virtual Classes
 - Holy Week at Home – learn, act, pray
- April-May – Final In-Person classes



Planning 2020-2021

- Local Decision
- Catholic Comeback – Parameters
- Listen
- Do something. Connect
- Parish Responsibility and Collaboration

Planning 2020-2021

- Encourage In-Person where Safe
- Opportunity to Engage Families
- Schools – Catholic and Public
- Later Start Date
- Communication
- Orientation for parents and children
- Ready to Pivot

Planning 2020-2021

- Content – grade-specific curriculum
- Resources – print and/or electronic
- Community Connections – how to foster?
- Catechists – what is their role?
- Parent Role – manager? teacher? parent!
- Return to Mass

Planning 2020-2021

Simplicity

- Goal: Keep it simple
- Family: Ability of Parents to Implement or Participate
- Components: Focus on what will be helpful and impactful



Questions

It helps. . .to take the long view

“We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity
for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.”