

Office of Catechesis Newsletter - July 31, 2020

Office of Catechesis <catechesis@archmil.org>

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To: Jennifer Murphy <MurphyJC@archmil.org>



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Office of Catechesis News

Looking Ahead - Planning for Fall Programs

During August, the Office of Catechesis continues to offer virtual session to help you in your planning for catechetical programs during the Catholic Comeback,

- Kathie Amidei will offer sessions on adapting family programs and for pursuing new opportunities to engage parents.
- Maureen Rotramel will present how to plan effective virtual sessions in your program.
- Gary Pokorny will address plans for religious education and sacramental preparation for children.

Look below for a schedule of offerings. Here is the [registration link](#).

Adapting Family Catechesis in these Times

This session is for parishes that already have a family or intergenerational program, and will need to adapt due to pandemic conditions. Facilitator: Kathie Amidei

- Thurs Aug 6, 1-2pm

Engaging Families: A New Opportunity

This session is especially for parishes who do not offer a family/intergenerational program, but want to explore the new opportunities for engaging families and involving parents during these times. Facilitator: Kathie Amidei

- Tues Aug 11, 10-11am

Planning for Children's Religious Education

- Monday, August 10, 10-11 am

In-person? Virtual? At-home? Hybrid? This session will feature a presentation of principles and options, with time for questions and sharing from participants. Facilitator: Gary Pokorny

Planning for Sacramental Preparation

- Monday, August 3, 10-11am

A session to consider options, especially during the Catholic Comeback, for preparing 2nd graders and other elementary children for sacraments. Brief presentation, with time for questions and sharing. Facilitator: Gary Pokorny

Planning Effective Virtual Sessions

- Tuesday, August 4 at 1-2pm **(New Date & Time)**

We were all thrown into the virtual world in the spring, and chances are we will be back again. This time, let's be better prepared for more effective faith formation done virtually (yes it can be done!) with tips and tricks to make your formation sessions more effective even while virtual. While we will be on the Zoom platform, much of what we will talk about can be applied to other

virtual meeting applications (Google Meet, Go To Meeting, Microsoft Teams etc.) Facilitator: Maureen Rotramel

[Register for all the above session](#)

Upcoming Events

Catechetical Conference - Now Virtual

We invite you to join us at our 4th annual [Catechetical Conference](#) held on Friday, August 28th with pre-conference activities on Thursday, August 27th. The conference will be held *virtually*. The theme for the conference is: *Encounter Christ*.

Thursday's pre-conference activities will include an opportunity to watch pre-recorded workshop sessions and then have conversations later in the day with other attendees about what attendees watched/learned. **Friday's conference** will include LIVE general sessions as well as opportunities for discussion with other attendees. [View Schedule](#)

Cost to Attend Conference: \$15

***Register by August 7th and save \$5

[Register to Attend](#)

Archdiocese News

Social Media & Digital Communication Policy

The [Social Media & Digital Communication Policy](#) has been updated and went into effect on July 1, 2020. This policy will replace the previous policy that covered social media called the Social Networking Policy. This updated policy covers website administration, digital image and video usage, social media usage on behalf of parishes and schools, digital communication between minors and adults, and virtual interactions in ministry and work.

There are several changes in this policy that are new and may effect your parishes and schools. Be sure to review your parish's and school's social media and digital communication to make sure that all of your policies and procedures will be in accordance with the updated policy. All clergy, employees, and safe environment certified volunteers must review the policy and complete the acknowledgement. If you have any questions regarding the Social Media & Digital

Communication Policy, please contact Suzanne Nickolai, Safe Environment Program Manager, at nickolais@archmil.org or at (414) 769-3449.

The Catholic Comeback

The Catholic Comeback is the archdiocesan guide for returning to parish operations and ministry. In the form of a matrix, it lists all sorts of parish activities, sacraments, and programs. The current [Catholic Comeback Matrix](#) (version 4) gives directives for three phases in which there will be progressively fewer restrictions. We are currently in Phase 1. The phase is always listed on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee [homepage](#), and on the [Covid-19 Updates page](#). There is no predetermined calendar for when we move into the next phase. After all, the coronavirus sets the schedule. But the matrix offers parameters within which we can still plan amidst uncertainty, with safety in mind.

From our Friends

Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday will be September 20, 2020. This year's theme: "I Received from the Lord what I also Handed on to You." The US Bishops offer [online resources](#).

Commissioning Catechists? Depending on circumstances, it may not be possible to celebrate a Commissioning as you may have done in the past. But it is still important to offer some form of public recognition of catechists, whether in a newsletter or bulletin, at Mass, in a video, or some other way. Even without a formal commissioning, invite your parishioners or your program families to pray for the catechists. And, of course, you can use Catechetical Sunday as a time to name and recognize the indispensable role of parents in the faith of their own children.

Resources

Catechetical Resources During the Pandemic

We will continue to update our [Catechetical Resources During the Coronavirus Pandemic page](#) with additional resources as they are developed.

Youth Ministry Resources

The Office of Youth Evangelization has created a [Virtual Youth Ministry page](#) to be a place for updates, ideas, and suggestions for how to engage youth during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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This ministry is supported by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Do you have an article, event or district meeting you would like included in the newsletter???

Please send information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

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