



Email not displaying? [View it in your browser.](#)

## In this Issue.....

## December 17, 2020

### Merry Christmas

#### Office of Catechesis News

- Catechetical Fall Snapshot
- Policy Updates

### Upcoming Events

- Gigs, Geeks & God

### Archdiocese News

- See You At Mass
- Archmil homepage Redesign

### From Our Friends

- Upcoming Mareda Events

### Resources

- Formation Resources
- Catechetical Resources during the Pandemic
- Youth Ministry Resources



**Blessings on you and your ministry during this Advent and Christmas Season!**

**From the Office of Catechesis**

**Gary & Jennifer**

## **Office of Catechesis News**

### **Catechetical Fall Snapshot**

With the coming of the pandemic, we know that parishes “pivoted” in 2020, changing how they offer faith formation. So, in November, the Office of Catechesis conducted a survey to learn what parishes are actually doing by way of faith formation. You can read the [full Parish Catechetical Program Fall 2020 Snapshot Report](#). What have we learned so far?

1. Variety is the main theme. Parishes have adopted various approaches, with some offering in-person formation at the parish, some turning to at-home formation with parents working with their own children, and a substantial number offering virtual programs with online sessions. Many parishes have created hybrid programs, employing more than one setting, and a significant proportion let their families choose between two alternative programs.
2. Enrollment was often affected. While some parishes did not witness any change in participation, and a handful of parishes increased their enrollment, nonetheless, the majority of parishes saw at least a slight decrease in enrollment.

3. Family programs faced challenges. More than half of those who offered family programs in the past reported that they are not meeting with families at this time.
  4. Parishes made curriculum changes in response to Covid-19. About half the parishes changed their curriculum, textbooks or resources, either to support their pivot to a virtual program, or to better assist parents teaching at home.
  5. Technology was key to adaptation during the pandemic. Many parishes used online platforms to continue meeting; some adopted a learning management system.
  6. Back-up plans are common now. 85% of respondents reported having a backup plan in case conditions change and they cannot continue with their original plan.
- 

## Policy Updates

Each year, the Parish and School Policy Manual is reviewed and updated if needed. Several changes were made this past summer. You can view a [List of Policy Manual Updates](#). The current manual and related resources can be downloaded from our [Parish and School Policy Manual and Frequently Used Forms webpage](#).

Among the updates, we want to highlight two: 1) High Risk Activities during field trips and 2) Record Retention Guidelines. In this newsletter we address High Risk Activities. Next month, Records Retention.

### High Risk Activities

The policy on Field Trips now adds: "For field trips, excursions, and community service opportunities that involve high risk activities, each high risk activity must be individually identified, and parent or guardian permission must be given or denied for each individually identified high risk activity."

This is accompanied by a [List of High Risk Activities](#).

Also, the [Permission Slip for Field Trip](#) and [Permission Slip for Extended Day/Overnight Field Trip](#) each have an additional page for use when high-risk activities are involved.

## Upcoming Events

### Gigs, Geeks & God

January 14, 2021



Gigs, Geeks and God, an Archdiocesan technology conference, aims to help parishes understand and integrate technology in their formation programs, communications, and parish

administration.

Due to the Coronavirus, this year's conference will be virtual. The conference will feature pre-recorded workshops, a live keynote address, a live general session about a current technology trend relating to ministry, live workshop sessions as well as hands on labs. Join us for a series of presentations and workshops designed to help youth ministers, catechetical leaders and other staff engage technology more effectively in their ministries and to address ethical and formational issues related to technology in our lives.

The conference offers topics for anyone in parish ministry such as parish business managers, finance councils, faith formation leaders.

**Cost: \$15 (Early Bird Deadline Extended to December 23rd - Save \$5)**

[Register to Attend](#)

## Archdiocese News

### See You at Mass

To assist parishes with encouraging people to return to Mass in person, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has created a series of video clips of personal testimonies on the joys and necessities of attending Mass in person. All of the videos are short and invitational and are meant to be shared on social media, parish websites, or in e-newsletters.

[See You at Mass Videos](#)

---

### Archmil Homepage Redesign

The Archdiocese would like input to facilitate a redesign of the archmil homepage. **The goal is simple: ease of use.**

[This survey](#) should take about 3 minutes to complete and is designed to help us understand which areas on the homepage need the most improvement. Of course, if you have further suggestions or ideas that are not mentioned in the survey, please feel free to reach out to [Amy Grau](#), [Caroline Harvey](#) or [Mark Barthel](#).

## From our Friends



### Upcoming Mareda Events

- **January 28** at 1:00 pm- Maureen Rotramel will help us enhance our online ministry with virtual games.
- **February 24** at 10:00 am- Bishop Schuerman will join Mareda to share his personal Lenten practices and talk about hope. This is tentatively planned to be in person at St. Anthony on the Lake in Pewaukee.
- **April 14** at 1:00 pm- Join us as we process the formation year. What lessons have we learned? What worked well? Be inspired by the creativity of our co-workers and get a few ideas for the future.

Visit [Mareda Webpage](#) for more information and to register for upcoming events

## Resources

### Formation Resources

Discover free-of-charge resources to supplement or enhance your lessons. Videos, lesson plans and other resources have been vetted by our review team, and are listed by general topic and by age group. Visit: <https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Technology/Formation-Resources.htm>

Do you have a favorite resource to share? Send us your suggestions under "Submit a Resource."

---

### 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.

### Fall 2020 Resource Page

The Office of Youth Evangelization has put together a [Planning for Fall 2020 page](#) with resources, ideas, and encouragement as we all forge ahead this year. We try to add updates as they become

available.

## Contact Us

### Gary Pokorny

Director

414-758-2242

[pokornyg@archmil.org](mailto:pokornyg@archmil.org)

### Jennifer Murphy

Program and Event Coordinator

414-758-2240

[murphyjc@archmil.org](mailto:murphyjc@archmil.org)



**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](mailto:murphyjc@archmil.org)*

This email was sent by: Office of Catechesis

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

St. Francis 53235

[Visit our website](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)