



Guidelines and Recommendations for Parish Youth Faith
Formation during the time of Covid-19
2020-2021

The Office of Formation in Discipleship
Diocese of Crookston

Prayer for the Maternal Intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen."*

-Presented by Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the USCCB

Moving Forward in Unprecedented Times

Since March of 2020, COVID-19 has forced ministries to reprioritize and creatively shift methods and practices in an effort to maintain the integrity of programs and stay focused on the mission. Pivoting due to these new and unique challenges and the current reality indicates that these unique challenges will be present for a while. Across the country, this year of formation will be unlike any other. It is especially important to remember that those in faith formation are in a unique position to serve, working with parents, families and communities to pass on a faith that is anchored in hope and love.

Each Diocese of Crookston parish comes into this year of faith formation year with its own unique opportunities and challenges. The Office of Formation in Discipleship wants to be a resource and respond to the anticipated complexities of the coming year.

With a goal of providing an authentic experience of catechesis and evangelization that will draw youth and their families more deeply into relationship with Jesus Christ and the life of the Church, this document is created to offer guidance, recommendations and resources for the upcoming year of faith formation to assist in keeping everyone safe. Please note, however, that nothing in this document is meant to interrupt or override the goals established by pastors, parish pastoral councils, director of religious education, or faith formation committee.

The Little Way

The Office of Formation in Discipleship would like to dedicate this year of faith formation to St. Therese de Lisieux, asking for her intercession to help leaders remain focused, and keep spirits energized and full of hope so to be a constant ray of light for youth and families. St. Therese's "Little Way" speaks prophetically to the current reality. Her life offers guidance during this time and will allow those in faith formation to keep perspective as the year is navigated. "Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love." -St. Therese de Lisieux

Ministers, not Messiahs

As the year begins, remember to keep the following perspective:

- **You are only one person.** The complex nature of this pandemic is bigger than you, but God is way bigger than this pandemic. 2020 has become the “Of Mice and Men” year (The best laid plans of mice and men, often go awry”). As you enter this year, have a plan, but let the Holy Spirit guide that plan, knowing that there are going to be trials and interruptions and much you will not be able to control. Surrender that to God and trust that He is on your side in this.

In 1979, Cardinal John Francis Dearden shared this prayer during a homily. It provides encouraging perspective for all involved in faith formation.

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

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.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

- **Make relationships top priority.** The most important ministry we can do right now is reach out to families and offer our support, and encouragement during this time of uncertainty. Make a goal of reaching out to a certain number of families each week, simply to check in and see how they are doing.
- **Be “Agents of Hope”.** One of the greatest opportunities the Church has right now is to offer hope to kids and families. Now more than ever is an opportunity for Catholics to be a consistent, persistent flashing neon sign of hope. Kids need to see us as people of hope, and conveniently, we have an opportunity to share the greatest story of hope. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything we do. Kids are subjected to negative, polarizing messages everywhere they turn. Let’s rise above that and emphasize hope and light and the beautiful mercy, love and grace of Jesus Christ.
- **Trust in the Holy Spirit.** This document, all documents right now are filled with sterile, yet important “protocols”. Mind the protocols, but do not let them drive your program. Let the Holy Spirit guide your program.

- **Share the burden.** If you are fortunate enough to be working with a team, make sure you take time to pray together, encourage one another and help keep each other focused. If you are alone in the planning, try to find a core group of trustworthy volunteers you can count on to share ideas and plans, people who are willing to do some of the “heavy lifting”. Rely on your pastor for guidance in your program. Call the Office of Formation in Discipleship when you have questions, or need help solving something.
- **Encourage and equip your parents to pray and catechize.** Parents are the first catechists of their own children. Do not be afraid to leverage that in an inviting and proactive way. Sometimes parents lack confidence when it comes to home prayer and catechesis. Consider engaging parents in Zoom meetings, offering short trainings or introductions to prayer.
- **Make “Hope” your foundation.** One of the greatest opportunities the Church has right now is to offer hope to kids and families. Now more than ever is an opportunity for Catholics to be a consistent, persistent flashing neon sign of hope. Kids need to see us as people of hope, and conveniently, we have an opportunity to share the greatest story of hope. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything we do. Kids are subjected to negative, polarizing messages everywhere they turn. Let’s rise above that and emphasize hope and light and the beautiful mercy, love and grace of Jesus Christ.
- **Begin Small.** Remember the little things that catechists and youth ministers can do to make a big difference: Phone calls to families; Notes to students; Be encouraging in the name of Jesus Christ; Hope can be inspired by simply doing the little things. *“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.” -St. Therese de Lisieux*
- **Evangelize.** The new Directory for Catechesis emphasizes the intertwining relationship of evangelization and catechesis. This is an opportunity to **evangelize like never before**. As Catholics called to form young people in the Catholic faith, how can we help our young focus on Jesus Christ, and assure them of his grace, mercy and love? Kids may be discouraged, disappointed and depressed. Perhaps this is the year to focus heavily on the **Kerygma**?
- **Fill the Gaps.** Look for opportunities to fill gaps that do not often exist. For example, with athletics and other school activities postponed, perhaps this is a time to engage kids who are normally quite busy in the fall.
- **Go Outside the Box.** Consider focusing on themes and give kids tangible calls to action. For example, maybe this is the year to focus on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy with a particular group and challenge them to come up with creative ways to put the works of mercy into action within families, schools and communities. Give yourself and your youth permission to be creative.
- **Empower High Schoolers.** Are there ways that the high school groups can be involved in creating resources or sharing faith with the younger kids?
- **Enlist Prayer Warriors.** Who are the “prayer warriors” in your parish? Make a list of 5 or 10 petitions for your parish program and ask these warriors to take these to prayer weekly, or even more often if possible. There are likely many people in your parish who recognize the privilege that comes with praying intentions. Don’t be afraid to reach out. Do this and watch this year of faith formation completely exceed your expectations!
- **Late Start?** If needed, and in consultation with your pastor, consider a late start to your religious education program, especially if you are needing to make significant modifications. Again, it is better to focus on quality and authenticity as opposed to schedules as they have always looked. Because of these unprecedented times, we are all reacting to information as it unfolds.

Models of Faith Formation during Covid-19

Three General Models of Covid-19 Faith Formation

In consultation with your pastor, you will likely be exploring the following models. Each model provides merits, benefits and its own set of opportunities. Each model presents challenges as well.

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| Option A | Onsite, In-Person Faith Formation and Activities (See A: Guidelines for Onsite Faith Formation) |
| Option B | Virtual, Online, or Remote (at home) Faith Formation and Activities (See B: Guidelines for Virtual Faith Formation) |
| Option C | Hybrid Approach, Combination Virtual, Remote and In-Person Faith Formation and Activities |

A) Guidelines for ONSITE Faith Formation Activities and Instruction

- Parishes should have a Covid-19 Faith Formation Preparedness Plan. This plan can be developed from the Minnesota Department of Health's "Guidance for Gatherings: Faith-based Communities, Places of Worship and Ceremonies" which can be found here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidefaith.pdf>
- Your Parish Faith Formation Preparedness Plan should address the following items: (Please see Preparedness Plan Checklist on page 7 to help you organize your plan).
 - Discuss with your pastor, whether you will require health screenings upon arrival/entry.
 - Create and communicate a plan for flow, including drop-off and pick up. Use signage, blue painters' tape or other clear, posted instructions when possible.
 - Safe, social distancing (6 feet or more) should be encouraged, understanding that there may be times when students will find themselves in closer proximity. Clear communication, directional signage, seating arrangements, classroom arrangements, the number of age-groups and students present, and static (versus interactive) activities will allow for more effective management of social distancing.
 - Facemasks. As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces. Please consult the "Guidance for Gatherings" document to see exceptions to this requirement.
 - Encourage good hygiene; cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands often, wear face coverings or masks.
 - Faith Formation Events should not exceed 50% of room occupancy, while maintaining 6-feet distancing.
 - Attendance should be taken at all activities and events.
 - Resources (such as markers, crayons, scissors) should not be shared among participants.
 - Parents should monitor the symptoms of their child(ren) and not send those who exhibit symptoms.
 - In consultation with your pastor or parish administrator, establish cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
Refer to the CDC's guidelines and suggestions here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>.
 - Ensure that you have enough cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and tissues. Post signs and instructions to: stay home if you are sick or at high risk, wash hands, cover your cough, wear a facemask, and keep the required 6 feet of social distance. Signage and resources for printing are available here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html>.

- Communicate the Preparedness Plan for faith formation to all parishioners, including parents. It is important that everyone understand what the parish is doing to keep people safe at faith formation activities and events.
- It is important that all catechists and volunteers receive training by the director of faith formation regarding the faith formation preparedness plan.
- Policies and practices for this unique faith formation year should be flexible in responding to new information and developments. A willingness to adapt and refine approaches when specific practices are not working will be needed.
- Local parish faith formation policies should possess the ability to be adapted based on the level of viral transmission that may become present in the local community.
- Special considerations should be made to best provide for the needs of individual children and families. This is especially true of more vulnerable populations.
- All COVID-19 positive persons, those who are symptomatic, and those living with them, may not participate in programs until after they have self-quarantined per CDC guidelines.
- If an adult, child or youth experiences symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive following attendance at a faith formation activity, it should be known the proper channel for reporting to the pastor or head of faith formation with immediacy while respecting the confidentiality of the individual.
- Please work with public health authorities if/when a COVID-19 positive individual (or group) has had involvement with parish faith formation. Guidance will be offered concerning contact tracing and other matters.
- If the parish has a Catholic school that shares facilities with faith formation and in-person school classes are suspended due to an outbreak of COVID-19, in-person faith formation activities and events should be suspended until the Pastor, in consultation with the school principal, determines it is safe to resume the use of the school space for religious education.
- If faith formation children and youth attend school in a local public school district(s) that closes an individual school or schools due to an outbreak of COVID-19, the Pastor will determine whether in-person faith formation activities and events will be temporarily suspended.
- It is important that all catechists and volunteers receive training by the director of faith formation regarding the faith formation preparedness plan.
- If you choose to have food at a gathering, please note that guidance on food service can be found under Considerations for Events and Gatherings from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>.
- Parishes that utilize Catechesis of the Good Shepherd should follow the [Considerations for Opening CGS Atria in Light of COVID-19 Concerns](#) from CGUSA.

Group travel for off-site activities, including service projects, should be limited and only occur if the mode of transportation can accommodate appropriate social distancing. Participants should wear face coverings while traveling.

- Off-site activities, including service projects and retreats, must follow the same procedures as on-site activities depending on the category (number of participants, social distancing, face coverings, personal hygiene, etc.)
- See further information on group travel at [Guidance for Bus Transit Operators](#) and [Considerations for Schools](#) from the CDC.
- Parishes that utilize Catechesis of the Good Shepherd should follow the [Considerations for Opening CGS Atria in Light of COVID-19 Concerns](#) from CGUSA.

Face Masks & Social Distancing

Per [Minnesota Executive Order 20-81](#), face coverings are required at this time for all participants over the age of 5 (adults, children, youth, faith formation staff, and volunteers) during indoor activities. The [Minnesota Department of Health](#) provides further information on this requirement and legitimate exemptions. Face coverings may be worn for outdoor activities at the discretion of individual participants.

- Off-site events and activities that are indoors must also follow Minnesota Executive Order 20-81 with the noted exemptions from MDH.
- Face coverings should not be worn by children under age 2, per Minnesota Executive Order 20-81 and CDC guidelines.
- A minimum of 6 feet of social distancing should be maintained during both indoor and outdoor activities. This may necessitate the rearranging of faith formation spaces in the parish.
- Physical contact between individuals should be avoided (i.e. handshakes, hugs).
- Parishes should have a plan in place for arrival and dismissal of children and youth from formation activities in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Disinfecting and Cleaning Measures

- Following each event or activity, all occupied areas must be cleaned and disinfected.
- If faith formation events and activities will use space in a Catholic school, the head of faith formation must coordinate with the school principal to develop a plan to ensure those spaces are appropriately cleaned and disinfected prior to the subsequent school day.
- Faith formation programs should have a plan in place to ensure bathroom procedures for children. Guidance can be found at [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#) from the CDC.
- Personal hygiene – All participants should:
 - Disinfect their hands upon entering and leaving the church building with provided hand sanitizer. They should wash their hands frequently with soap and water (especially before and after eating).
 - Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Covid-19 Faith Formation Preparedness Plan Checklist

The following checklist is to help you create a clear Covid-19 Faith Formation Preparedness Plan. The purpose of this plan is to have procedures and protocols in place to allow you to conduct in-person classes and activities while keeping kids, catechists and volunteers safe.

Please note that everything in your plan should be:

- Created in consultation with your pastor, and not distributed until your pastor approves it.
- Communicated to your catechists as a part of their catechist training/onboarding.
- Communicated to families prior to faith formation.

If you are unclear regarding any of the items on the checklist, please refer to “Guidelines for ONSITE Faith Formation Activities and Instruction” found on pages 5 and 6 of this document. If you are still unsure, please contact Bob Noel at bnoel@crookston.org

- _____ Will you be conducting health screenings when children arrive (consult with your pastor)?
- _____ What is your “flow plan” to avoid congregation of students before and after classes/activities?
- _____ How will you promote safe, social distancing, keeping in mind the number of students in attendance, the size and occupant capacity of classrooms, seating arrangements, etc.?
- _____ How will you communicate and facilitate the state directive [Minnesota Executive Order 20-81](#), requiring face coverings for all participants over the age 5, including adults, children, youth, faith formation staff, and volunteers, during indoor activities?
- _____ How will good hygiene be encouraged and communicated during onsite faith formation activities? What supplies will be available to promote and facilitate the practice of good hygiene?
- _____ What is the plan for recording attendance and storing records of attendance?
- _____ Do you have adequate learning supplies for each child?
- _____ Do you have a cleaning & disinfecting plan and protocol in place?
- _____ Do you have adequate supplies and supply stations to encourage the practice of good hygiene?
- _____ Do you have a protocol in place for the reporting of Covid-19 cases that respects the confidentiality of all involved?
- _____ Does your communication to parents include the following, “Parents should monitor the symptoms of their child(ren) and not send those who exhibit symptoms to onsite classes/activities”?
- _____ Do you have a policy in place regarding what you will do in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak in your community?
- _____ Do you have an effective communication platform in place for the year (Flocknotes, Email, Remind, Other)?
- _____ Are there other protocols and procedures that are unique to your parish and situation that you would like to include?

B) Suggested Best Practices for VIRTUAL Faith Formation Activities and Instruction

If you choose to use virtual platforms for faith formation this coming year, please keep in mind the following suggested best practices:

- When scheduling a meeting, under “Advanced Options”, choose to utilize a Waiting Room and disable “Join before host”. This will allow you to screen who can enter the group.
- Ensure participants are unable to chat privately; you can disable the chat feature entirely or allow participants to chat with everyone in a central chat area. This will ensure that private chats are not occurring between adults and teens.
- Disable screen sharing for anyone other than the host.
- Enable an adult core member to be a “co-host” to help moderate the event. Sometimes it is good to even have multiple co-hosts, in case you want to delegate functions like setting up break-out rooms.
- If you use breakout rooms, have at least one Safe-Environment Certified Adult in each room. Also, when using breakout rooms, the host can pop in and out of these rooms at his/her discretion.
- Use “grid-view” and do not hide “self-view” while on calls with minors to ensure the recording shows everyone.
- Virtual gatherings should take place between 8:00 AM and 9:30 PM
- Dress and grooming habits of hosts and participants should be in accordance with current guidelines in place at the host institution.
- There should be two Safe Environment certified adults on every on-line meeting with minors.
- Both children and parents/guardians should be reminded frequently if on-line sessions are being recorded.
- The host and participants should use their given name (first and last) when signing into the on-line meeting.
- Screenshots of any meeting with minors should not be shared to personal social media accounts.
- It is highly recommended that the host of any on-line meeting with minors create standards for effectively managing conversation and share these at the beginning of all sessions.
- All meetings must have parents’ written consent prior to connecting with minor(s). Consent must also be given for the recording of all on-line meetings, and minors must be informed that they will be recorded.
- One on One meetings should be conducted by a safe environment certified adult and an additional safe environment certified adult or parent should also be present during the meeting.
- All meetings with minors must always be conducted by safe environment certified adults and a parent/guardian should have access to the meeting. Exceptions may be granted by certified administrators/leaders for guest speakers who are not safe environment certified.
- All meetings including minors, should have passwords and be private invitations, this may vary depending upon solution used (no publicly available links or meeting numbers; waiting rooms should be utilized when available).
- All parties should be aware of their surroundings while on virtual meetings. Individuals should be in public spaces of their homes and avoid personal spaces, i.e. lying in bed.
- All meeting date/times should be pre-scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.
It is highly recommended that the host of any on-line meeting with minors create standards for effectively managing conversation and share these at the beginning of all sessions.

Circle of Grace

Special Instructions for Teaching Circle of Grace in 2020-2021

Helpful Hints When Teaching Circle of Grace in a Virtual Environment.

Remember that teaching COG in person is always better than in a virtual environment. We recognize that in the current Covid-19 environment it may not yet be possible to teach in person.

- 1) Parent packets sent out last spring were allowed only because of inability to plan due to Covid-19. COG must be taught by the child's teacher/catechist this year.
- 2) If teaching Circle of Grace virtually, please
- 3) Review your Circle of Grace lessons:
 - a. Include worksheets and parent letters with other curriculum take home materials.
 - b. Most activities can be leader driven instead of a small-group activity.
 - c. Consider having one of the students lead the prayer.
- 4) Begin with prayer.
- 5) Remember that Circle of Grace needs to be taught in relationship. If possible, wait a few weeks for you to know the students before teaching it.
- 6) Review the key concepts of COG with students.
- 7) Ask students what they remember from the previous year.
- 8) Encourage participation from all students.
- 9) Start the lesson with as minimal adaptations as possible.
- 10) End the lesson asking what they like most "in their Circle of Grace".
- 11) Lesson attendance (live and virtual) always needs to be documented for the USCCB audit.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE CIRCLE OF GRACE BY NOVEMBER 15, 2020.

If you have any questions about Circle of Grace, please contact Renee Tate, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Crookston at rtate@crookston.org.

Formats: Advantages, Disadvantages and Considerations Moving Forward

As you create a plan for the 2020-2021 faith formation year, here are some of the considerations that might come into play. As you create a plan, it may be helpful to refer to the document: **"Diocese of Crookston Faith Formation Guide 2020-2021"**

Format	Advantages	Disadvantages	Considerations
In-Person, Onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for socializing, human connection and a feeling of community. Allows you to implement curriculum with few modifications (from previous year). Reinforces the need to gather as a faith community when possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How disrupted will the faith formation year be? A pure "onsite" plan will most likely need a back-up plan, in case there is an outbreak. Will families ask to opt out because of Covid-19? Safety protocols are extensive. Will you have adequate personnel and resources to accommodate? Will catechists be willing to meet in person due to Covid-19 fears? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in constant communication with your pastor and local school officials. This is a good thing. This will let your school officials know that you are all on the same team and desire to work with them. If space is an issue, consider a rotating schedule, where certain ages are present one week, and then working in more of a family faith formation setting the following week(s) Consider hybrid models that mirror the school's hybrid model. Is it more advantageous to have younger ages present, and older groups virtual? Or, is it more advantageous to have younger students working in a family faith formation format and older students in person? Engage parents at a higher level. This is a partnership, and it is okay to leverage that partnership.
Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will allow for consistency and will allow you to focus your planning. If catechists are uneasy about teaching in-person, perhaps they will be comfortable participating in this format? Most older students are already familiar with virtual platform. Platforms like "Zoom" do allow for opportunities to have breakout groups and small-group discussions, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do all families have access to technology? There is a learning curve for catechists using online platforms. Are kids "zoomed out"? Getting accustomed to appropriate safe-environment guidelines and suggested best-practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to catechists regarding online platforms. Read the "suggested best practices" above for Virtual Faith Formation. Perhaps it lends itself more effectively to the middle-school / high school age groups.

Remote / At Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for a greater partnership between your faith formation team, the parish and parents/families. The role of the faith formation team will shift more to facilitating and organizing resources and supporting parents/families. This may allow leadership to have more time to establish relationships and communicate with families. Given the uncertainties of Covid-19, this may also be a way to be more consistent. Done well, this is a positive and can really bolster the domestic church. If space is a concern, a “hybrid” at-home approach could allow for rotating groups; certain age groups & parents could be in-person every other week or once per month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For most faith formation teams, this will create a lot of work on the front end, preparing resources and organizing a plan. Will all families participate? Families are experiencing a lot of stress trying to stay on top of the changing dynamics of Covid-19. Would this fall to the bottom of the priority list? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are going to make a radical shift like this, focus on quality over quantity. Consider (with your pastor’s approval), postponing the start date of your Faith Formation Program to October 1st. How can we provide support to families who are least likely to participate or carry out a program like this? Resources need to be clear, and easily understood and accessible. Making it too complicated will end it before it begins.
Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned well, this could allow for flexibility, creativity and the best of all worlds – opportunities to meet in-person, and opportunities to engage families in the formal process of faith formation. Hybrid allows you to be more readily adaptable and flexible. Opportunity to keep things fresh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, planning will be heavy on the front end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, if you are going to have to make a significant shift, consider postponing your faith formation start date. Need to be extremely organized and communicate well and often.

Diocesan Assistance – From Bob Noel, Formator for the Office of Formation in Discipleship

Monday Flocknote

Each Monday, beginning September 14th, you will receive a prayer, and information regarding current resources and webinars via Flocknote. We will keep these short and only include pertinent, easily accessible information.

Faith Formation Meet-Ups

We will begin a new schedule of Zoom Meetups this fall. The plan is to hold these twice a month. You will receive a calendar in September.

Wednesday Youth Nights – “Together in Spirit” with Joe Melendrez

Beginning in October, the Office of Formation in Discipleship will be hosting a virtual Wednesday night youth night, one Wednesday night a month for middle and high school programs across the Diocese of Crookston. With the prospect of youth rallies in doubt, this will be an opportunity to connect youth across the diocese virtually. More information will be forthcoming.

Program Planning

If you are unsure what to do right now and want another set of eyes on your program and planning, please reach out to Bob Noel by phone (218) 281-4533 ext. 439, or email bnoel@crookston.org. Let's work together on this.

Topic Nights

If you would like the Office of Formation to develop and present a topic for your youth, either in-person (if Covid-19 allows) or via Zoom, please reach out to Bob Noel.

Diocesan Commission on Faith Formation

This September, we will be kicking off a new commission on faith formation. Although the full fruits of this labor won't be realized for a couple of years, helpful, guiding information will be shared throughout the process.

Guided Spiritual and Professional Development

This year, we will be partnering with *Revive Parishes* to offer a guided program to help you in your ministry. More information will be forthcoming!

Diocese of Crookston Faith Formation Resource Guide 2020-2021

You will be receiving a Faith Formation Resource Guide to help you tap into resources, ideas and curriculum. This resource guide will be updated monthly.

Also, please check the Diocese of Crookston's General Mailing for information and updates from the Office of Formation in Discipleship.