

# COVID-19

Update #5





## Opening Prayer

O Mary, you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith  
firm.

You know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.  
Do not disdain the pleadings of we who are in trial, but deliver  
us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Amen.



Highlights About  
the Church from  
Pope Francis  
Address of His  
Holiness Pope  
Francis,  
September 21,  
2019

- ↴ You have reflected on a central theme for evangelization: **how to ignite the desire to know God despite the signs that obscure His presence.**
- ↴ And it ends up being a beautiful museum piece rather than **the simple and joyful home of the Father.**
- ↴ What our brothers and sisters often ask of us, perhaps without being able to ask the question, corresponds to their deepest needs: **to love and be loved, to be accepted for what one is, to find peace of heart and a joy that is more lasting than entertainment.**
- ↴ How important it is to feel challenged by the questions of the men and women of today! Without pretending to have immediate answers and without giving pre-packaged answers, but **sharing words of life**, not aimed at making proselytes, but at leaving room for the creative force of the Holy Spirit, Who frees the heart from the slavery that oppresses and renews it.
- ↴ In the light of this kerygma **the life of faith develops, which is not a complicated construction made up of many bricks to be put together, but the ever new discovery of the “fundamental nucleus”, the beating “heart of the Gospel ... the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ Who died and rose from the dead”** (ibid., 36).
- ↴ Since faith is a life that is born and reborn from the encounter with Jesus, that which in life is an encounter helps us to grow in faith: approaching those in need, building bridges, serving those who suffer, caring for the poor, “anointing with patience” those who are close to us, comforting those who are discouraged, blessing those who harm us... **In this way we become living signs of the Love we proclaim.**

# Our plan during the COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 13, I sent a Memorandum with the following guidance:

**Create a plan that includes at least the following:**

- a. How and when will parents be notified of the changes in schedule and programming?
- b. Who should parents contact during this period?
- c. How will catechists and/or youth group leaders assist remotely during this time?
- d. What resources will be available online? in printed form?
- e. How will student progress be monitored and evaluated?
- f. How will adjustments be made to meet program requirements (service hours for Confirmation, retreat, etc.)?
- g. What are the plans once the health situation ends?

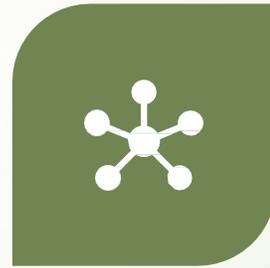
# Purpose for GO TO MEETING



SHARE  
INFORMATION AND  
BEST PRACTICES



PROVIDE FORUM  
FOR OUTREACH



CREATE A SUPPORT  
NETWORK



DETERMINE NEEDS



## Share Information



Weekly Secretariat Resources



On-line postings



Publishers



Partners



Personal experiences



Best practices



## Provide a forum for outreach



How do we address the needs of those we serve?



How do we reach out to our various groups and individuals?



What resources do we provide?



What types of media do we use?



What does our social media look like?



## Create a support network



For yourself



For your family



For your team



For those in your parish, Catholic academy and parish school



What are  
the needs?



Your particular needs



The needs of the parents,  
students, catechists, aides,  
volunteers



Other needs



# Sharing Practices

- What's working?
  - What's not working so far?
  - What needs to be adjusted?
  - What are some practical concerns?
- 



# Safe Environment Policy

## **Safe Environment Policy on Distance Learning**

In this difficult time, it is understood that we must rely on electronic communication to connect with our students so that the learning process is not totally interrupted. Teachers should feel free to communicate with their students electronically in groups. **Any communication should NOT be recorded.**

The Diocesan code of conduct for employees states:

### **As an employee I WILL NOT:**

2.1. Interact with children, young people or those who habitually lack the use of reason through E-mail, social network sites, or other forms of electronic communications except for delivering information for the program I am providing.

If there are any questions please feel free to call Maryellen Quinn 718-965-7300 x2105

**Adherence to this policy is mandatory.**



## Free Courses and Resources

- Catholic Distance University
  - Catholic Faith Technologies
  - National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
  - Textbook Companies (Sadlier, OSV, RCL-Benziger, Loyola, Pflaum, etc.)
  - RENEW International
  - Dynamic Catholic
  - Magis Center
- 

# Where to find information

↵ School of Evangelization on FACEBOOK

↵ In your in-box

↵ NEW Diocese of Brooklyn Resource web page

<https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/>

# Transitioning to OUTLOOK

- ↴ The Diocese has determined that OUTLOOK will replace First Class/DioNet
- ↴ All groups are being moved to OUTLOOK now or soon
- ↴ First Class/DioNet will eventually be discontinued
- ↴ Email addresses will change
- ↴ DRE s and YM s will be given a parish account that remains with the parish
- ↴ Everyone must comply—this will be our means of communication—do not use personal accounts
- ↴ A video will explain the transition and use of OUTLOOK
- ↴ Assistance will be provided by the IT Department ONLY

# SEAST Grants

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Trust Religious Education Salary Grants were fully paid for 2019-2020.

No decision has been made yet concerning new or on-going grants.

# Spanish Resources

Nelsa Elias is now assigned to assist parishes with outreach to the Spanish community during these challenging times.

Please note that some LLF courses online are offered in Spanish.

There will be a special Spanish resource section on <https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/>

# Holy Week and Easter Triduum Resources

Christian Rada created a wonderful family-friendly Easter Triduum resource. Please make good use of this resource by distributing it as widely as possible.

[In addition go to https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/](https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/) for a wide range of resources on all levels.

RENEW International



Catholic Distance University



Catholic Faith Technologies



Project YM





# Easter Week

- It is recommended that no new work be given to students during Easter Week.
- Instead, perhaps some activities for families to celebrate Easter and the Easter season could be offered, as many have done already.



# Outlook Update

- DRE credentials were sent to First Class (DioNet) mailboxes April 7, 2020.
- YM credentials will be sent to personal mailboxes by April 17 (estimated).
- Please get “on board” to Outlook as soon as possible as First Class (DioNet) will remain only a little while longer.
- We will update you regarding the use of TEAMS soon.



# *Baptism Matters* from RENEW

- A free resource until June 30, 2020.
- Will assist in the anticipated backlog of Baptisms by preparing the family remotely for the present.
- Many important topics covered.
- [Go online to https://pages.renewintl.org/baptism-matters](https://pages.renewintl.org/baptism-matters) for information and to register for a free trial.



# Project YM LIVE

- Go to <https://projectym.com/>

From the web site:

## **WE WANT TO HELP YOU THRIVE**

- Because we believe that your ministry is important.
- We believe that you should not have to do it alone.
- And (most importantly) we believe that you matter.



# *Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership*

- Application process for 2020 cohort has been extended indefinitely
- To view the application process in Spanish and English, go to:  
[https://www.bqonlineformation.org/home.aspx?pagename=category\\_holyspiritinstitute](https://www.bqonlineformation.org/home.aspx?pagename=category_holyspiritinstitute)



# *Pre-Cana Process Update*

- Online Pre-Cana in English is ready
- Online Pre-Cana in Spanish is nearly ready
- Contact Christian Rada for more information.



# *Parish/Academy/School Sharing*

- A reminder—please send [tmusco@diobrook.org](mailto:tmusco@diobrook.org) any information that you would like to share with the rest of the evangelization and catechetical community.
- What we have shared so far has proven to be very helpful to people near and far.



# *Dynamic Parish*

## **Fr. Jorge Ortiz-Garay | Dreams for St. Brigid Parish**

Our organization continues to mourn Fr. Jorge's passing. Our chaplain, Fr. Bob Sherry, and many of the other 60 pastors immediately offered Masses for Fr. Jorge when we shared the unfortunate news.

We had our video team look up the interviews we did with Fr. Jorge when he came to Dynamic Catholic in the Fall of 2018. We had a short clip of him describing his dreams for St. Brigid parish. In the video, he shares a similar message to the one Bishop DiMarzio did in his video about Fr. Jorge - about his dream for vocations.

Link to Video: <https://vimeo.com/403854003/948ebdd533>



# Prayer Network

There has been some comments regarding the establishment of a prayer network during these days of the pandemic.

Any ideas as to how to create one and who will organize it?



# The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide

1. Regarding student assessment, this document should be used to determine what has been achieved so far this year, as should be the case each year.
2. Each DFF or CRE should make this document in whole or in part available to each catechist with the instruction that a response to you by May 1 to you regarding what has been covered so far.
3. Parents should also receive direction as to how to proceed to prepare for next catechetical year.



# The Seed is the Word of God Curriculum Guide—Part Two

4. General Standards for Sacraments are found on page 70.
5. Life-long Faith Formation Objectives Plan is found on page 62 and 63. These are the absolute minimum requirements for students at various grade levels. The DFF or CRE must ensure that these goals are met.
6. Make use of videos at CTN's LEARN 360. Please contact Sr. Elizabeth Ogbu  
347-305-5932  
[eogbu@desalesmedia.org](mailto:eogbu@desalesmedia.org)



# PROPOSED WEBINAR FOR PARENTS OR FAMILIES

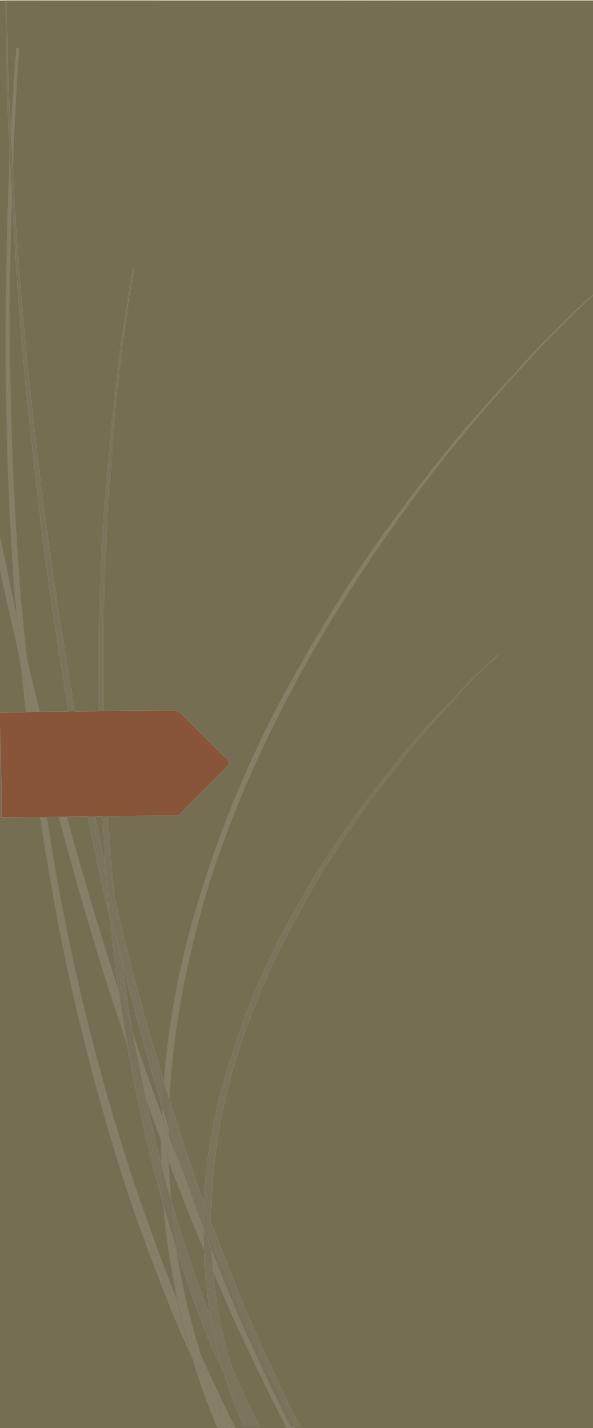
Thoughts about sponsoring a webinar for parents:

- Purpose
- Topic or topics
- Live and/or recorded
- Length
- Who? Perhaps ask someone at Strong Catholic Families



# Future GO TO MEETINGS

- Should we keep them weekly or every other week?
- What items should we address?
- Should we keep the same format?
- Additional thoughts?



Issues for next  
GO TO MEETING on  
April 22

Send any items to [tmusco@diobrook.org](mailto:tmusco@diobrook.org) by **April 20**.