



Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Frequently Asked Questions #1-5

Since early March 2020, the staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis has worked each day to assist parishes, Catholic academies and parish schools of the Diocese of Brooklyn navigate within a new framework. While each parish, Catholic academy and parish school is unique in its' particular needs, there are some issues that are held in common. Within the last several years, we have made great headway in the areas of evangelization and catechesis, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the pastors, administrators and catechetical leaders in parishes, Catholic academies and parish schools working together. The following FAQs are made available to provide general assistance:

FAQ # 1

Where can I find recommended evangelization and catechetical resources to use and promote during these days of home study?

All recommended resources are found on the Diocesan web site at <https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/> and are updated daily. Please share selected resources with your community.

FAQ #2

How and when should I bring this year's parish religious education program to a close?

While each parish program is different, parish religious education programs normally end sometime in late May or June. We recommend that catechetical leaders provide an end date for formal instruction but continue to communicate with parents and adult family members on a continuing basis. Some parishes may plan to provide resources during the summer and may even experiment with a summer program to provide additional opportunities for formation. All of this should be communicated clearly to every parent and adult family member through email with some form of a response to indicate the parent or adult family member has seen the memorandum.

FAQ # 3

How do I register or re-register families for the catechetical year 2020-2021 and is online registration recommended?

It is highly recommended that all parish registration and re-registration is done using an online registration system. Many parishes use one already. If your parish does not already make use of one, options are available and will be posted on the Resource page. Keep in mind that registration information should only be collected initially upon entrance into the program, and then updated each year. It is common now throughout the United States that once a family is enrolled in religious education, the expectation is that they participate each year and are automatically registered for the next year's class. Now is a great time to implement that plan.

FAQ #4

How should we plan for the 2020-2021 catechetical year?

As of today, we are still uncertain about when we can get to the 'new normal'. It is probable that social distancing and other measures will be in place for a while. In addition, we may have a re-occurrence of the coronavirus in the fall or winter. It is highly recommended that every program of religious education has a formalized online option, either using the digital components of one of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved series or the Faith and Life Program provided on the Catholic Faith Technologies (My Catholic Faith Delivered) platform. Simply put, every program should make parents aware when they register that the religious education program may be done online with their assistance. In the case that programs can meet at some point, an alternative plan should be developed by parish leaders implementing all safety and health guidelines as well as any guidelines provided by the Diocese of Brooklyn. As things progress, more information will follow.

FAQ #5

What about other programs like the Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership, RCIA, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Small Faith Sharing Groups, Pre-Cana, Living and Leading by Faith, etc.?

As you know, the Diocese of Brooklyn is blessed by having many partners that assist us in many and varied ways. These partners assist us by providing free or greatly reduced resources that have enabled us to continue to provide services during this out-of-the-office period. In addition, our Secretariat staff is available each day to provide you with any assistance you might need regarding our programs.

The Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership continues to accept applications until June 1, 2020. Instruct anyone interested in applying to go to <https://www.bgonlineformation.org/> and click on the

Holy Spirit Institute box for application in English and Spanish. **For the foreseeable future, the Holy Spirit Institute will conduct all courses online and use GO TO MEETING for class meetings throughout the year.**

The RCIA and RCIA Adapted for Children is still on hold until we receive further guidance. We'll update you as soon as possible. However, several RCIA groups are meeting virtually and continuing the journey until such time that they can be received into the Church.

Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry is continuing remotely using different formats depending on the local situation. A Diocesan Digital Event is being planned for the end of May. More information will follow.

RENEW'S Small Faith Sharing Groups should continue to make use of digital means such as Go To Meeting and connect with their excellent resources at <https://new.renewintl.org/>

Couples interested in Pre-Cana should be directed to the web site at <https://www.bgonlineformation.org/> and click on the Pre-Cana/Marriage Prep box.

Living and Leading by Catechetical Leader and Catechists Formation Program continues totally online at <https://www.bgonlineformation.org/> Note that there are several free or reduced courses available during this time. Just last month nearly 200 people participated in some online course.

More information can be found on the Resource page at <https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/religious-education-resources/>

I hope that these FAQs assist you in your planning and please look forward to others being posted soon.

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