



FAITH FORMATION AND PROGRAMMING CHECKLIST

The Catechetical Leader Town Hall on religious education planning provides detailed checklists for preparing your fall program. Please consult the slide presentation ([English](#), [Spanish](#), Polish), specifically the following sections:

- Engage your pastor to get Fall RE planning on their radar and obtain their input
- Begin planning for Fall 2020 scenarios
- After selecting a Fall 2020 RE/YM model, decide on your resources (review curriculums and tech platforms that fit your desired model and unique parish community)
- Ensure that catechists and volunteers attend mandatory archdiocesan safety webinar
- Train catechists and volunteers in the fall safety plan specific to your program
- Schedule and promote Alpha (or similar program) for your RE parents to re-awaken their faith and build comfort with faith discussion

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CHECKLIST

- Identify a platform that will be used as a platform for actual and/or potential virtual learning.
- Ensure that catechetical lesson plans or youth experiences can be adapted for meaningful in person and/or remote learning scenarios.
- Establish a training and a schedule for professional learning for catechists on remote learning/blended learning environments.
- Design meaningful and relevant prayer and ongoing faith formation opportunities for catechists, families, and students to deepen their spirituality and commitment as missionary disciples that are in line with the guidance provided.
- Ensure all experiences include modeling, guided instruction, collaborative work, parent support and independent work rather than over-reliance on independent work during remote learning.
- Vary the way content is delivered to students (reading, lecture/mini lesson, videos, visual tools, modeling) and the way students can demonstrate their understanding (writing, speaking, visual products, modeling/building).
- Engage students through setting a purpose for lessons and providing choice in the process and product of lessons.

- Ensure all learning is respectful. Students are not given “fluff” or busy work to fill time. Videos and apps are age appropriate.
- Meet in small groups with parents and students as needed for connection, instruction, and assessment.
- Create at-home learning scenarios to help incorporate best practice in faith formation.
- Develop learning plans that offer opportunities for those without predictable access to online learning.
- Ensure safe environment and digital safety policies exist and are shared for students and parents.
- Survey program population to determine what equity and access to technology exists.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING COMMUNITY CHECKLIST

- Facilitate community and connection with catechists/volunteers and staff.
- Onboard students to orient to the new realities of the classroom and program.
- Develop a differentiated on-boarding plan for families that are new to the program.
- Communicate the religious education/youth ministry program reopening plans with parents including new protocols for health and safety.
- Periodically survey catechists, volunteers, parents and students to evaluate programming and support and make adjustments.
- Develop any necessary protocols for wearing face masks including creating plans for students with sensory issues
- Develop authentic ways for parents to connect with the community both in-person and virtually.
- Provide opportunities for program-wide Eucharistic celebrations and other prayer services, involving students in the planning.
- Invite parents and families to join in virtual prayer and faith life activities.
- Create explicit service activities that can be completed in a virtual community.
- Create a plan for pastor, parish catechetical leader and youth minister to be present and visible to students, parents, and families.

QUICK LINKS TO REFERENCES

Consult the Office of Lifelong Formation section of the **Weekly Pastoral Newsletter** for resources New Directory for Catechesis - to establish the characteristics of Evangelization and Discipleship into the heart of catechesis.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization recently released the NEW Directory for Catechesis. As the Catholic Church embarks on the mission of teaching the Christian faith, the new Directory for Catechesis (2020) lays the how-to guidelines for catechesis and presents universal norms to guide pastors and catechists in the work of evangelization. The Directory will be indispensable for all those responsible for formal religious instruction, including pastors and parish priests, deacons, lay and religious catechists, and religious education teachers in dioceses, parishes, and schools.

Questions? Please contact **ReopenREYM@archchicago.org**.