



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Dear Pastor,

I would first like to thank you for all the ways that you serve our Church and for your continued yes, especially during these trying times. My letter to you is brief because I know that there are many things on your "to do" list. The main purpose of my letter today is the opportunity of encounter during Christmas.

When I write encounter, I am primarily speaking of the encounter we will have with new faces during Christmas Masses. Before we know it there will be new, not-so-familiar, faces in our churches during Christmas Masses. After that day we may not see them again until Ash Wednesday. I would like to suggest a few ideas for you to think through and pray on as you plan for these Masses.

As you well know all Catholics find themselves at different stages of their faith journey. I propose for parishes to offer options for some if not all of these stages the first week of Christmas. Here are some examples:

- A movie night for adults using FORMED movie *Mary of Nazareth* or *The Story of the Nativity*
- A movie night with family friendly movie *The Star: The Story of the First Christmas*
- A group study on the Eucharist: "Make your new year's resolution to learn why Sunday Mass is important using FORMED *Presence*" \*\*
- A group study on the biblical history of the Eucharist: "Make your new year's resolution to understand the Sunday Mass more fully" using FORMED *Lectio: Eucharist – Unveiling Scripture and Tradition*" \* \*\*
- A weekly bible study: *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* from Ascension Press \* \*\*

\*During the Revive missions we asked the participants what they would like to see more of in their parish. The overwhelming answer was bible studies.

\*\* This resource has accompanying participant and leader guide books.

For a more comprehensive list of bible study options, please refer to the National Catholic Bible Week section of this mailing. For more information on your FORMED subscription please refer to September's combined mailing. The deadline for renewal has been extended to November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps you are reading this and discern that your parish leaders are not ready to lead one of these initiatives with you during the Christmas season. If that is the case, I encourage you to run a study with these leaders this fall/Advent to prepare them.

One suggested option would be to have your leaders take a retreat guided by the book *33 Days to Morning Glory* to consecrate themselves to Our Mother. If you choose this option, you could start your group on November 5<sup>th</sup> to consecrate on December 8<sup>th</sup> (the Feast of the Immaculate Conception). The Young Adult Office organized for all parishes to receive 160 copies of the book by the week of October 27<sup>th</sup>, in the case you choose to have a group start the consecration process on November 5<sup>th</sup>. If not, you may hold onto the books until you are ready.

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If you are looking to have a visiting speaker during Advent, you may find someone that fits your parish needs from our list of past Revive preachers below:

Fr. Agustino Torres CFR	(English/Spanish)
Fr. Dan Tuitte CFR	(English)
Fr. Michael Greco OFM Cap.	(English)
Fr. Edmundo Molina C.S.s.R.	(Spanish)
Fr. Thomas Deely C.S.s.R.	(English/Spanish)
Fr. Lucian Clark C.P.	(English)
Fr. John Devaney O.P.	(English)

If you have a method that has worked very well in your parish for evangelizing Christmas/Easter Catholics, I encourage you to continue to do so and to share that knowledge with your fellow brother priests if you have not already done so. I would also love to hear about it.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some Archdiocesan Young Adult Outreach events that you may want to mention during the Christmas season.

January Young Adult Mass

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Cathedral (51st Street between 5th and Madison Ave.), 460 Madison Avenue  
Confessions, Adoration, and rosary will be available at 6:30 p.m., Mass begins at 7:30 p.m. A social will follow!

Love & Life Encountered

Monday, January 13

Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E 14th Street, New York NY 10009

Join the Office of Young Adult Outreach for a night of healing featuring talks, praise and worship and prayer teams. Sure to be a powerful night!

Love & Responsibility: Winter – with Professor Helen Alvare

Thursday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E 14th Street, New York NY 10009

For one night only! Love and Responsibility returns for a bonus Winter addition. You don't want to miss this! There will be wine served, so make sure to bring your ID if you would like a glass!

I hope that you find this letter helpful. I pray that our efforts offer a re-introduction and further enrichment of the faith for our people during the Christmas season and into the new calendar year. If you would like more information on what has been presented here feel free to call me directly at 646-794-2579.

God's peace and blessings,



Elizabeth Guevara de Gonzalez