

DIGITAL MINISTRY

DOING IT WELL AND DOING IT RIGHT

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life."
(Caritas in Veritate1)

1 IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Keep in mind our purpose: to help young people encounter Christ and grow in their Catholic faith. Therefore, appropriate professional behavior and a Christian example are the hallmarks of great digital ministry.

2 USE THE RIGHT ACCOUNT

When using Zoom, Flocknote, Facebook, or other media, make sure you use a parish account. Our Safe Environment Policies do not allow the use of personal accounts. The pastor or his designated staff member must have administrator and log-in rights to the accounts.

3 GET THE PARENTAL OKAY

Parents/guardians must permit youth to participate. You can even use an online form that parents/guardians fill out.

4 DON'T GO IT ALONE

Like in-person gatherings, online live events must comply with safe-environment rules and have at least two adults present. In addition, any break-out groups (rooms in Zoom) should also have two adults.

5 INVITATION ONLY

Access to online sessions must be controlled by registration or a password. Sessions cannot be open to anyone who is not explicitly invited and approved by the adult minister. The adult minister has complete discretion to exclude any person from an online session.

6 SAFE SHARING

The chat feature in Zoom is great for youth to ask or answer questions, but all chats must be viewable to all participants. Disable the private chat feature when setting up the Zoom. Never use the chat feature in Facebook and direct messaging on Instagram. Only the adult minister can screen, image, or document share. If you do a Q & A or have a group chat, save the file at the end of the session.

7 PLAN FOR SUCCESS!

Effective virtual ministry needs to have a plan, from the opening prayer, to community building, to the videos you may show. Young people are genuinely looking for opportunities to connect with God and with each other. So when your gatherings start, stay focused and on topic.

8 SAVE A RECORD

If you are using Zoom or a similar program, always record the session. Save the recording on a flash drive, not a personal computer, and store it at the parish. Inform participants at the beginning that the session will be recorded.

9 SAFE ENVIRONMENT RULES STILL APPLY

All interactions in online environments must comply with Archdiocesan Safe Environment Policies. Know that failure to abide by the policies may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to minors being banned from further participation in online sessions and adverse employment action for adult ministers.



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