



READY, SET, GO!

In regards to parish ministry, September feels often like the beginning of race to me. We have prepared in the spring and over the summer, and now we have hit the ground running! Here are some thoughts as we begin this year's run:

1. **Remember it is not a sprint.** It is more like a marathon. So pace yourself. I know there is a lot to do, but don't burn yourself out all in the beginning.
2. **Invite others to run with you.** We often forget that one of our roles is to raise up new leaders. Ask yourself, who could take on some additional responsibility?
3. **Refuel!** Along a marathon route there are stations with water, fruit, and other items to refuel the runners. We need to constantly refuel ourselves for ministry with prayer and the Sacraments. A friend once said to me, "Do not fall into the trap that your work is your prayer. Prayer is your prayer." Nurture your spiritual life.
4. **Tend to the injured on the way.** Pay attention to your catechists, youth ministry team members, young people, and their families. Are there some people who are struggling, who are hurt, or broken? It isn't about winning the race. It is about how many people you can help get to the finish line.
5. **Enjoy the view.** My friend Ann ran the Chicago marathon and at the end, she said, "What a beautiful city we live in!" As she ran, she noticed the people, the buildings the landscape of the city. Don't forget to notice how God is working in your parish and in the lives of your young people and families.

May God continue to bless you and your ministries.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEWSLETTER

Each month we will be sending out a monthly newsletter with information, resources, and inspiration. It will include ideas from other parishes, technology tips, ideas for your own spiritual growth, as well as reminders of important dates and events.

In this edition:

1. [Reminder of Safe and Sound guidelines](#)
2. [New Regions and New Specialists](#)
3. [Upcoming Dates and Events](#)
4. [Tech News You Can Use: Understanding Copyright](#)
5. [Welcome New Staff](#)
6. [Forums for Catechesis and Youth Ministry](#)
7. [What is ArchNYLAB?](#)
8. [Try This One: Blessing of the Drivers](#)
9. [Webinar on Suicide Prevention for Parents](#)



IMPORTANT INFO

2021-2022 SAFE AND SOUND GUIDELINES



As we moved into the summer, the hope was that the impact of COVID-19 on gatherings was lessening. We all recognize the critical importance of gathering as a “people of God.” We are Catholic--we are communal. However, with the surge of infections from the Delta variant, we also recognize that continued efforts must be implemented to ensure the physical well-being of young people, catechists, youth ministry leaders, and families as we plan for parish religious education and youth ministry.

The *2021-22 Safe and Sound: Guidelines and Procedures for Holding On-site Parish Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs* is your guide to creating a healthier environment. This document outlines the required procedures for the parish communities that desire to hold on-site religious education and youth ministry gatherings.

Because the situation with COVID is always changing, we will be periodically be reassessing recommended procedures and will send out updates.

[Download the document here.](#)

NEW REGIONS AND NEW SPECIALISTS



In order to serve our parishes more effectively, we have moved from 7 Catechetical and 2 Youth Ministry regions to 9 regions. This will give the parishes one point of contact for ministry support from baptism to 12th grade. Your regional specialist will be reaching out to you to introduce him/herself. For parishes in regions with open positions, please contact your former regional for assistance or call the main office.

Staten Island

Sr. Mary Crucifix Pandullo, CSJB

East Manhattan

Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, SSC

West Manhattan

Position to be filled

West Bronx

Sr. Jeannette Chishibanji, SSC

East Bronx and Yonkers

Position to be filled

Southern/Central Westchester

Sr. Zelide Ceccagno, MSCS

Dutchess, Putnam, and Northern Westchester

Tom Brinkman

Ulster, Sullivan, and some of Orange

Sr. Kevin John Shields, OP

Rockland and most of Orange

Peg Hoblin

[Click here for contact information.](#)



DATES AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER YOUTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Sept. 25, 2021 | 9:30am-4:00pm

Join adult youth ministry leaders for a professional development conference focused on sharing practical strategies to outreach to our youth.

FORUM FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AND CATECHESIS - BRONX

Oct. 16, 2021 | 8:45am-4:00pm

Gather youth ministry leaders and catechists at the annual Forum to learn, pray, share and celebrate. Our keynotes will be Mr. Armando Cervantes and Dr. Matthew Halbach.

FORUM FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AND CATECHESIS - GOSHEN

Oct. 23, 2021 | 8:45am-4:00pm

Gather youth ministry leaders and catechists at the annual Forum to learn, pray, share and celebrate. Our keynote will be Sr. Maureen O'Sullivan, OP.

MAN-UP NEW YORK

Oct. 23, 2021 | St. Joseph's Seminary

This event focuses on supporting and encouraging men to be better sons, fathers, and husbands by living out their faith and leading their families by example. It's a day filled with inspirational speakers who seek the Lord's will in their everyday lives.

TECH NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Understanding copyright law is an essential responsibility of church leadership. It is merely an application of the 7th Commandment: "Thou shalt not steal." But how does this relate to all the goodies we find on the Internet? No, not just the cat videos, but those images/pictures we use for our programs, newsletters, and other office communication.

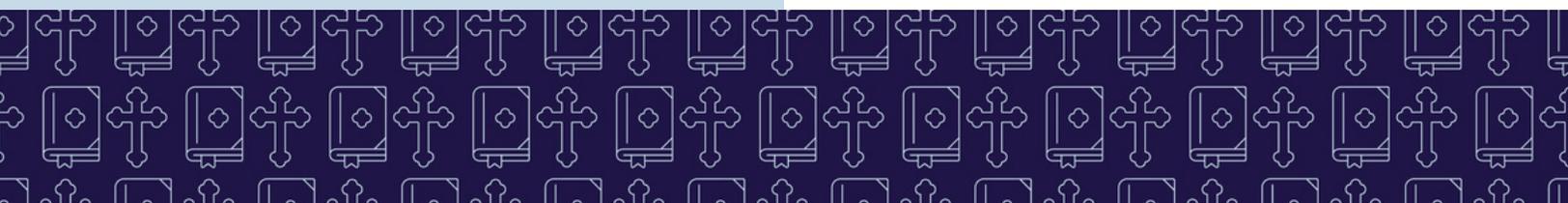
No doubt, copyright law can be perplexing. The jargon itself can be confusing, with vocabulary like "public domain," "fair use," and "creative commons." Some people think that teachers have the right to use any materials when used in the classroom!

Did you know that the Archdiocese of New York was fined thousands of dollars for using a photo of Oscar Romero on its website? The image was copyrighted!

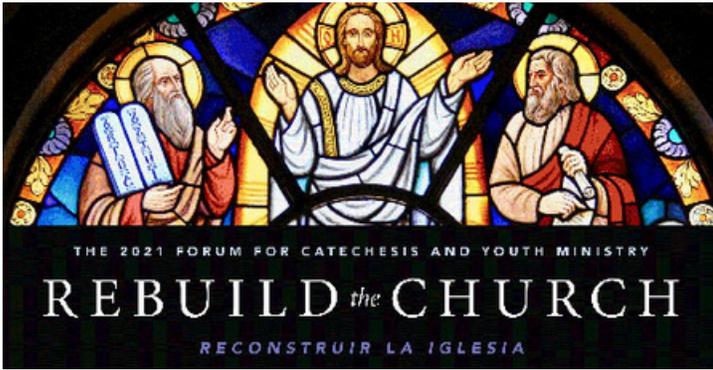
Here are some resources that will take some of the mystery out of copyright law.

1. [Finding Copyright-Free Images for Catechetical Use](#) by Jonathan Sullivan. This video has an audience similar to ours. He makes some good suggestions on where to go to find copyright-free images.
2. [Honoring Copyright](#) from Our Sunday Visitor is an infographic that lists simple steps you can take to comply with copyright law.
3. [Showing Movies in Churches](#) raises awareness that showing a movie to parishioners or students may violate copyright law. This resource will help you begin to understand that there is more to "movie night" than popping in a DVD.
4. [Copyright and Fair Use Animation](#) takes you through what you can and cannot do with works you find on the Internet.

You don't have to become a legal expert, but as a church leader you need to be aware of copyright issues.



THE FORUMS FOR CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY



October 16, 2021
Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx

Keynote Speakers:
 Armando Cervantes (en español)
 Dir., Youth, Young Adult, and Hispanic Ministry
 Diocese of Orange

Deacon Matthew Halbach (in English)
 Executive Director of Catechesis for Sadlier

October 23, 2021
John S. Burke High School, Goshen

Keynote Speaker:
 Sr. Maureen Sullivan, OP
 National Consultant for Sadlier

We are looking forward to hosting the Forums for Catechesis and Youth Ministry in person this fall! Our theme this year is Rebuild the Church. The Forums are great opportunities for learning and sharing for those who minister with our children and youth. For more information see the attached flyer or [click here to register.](#)

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Tom Brinkmann
Regional Faith Formation Specialist
Dutchess, Putnam, N. Westchester

Tom Brinkmann joins Youth Faith Formation having prepared for this ministry through a career of youth and family ministry. He recently completed 18 years as the Executive Director of Capuchin Youth & Family Ministry in Garrison, where he ministered alongside Capuchin Friars, Cap Corps Volunteers, scores of adult and youth volunteers and peer leaders. Before that he had served with the Archdiocese in the Vicariate/Deanery of Ulster, first as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry than as County Director of CYO Ulster Youth Ministry. He holds a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry and a Master of Religious Education. He tells us he is excited to be working with the faith filled and dedicated catechetical and youth ministry leaders and volunteers of the parishes in his region as they grow their ministries with our children and young people.

Jennifer Annunziata
Project Coordinator

Jennifer Annunziata joins the Youth Faith Formation Department as the Project Coordinator. She was the Administrative Assistant to the Regional Director of N. Westchester, Putnam and Rockland deaneries for over 11 years where she helped manage events such as Spirit Days for Confirmation children, Fast Feasts for catechists, and regional luncheons. As a Girl Scout leader for 15 years and the Service Unit manager for the past 6 years for the Stony Point Girl Scouts, she brings years of experience in developing, redesigning, and managing events that range from small gatherings to large community events for adults as well as youth. She is a proud mother of a 19 year old daughter named Gabriella Sophia. She is excited to be working with all the dedicated and hardworking people in archdiocese to deliver wonderful and successful events and programs.



WHAT IS ARCHNYLAB?

ArchNYLAB builds upon the success that the Department of Youth Faith Formation has experienced in online learning. First, with NiceNet, and most recently with Marist College's Sakai, our new LMS (learning management system) delivers online learning in an exciting and easy-to-use way. ArchNYLAB keeps records of formation courses taken and tracks learning progress. Our users find it engaging and easy to use.

But what does ArchNYLAB mean? Well, we are all familiar with ArchNY. LAB stands for Learning, Accompanying, Believing. The mission of our online work is to accompany you and those in your ministry in ever-deepening our faith and professional skills.

Consider ArchNYLAB the new hub for formation and continuing education for those involved in youth faith formation. Whether a course is face-to-face, on Zoom, online, or a mix, ArchNYLAB is the place to go.

You'll want to create a free account by starting at <https://archny.org/archnylab/>. Once you register, begin by taking the orientation course, Getting Around ArchNYLAB. Then, please share this news with those involved in your ministry.



TRY THIS ONE!

Blessing of New Drivers

Getting a driver's license is a marker event in the lives of young people and may be celebrated by the community as an acknowledgment of the teens' growth and increased responsibility. This blessing may be offered annually for all young people receiving their driver's license in the past year, preferably on or near a time that has special significance for the young people.

Ideas for Using this Blessing

At the end of Mass or after the homily, call all young people forward who have received a temporary or permanent driver's license within the past year. You may wish to have them hold up their license or a set of keys so that they, along with the youth, are blessed with holy water.

*Lord of our journeys,
Today we mark and celebrate a significant moment in the lives of these young people. As they prepare to assume the responsibility of drivers, we ask you to gift them with wisdom to make good choices as they navigate the roads they travel. Provide them with safe passage as they make each journey. Bless them with a clear mind that they may steer away from any danger they may encounter along the way. And let them know of the hope they provide us as they take this next step into maturity. We ask all these things, in the name of God who travels with us throughout all our journeys. AMEN.*

Source National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (www.nfcym.org)

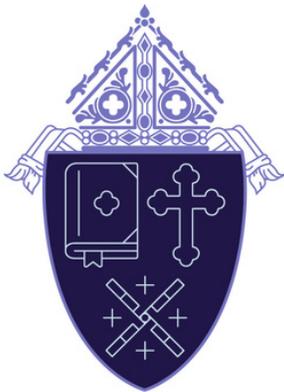


PREVENTING SUICIDE AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE A ZOOM WEBINAR FOR PARENTS

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York's Family Life Office, two free Zoom-based webinars that offer parents a safe and confidential way to learn about warning signs for suicide, and how to create space for loving conversations that may save a life.

Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults, and one in five youth report having thoughts about ending their life. Parents play a special role in watching, listening and acting. While suicide can be a challenging topic to discuss, it has been proven that talking about suicide does NOT increase suicidal behavior. Rather, when initiated by trusted friends and adults, it sends the message that you care and want to help. Many teens who struggle with suicidal thinking keep their pain hidden, and as Dr. Pamela Morris explains, "suicidal thinking, whether it is the result of mental illness, stress, trauma, or loss, is actually far more common and difficult to see than many of us realize."

Please invite the parents of your young people to participate in this important conversation. Flyer found at the end of this newsletter.



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

1011 First Avenue, 12th floor

New York, NY 10022

212-371-1000

archny.org/youth-faith-formation

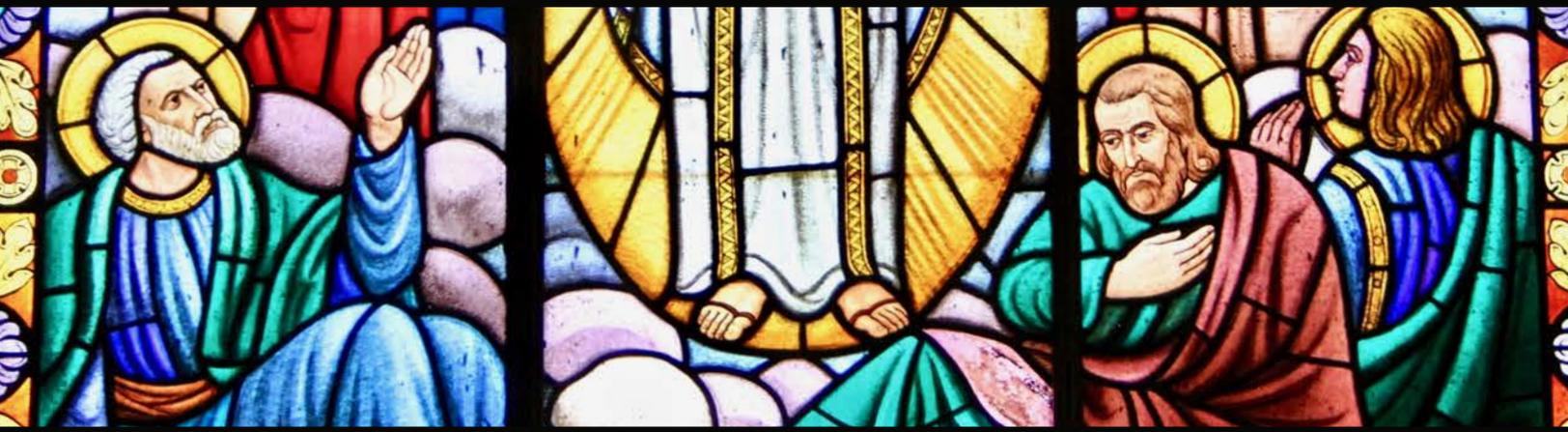




THE 2021 FORUM FOR CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

REBUILD *the* CHURCH

RECONSTRUIR LA IGLESIA



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Cardinal Spellman High School
One Cardinal Spellman Pl. | Bronx, NY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

John S. Burke Catholic High School
80 Fletcher St. | Goshen, NY

8:45 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The first 15 parishes for each Forum that register more than 3 people will be entered into a raffle to win a new Chromebook for their parish.

To register or for more information, visit:

bit.ly/Forum-Catechesis-Youth-Ministry

Or scan this QR code
with your phone:



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

*Youth Faith
Formation*



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
FAMILY LIFE

HOPE AND ACTION FOR PARENTS OF TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults, and one in five youth report having thoughts about ending their life. Parents play a special role in watching, listening and acting. While suicide can be a challenging topic to discuss, it has been proven that talking about suicide does NOT increase suicidal behavior. Rather, when initiated by trusted friends and adults, it sends the message that you care and want to help. Many teens who struggle with suicidal thinking keep their pain hidden, and as Dr. Pamela Morris explains, “suicidal thinking, whether it is the result of mental illness, stress, trauma, or loss, is actually far more common and difficult to see than many of us realize.”

Despite the truth of our Faith that God loves each of us infinitely and is in every person’s life, and that He has a plan for each one of us, we all sometimes struggle and suffer, including our children.

JOIN US FOR A FREE WEBINAR ABOUT PREVENTING SUICIDE AMONG OUR CHILDREN

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York’s Family Life Office, this free Zoom-based webinar offers parents a safe and confidential way to learn about warning signs for suicide, and how to create space for loving conversations that may save a life.

For questions or more information, contact Sue DiSisto, Parenting and Family Life Specialist in the Family Life Office at susan.disisto@archny.org or 646.794.3191.

TWO DATES AVAILABLE:

Thursday, October 28 | 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Q&A to follow presentation

For speaker background and to register:

www.tinyurl.com/hopeandactionoct28

Wednesday, November 3 | 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Q&A to follow presentation

For speaker background and to register:

www.tinyurl.com/hopeandactionnov03

PRESENTED BY:



Fr. Chris Alar, MIC

Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception
Author, *After Suicide: There’s Hope for Them and for You*



Pamela Morris, PhD

Professor of Applied Psychology
at NYU Steinhardt School
Loss survivor



Stan Collins

Suicide prevention specialist
Co-founder, Directing Change Program
Loss survivor

ONE CALL OR TEXT CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

These help lines are free, confidential, and available 24/7:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Red Nacional de Prevención de Suicidio

1-888-628-9454

Crisis Text Line

Text “GOT5” to 741741