

➤ ONLINE RESOURCES

Online Resources for some Approved Textbooks for the Diocese of La Crosse

You will be offering in-person faith formation. For those families who will choose not to participate due to concerns, the publishers of some approved textbooks have online resources.

A Family of Faith (Family-based) Sophia Institute. This textbook series can be used in the home and in Parish Faith Formation. <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/family-of-faith>

Recording of 3 Catechetical Leaders from the Diocese relating how they used the textbook can be found here:

Faith and Life, Ignatius Press

<https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/mcfd.htm>

Faith and Life Online

<https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/download/ContactInfoFLonline.pdf>

Free Trial: www.faithandlifeonline.com or www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com

Support: support@mycatholicfaithdelivered.com or call 866-981-8964

Easy Steps to get started:

https://cdn.cd2learning.com/FaithAndLifeOnline/FaithAndLife_GettingStartedSteps.pdf

Walk Through Faith and Life Online: <https://youtu.be/AM0R-JIYB4>

Parish resources from the Diocese of Lincoln using Faith and Life are also available on the website.

Image of God, Ignatius Press

<https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/imageofgod/> | Image of God currently does not have online content.

They recommend that each student have a textbook at home. The catechist could zoom a lesson and the child would have the textbook to look at or relevant copies of the catechist manual could be scanned and sent to parents to have them guide through the lesson. The child can go through the textbook and work at home. If another shutdown would happen, they will re-evaluate at that time and possibly put materials online as was done in Spring of 2020.

Be My Disciples, RCL/Benziger

Free e-book with each textbook.

<http://bemydisciples.com/> provides online support for students, families, catechists, religion coordinators, and program directors.

We Believe,. Sadlier

- Includes flexible models of implementation that serve the changing needs of schools, parishes, and busy families.
- Involve families with tools to enrich their identity as a Catholic family in today's world
- Provide digital options with resources and subscription web-based Online Assessments on Sadlier Connect

Remote Teaching and Distance Learning in Catechesis 3-Part Masterclass on August 18, 19, and 20, 2020 at 3pm CDT. Join us for a **FREE**, 3-part Masterclass with Digital Transformation Specialist Andrea Chavez-Kopp. She will share strategies and tools to make virtual catechesis an opportunity to reimagine your religious education programs and support more families.

Spirit of Truth, Sophia Institute Press

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/spirit-of-truth/parish-digital-edition>

Spirit of Truth Digital Edition is a completely-digital platform available via app or browser – not just a digitized book. The catechist is able to assign and track assignments, grade and communicate with your students/parents, and assist remotely as needed. There are multiple ways to implement the app in your faith formation program.

Alive in Christ, Our Sunday Visitor <https://osvcurriculum.com/faithathome>

Faith At Home Guide - Amid the uncertainty of the coming 2020-2021 catechetical year, OSV is providing catechetical leaders with a robust toolbox of solutions for home-based and hybrid models of catechesis. This downloadable pdf, organized based on age group and type of catechesis, presents flexible solutions for elementary and middle school grade-level catechesis, early childhood catechesis, and sacrament preparation.

<https://osvcurriculum.com/resources/osvc/faithathome/Faith%20at%20Home%20Guide.pdf>

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd,

<https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/>

Domestic Church Arise! We believe the most valuable service that we can offer during this time is to help families pray with their children at home and so continue to assist children and adults live a common religious experience in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God are celebrated. The CGS page is to support children, parents and families at home and catechists in their communities and parishes and schools.

https://www.cgsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Considerations-for-Opening-CGS-Atria_COVID-19-2020.pdf

<https://www.cgsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-CGSUSA-Return-Plan-Template-2020.pdf>

Other Online Resources

Note: The answer to the pandemic is not technology. We can surely make good use of technology but we need other people, in-person, to engage with and help us on our journey to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in His Church.

In this regard, we need to be witnesses of Jesus for others.

As Pope Paul VI wisely stated,

*Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers,
and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.*

(Evangelization in the Modern World, no. 41)

In other words, “faith is more caught, than taught.”

“Re-connecting America’s Loneliest Generation” webinar at National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM)

Raised in an era of widespread institutional distrust, young people long for meaningful relationships with caring adults as the antidote to pervasive isolation. You’ll see exactly how to create a culture of belonging in your parish and learn the role you can play in turning the tide on social isolation among young people. Click here nfcym.org/resources/webinars/crisis-webinars/ and scroll down.

Confirmation

It is recommended that preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation consists of two years. For a brochure for the required components of preparation, guidelines for a Retreat, and many other resources go to diolc.org/catechesis/sacramental-prep/confirmation/:

- *Chosen, Your Journey toward Confirmation by Chris Stefanick provides evangelization with short compelling videos and various activities that engage students through 24 sessions. See a two-year schedule that contains Theology of the Body.*
- *Purpose is Life Teen's transformative plan for confirmation preparation. Purpose is designed to help proclaim the Gospel message to young people while providing an atmosphere where they are accompanied by adult leaders toward discipleship. 2-year schedule includes TOB.*
- *The Diocesan Confirmation Program provides 40 teachings with more robust content, with a focus on the importance of each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 2-year schedule includes TOB*

Theology of the Body for Middle School by Ascension Press

For those parishes who have already purchased and implemented the Bundle Study Set with DVD, Leader Manual, Student Text and Parent Booklet, you may receive the access to all the materials digitally. As a session is being studied with the students, send a link home for the parents to watch a short video and receive a one-page summary with two discussion questions being developed by Office for Catechesis & Evangelization, Family Life, Catholic Schools and Ministries & Social Concerns.

YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body by Ascension Press

For those parishes who have already purchased and implemented the Bundle Study Set with DVD, Leader Manual, Student Text and Parent Booklet, you may receive the access to all the materials digitally. As a session is being studied with the students, send a link home for the parents to watch a 20-minute video and receive a one-page summary with discussion questions being developed by Office for Catechesis & Evangelization, Family Life, Catholic Schools and Ministries & Social Concerns.

These resources produced by Ascension Press are highly recommended as the DVD's are short and engaging and the Leader's Manual and Student Text are set up in a linear curriculum that is orderly and systematic.

Note: Bishop Callahan issued a letter in 2011 requiring that all Catholic Schools and parish programs implement the Theology of the Body for Grades 7-12. If you have not yet implemented these resources, please plan for that process in 2021-2022.

Life Teen – *Emmaus Initiative*

New ministry challenges call for new ministry endeavors. To help you plan and to walk with you through social distancing and other safety protocols, Life Teen has introduced the *Emmaus Initiative* to help parishes know how to adapt resources for their specific setting. Click on this link to watch an overview: lifeteen.com/newroad

The following Programs are being used in many parishes with great impact in the Diocese:

- Edge for Middle School
- Life Teen for High School

The Life Teen model includes adult mentors that participate in the small groups during these sessions. These trained mentors are most valuable to the process, as they walk with students and encourage them in their lives.

Online Meetings: (ZOOM, GoToMeetings, Google hangout, Bluejeans)

There must always be two adults for an online meeting with children and youth. Both for the protection of the children and the adults, these two adult facilitators must be background checked and complete the Diocesan "Protect and Heal" Safe Environment Training.

Acknowledging and being engaged with young people before teaching them:

It is always the case that before teaching young people in middle school and high school, they need to be engaged with the catechist: he/she will need to know their name, acknowledge them and listen to them. One possible format for this process: Begin with an opening prayer; allow each person to state a high point of the week; then allow each person to state a difficult point of the week; and allow each person to voice an intention for which the group will pray. Close with prayer.

At the next session, students may want to relate how prayers were answered.