

Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Erie: Supporting Parishes in the Pandemic

Why launch six new initiatives for 2020-2021?

- The human touch of ministry is critical and still possible, even though norms of in-person gatherings have changed.
- Our people are our great asset and valuable treasure. By investing in our people in these short-term challenges, we are investing in our long-term future as a diocese and as the Church.
- The faithful encounter Jesus through the sacraments and the Church community. Building community and extending welcoming & belonging are more important than ever in our Church, and they are still possible even as parish life looks different than it used to.

	Goals of Initiative	Audience & Success Measures	Initiative Overview	Time Frame	Contact Person & Additional Notes
1: Digital Ministry Workshops	<p>Build basic technology skills and comfortability for people facilitating live, online faith formation</p> <p>Teach ways to build community and facilitate welcome/belonging via digital technologies for various age groups.</p>	<p>Anyone who will instruct or facilitate digitally, i.e. Catechists, small group facilitators, youth ministers, Bible study leaders, etc.</p> <p>Participants will grow comfortable with live, digital facilitation technology.</p> <p>They will also learn ways to leverage the technology to foster community among those they serve.</p>	<p>Intro series: Learn basic Zoom, Google Meet, live presentation features on social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 101: Basics • 201: Basics pt. 2 <p>Application workshops: Learn how to apply the content for teaching different ages of people. Register for the group(s) to whom you minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-12 yrs. • 13-18 yrs. • 19-35 yrs. • Adults 	<p>RSVP for all by 8/24/2020</p> <p>Choose 1 offering for 101 & 201:</p> <p>101: Tech basics (8/25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-11:30 am • 7-8:30 pm <p>201: Basics, pt. 2 (8/26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-11:30 am • 7-8:30 pm <p>Age group application workshops:</p> <p>6-12 yrs.: 9/1, 10-11 am 13-18 yrs.: 9/2, 10-11 am 19-35 yrs.: 9/3, 2-3 pm Adults: 9/3, 7-8 pm</p>	<p>Mary Hickin mhickin@eriercd.org 814.824.1222</p> <p><i>Workshop recordings will be available on the Faith Formation website by 9/8/2020, though we encourage participants to join us live for most impactful learning experience.</i></p>
2: Formation Cohort for New Faith Formation Ministers	<p>Equip new ministers with the skills, resources, and tools to plan Spring 2021 programming.</p> <p>Build a climate of discipleship, trust, and community between ministers and FF team.</p>	<p>Ministers hired in the past 12 months for faith formation (DREs, adult formation leaders, youth ministers, etc.) They will:</p> <p>Plan programming/assessment for Spring 2021; increase self-awareness about gifts and challenges as a minister; learn how to build a coalition of support.</p>	<p>Participants will commit to ~ 5 hours/week for 6 weeks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 90-minute Zoom meetings with the cohort • Weekly 30-minute mentoring with FF director • Outside reading, planning, reflection work 	<p>Invited participants will apply online by August 21, 2020. Space is limited.</p> <p>Weekly Zoom meetings will be scheduled based on participants' availability.</p> <p>Commitment is from the week of September 13 through the week of October 18.</p>	<p>Jessie Hubert jhubert@eriercd.org 814.824.1224</p> <p><i>This cohort group is limited in size and by invitation only. If you are interested in being on the wait list, please email Jessie by Friday, August 21.</i></p>

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3: Lifelong Faith Formation Self-Assessment	<p>Help parishes assess the gifts and gaps of how they form people of all ages in their faith.</p> <p>Help parishes identify how they want to grow in formation in 2021.</p>	<p>Pastor + other designated parish leadership (i.e. Faith Formation team, pastoral council, staff)</p> <p>Parishes will see how they form people at each stage of life. They will plan strategically where to grow in 2021 and beyond.</p>	<p>This self-guided tool will walk parishes through an inventory of what faith formation resources are available to people at each age and stage of life. There will be optional training & coaching on prayerful implementation and application of the tool.</p>	<p>Early December, 2020: Pastors and parish ministers will receive an email with the tool & options for customized coaching from the FF team.</p> <p>Tool and video tutorial of how to complete it will be posted on the FF website.</p>	<p>Jillian Zaczyk jzaczyk@eriercd.org 814.824.1219</p> <p><i>Email Jillian to be added to a mailing list for a closer look at the tool before it launches.</i></p>
4: Best Practices for Lifelong Faith Formation	<p>Provide practical, curated activities and strategies for addressing gaps in parish faith formation offerings.</p>	<p>Pastors, parish leaders</p> <p>Parishes will get ideas for strengthening existing ministries and filling gaps by choosing from a curated list of high-impact ministry tools and strategies.</p>	<p>We will launch a website that will host a curated list of ministry tools and programs, organized by stage of life. It will be updated bi-annually. There will be optional mentoring on effective implementation of the tool.</p>	<p>January, 2021: Information will be sent to pastors via email and diocesan I.B. Parish ministers on the FF email list will receive an email.</p> <p>Information will be posted on FF website.</p>	<p>Kate Wilson kwilson@eriercd.org 814.824.1261</p> <p><i>Email Kate if you'd like to receive a sneak peek of the project in December, 2020.</i></p>
5: Spiritual Gifts Inventory + Training	<p>Teach parishes how to build a sense of belonging for their parishioners, by discovering their gifts and inviting them to share them.</p>	<p>Pastors + parish leaders they designate</p> <p>Participants will be trained to implement a Catholic spiritual gifts inventory and apply it to meet their goals of lifelong faith formation in their parish.</p>	<p>Participants will meet for 1-4 brief sessions with the FF team to take the inventory and learn how to apply it to engage parishioners at critical moments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New parishioners • Confirmation students • RCIA participants 	<p>January, 2021: Information will be sent to pastors via email and diocesan I.B. Parish ministers on the FF email list will receive an email.</p> <p>Information will be posted on FF website.</p>	<p>Mary Hickin mhickin@eriercd.org 814.824.1222</p> <p><i>Email Mary to request more information and/or put on an early release email list.</i></p>
6: Resources for Parish Staff	<p>Assist pastors by providing resources for their parish staff teams.</p> <p>Foster culture of discipleship in teams of parish staff.</p>	<p>Audience: Pastors</p> <p>Pastors will collaborate with the Faith Formation office for the resources that will help them achieve staff development and/or teambuilding goals.</p>	<p>Resources may include self-facilitated staff retreat content, externally facilitated retreats, retreats for groups of parish staff, and resources that will help the parish staff function like a team and view their jobs as ministry.</p>	<p>Spring, 2021: Information will be sent to pastors via email and diocesan I.B.</p>	<p>Jessie Hubert jhubert@eriercd.org 814.824.1224</p> <p><i>Email Jessie to express interest and be added to an early release email list.</i></p>

Pastors and parish ministers are encouraged to engage with the opportunities that are the best fit for their needs.