



Context Parameters:

Things to Keep in Mind When Using These Resources

What is the intention of these resources? (Guidelines for use)

- Suggestions for parishes to consider as they prepare for virtual or in person ministry efforts (relational, service, social in focus)
- They are geared towards use with Jr. High and/or High School youth
- Prior to use / implementation, seek to keep your selected idea age appropriate and recognize the current realities of the constituents you are walking with, giving special attention to their respective stages of faith development
- Delivery systems reflect both virtual and in person ideas/options in order to adhere to your current parish reality
- These ideas were curated from Ministry Leaders in the Diocese of Dallas and are not intended for “one size fits all” parish use. They reflect a sampling of ideas in the various categories and do not exhaust the possibilities.

Be aware of “What Young People Desire” during this season:

- To know Jesus
- To know that God loves them and is in control (amidst any uneasiness)
- To know they matter
- To feel safe, loved, and supported (especially by their parish community)
- To know how to pray and to develop a prayer life (a deeper faith connection)
- To share feelings openly without being told how they should feel
- To know how to navigate the journey of suffering (seeking guidance and for us to equip them with coping mechanisms)
- To feel productive and accomplished
- To feel connection to each other & their Catholic Church community
- To have fun and just be kids (experience joy)

Reminder:

As you prepare for your respective parish plans and ministry efforts for the coming year, please keep the following things in mind:

- Always be in communication with your direct supervisor / or pastor about your plans. Have them serve as the final approval point prior to implementation.
- Become an expert on the most current information about reopening plans by staying up to date on the information below:
 - Diocese of Dallas Decree: [Announcement from Bishop Edward J. Burns - Phase Three of Reopening Plan](#)
 - [CDC Guidelines](#) (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
 - Local County [Guidelines](#)



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Additional Mindsets to consider when navigating “Relational Ministry Efforts”:

- **Seek to be incarnational in focus**
 - Seek for these ministry efforts to be Christ centered and Christ seeking
 - Root them in building a foundational understanding of Sacred Scripture
 - Connect them to the deepening of one's prayer life calling upon Jesus to walk with them and guide them
- **Be intentional**
 - About how you create environments for encounter moments
 - In recognizing the developmental needs (of the age demographic you work with) as well as their stage of faith development; ensure all offerings complement those dynamics
 - Seek to meet them where they are at and invite them into a deeper experience/understanding of Jesus
 - Be sure to ask them how they are doing vs. guessing how they are feeling
- **Personalize the journey as much as you can**
 - Remembering one person's faith journey is not like everyone else's
 - Seek to unpack questions they have; gear formation offerings towards unpacking those questions; have them write down 3-5 things that they want to know and weave that into these incarnational moments - how is Jesus walking with them in a deeper understanding of their faith
- **Seek to look for every day connects**
 - They want to hear from other youth; ie: invite high school youth to share their faith witness with middle school youth (small groups/two adults - set up all witnesses for success through intentional preparation and instructions that provide guidelines and parameters)
 - When providing catechesis/teachings, have messages connect to their daily life - provide practical processing moments post presentation
 - Point them to the Saints; make connections to their journey
 - Goal should be for them to answer questions based on what they are learning, more so than regurgitating information. (Ie: God made me in his image - what does this mean for my life?)