

March 2016 Workshop
Center for Congregations

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March Workshop Topics

1. Reports from each church: projects and websites
2. Facilitating change: key steps to make change last
3. Website design and formatting; developing learning playlists
4. Evaluating faith formation programming and website content and design; using Google Analytics to assess website usage
5. Promoting the online resources and programming; connecting online with gathered programming
6. Connecting social media and the faith formation website
7. Learning how to find and curate digital faith formation resources
8. Preparing for summer 2016 programming

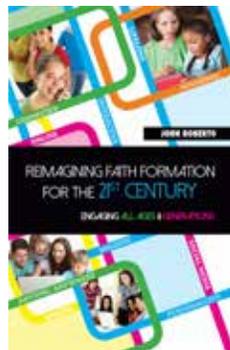
+ Resources

Website

www.ReimaginingFaithFormation.com



Book



+ Faith Formation Networks

A network of relationships, content, experiences, and resources. . . .

- Offering content and experiences to respond to the diverse religious and spiritual needs of people today—from the spiritually committed and engaged to the spiritual but not religious and the unaffiliated.
- Offering a variety of content, methods, formats, and delivery systems (online & physical settings) to address the diverse life tasks and situations, needs and interests, and spiritual and faith journeys of people.
- Offering multiple environments to address people's busy lives and providing more ways to participate: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

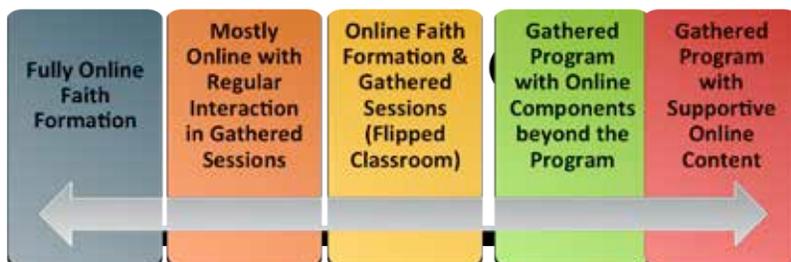


Faith Formation Networks



Digitally-Enabled

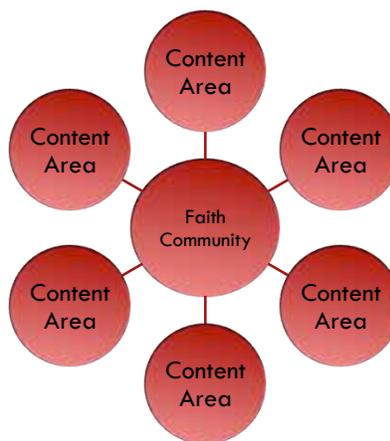
Blending gathered community settings with online learning environments and utilizing the abundance of digital media and tools for learning and faith formation

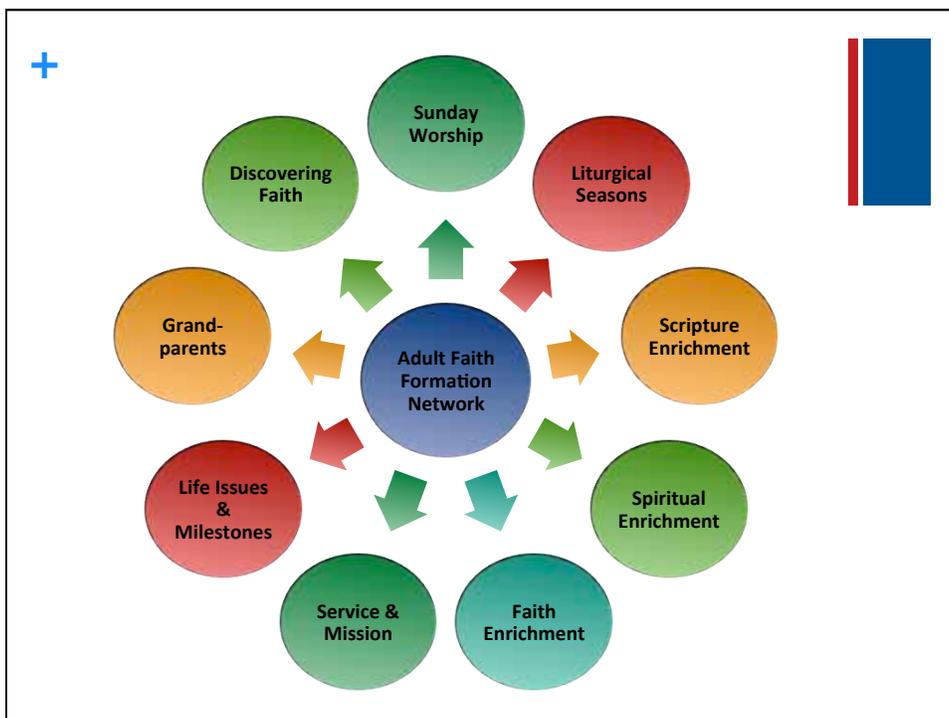


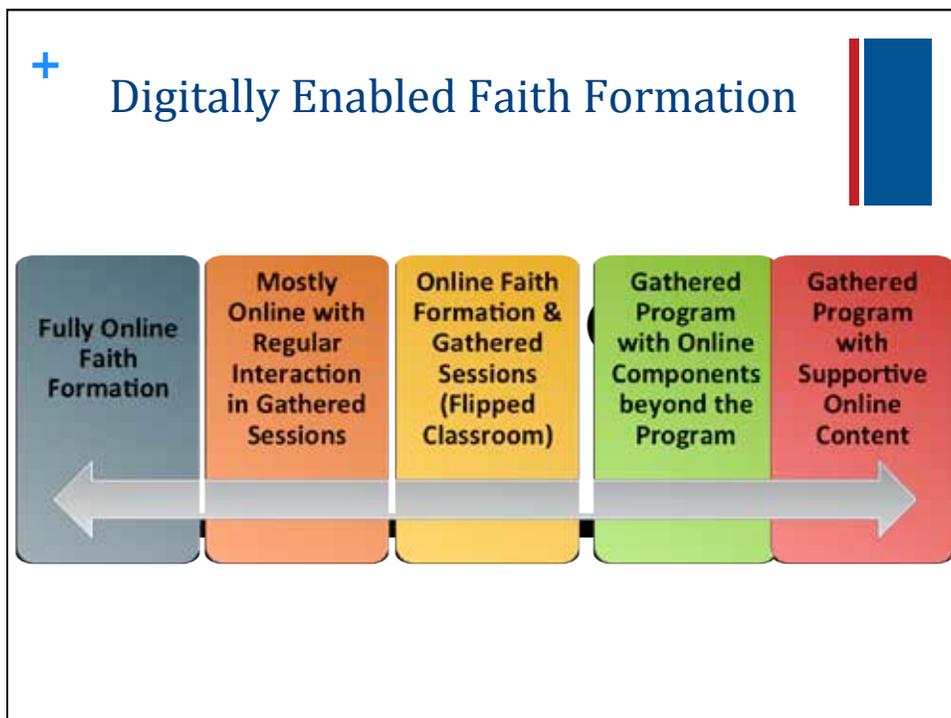
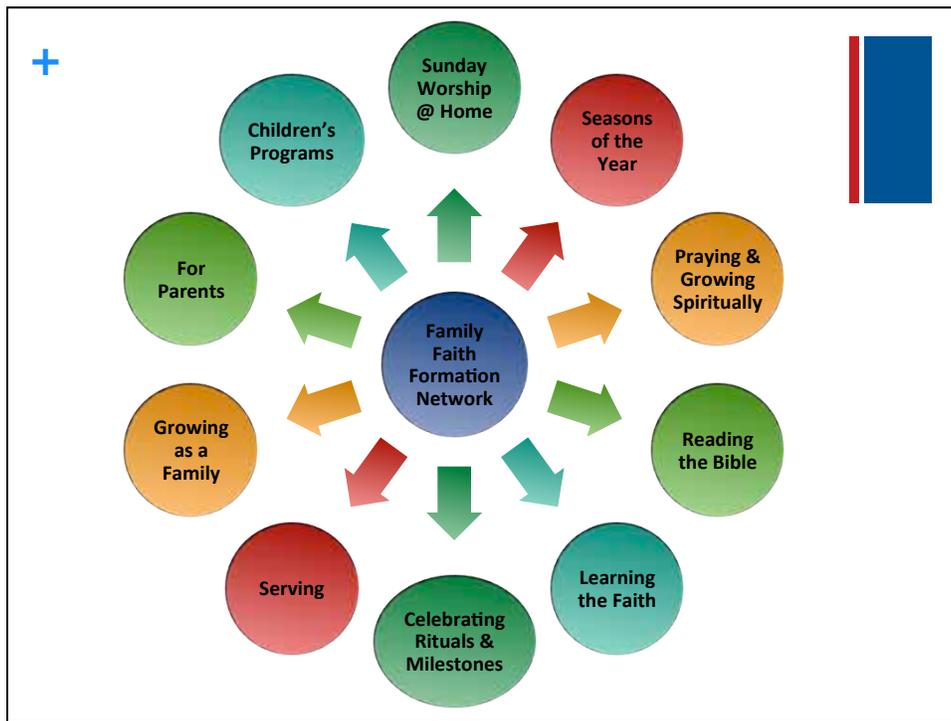
Design Network Themes



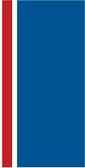
1. Caring Relationships
2. Celebrating the Seasons
3. Celebrating Rituals & Milestones
4. Learning the Christian Tradition
5. Praying & Spiritual Formation
6. Reading the Bible
7. Serving, Working for Justice, & Caring for Creation
8. Worshipping God
9. Missional
10. Life Stage Issues





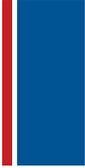


+ Gathered using Online Content



A gathered program using online content from websites, videos from YouTube or other video sites, and blogs and other social media. With an abundance of high quality digital content, this first option is the easiest way to bring the digital world into a gathered program.

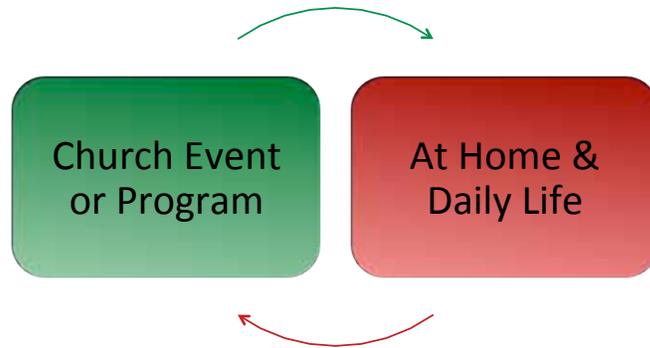
+ Gathered with Online Content



Connecting church programs or events with online content that extends and deepens the experience through learning, prayer, ritual, action, etc.

- Sunday worship & church year feasts and seasons
- Intergenerational & family programs
- Children, youth, and adult classes & programs
- Extended programs: mission trips, retreat experiences, and vacation Bible school, summer camp

+ Gathered with Online Content



+ Gathered with Online Content



+ Example: Sunday Worship

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
Experience of Worship in the Congregation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday worship and lectionary • Church year feasts and seasons • Church rituals: baptism, communion, funerals, etc. 	Experience of Sunday worship, rituals, and church year seasons in daily life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on the sermon and readings at home • Practices: Lectio, etc. • Application to daily living 	Online worship, church year, and lectionary resources on the church's faith formation website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectionary commentaries online • Video reflections and commentary • Online activities and projects

+ Online and Gathered

“Flip the classroom or program” by creating a digital platform to provide the content that people would learn in the gathered setting in an online learning space using print, audio, video, and more. And then transform the gathered program using interactive activities, discussion, project-based learning, and practice and demonstration.

- Flip children's programming: At home learning with parents (print, video, online); in-class application with activities, project-centered learning
- Flip confirmation programming
- Develop a online justice and service center

+ Online and Gathered



+ Online and Gathered

St. Edward the Confessor

CONFIRMATION

Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Welcome to Confirmation.
Confirmation is the sacrament in which you receive a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit. It completes what began in Baptism, giving you the gifts and tools needed to live your whole life as a Christian. Confirmation preparation is a 2-year process with weekly readings, online work, service projects, retreats, and prayer experiences.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CONFIRMATION

LEARNING
login

PROGRAM
requirements

SERVICE
projects

Confirmation 1 <i>Saturday of Dawn</i>	Confirmation 2 <i>Saturday of Dawn</i>	Insights <i>Saturday of Dawn</i>
<p>Confirmation 1</p> <p>Sunday, September 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am - Morning Prayer 9:00am - Confirmation 1 Class 10:00am - Confirmation 1 Class Sunday, October 17 	<p>Confirmation 2</p> <p>Sunday, September 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am - Morning Prayer 9:00am - Confirmation 2 Class Sunday, October 17 8:00am - Confirmation 2 Class Sunday, September 17 	<p>Insights</p> <p>Sunday, September 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am - Morning Prayer 9:00am - Insights Wednesday, October 8 7:00am - Insights Wednesday, October 14

- ### Program Requirements
- 1) PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY ONLINE LEARNING**
 - Complete weekly online lesson
 - Participate in online small group discussions
 - 2) ATTEND MONTHLY SUNDAY SESSIONS**
 - Sessions begin at 8:00 p.m. and end after the 8:30 p.m. Mass
 - 7 Absences allowed
 - 3) SERVICE PROJECTS**
 - Participate in 2 service projects per year (service project opportunities will be available online; you would also be participating in)
 - Write one reflection per project completed online
 - 4) ATTEND "INSIGHTS" (YOUTH GROUP) MEETINGS**
 - Attend 2 Insights Youth Ministry Meetings; more is encouraged!
 - Insights takes place Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Knight Hall (please refer to a)
 - 5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR**
 - Confirmation 1 - One-day retreat with parents or family (September 26, 2015)
 - Confirmation 2 - Overnight weekend retreat (February 14-16, 2016 or March 7-9, 2016)
 - *** Registration for Confirmation 2 retreat will begin online January 5, 2016

+ Online and Gathered



The screenshot shows a website with a yellow header containing the title "One Spirit Many Gifts" and two images: a flame and a dove. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with links for Home, Session 1 through Session 7, Contact Us, and Prep. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Gifts Are For Sharing" and contains text about God's gifts and a link to "Part (I) Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit". The right column is titled "What can YOU do?..." and contains text about using gifts and a small image of a cartoon character. At the bottom of the page, there is a motivational quote: "Remember you never know what you can do unless you GO FOR IT! It is better to have tried and failed than to never try at all... and maybe you will be a GREAT SUCCESS!"

+ Mostly Online

Utilizing the digital platform as the primary learning setting and providing opportunities for interaction in gathered settings.

- Parent webinar programs delivered to parents at home in four-month semesters: three webinars + a parent gathering; three more webinars + a parent gathering.
- Online learning resources for self-study or small group study, and gathering at the conclusion to share their insights.
- Online Bible study where groups can meet regularly in a physical setting or virtually through Skype or a Google+ Hangout.
- Selected online courses and activities from colleges, seminaries, and religious organization for individualized learning with the option for a mentor or small group gathering.

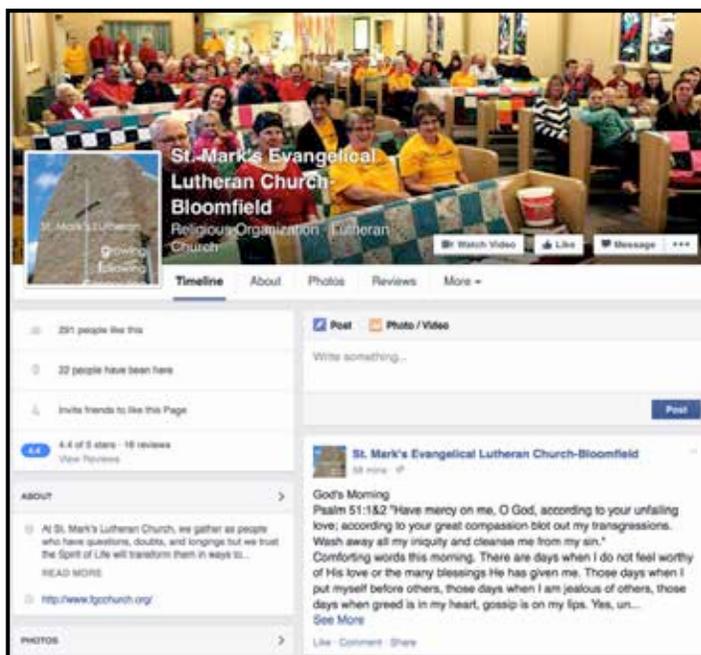


Fully Online

The rise of high quality and easily accessible online religious content—courses, activities, print and e-books, audio and video programs, and content-rich websites—has made designing online faith formation feasible.

- Online Bible and theology courses, video programs, webinars for individual study
- Online prayer and spirituality center where people can access daily prayer reflections and devotions, offer prayer intentions, pray for others, learn about spiritual practices, download prayer activities for the home
- Online parent resource center
- Online retreat experience

St. Mark's Daily Devotion



+ Example: 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church Life →	Daily & Home Life	← Online Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Lenten Sunday liturgies • Stations of the Cross • Lenten prayer • Lenten retreat • Lenten service • Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Praying • Service/ Almsgiving • Lectionary reflection • Family activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten learning resources • Lenten calendar • Daily Lenten prayer • Weekly table prayer • Video resources • Online retreat experience

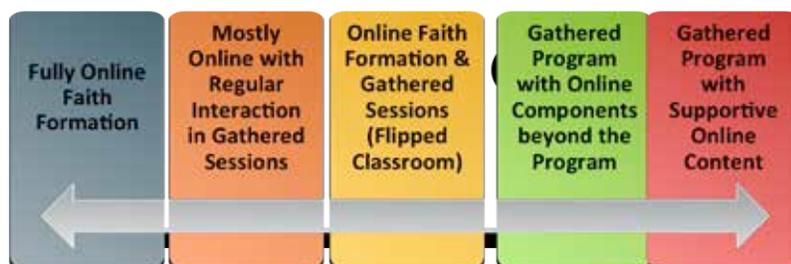
+ Faith Formation Playlists

- 1. Variety of Environments:** Self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.
- 2. Variety of Ways to Learn**

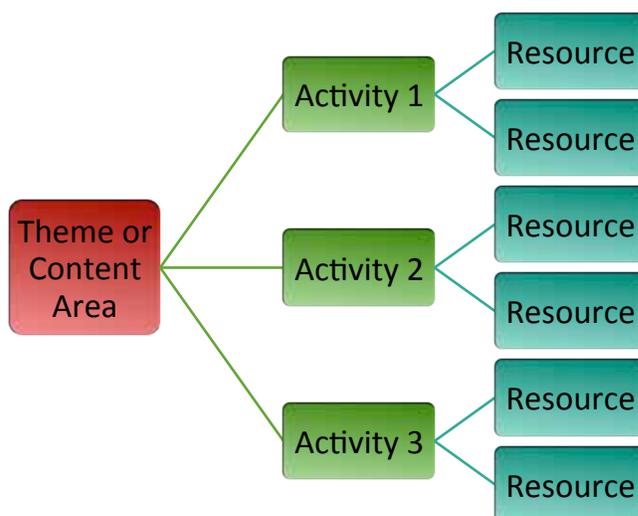


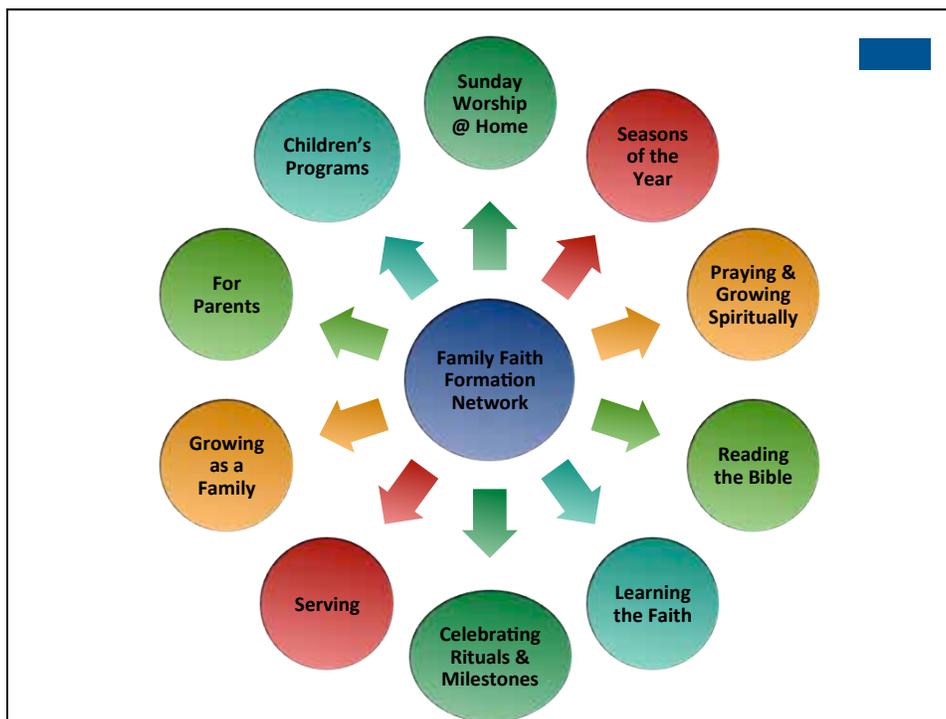
+ Faith Formation Playlists

3. Digitally-Enabled: Blending gathered community settings with online learning environments and utilizing the abundance of digital media and tools for learning and faith formation



+ Developing a Playlist





Family Faith Formation Playlist

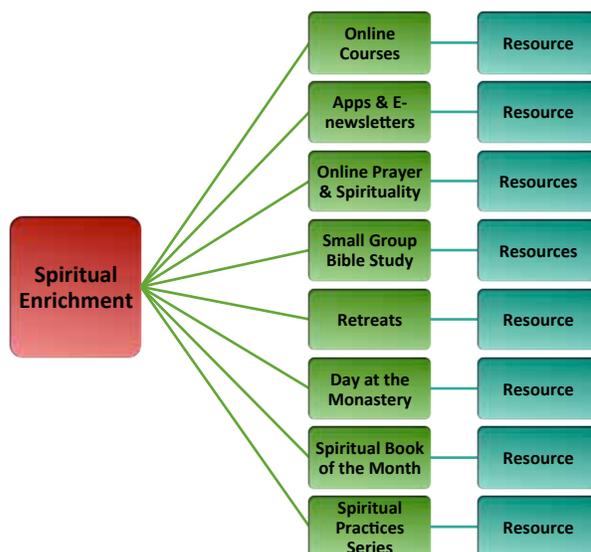
Playlists are thematic learning plans that integrate a variety of ways to learn, multiple learning environments, and online and physical spaces—from which people can create their own plan.

Example: Just for Parents

The "Just for Parents" programming offers a variety of ways for you to enhance and enrich your knowledge and skills:

1. "First Wednesdays" Webinar Series - without leaving your home!
2. Learn More About Your Children
3. Book Groups: The Secrets of Happy Families by Bruce Feiler
4. Online Video: "Parenting for the Long Haul"

+ Adult Faith Formation Playlist



+ Adult Faith Formation Playlist

Playlists are thematic learning plans that integrate a variety of ways to learn, multiple learning environments, and online and physical spaces—from which people can create their own faith formation plan.

Example: Spiritual Enrichment for Adults
Theme: "Spiritual Practices"

1. Spiritual Practices Course (5 sessions at church in one month)
2. Spirituality Over 50 Book Group (variety of times & places)
3. Online Daily Devotion Resources
4. Online Prayer Practices Resources
5. Online Course or Retreat with a Spiritual Master
6. Online Retreat

Website: <http://holytrinityadults.weebly.com>

Digital Platform

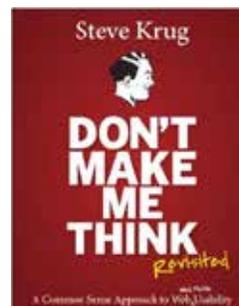


Other Platforms

www.wordpress.org www.wix.com www.squarespace.com

+ Things to Remember...

1. Don't make the user think—make web pages self-explanatory so the user hardly has any perceived effort to understand them, for example, clear choice of labels, clearly “clickable” items, simple search.
2. People generally don't read web pages closely; they scan, so design for scanning rather than reading.
3. Create a clear visual hierarchy and menu system (main menu, submenus).
4. Make it very clear how to navigate the site, with clear “signposts” on all pages.
5. Omit needless words.
6. The home page needs the greatest design care to convey site identity and mission.
7. Promote user goodwill by making the typical tasks easy to do, make it easy to recover from errors, and avoid anything likely to irritate users.



+ Test the Plan & Website

1. Let your user experience the network online. Show don't tell. Let them review the website and the programming. Just the minimum context so they understand what to do. (Have computers or tablets available for people to use or ask them to bring a device.)
2. Have them talk through their experience, e.g., "Tell me what you are thinking as you are doing this."
3. Actively observe. Watch how they use (and misuse!) the website. Don't immediately "correct" what your user is doing.
4. Follow up with questions, such as: "Show me why this would (or would not) work for you." "Can you tell me more about how this made you feel?" "Why?" "Do you find things that interest you and connect with your life?" "Are there things you would have liked to see?"

+ Launch the Network

Be sure to pay careful attention to the titles and descriptions so that they capture people's interests. Develop descriptions that are positive in tone, indicate clearly the content or focus of an activity.

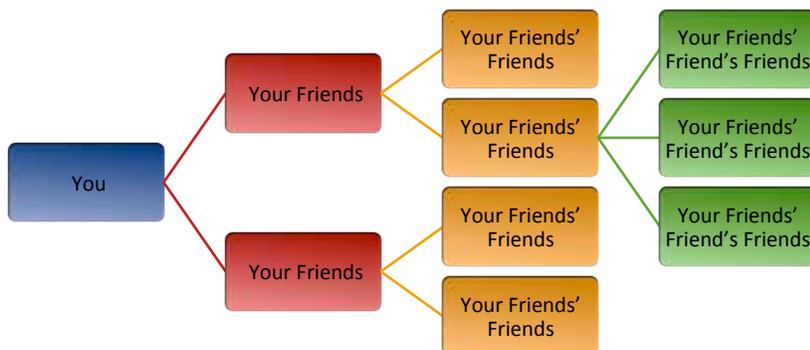
1. Describe how your offerings respond to something within the lives of people. Highlight the relationship between the content and the particular spiritual or religious needs, interests, passions, concerns, or life issues of people.
2. Describe the 2-3 benefits of participating or engaging in faith formation.
3. Explain to people how to use the Network and how to access the activities and resources.

+ Promotion Ideas

1. Connect to (or extend from) a gathered event.
2. Use personalized invitations.
3. Establish a Facebook page for faith formation for announcements, updates, stories and photos from people engaged in faith formation, etc.
4. Use Twitter to announce updates, events, and invite reflections from people on their experiences.
5. Send email or e-newsletters to targeted groups (use a service like Constant Contact, Mail Chimp, Flocknote).
6. Provide ways to share experiences using blogs, Twitter, Facebook: videos, reports, photos, etc.

+ Connect to Social Networks

Our social network is made up of all the people we're connected to, all the people they are connected to, all the people they are connected to, and so on.



METHOD
FEEDBACK CAPTURE GRID



WHY use a feedback capture grid

Use a feedback capture grid to facilitate real-time capture, or post-mortem unpacking, of feedback on presentations and prototypes - times when presenter-critiquer interaction is anticipated. This can be used either to give feedback on progress within the design team or to capture a user's feedback about a prototype. You use the grid because it helps you be systematic about feedback, and more intentional about capturing thoughts in the four different areas.

HOW to use a feedback capture grid

1. Section off a blank page or whiteboard into quadrants.
2. Draw a plus in the upper left quadrant, a delta in the upper right quadrant, a question mark in the lower left quadrant, and a light bulb in the lower right quadrant.

It's pretty simple, really. Fill the four quadrants with your or a user's feedback. Things one likes or finds notable, place in the upper left; constructive criticism goes in the upper right; questions that the experience raised go in the lower left; ideas that the experience or presentation spurred go in the lower right. If you are giving feedback yourself, strive to give input in each quadrant (especially the upper two: both "likes" and "wishes").

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Step 9. Evaluate
Programming

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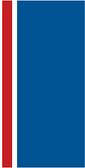
Evaluation

Level 1: Reaction: *How do participants react to the program, or better, what is the measure of their satisfaction?*

Level 2: Learning: *To what extent has learning occurred?*

Level 3: Behavior: *The what extent has behavior changed as a result of the program?*

Level 4: Results: *To what extent have results occurred because of the program?*



+ Seasonal Planning

Fall Season:
September 1 – January 1

Winter/Spring Season:
January 1 – May 1

Summer Season:
May 1 – September 1

