



**REIMAGINING FAITH FORMATION
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Presenter: John Roberto

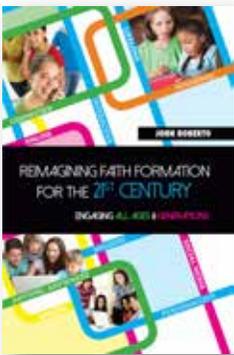
Resources

Website

www.ReimaginingFaithFormation.com



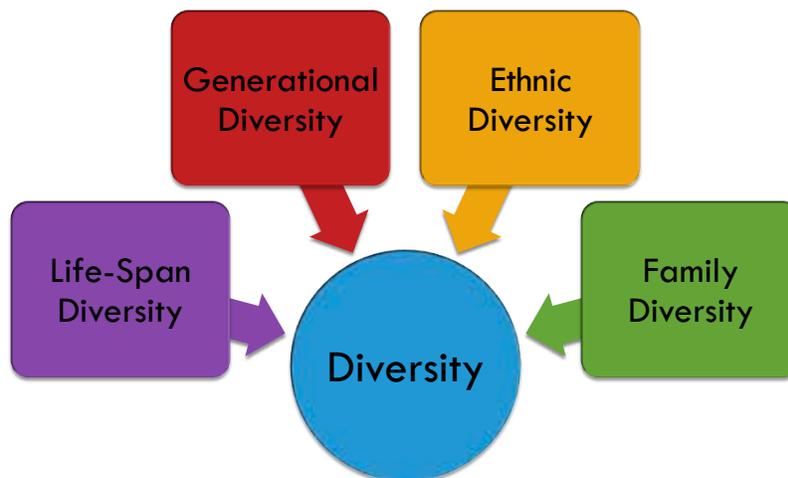
Book



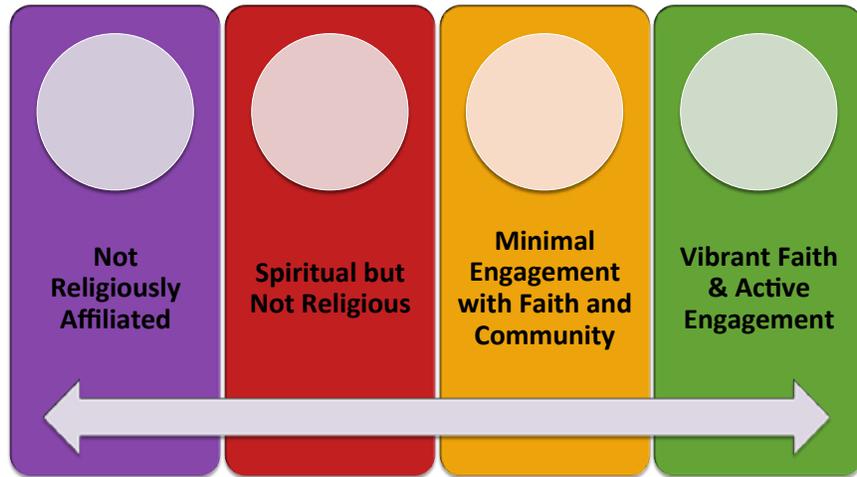
4 Big Adaptive Challenges

1. Increasing diversity throughout American society in the length of the lifespan, in generational identities, in family structures and marriage patterns, and in the ethnic makeup of America
2. Dramatic changes and increasing diversity in the religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation of Americans
3. Decline in religious transmission from generation to generation
4. Rise of new digital technologies that are reshaping society, and the emergence of a connected, networked society

Diversity

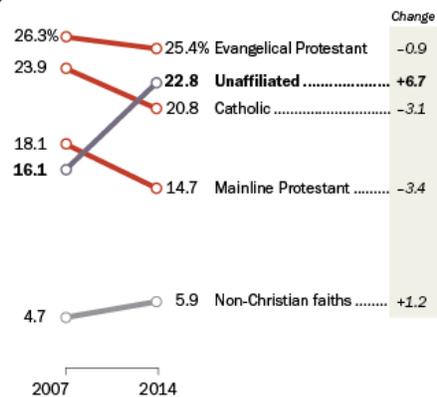


Religious Diversity



Changing U.S. Religious Landscape

Between 2007 and 2014, the Christian share of the population fell from 78.4% to 70.6%, driven mainly by declines among mainline Protestants and Catholics. The unaffiliated experienced the most growth, and the share of Americans who belong to non-Christian faiths also increased.



Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Unaffiliated Make Up Growing Share Across Generations

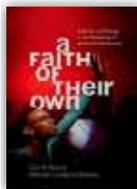
% of each generation that identifies current religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular

	2007	2014	Change
Silent generation (b. 1928-1945)	9	11	+2
Baby Boomers (b.1946-1964)	14	17	+3
Generation X (b. 1965-1980)	19	23	+4
Older Millennials (b. 1981-1989)	25	34	+9
Younger Millennials (b. 1990-1996)	n/a	36	n/a

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. All changes are statistically significant.

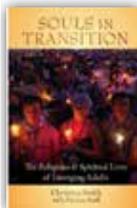
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Youth & Young Adult Religiosity



Youth (teens)

Abiders	Adapters	Assenters	Avoiders	Atheists
20%	20%	31%	24%	5%

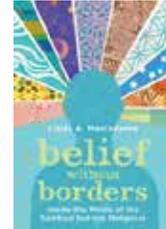


Emerging Adults (20s)

Committed Traditionalists	Selected Adherents	Spiritually Open	Religiously Indifferent	Religiously Disconnected	Irreligious
15%	30%	15%	25%	5%	10%

SBNR Types

1. Dissenters
2. Casuals
- “religious practice makes me feel better”
3. Explorers
- spiritual tourists
4. Seekers
- searching for a spiritual home
5. Immigrants
- moved to a new spiritual “land”



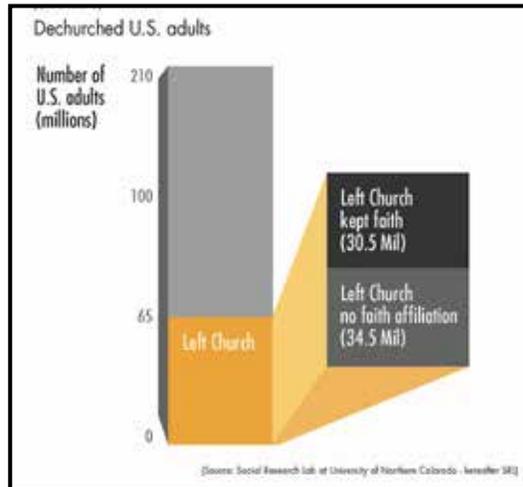
Impact of Changes

(CARA Catholic Family Study, 2015)

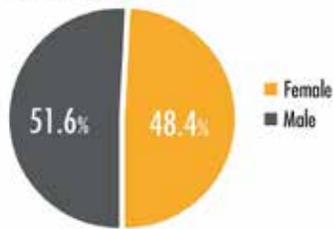
Do any of your children currently attend...

1. A Catholic elementary or middle school: 8%
2. A Catholic high school: 3%
3. A parish-based Catholic religious education program: 21%
4. A youth ministry program: 5%
5. None of the above: 68%

Rise of the Dones

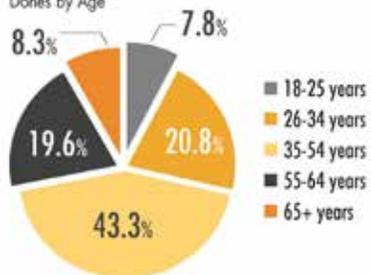


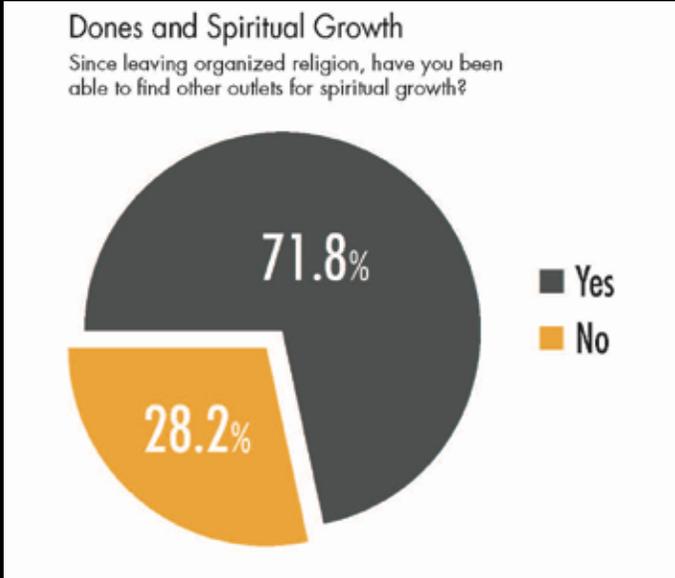
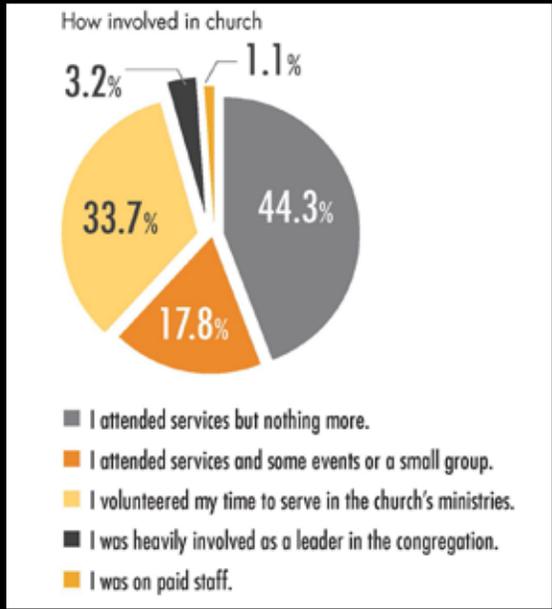
Dones by Gender



(Source: SRI)

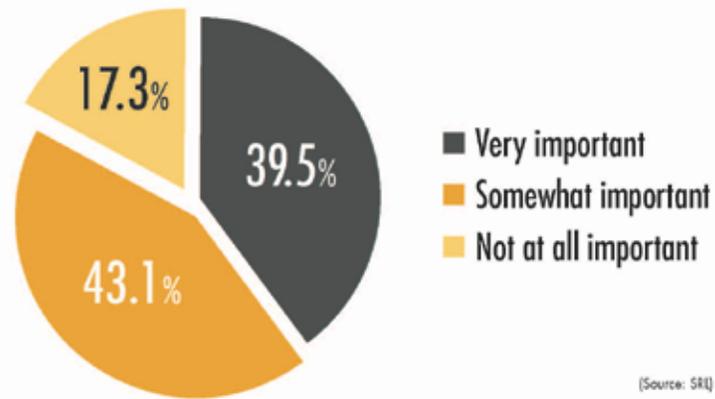
(GRAPHIC B)
Dones by Age





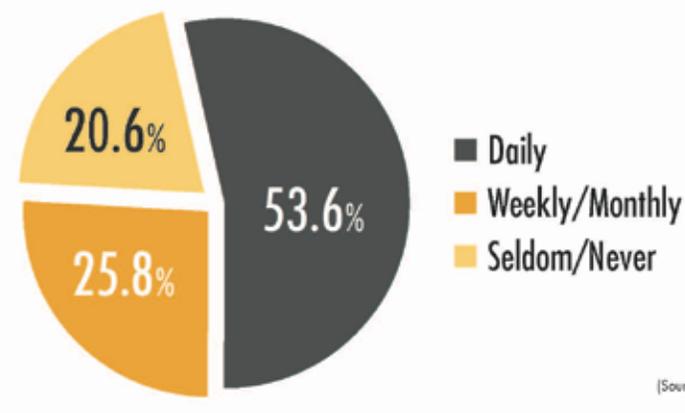
Dones and Importance of Religion

How important is religion in your life?

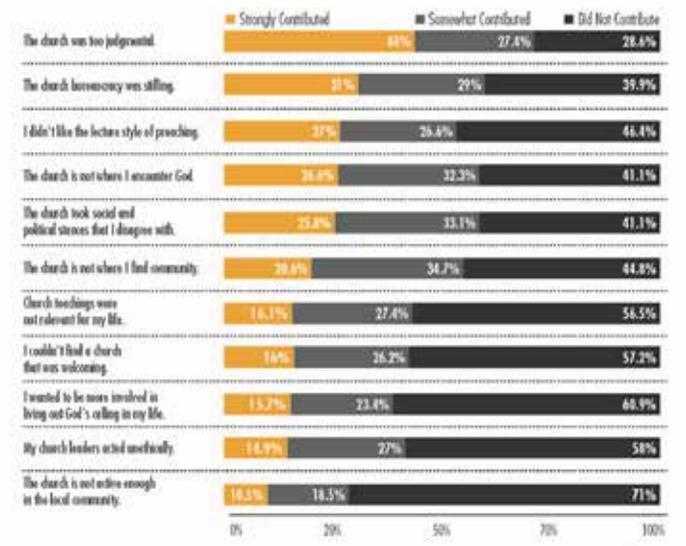


Dones and Frequency of Prayer

How often do you pray?

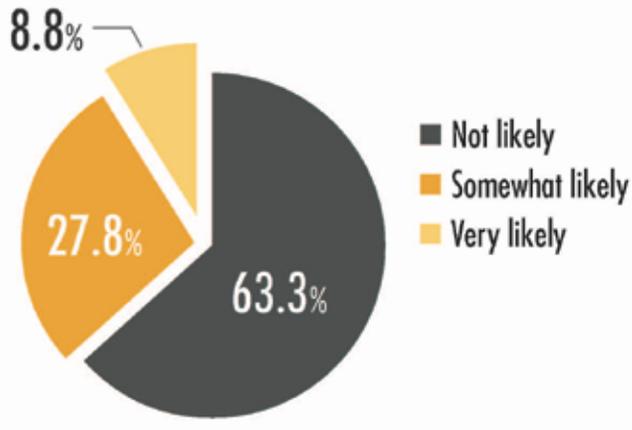


Dones' Reasons for Leaving Church



Dones and Future Church Involvement

What is the likelihood that you will ever become involved in an organized church again?



Analysis

- Younger generations are more unaffiliated and less involved in faith communities.
- Older generations are more affiliated and more involved and supportive.
- As younger generations replace the older generations there will be fewer engaged and more unaffiliated individuals and families.

Analysis

- 40% of the “no religion in particular” say religion is “very” or “somewhat” important in their lives
- The overwhelming majority of religiously unaffiliated believe in God.
- People “leaving” is less about people “losing their religion” than dissatisfaction with available institutional options.
- Young generations seem allergic to large-scale institutions that demand not only spiritual allegiance but financial commitment. None of these things are “religion” for these people.

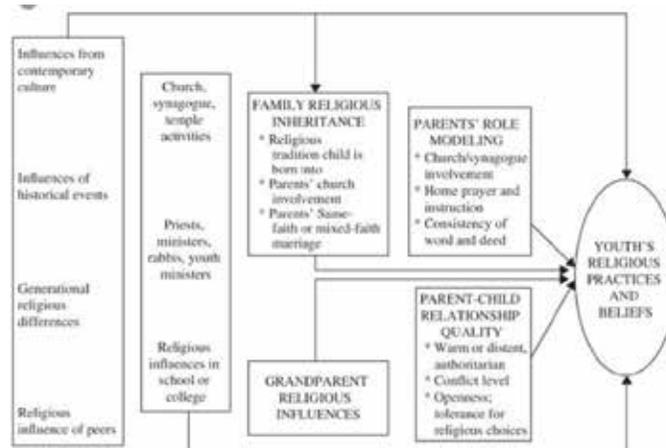
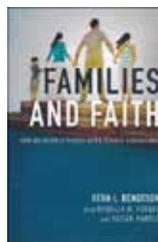
Analysis

Religion is not going away anytime soon, regardless of how people may identify themselves. But business as usual among existing religious institutions will not stem the losses we are seeing.

(Richard Flory, USC)

(<http://religiondispatches.org/u-s-christianity-is-dead-long-live-u-s-christianity>)

Religious Transmission



Analysis

- Religious transmission is a family affair.
- Families can transmit a particular religious faith tradition or not.
- Declining levels of family religious transmission and faith practice at home are a result of non-affiliation—1st generation and 2nd generation non-affiliated families.
- If the pattern continues, expect higher levels of non-affiliation and lower levels of church involvement in younger families.

Concluding Thought

The world is now changing at a rate at which the basic systems, structures, and cultures built over the past century cannot keep up with the demands being placed on them. Incremental adjustments to how you manage and strategize, not matter how clever, are not up to the job. You need something very new to stay ahead in a age of tumultuous change and growing uncertainties.

(John Kotter, Accelerate: Building Strategic Agility for a Faster-Moving World)

A Faith Forming Ecosystem for the 21st Century

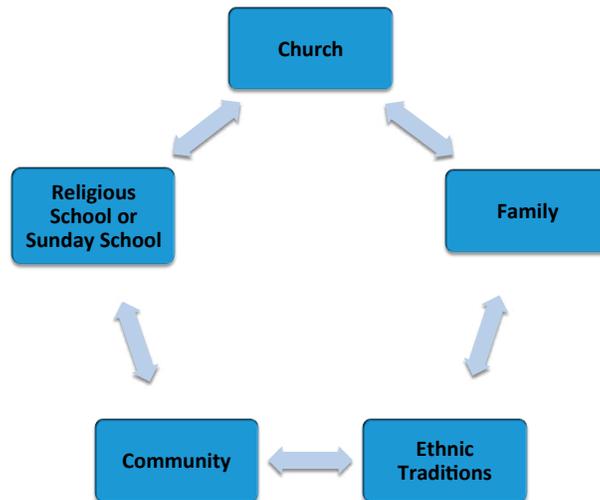
Ecosystem

A system, or group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment

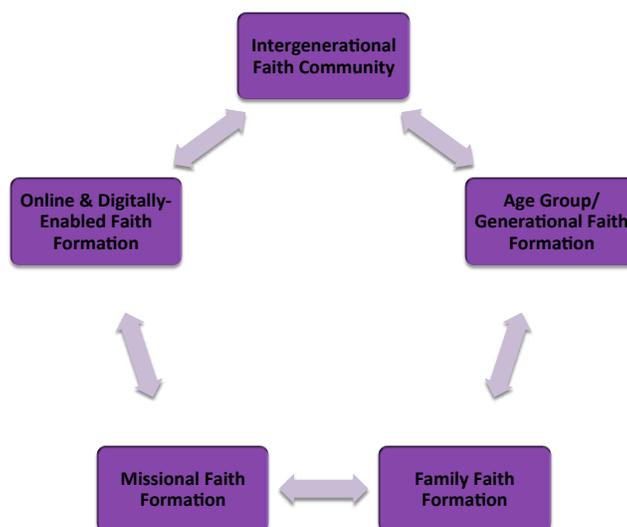
Science defines an ecosystem as being a community where organisms interact with one another and with their physical environment.

Every organism has a role to fulfill and there must be a harmonious balance between all aspects of the ecosystem in order for the organisms to flourish and evolve.

The “Old” Faith Forming Ecosystem



A New Faith Forming Ecosystem



Holistic Faith & Lifelong Formation

Faith formation is a lifelong journey of discipleship—a process of experiencing, learning, and practicing the Christian faith as we seek to follow Jesus and his Way in today's world.

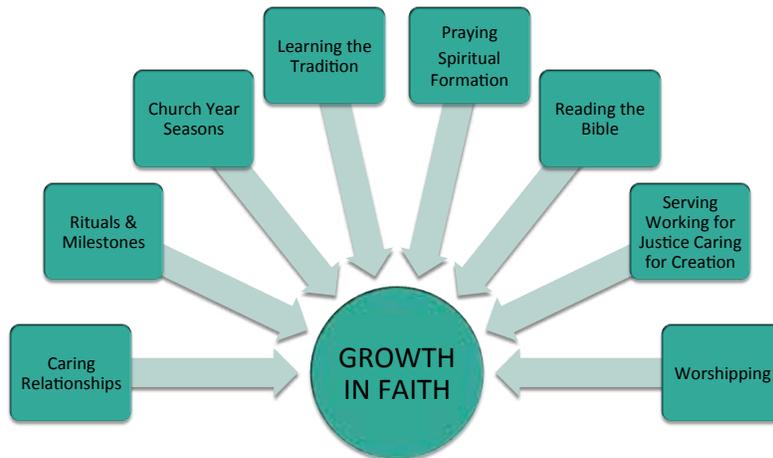
- Way of the Head – *a discipleship of faith seeking understanding*
- Way of the Heart – *a discipleship of relationships and community*
- Way of the Hands – *a discipleship of transforming the world*

Holistic Faith & Lifelong Formation

- *A way of the head* (inform) demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.
- *A way of the heart* (form) demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God's love, and prayer and worship.
- *A way of the hands* (transform) demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.

(Thomas Groome)

Eight Faith Forming Processes



Intergenerational Faith Formation

Intergenerational faith formation and whole community faith experiences are at the *center* of faith formation – engaging all ages and generations in the life and events of church life and the Christian faith and participation in intergenerational faith experiences.

How to become intentionally intergenerational in church life & faith formation as the foundation for lifelong faith formation and discipleship?

Intergenerational Faith Formation

Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service. . . . To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.
(Allen and Ross, *Intergenerational Christian Formation*)

Intergenerational Faith Formation

- **Caring:** Community building activities, storytelling, mentoring, social events
- **Celebrating:** Sunday Worship, whole community sacramental celebrations, milestones celebrations, church year feasts and seasons
- **Learning:** Intergenerational learning programs (weekly, monthly, small group); incorporating intergenerational learning into age group programming
- **Praying:** Community prayer experiences, intergenerational prayer groups, spiritual guides/mentors
- **Serving:** Intergenerational service projects and mission trips, church-wide service days

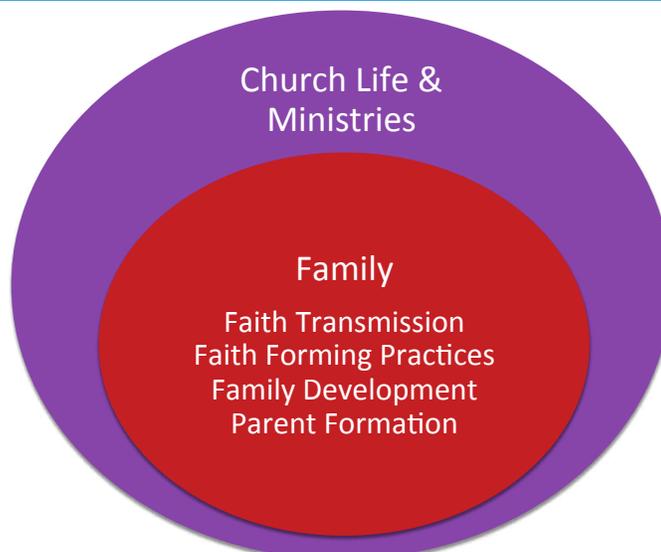
Family Faith Formation

Congregations equip and strengthen families to become faith forming centers:

1. Transmitting faith from generation to generation
2. Nurturing family faith at home through the eight faith forming processes
3. Building strong families
4. Parent (and grandparent) formation

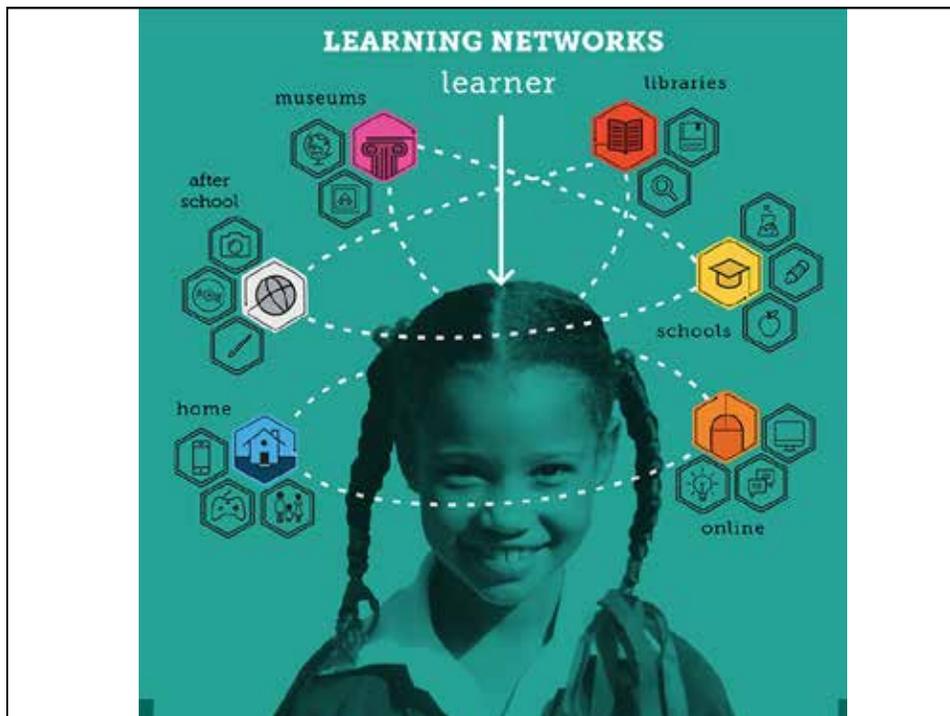
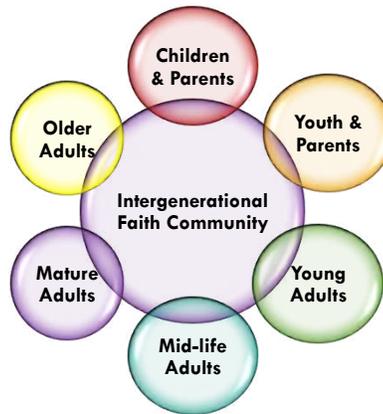
How to equip, resources, and support families as the center of faith formation through faith formation and church ministries?

Families at the Center

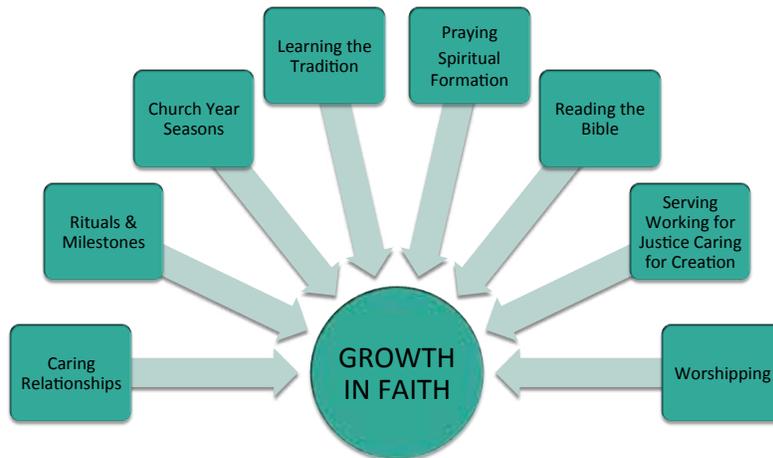


Life-Stage Faith Formation

Age group and generational faith formation addresses the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of people at each stage of life.



Curriculum: 8 Faith Forming Processes



Faith Formation Networks

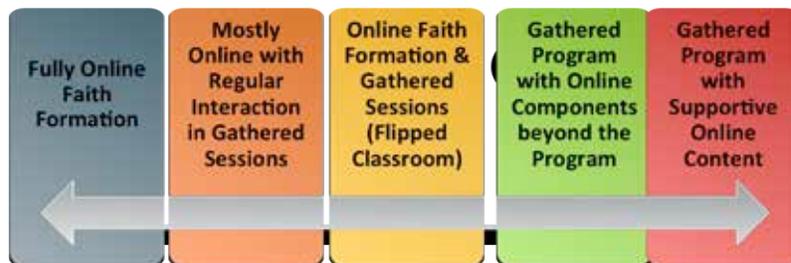
A network of relationships, content, experiences, & resources. . . .

- 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 content and experiences that is **responsive** 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 **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.

Life-Stage Faith Formation

Digitally-Enabled

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

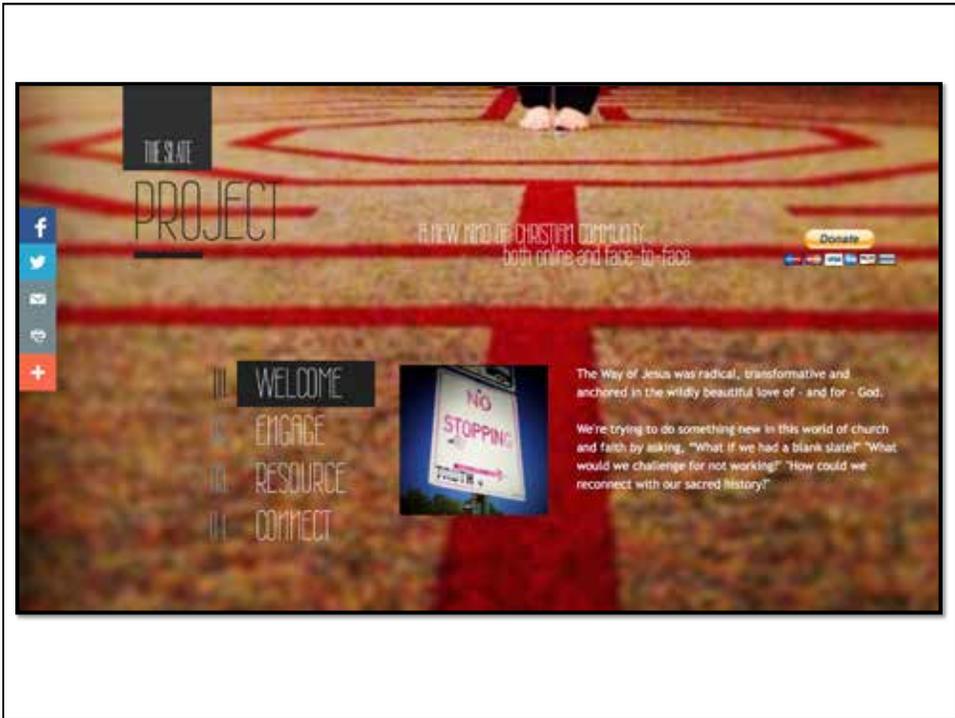


Missional Faith Formation

Missional faith formation expands and extends the church's presence through *outreach, connection, relationship building*, and *engagement* with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.

For example:

- Moving worship & faith formation into the community
- Opening programs to everyone
- Life skills: parenting, careers, training, mentoring
- Small group programs on a variety of topics
- Community-wide service
- Community events: arts, music, theater



Missional Faith Formation

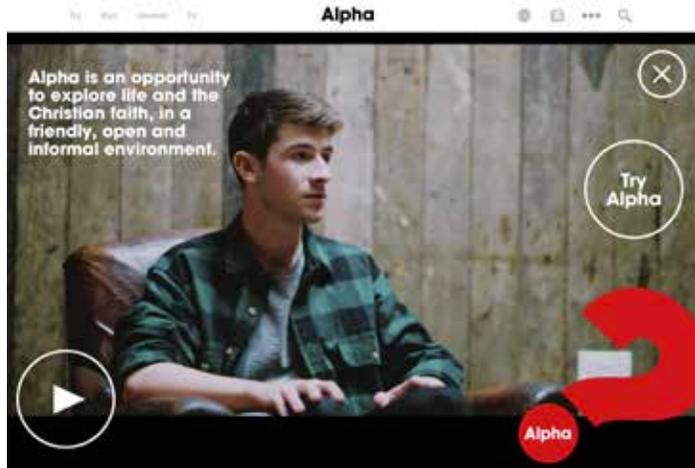
A **Third Place** gathering space in the community, offers hospitality, builds relationships, hosts spiritual conversations, provides programs and activities, and nourishes the spiritual life of people.



Missional Faith Formation

Missional faith formation provides *pathways* for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.

Missional Faith Formation



Missional Faith Formation





PROGRAMMING 21ST CENTURY FAITH FORMATION

Presenter: John Roberto

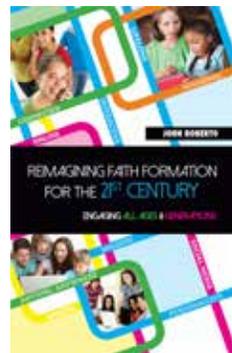
Resources

Website

www.ReimaginingFaithFormation.com



Book



WHOEVER YOU ARE
WHEREVER YOU ARE

You only have to know one thing:
#You Can Learn Anything

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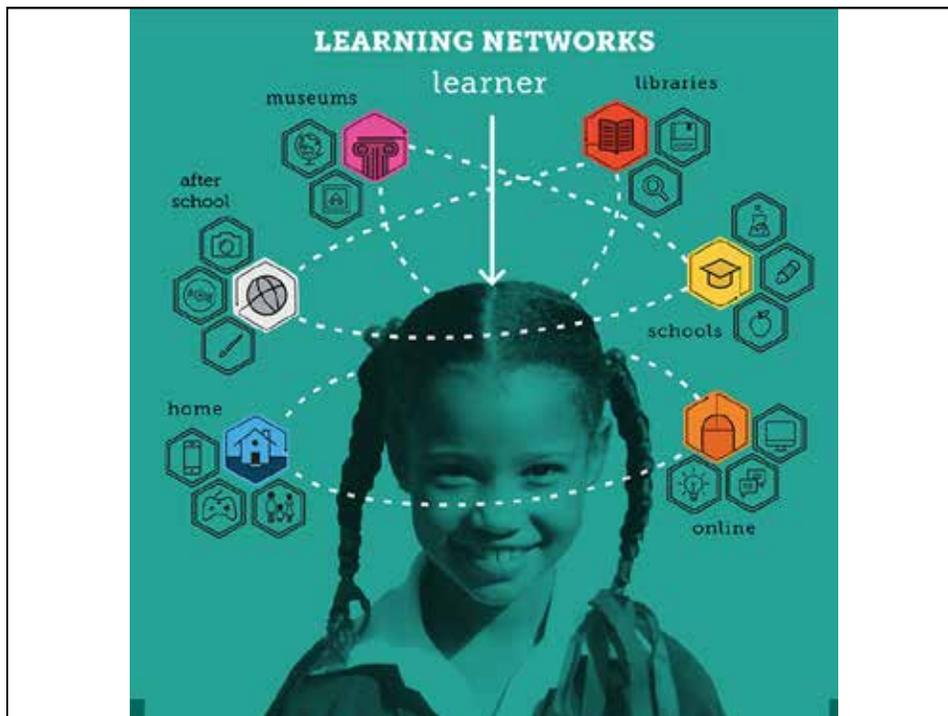
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**A shift from education to learning anywhere, anytime.
A shift from consumption of information to participatory learning.
A shift from institutions to networks.**



Faith Formation Networks

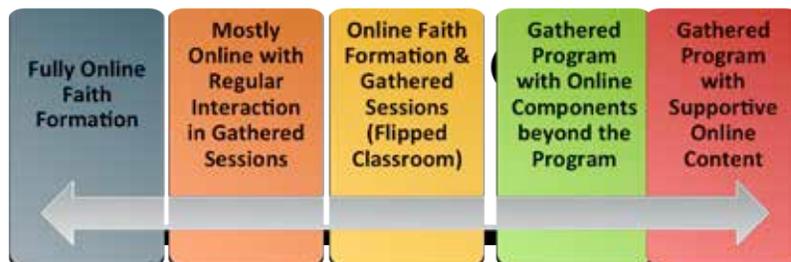
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- Offering **multiple environments** to address people’s busy lives and providing more ways to participate: self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

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

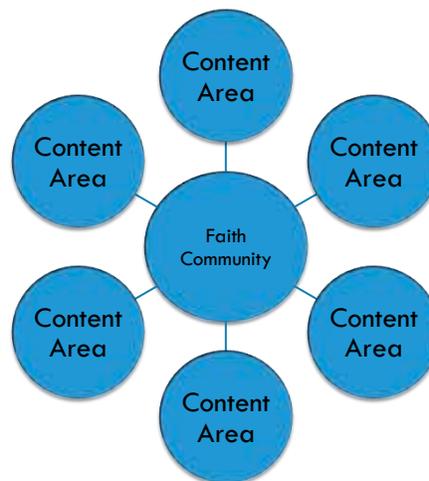


Individual Faith Formation Network

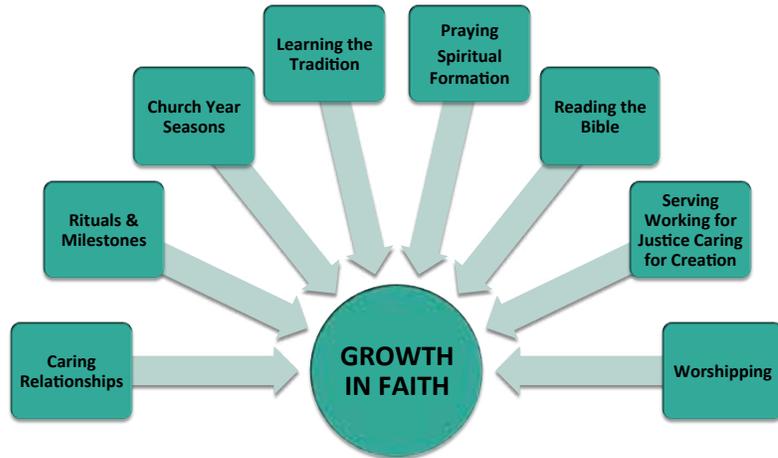


Faith Formation Networks

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. Life Stage Issues
10. Missional



Faith Forming Processes





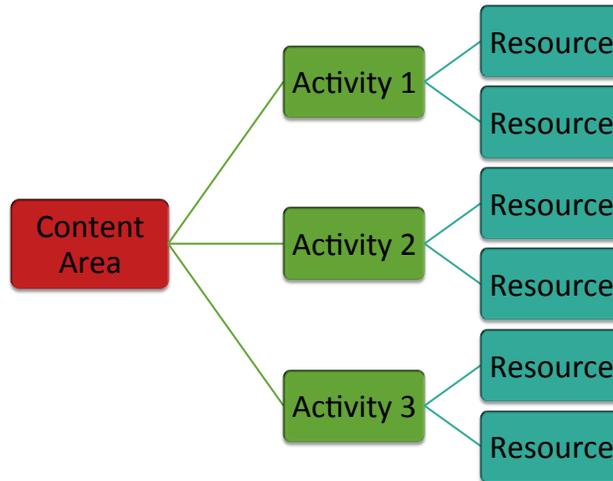
Sample Themes –Adults

1. Dealing with retirement
2. Making life plans, finances, health
3. Becoming a grandparent
4. Making a difference in the community and world
5. Incorporating family changes and transitions
6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple
7. Caring for aging parents
8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith
9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2nd half of life
10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us
11. Dealing with loss

Adult Faith Formation Website



Faith Formation Playlists



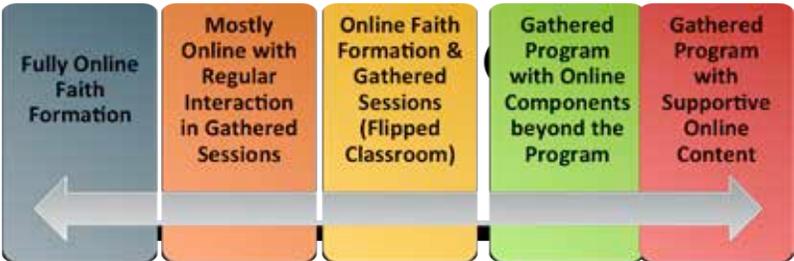
Faith Formation Playlists

- 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**

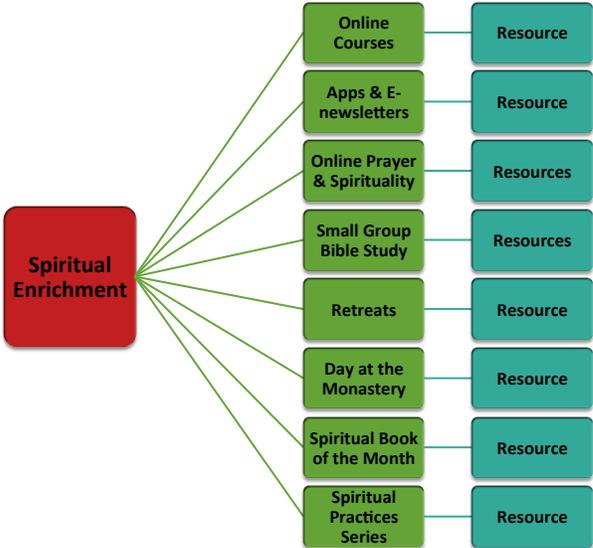


Faith Formation Playlists

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



Adult Faith Formation Playlist



Faith Formation Playlists

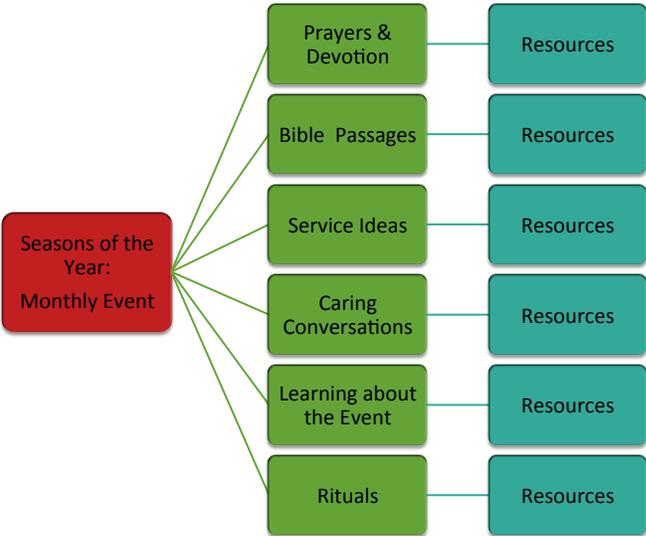
Playlists are thematic learning plans that integrate a variety of ways to learn, multiple learning environments, and online and physical spaces—from which people can create their own faith formation plan.

Example: Spiritual Enrichment for Adults
Theme: “Spiritual Practices”

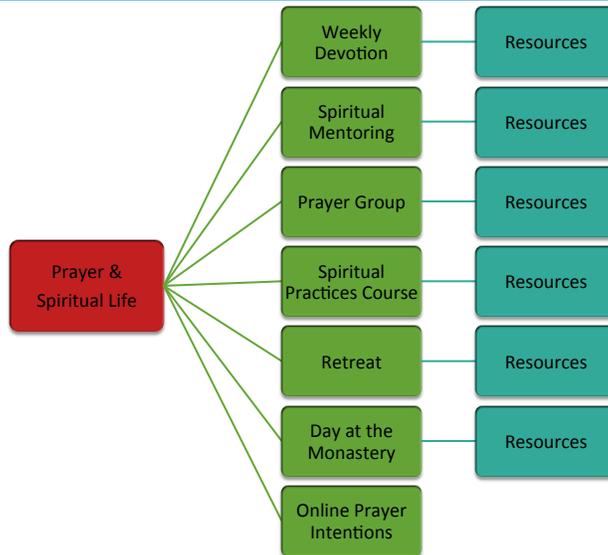
1. Spiritual Practices Course (5 sessions at church in one month)
2. Spirituality Over 50 Book Group (variety of times & places)
3. Online Daily Devotion Resources
4. Online Prayer Practices Resources
5. Online Course or Retreat with a Spiritual Master
6. Online Retreat

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

Family Faith Formation Playlist



Adolescent Faith Formation Playlist

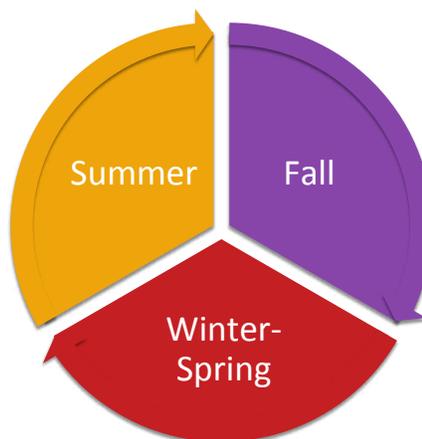


3 Seasons of Programming

Fall Season:
Sept 1 – Jan 1

Winter/Spring Season:
Jan 1 – May 1

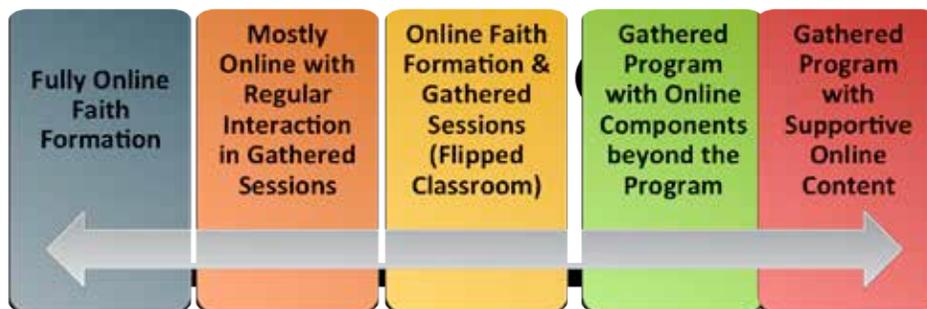
Summer Season:
May 1 – Sept 1



Seasonal Plan & Calendar

Content Area (examples)	Programming & Dates			
	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Scripture Enrichment				
Faith Enrichment				
Spiritual Enrichment				
Service & Mission				
Life Issues				

Digitally-Enabled Strategies



Gathered using Online Content

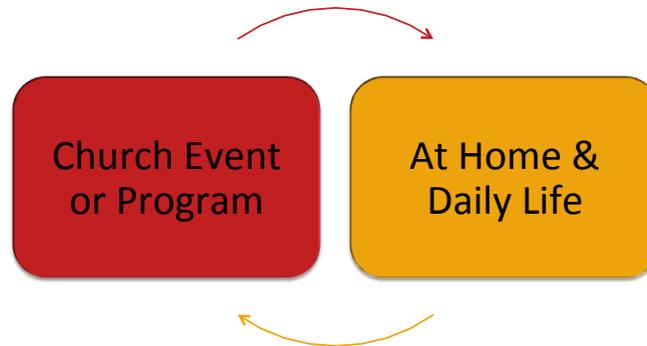
A gathered program using online content from websites, videos from YouTube or other video sites, and blogs and other social media. With an abundance of high quality digital content, this first option is the easiest way to bring the digital world into a gathered program.

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 outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is a sacrament that begins in Baptism, giving you the gifts and love needed for the rest of your life. As a Catholic, Confirmation is a 1.2 year process with weekly meetings, online work, service projects, retreats, and night confirmation.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CONFIRMATION](#)

LEARNING

login

Confirmation 1
October 1st - 1st

Confirmation 2
October 1st - 1st

PROGRAM

requirements

Confirmation 1
October 1st - 1st

Confirmation 2
October 1st - 1st

SERVICE

projects

Confirmation 1
October 1st - 1st

Confirmation 2
October 1st - 1st

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 4:00 p.m. and end after the 9:00 p.m. Mass
- 1 Approval required

3) SERVICE PROJECTS

- Participate in 2 service projects per year (service project opportunities will be emailed to you, you will also be contacted by)
- Write one reflection per project completed online

4) ATTEND "INSIGHT" (YOUTH GROUP) MEETINGS

- Attend 2 Insight Youth Ministry Meetings, more is encouraged!
- Insight takes place Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Knight Hall (please refer to the

5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR

- Confirmation 1 - One-day retreat with parent or proxy (September 26, 2015)
- Confirmation 2 - One-day retreat with parent or proxy (September 26, 2016)
- *** Registration for Confirmation 2 formal retreat begins online January 6, 2016

Online and Gathered



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 on Skype or 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.

Fully Online

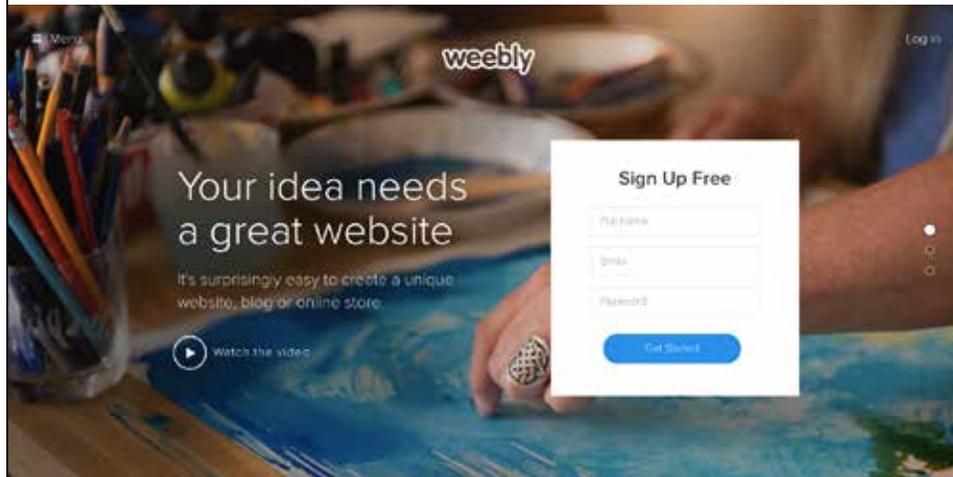
The rise of high quality and easily accessible online religious content—courses, activities, print and e-books, audio and video programs, and content-rich websites—has made designing online faith formation feasible.

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

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

Build a Digital Platform



Other Platforms

www.wordpress.org

www.wix.com

www.squarespace.com