For our Parish catechetical leaders -

The Diocese of Birmingham’s Director, Office of Religious Education recently held an online meeting. If you missed this meeting, you may watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/SeOtMVRBuYo>

Among the many items discussed were:

* The [Bishop's statement](https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/23758/documents/2020/3/2020-3-17%20Suspension%20of%20Masses%20ENG.pdf) regarding the suspension of the public celebration of the Mass and other current policies
* Using the [Catholify app](https://catholify.com/) as a resource for prayer and study and also as a means to form group chats
* Along with some ways of finding and sharing resources and finding services.

First of all, if your parish staff would like to make use of teleconferencing or livestreaming to reach out to your community during this time of separation - but you would like some help in getting started - you may sign up for a time to receive some assistance here:  <http://bit.ly/remotetechassist>

Either *Daniel McCormick, the* Director, Office of Religious Education or Alex Kubik will work with you to determine what your needs are, and what resources might be best suited to meet those needs. We are not experts, but are happy to share from our experience in order to provide pointers.

At Bishop's request, Alex has developed a document called "Seeking the Lord at Home." This document is meant to direct families to useful resources for Mass, prayer, Catholic video series, and more. I have attached the current version of this document to this message. Alex will continue to update things as they become available, and will post the most up-to-date version on the main page of the diocesan website.

The Office of RE has also created Google folders for sharing resources among Parish Catechetical Leads and catechists - you can find template messages for parish emails, materials related to curricular resources and some lesson materials, as well as a repository of all the diocesan statements issued thus far.

These folders are not just for you to take items from, but also meant to be added to by you. If you find or develop good resources for lessons, messaging, activities, etc., please share them with your fellow PCLs through these online folders:

* [PCL COVID-19 Response - Google Folders](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qoKkgXevVrNqucrszFlmREOPJEWALgDn)

A couple of notes - in order to access these folders, you may have to request permission. If so, I will give access as soon as possible after your request. Please add items to these folders, but do not delete materials that have been added.

Finally, we will continue to have weekly half-hour "check-in" meetings by Zoom teleconference on Wednesdays at 10 AM. We will continue to discuss updates to policies, new resources, and more. Here is the information to connect to our next meeting:

Topic: Weekly PCL Check-In Meeting

Time: Mar 25, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/498749065>

Meeting ID: 498 749 065

Dial by your location

        +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Please continue to pray for those affected by the virus, as well as for their families and caretakers. Please pray for world leaders and the pastors of the Church as they work to serve the common good.

Yours in Christ,

*Daniel McCormick*

Director, Office of Religious Education

Diocese of Birmingham