Growing the Faith through Media and Technology:
Using the Tools and Developing Effective Leadership Strategies

Description: This course designed specifically for catechetical leaders, enabling them to apply emerging technologies, including FlockNote, to ongoing faith formation at the parish level. The main priority is "pedagogy first, technology second." Catechetical leaders will learn how to develop and model effective strategies for parish implementation.

Overview: During this course, catechetical leaders will answer the essential question, "How can we enrich parish life with some of today's emerging tools, especially FlockNote, in ways that are not possible through traditional means?" *Each session will include new information presented by the instructor, hands-on time for practice and time for discussion, questions and answers. Participants will need their own laptop and a smartphone to participate. They will also need Super Admin permissions in their parish's FlockNote eCatholic accounts.*

Instructor: Romeo Marquis is the Faith Formation Facilitator at Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester, MA. He has also been a teacher, principal and associate dean for academic technology and distance education.

When: Five Thursday from 9:00-noon. May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Where: At the Epiphany House, the white building directly behind the Blessed Sacrament Church, 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA.

Course goals

1. To apply FlockNote, in concert with other multimedia tools, to catechetical leadership in catechesis, evangelization, and overall parish communication and

2. to develop a plan for introducing, modeling and evaluating the use of FlockNote and other technologies in catechesis, evangelization and overall parish communication.

Expanded outline

Thursday, May 2. Technology as gift. Understanding the "why" of technology in catechesis – the positive side of technology as a catechetical tool. Learning to function in "the cloud" with its richness of catechetical resources. Introduction to FlockNote as much more than just another email program. Considering its use for catechesis, parish communication and evangelization.
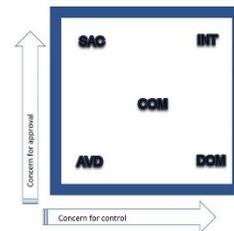

Hands on: (a) Creating a FlockNote community for catechetical leaders: (b) Participating in an online collaborative space (FlockNote). (c) Creating an online collaborative presence at the parish level (groups and sub-groups).

Thursday, May 9. Continue Session 1 plus: Adapting our essential question to staff development for volunteer catechists. Creating a personal work space in the cloud. Designing a staff development tool for volunteer catechists. Understanding the differences between working with full-time paid staff and working with part-time volunteer catechists. Integrating free and low-cost multimedia tools to accommodate catechists and students with various approaches to learning. Supplemental: *Snagit, Office 365 (OneNote, OneDrive). Hands-on: Using FlockNote and eCatholic as staff development tools.*

Thursday, May 16. Continue Session 2 plus: Ongoing faith formation at the parish level. Adapting our essential question to expanding a sense of community within the parish. Integrating eCatholic, FlockNote and the Bulletin. Hands-on: Using eCatholic as a dynamic communication tool – more than an electronic bulletin board. Working within the context of unique parish dynamics. How to introduce new tools within a parish community. Three new paradigms: (1) AUCC, (2) FDLE and (3) CCC. *Hands-on: Using an array of tools for optimum effectiveness.*

Thursday, May 23. Continue Session 3 plus: Developing an online community of praxis. Special projects for catechesis – helping students who, for whatever reason – cannot attend regular religious education classes. Sharing gifts within an online environment – helping each other out. *Hands-on: Project development.*

Thursday, May 30. Show-and-tell. What worked back home? What didn't? Why? What's next? Implications beyond catechesis for elementary and secondary school students. Maintaining a community of praxis.