



August 28, 2020

Dear Priests and Youth Formation Leaders,

As we begin Fall 2020, I want to thank you for your tireless efforts to achieve certification for the reopening of your parish's Religious Education programs and Youth Ministries. A large majority of programs have already been certified to reopen by our diocesan team. If your parish needs any help in the certification process, I encourage you to contact the Office of Youth Formation.

I am pleased to announce that, by the end of September, over 125 youth formation programs and ministries will reopen across the diocese. I have recorded two messages in both English and in Spanish that your parish may find particularly useful:

- The first is a message to parents announcing the reopening of Youth Formation Programs and ministries. This recording includes an assurance of the precautions we are taking and an invitation for them to register their children.
 - English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D38mGjxACrM&t>
 - Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjxtmUt9iIs>
- The second is a message that parishes can use to help in the recruitment of adult catechists and volunteers. It was recorded especially for parishes who find themselves with fewer adults who are able to serve due to the Coronavirus.
 - English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvwRkjqJz34&t>
 - Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93UurluXUfaU&t>

Youth Formation leaders will soon receive two sample letters (in English) from the Office of Youth Formation that can be personalized as you share these recordings: one that can be used in a message to parents, and another that could be used in the recruitment of catechists and volunteers.

I sincerely hope that these messages will enhance your ability to engage families in all that you are offering this Fall. May God bless you and your parish as final preparations are being made.

In Christ,

+ *Richard E. Pates*

Bishop Richard E. Pates
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