RCIA Open Forum Check-In Call Chat Notes

*September 1, 2020*

**Links**

ACC Videos: <https://www.virtualcatholicconference.com/2020ACCSite/index>

English ACC Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/202305027842951>

Spanish ACC Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/202315592762960>

Magnify Subscription: <https://secure.archatl.com/event.jsp?event=10960&>

**What are you doing now?**

St Pius X - hybrid

St. Mary Magdalene - likely hybrid.

Holy Cross - Start virtual and return to meetings ASAP

St. Jude - Would rather go back to in person but see the option of some hybrid as useful

St. Joseph, Marietta - Hybrid

St. Ann - No go back to meeting in person

Our Lady of the Assumption - hybrid

Sts. Peter and Paul - Not sure

St. Thomas Aquinas - likely hybrid

Mary Our Queen - maybe hybrid will depend on feedback

St. Thomas Aquinas - Go back in person

St. Mary Magdalene - online for now

Cathedral of Christ the King - Cathedral CTK and Mission be Hybrid

St. Stephen the Martyr - we are doing in person. We have 2 candidates right now and both would like in-person.

St. Thomas the Apostle - will begin virtual the first few months and move to in person before the end of the year or start of the new year for English speaking. Spanish speaking will use both. We begin Spanish 9/13 and English 9/20

**How Are You Reaching Out to Candidates?**

St Pius X - I do. Some prefer text, but I will call

Cathedral of Christ the King - Yes we do

St. Joseph, Marietta - Parishioners are calling other parishioners.

Sts. Peter and Paul - text, email cell

St. Mary Magdalene - yes I do call. I call at night and email frequently

Holy Cross - Depends on person- call, text or email

St. Thomas Aquinas - Yes, I do. Calls and texts.

Mary Our Queen - Yes, our parish reaches out to parishioners

St. Joseph, Marietta - I am also trying to make phone calls and email often

St. Stephen the Martyr - Right now emailing the participants. We called elderly parishioners in May and June.

St. Mary Magdalene - folks are so tired. When I speak with them, they are tired

St. Thomas the Apostle - I e-mail frequently

**In-Person Gatherings**

St. Thomas the Apostle - I have people come with masks to our memorial garden to pick up materials and to check on them....bad weather small gathering for a short time in Adult Faith bldg - St Thomas the Apostle

St. Mary Magdalene - doing it right now with one of my friends as we share this zoom

OFD - I'll be posting the presentation to the RCIA blog on the OFD website too. Links for virtual ACC/ English & Spanish participants surveys are at the very top!

Holy Cross - Holy Cross is having Meet n Greet Sunday

Cathedral of Christ the King - Depend of participant we have the Church tour

St. Pius X - We have met in the parking lot bringing our lawn chairs

St. Joseph, Marietta - St. Joseph will continue to meet for Breaking Open the Word.

**Activities Being Done & Ice Breaker Questions**

St. Thomas Aquinas - favorite food, movie, Netflix series, etc.

Cathedral of Christ the King - To share food/snacks before we start as they arrive

Mary Our Queen - Share something that many people don't know about you...(Ice breaker)

St Pius X - what was the high joy of your week? Last movie you saw?

Rich - Icebreakers I like on Zoom are send me a childhood photo of yourself in advance, then we all guess who each photo is. Also, what’s your Theme Song?

St. Thomas the Apostle - If you could travel anywhere in world, where would you go and why?

**Ways to Keep Connected**

St. Thomas the Apostle - Gather when we can even if a short meeting- I'm meeting with everyone individually the next few weeks before we start at St Thomas. Spanish is doing in-person registration using guidelines.

St. Mary Magdalene - *Enable* is good, but I think you need to monitor who is arriving. *Zoom* bombing is a real thing.

Charles Jones - We use Holy Land pictures for our scripture study, occasionally a person that knows much about the Holy Land is invites a gives a short overview of an area. It provides life to the study.

Cathedral of Christ the King - Doing rehearsals before each session

Holy Cross - Great idea, Charles!

St. Philip Benizi - Fantastic idea!

Charles Jones - I do a program with seniors (70, 80, 90 age range), it is virtual. They all are email, *Facebook, Zoom* proficient since they talk to grandchildren via it. They are quite proficient in the basics.

St Pius X - mail note cards with scratch off lottery tickets

St. Mary Magdalene - Lots of emails and phone calls. Sent letters of thanks to all

Sts. Peter and Paul - text, email, cell

Rich - We’ll be doing a catechist training about how to effectively teach remotely.

St. Joseph, Marietta - lots of emails and some in person meetings. Small gifts of appreciation

St. Thomas the Apostle - Having them look for programs for the Parish and asking them to facilitate sessions if they are comfortable. I e-mail, text, and make phone calls to keep communication going. Give RCIA updates regularly to team.

St. Mary Magdalene - We are doing the blessing with added emphasis on the parents.

St Pius X - opening prayer or song, read the readings, discussion of the readings, what does it mean for me?, bring up the related topic, go through any handouts, if used show video or resource, closing prayer or song

**Staying Engaged Virtually**

Mark Dannenfelser Our Lady of the Assumption - One of my expectations is that participants keep their cameras "on," unless there is a serious reason not to. I find this really helps create connection and presence.

OFD - 2 catechists in each breakout room if parents are not involved is sessions

St. Thomas the Apostle - I share early in RCIA that this is not school, however their presence each week at the sessions and Rites is the most important part of their continuing journey. Attending Mass each week is a vital for their growth and development spiritually.

St. Ann - We use *Slack*

OFD - I was told to check out <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/>. OSV is already preloaded on flipgrid I believe?

Michele McHale-Pickard (OFD) Catholic jeopardy!

**Spanish Translation**

Immaculate Heart of Mary - Can I translate some of this presentation for my Spanish RCIA Team training?

St. Philip Benizi - Yes, absolutely!

**Interviewing Candidates**

St. Jude - interviewing on *Zoom*

St. Mary Magdalene - inquiry is virtual

Rich - We’re interviewing on Zoom or in person, depending on the inquirer’s comfort level.

St. Thomas the Apostle - I liked how Darlene uses body language as she presents. Her hand movements and picking something up that they can see it, helps keep you focused on what she is saying...I try to do the same on Zoom. It does hold attention better....as mentioned body language is so important

Cathedral of Christ the King - We will have a Catechist retreat and on Mass Catechist sending blessing

Immaculate Heart of Mary - I have a small group so, we will have in person sessions.

St. Thomas the Apostle - Phone interviews