



OFFICE OF
YOUTH & YOUNG
ADULT MINISTRY

MARCH 16, 2020

To: Priests, Youth Ministers, DRE's of the Diocese of Helena

**Re: Suspension of all youth ministry/RE
gatherings through March 30**

Greetings,

Following the guidance of local, State, and Federal authorities and health professions who are charged with protecting our communities from the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus), Bishop Austin Vetter of the Diocese of Helena has instructed all parishes/missions/ministries to suspend all youth ministry and/or religious education gatherings or classes (e.g. “Youth Group”; “Sunday RE”; Bible studies, etc.) through Monday, March 30.

Our primary goal is to stop the immediate spread of Covid-19, which can be transferred through close interaction. Together, we can help our communities avoid a situation that has overwhelmed medical services in other areas of the U.S. and world. Therefore, we urge all of our people to stay home and away from any small or large gatherings.

Please do everything reasonable that you can to protect yourself and your community. In addition to following instructions from local authorities and using appropriate personal hygiene (e.g. wash your hands; use hand-sanitizer; stay home if you are sick; etc.), you are encouraged to stay informed through trusted sources:

- State of Montana Department of Health and Human Services website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>
- Diocese of Helena website for communications from the Chancery/Bishop: diocesehelena.org

Our goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with joy, in all circumstances. As St. Paul says in his second letter to Timothy: “So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well. Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

Diocese of Helena
OYYAM
P. O. Box 1729
Helena, MT 59624
406.389.7055
dohyouth.org



OFFICE OF
YOUTH & YOUNG
ADULT MINISTRY

MARCH 16, 2020

Diocese of Helena
OYYAM
P. O. Box 1729
Helena, MT 59624
406.389.7055
dohyouth.org

Re: Suspension of all youth ministry/RE gatherings through March 30, cont.

We strongly encourage our priests, youth ministers, DRE's, and catechists to find creative ways to serve and teach our people through this trying time. God has gifted us with technology that allows us to stay connected even when isolated. Use this gift and your creativity to continue our mission!

To that end, the Diocese of Helena Offices of Catholic Formation and Youth & Young Adult Ministry have gathered these online resources:

- Virtual CYC Convention: Friday, March 27 for a virtual CYC Convention! We gather (online) for some quality content and speakers for an evening of formation and community in this time of isolation: dohyouth.org
- Online Youth Night: March 18 and 25 at 7pm. A virtual gathering to share a message of faith, hope, and love. Please encourage your young people and their families to participate (virtually!): dohyouth.org
- ODBfilms.com: All of their resources have recently been made available for free online!
- Ascension Presents YouTube Channel (youtube.com/ascensionpresents): Hours of quality content from some of the best Catholic speakers.
- Ave Maria Press YouTube Channel (youtube.com/avemariapress): Book reviews, Lenten resources, short videos on topics that are relevant to everyday Catholics, and more!
- Formed.org: Think "Netflix for Catholics," this is an online hub of some of the most well-produced, popular, entertaining, and Catholic media. Many parishes have paid for a subscription for their parishioners to access the content for free! Contact your parish for details.
- LifeTeen (lifeteen.com): In addition to their gathered ministry resources that many of our parishes currently use, LifeTeen does offer some free resources that are great for individuals and families. Specifically, check out their weekly Lenten series on YouTube called "Lectio Live."
- Diocese of Helena Resources: Find Bishop Vetter's Friday Video series along with homily podcasts from several of our diocesan priests at: <https://diocesehelena.org/> We are also partnering with ODB Films and others to bring you high quality video content that individuals and families can use. We'll be releasing them soon!

Please continue to pray for our young people.

God Bless,

Kevin Molm, OYYAM Manager