



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#60 - December 2015

A Best Practice: A Digital Lent and Device Sunday

Last month we explored some components of the C3 San Fernando Pastoral Region Technology Cluster Project, one of the endeavors of the Catholic Communication and Collaboration (C3) Pilot of the archdiocese of Los Angeles (http://www.laarchdiocese.org/c3/Documents/C3_whitepaperWeb.pdf).

The San Fernando Region and the three parishes of St. Mel, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Euphrasia worked together to

- pilot solutions for integrating technology into faith formation and evangelization
- discover how the many communication and collaboration tools could be used to further the gospel mission of the Church

Charlotte McCorquodale, PhD, served as a consultant to the C3 San Fernando Pastoral Region Technology Cluster Project; a summary of the project and many of her reflections, especially concerning the endeavors we will explore in this issue can be found at [Charlotte's Web - Reflections on ministry and solutions for ministry formation](#).

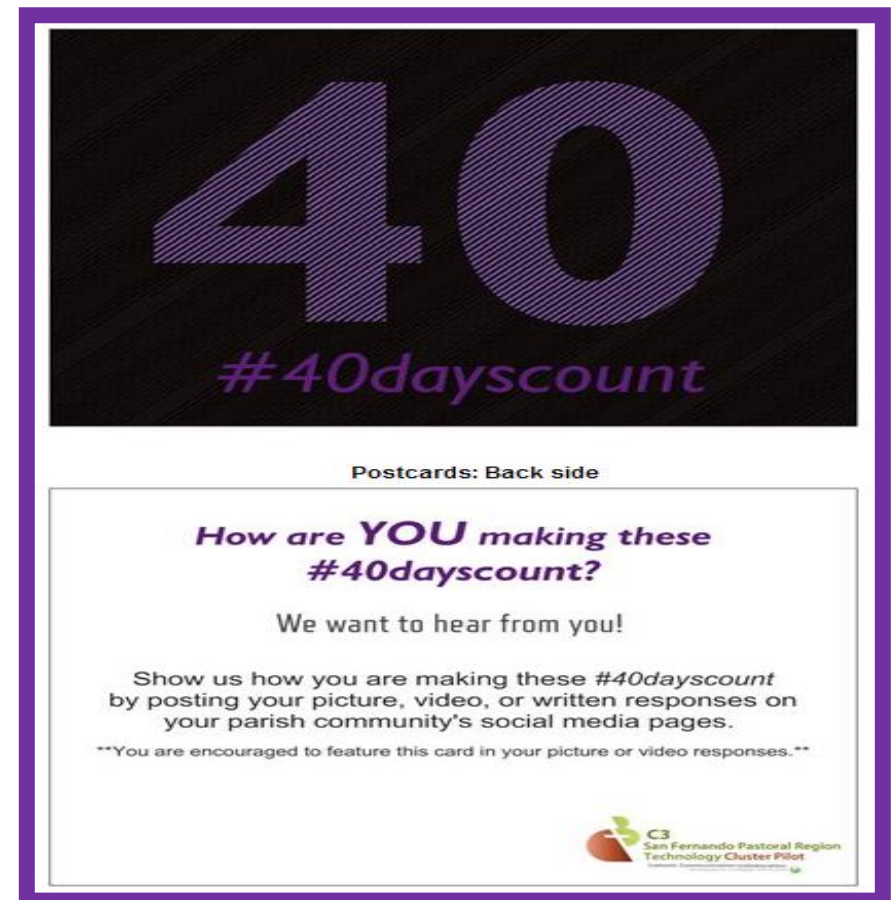
A Digital Lent

One of the ways to integrate technology and faith formation that was piloted by the three parishes occurred during Lent. The parishioners of the three parishes had an opportunity to travel their Lenten journey, deepening their faith and sharing faith with others through several different digital faith-based initiatives.

The parishioners were reminded that many ways abound to connect to God and one another through our traditional practices as well as through digital devices.

- Each parish developed a Lenten outreach to parishioners of all ages using various forms of social media (podcasts, internet, phone apps, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube, etc.).

- The regional staff offered an opportunity for an online retreat for busy people.
- Young people, young adults, and families had the opportunity to share how they were making every Lenten day count for their faith through #40DaysCount where people were asked to share photos and updates using the#40Ddayscount.



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To view the variety of ways that parishioners of all ages in these three parishes made the 40 days count, go to Twitter and search #40DaysCount.



Our Lady of Lourdes
#40dayscount

<i>Parish Lenten Experiences</i>	<i>Readings</i>
March 7 – Lenten Soup Supper – 6:30pm March 7 – Stations of the Cross – 7:30pm	Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7 Psalm 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-14, 17 Romans: 12-19 Matthew 4:1-11
<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Busy this Lent?</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Join us online for the Busy Person's Retreat Reflecting on scripture and the writings of Fr. Ronald Rohrer</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Making Time... A Retreat for Busy People</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Want to know more? Email: kayharter@sfrp.org</p>  </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Reflection Questions:</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">In the Gospel, there are two ways Jesus is tempted to use his power for himself. In what ways are we tempted to do what is self serving?</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>App of the Week</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl app (free on Android and Apple) takes the experience of Rice Bowl almsgiving into the rest of your life. This helps you stick with the three pillars of Lent – almsgiving, fasting and prayer – right from your device. There are reflections for each day of Lent, just like on the calendar you get with your Rice Bowl, but you also get to watch videos of the people whose stories you learn during Lent. Each Friday, there are meatless recipes, along with a family whose story is featured (you can eat the same thing they would eat).</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>Pray As You Go</i> – Podcasts you can listen to on the go from your mobile device. Check back each day for a new Podcast.</p> 
<div style="background-color: #d8bfd8; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> Lent 2014 Week 1 </div>	

Device Sunday

To enable the Digital Lent (and the ongoing use of communications technology within faith formation), the three parishes celebrated Device Sunday near the beginning of Lent.

Parishioners were invited to bring their digital devices (smart phones, tablets, etc.) to church that weekend –

- for a blessing of both the digital devices as well as the social networks of people that were formed to share faith during the Lenten season
- to learn how these devices of today can be tools for ongoing growth in faith, and especially during the present Lenten season

After the closing prayer of each weekend liturgy (at each parish), the pastor and the social media coordinator explained how all parishioners were invited to share faith during the Lenten season in various ways, including the use of social media and/or digital devices.

A video (which was used at every liturgy) featured Bishop Wilkerson, the regional bishop for San Fernando. Bishop Wilkerson quoted Pope Francis in his challenge on World Communications Day to remember “*The digital world can be an environment rich in humanity; a network not of wires but of people.*”

Bishop Wilkerson asked parishioners to join him in daily prayer and reflection by choosing one of the many options available today for prayerful reflection.

Following the video, the social media coordinator helped to acquaint the people with some of the many faith tools that are available today.

The blessing that was then used by these three parishes can be found at <http://www.ministrytrainingsource.org/blog/>.

Because of the experience of Device Sunday, Charlotte mentions several of their learnings:

- Bishop Wilkerson’s video had a positive impact, helping people realize that this endeavor was not just for their parish, but was part of a bigger effort with support from the bishop and Pope Francis.

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- Parishioners were encouraged by the blessing of devices and (for many, a new) acquaintance with the many options available – technologically - to support our faith practices.
- The flyer – detailing the options – was a helpful support for the experience, especially for those who didn't have their devices with them.

A few of the many internet sites that might be shared with parishioners:

Sacred Space: www.sacredspace.ie

Pray as you go: www.pray-as-you-go.org

Stay Great: <http://staygreat.com/default.aspx>

Other 6: <http://other6.com/>

The Five Loaves: www.thefiveloaves.com

God in All Things: <http://godinallthings.com/>

Three Minute Retreat:

<http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>

Concord Pastor Comments:

<http://concordpastor.blogspot.com>

Creighton University Online Ministries

www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html

Eco-spirituality Resources

<http://ecospiritualityresources.com/>

Pencil Preaching:

<http://celebrationpublications.org/pencilpreaching>

Word to Life:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/word2lif.htm>

A few of many phone apps to suggest to parishioners:

Laudate: <http://ayckasoft.blogspot.com/p/laudate-for-iphone.html>

iBreviary: <http://www.ibreviary.org/en/>

iMissal: <http://www.imissal.com/>

Magnificat:

<http://bookstore.magnificat.net/ebooks-and-apps.html>

Bread 4 Today:

<http://www.cssr.org.au/bread4today/>

The Pope App: <http://www.thepopeapp.com/>

USA Catholic Church (USCCB):

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-131.cfm>

Saint of the Day:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saint-of-the-day/id386807667?mt=8>

Words with Jesus:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.littleapps.wordswithjesus>

Two blogs were written – by Charlotte McCorquodale, PhD - about Device Sunday which provide greater detail on what occurred and what was learned.

They can be accessed through the following links:

- <http://www.ministrytrainingsource.org/blog/2014/02/21/c3-blog-4-device-sunday/>

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- <http://www.ministrytrainingsource.org/blog/2014/03/14/c3-blog-device-sunday-how-did-it-go-and-how-can-we-host-one-for-our-parish/>

GEMS Suggestions

- Offer “learning centers” on the weekends before and after the celebration of liturgy with teens and young adults available to answer questions and give help to parishioners regarding their tech devices.
- A mini-workshop might be offered every Sunday (or once a month); each workshop could explore one facet of today’s technology, for instance:
 - What is a podcast?
 - How do we access podcasts?
 - What are some good sources for podcasts related to our faith journey?

By means of the internet,
the Christian message can reach ‘to the ends
of the earth’ (Acts 1:8).

Keeping the doors of the our churches open
also means keeping them open
in the digital environment so that people,
whatever their situation in life, can center,
and so that the Gospel can go out to
reach everyone ...

today the social networks are one way
to experience this call to discover
the beauty of faith,
the beauty of encountering Christ.

- Pope Francis,
marking the 48th World Communications Day
(January 24, 2014)

You Might Be Interested in Exploring:

- 23 Types of Social Media Sites: <http://onbloggingwell.com/23-types-of-social-media-sites/>
- QR codes
 - <http://www.qrcode.com/en/index.html>
 - <http://searchengineland.com/what-is-a-qr-code-and-why-do-you-need-one-27588>
 - <https://www.the-qrcode-generator.com/>



Janet Schaeffler, OP
www.janetschaeffler.com
jschaeffler@adriandominicans.org

Past issues of
GEMS are archived at www.janetschaeffler.com

Additional ideas for Adult Faith Formation Planning and Best Practices can be found at:

- *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*
http://www.lifelongfaith.com/store/p25/The_Seasons_of_Adult_Faith_Formation.html
- *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation website*
<http://www.seasonsofadultfaith.com/>
- *40 Tips: Getting Started in Adult Faith Formation*
<http://www.ecatechist.com/ebooks/> (scroll down)
- *Parish Leadership for Improved Adult Catechesis*
<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/iboplbeprfor.html>