

Challenging times offer opportunities!

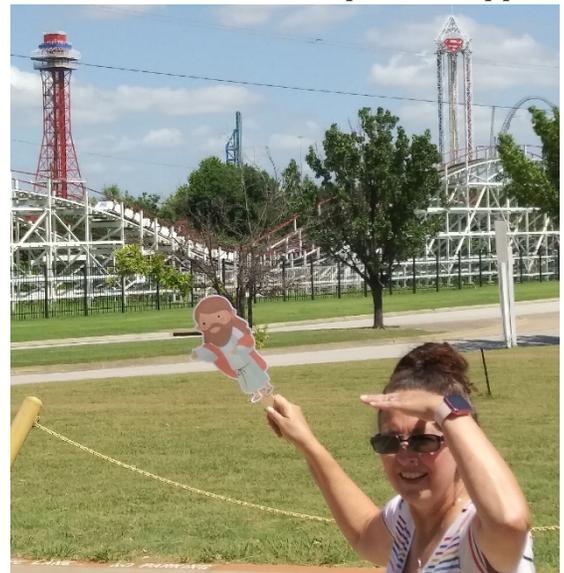


They say if life hands you lemons, make lemonade. Well, thank you global pandemic! But, I quickly became tired of squeezing lemons, so I decided to take “these challenging times” and turn them into “times of opportunity!” “Challenging times” always seems to involve going to the grocery store. Since our families here at Holy Spirit are spread out over 12 cities, many who drive over 30 minutes just to attend Mass and Faith Formation, I needed to find ways to offer them a variety of fun, hands-on activities that would enhance their faith experiences while staying

safe at home. That took a lot of outside-the-box thinking and a whole lot of Pinteresting!

Since COVID cancelled our Mother & Daughter Tea, an annual favorite, we started with a drive thru Mother’s Day Tea Party Packet distribution to all our moms so they could still enjoy their special day. We then offered parents Family Faith Summer Buckets available at registration, in the front office or special “delivery” (me of course), which were full of super fun, engaging ways to continue to practice their faith during the summer. One item was Flat Jesus (like Flat Stanley) who has since developed into our “Where’s Flat Jesus?” slideshow game. Flat Jesus and I drove around the D/FW area and visited points of interest that families might know (especially in their specific cities) and they are now able to guess where we are for a prize! We are also doing a coloring book distribution Sunday (in recognition of National Coloring Book Day) to welcome families back to Mass and are starting a weekly evening story time, Dozin’ Off with Ms. Deborah, to give children a positive message, learn bedtime prayers and teach parents about blessing their children. And every Friday, I update our Children’s webpage with a variety of both on-line and downloadable family-friendly activities that correlate to the Sunday Gospel, liturgical events or just provide some much needed spiritual support for parents.

I also continued to deliver birthday treats to catechists celebrating summer birthdays, honored our graduating senior teen aides and catechists considered front-line/essential workers with designating yard signs and had a BLAST with Ding Dong Dash, a way to surprise catechists with little pick-me-up treat baskets. Who said the church needed to reopen? I don’t believe we were ever closed! And now, more than ever, we need to find creative ways to keep families connected to their parish and the people they’re used to seeing on Sunday even if we are on-line and in Minion PJ’s.



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