

Set up for an **A VIRTUAL LITURGY** of the word

This document presents different ways to develop a virtual liturgy of the Word centered on the dynamic relationship between listening and speaking at the heart of the Christian faith. The virtual liturgy of the word can bring people from distant backgrounds closer together, or it can involve people who may have mobility issues. It is an interesting alternative, complementary to the celebrations in places of worship.

Among the possibilities, choices will have to be made according to the emphasis one wishes to give to this liturgy, the platform chosen, the skills and technological resources available, the number of people gathered, etc.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Here are some instructions to promote everyone's speaking and mutual listening, in a friendly and meaningful liturgical experience in a virtual environment.

- Ensure that participants are equipped and functional on the chosen platform and provide technical support as required.
- Limit the duration of this activity to one (1) hour.
- Before starting the celebration, invite participants to close their microphone and open it only when they speak.
- For the general animation, it is important to foster an atmosphere of simplicity and friendliness for the celebration. Thus, to avoid embarrassing silences, each person who intervenes in the celebration is named at the moment when the facilitator calls upon them to participate, and then thanks them by name. For example: we will now listen to the Alleluia, sung by the X family. ... Thanks to the X family.
- For songs, it is advisable to choose two (2) or three (3) maximum and to open only the microphone of the person (or family) who will sing.
- To allow people to participate, even if their microphones are turned off, invite people to participate in certain actions during the celebration, for example: wave their hands; hold up heart-shaped hands or cross arms over their heart; turn off the lights; light a candle; dip your hand in a bowl of water, etc.
- Depending on the number of participants, divide them into small groups for sharing around the Word.
- If the chosen platform does not offer the possibility of making small groups, we can invite families to share among themselves at home, while other people may share with one other on the virtual platform.

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION

Propose to live a biblical catechesis of the Sunday liturgy from the texts of the day of the celebration, in small groups of adults, families or by age. With families or youth, one can limit oneself to the gospel while making connections with other stories.

Invite the catechists and all the participants to collaborate in the preparation and realization of the celebration: invitation, animation, welcome, songs, gestures, reading, instructions, technical manager, etc.

Prepare a document for the participants, including: the process, the scripture verses, questions, songs, etc.

Send an invitation. For example, use **the Catechesis Sunday poster** <https://officedecatechese.qc.ca/productions/dimanche/index.html> and add a title for the event (e.g., *Celebration of the Intergenerational Word, Let's Listen!*), as well as useful information: date and time, Zoom link (or other platform), possible preparations, etc.

Offer people one of the following ways to prepare for the celebration:

- complete a *Mentimeter* survey by completing one of the following sentences:
- What helps me to listen carefully to someone is...
- What helps me to speak up is...
- observe **the poster of Catechesis Sunday** and react to it: what we love, what questions arise in us; how does this poster speak to me?
- prepare a symbolic object, chosen according to the texts of the day, and which will be used during the celebration, for example: a bowl of water, a candle, oil, a bible, a pilgrim's staff, sand, a rock, a blanket or a scarf, etc.
- If applicable, ask participants to prepare three small cards with the following symbols (one symbol per card) drawn:
 - a question mark
 - a smiling heart or emoticon
 - the word 'impossible' or 'unacceptable', or a perplexed emoticon.

These cards will be used during the proclamation of the Word.

WELCOMING

Invite participants to connect 15 minutes before the start of the celebration; take the time to welcome each other and share news. Name each one or invite everyone to introduce themselves briefly.

Depending on the preparation that was requested in advance, invite people to:

- share *Mentimeter* survey results
- share their thoughts on the Catechesis Sunday poster
- show their symbolic object

If no preparation has been proposed before the celebration:

- share your reactions to the Poster of Catechetical Sunday: what we like, what questions arise in us; how does this poster speak to you?
- invite you to complete one of the following sentences or use Mentimeter:
- What helps me to listen carefully to someone is...
- What helps me to speak up is...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Note: For a family celebration, we will limit ourselves to the gospel reading. One can also sing the psalm.

Before the proclamation of the texts:

Brief dialogue by two people; this dialogue has one or other of the following objectives:

- introduce the symbolism of “Release the Word... and Keep your Ears Open!”
- introduce the biblical texts of the day.
- describe a current experience related to the scripture text.

Proclamation and listening to the Word:

One can animate the proclamation of the Word in different ways, you may choose:

- Reading the text by two or more people (ensure fluency of reading);
- proclamation by a main reader and echo of certain words, by another person, evoking a different translation or an etymological meaning;
- narrative with visual support (editing from images, photos, etc.) or presentation of a video;
- narrative with the support of objects or decorative elements;

A narrative in which people are invited to express their reactions by showing the appropriate card:

- a question mark: “it makes me wonder”
- a smiling heart or emoticon: “it touches me”
- the word “impossible” or “unacceptable”, or a perplexed emoticon: “I hesitate or I am perplexed”

Sharing the Word in small groups

Collect spontaneous questions from participants about the narrative or ask questions:

- What astonishes or surprises you about the readings we have just heard? Why?
- What connects with you, touches you, challenges you?
- What connections do you make between this narrative and other biblical texts? Does this help you better grasp the Word?
- What meaning does this Word have for your life, or how is it true for you today?

OR

Ask more specific questions, but always open-ended questions, depending on the scripture text (open-ended questions are questions that can give rise to several different answers, depending on the participant; closed questions call for a single correct answer).

Note: If the technique of the three small cards was used, you can start the discussion by using the different reaction cards: when did you raise such and such a card and why?

Profession of faith and prayers:

Invite participants to proclaim the Baptismal promises Creed.

Invite participants to share spontaneous prayers, following or instead of prepared prayers.

Invite participants to pray the Lord’s Prayer sung, recited or recited in two voices.

SENDING FORTH

Prayer of the Catechists OR Prayer of the Christian Community:

https://officedecatechese.qc.ca/_pdf/dimanche/2022/PrayerCatechists.pdf

Before leaving, participants can discuss the means or resources they use to be fed and nourished on the word of God: virtual catechesis, biblical applications, etc. If necessary, the person who animates can add some suggestions.

Our Father in Two Voices

Our Father who art in heaven

- ❖ You make yourself close, even in our driest deserts.

Hallowed be thy name

- ❖ Let your name be recognized, you whose name is Love

Thy kingdom come

- ❖ Let Your reign of love and forgiveness come

Thy will be done

- ❖ Your will is to get us up and get us back on track

On earth, as it is in heaven

- ❖ with our feet on the ground and our heart in your heart

Give us this day our daily bread

- ❖ to continue on our long journey of faith

And forgive us our trespasses

- ❖ and heal our paralyzed hearts

As we forgive those who trespass against us

- ❖ those who are imprisoned in their errors.

And do not let us enter into temptation

- ❖ the temptation to close our hearts

But deliver us from evil

- ❖ the evil that paralyzes the heart.

Amen