

## Presentation 1 - Erin Seddon

# Preparing Yourself & Your Zoom Online Classroom Environment

### Before Class Begins

- Whatever you did in your live classroom can likely be adapted to your online classroom with some creativity & flexibility
- It's helpful for Catechists to join class 10 - 15 mins early to sort out any last minute business before
- Join the online class using a device with the largest screen possible. This makes online navigation and interaction with students much easier

### Best Version of Yourself

- Our face is the welcome mat to our classroom
  - Smiles are contagious, but so is stress or a blank expression
  - Be ready, relaxed and available to greet students with a warm welcome the moment they arrive online
- Dress for success & add some colour to your face
- Avoid busy patterned clothing. A solid colour is less distracting on screen

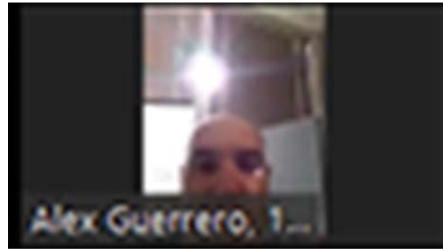
### Lights, Camera, Action

- Good lighting is very important to highlight your face and your space
- Face the light (daylight &/or artificial). If lighting is poor, use additional lighting
- Turn off backlighting, it can be blinding. It also presents us as a shadow
  - Stop! Look! Listen! Are you close enough to the camera so that you are easily seen & heard? Is your body blocking other visual aids? (Look at yourself on screen and adjust accordingly)
  - The best orientation of your device is landscape. You will maximize your image

Front lighting

Back lighting  
creates shadow

Wrong device orientation, back light  
(blinds us) & his face is cut off



- Some students will join the class using a cel phone where the screen is very small. Maximize what you present on video

## Virtual Classroom Space

- Although we are not connecting in person, we are not separated from the Church. We can make connections to our faith traditions, liturgical seasons and rituals through our online classroom environment.
  - Prayer table / Poster / Key words / Colours / Sacramentals
- Use simple / big impact visual aids / functionality (Less is more!)
- Have everything you need to present accessible & within reach, and practice presenting beforehand
- Remove clutter. Display a simple, plain background. (Busy background, prayer tables & even our clothing can be a visual distraction)
- Prayer table – Display a few easily seen props, signs, sacramentals

Example: Blue cloth (symbolic of Mary), Poster portraying Mary, Mother of God, Statue of Mary, Rosary, Word of God, Prayer Candle

Maintain classroom & prayer rituals previously used with your class as much as possible

Examples of



## Our Students

- Students & Catechists Rename their image when they join the class - just as you might have desk name signs
- Students also need to be clearly seen on screen. Good lighting & camera angle
- Establish rules on using the chat feature, mute audio & video
- Once class has begun, text a gentle reminder to parents of those who are absent.
- We typically have 90 - 100% attendance to online class each week. Far better than in person.