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The Digital Transformation of the Church

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The Digital Transformation of the Church: Faith Formation and Technology

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Digital Transformation of the Church

Breakout Session: Faith Formation and Technology

A Framework for Christian Faith Formation

I pray that out of God's glorious riches God may strengthen you with power through God's Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:16-19

- God desires to be known. God desires for Christ to dwell in our hearts, for us to be rooted and established in love, and for us grasp the fullness of Christ's love. And God has provided (and continues to provide) avenues for this by God's Holy Spirit in our inner being. God comes to us.
- We have a deep desire for God, to know God, and to be fully known and fully loved by God. In fact, this is the "most true thing" about each of us.
- Faith formation involves learning to discern God in all things.
- The formation of our faith as followers of Jesus is God's work and God's initiation. Our role is to respond to God's Holy Spirit ongoing invitation and to intentionally cultivate sacred space to and seek, listen, receive, reflect and respond.
- Faith formation is a workshop of the Holy Spirit, and thus a messy endeavor. Most often this Holy Spirit workshop is experienced as we practice the means of grace in communities/circles of trust.
- The goal of faith formation is to embody God's love and thus participate in God's redemptive work of new creation. This means we intentionally cultivate space for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, and bear witness to this work so that we may more faithfully follow Jesus and love God, self and others.
- Faith formation occurs as we are attentive to hospitality, presence and dialogue.

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Discussion Questions:

- What are the blessings of an online platform? What losses are inherent in an online platform? What challenges?
 - How best to mitigate the challenges? Cultivate the blessings?
- What does it look like to develop trust via an online platform?
 - In other words, how do we embody love via virtual presence, hospitality and dialogue?
- How do issues of equity and cultural differences play into the conversation about faith formation online? What about issues of accessibility?
- How best do we utilize the tools of technology for faith formation?
 - What cautions might we need to exercise to prevent a deformation of our faith?

Closing question:

- What is God's invitation to us in midst of this season?

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Resources:

[Pray As You Go](#) (currently being called “Pray as you stay”)

[Soul Formation](#)

[Lectio Divina 365 \(app\)](#)

[Ignatian Solidarity Network](#) (Corona Virus Resources)

[SPU Library Resource Page](#) (see especially “Weekly Rhythms” from University Ministries)