



ConnectNow from Parishsoft:

Last week, catechetical leaders from around the diocese learned about the many new features available from Parishsoft's web-based program titled ConnectNow. Roni Argetsinger, IT program manager for the Diocese of Des Moines, walked us through the test system to show how parish users could use these options under the religious education components to reduce administrative time.

For those who could not attend below you will find the url link to ConnectNow. Please play around within the test program. You cannot mess anything up. If you have any questions, please contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org and he can walk you through the issue or communicate the problem to Roni for a possible update within Parishsoft. You do not have to have Parishsoft loaded upon your computer to use ConnectNow because it is web-based. All the data is saved to the cloud, so it doesn't use your computer's memory.

ConnectNow Link - <http://connectnow.parishsoft.com/trainingdemo/>

Your "Username" can be user1 up to User20. Password is pass12 for all usernames.

When you login you will see 6 tabs directly underneath the ConnectNow image. You will want to select Religious Education. Once you have done this play around with the dashboard:

- Add students
- Add class
- Add family
- Lookup management
- Manage sessions
- Room calendar

You can also play around with the major category of:

- Dashboard
- Student directory
- Classes
- Leaders
- Calendars
- Reports
- Tools

Preparedness for Sacraments Verbiage by Joe Paprocki from Loyola Press:

Recently someone asked if we had a middle school service lesson plan. While looking for that this gem from Joe Paprocki was uncovered with excellent verbiage on what is required of someone to be considered prepared for a sacrament. If you are not familiar with Joe, he is not only a published author; he is also a catechist so this method has worked well for him over the years. Obviously it was used by me for years when I worked with 8th grade confirmation youth. I hope this is helpful for you. It is attached to this e-mail.

Middle School and High School Lesson Plans for the Canonization of John Paul II and the process for becoming a saint:

Attached to this week's e-mail you will find lesson plans for the Canonization of John Paul II from Life Teen (both high school and a middle school night) as well as a two page document on the canonization process from Sadlier Publishers. The Canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II will happen on April 27. You can also find many resources on this meaningful event for the Catholic Church at the USCCB website.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/canonizations-john-xxiii-john-paul-ii.cfm>

Small Group Discussions that work:

Recently a volunteer in youth ministry asked me if I had a source for great small group questions that weren't necessarily tied to the curriculum they were using for Confirmation and high school teen ministry. I shared with them a link to NET Ministries and how I have used these questions for quite some time. As we head near the end of our year, perhaps this may be helpful to you too. The url link is below. Please share any great small group discussion questions you have used that have been well received. You can e-mail them to Sherri Simmer at ssimmer@dmdiocese.org.

Net Ministries link - <http://www.netusa.org/small-group-questions/>

Prayer to be open to the Holy Week graces:

Jesus my Lord, strengthen me to take on the courage of all those people who have been "centurions" for me. Many have faced disasters and hard times with great constancy. The upper hand of evil never turned them away from you. They kept going. Let me be like them, Lord. No matter what the cross, never let me stop declaring you to be "truly the Son of God," the source of my hope, the reason why I will never quit on your love.

Amen