



## Edmodo Pro Empowers the Diocese of Scranton to Continue Religious Education Virtually

### Overview

When COVID-19 spiraled out of control in early 2020, the Diocese of Scranton in Pennsylvania was forced to close all in-person services, including faith formation activities and religious education for students and families. The Office for Parish Life needed to quickly find a way for religious education communities in the Diocese's 124 parishes to come together online, but was faced with the daunting task of finding a virtual platform that was flexible and easy for the parishes to use. The Office set about searching for effective options for virtual and hybrid learning, and found Edmodo.

### Goals and Challenges

Jacki Douglas, Diocesan Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, shared, "Our goal was to find a platform that is user-friendly and interactive for children and their families, a landing page for all of their religious education needs." Like most of us, the Diocese never planned on extended closures of in-person services. The unprecedented stay-at-home orders threatened not only the livelihood of the clergy and staff, but the attendance and very way of life of the parishioners and those dependent upon the Diocese. Douglas also recognized that

while some parishes might be hoping to return to in-person faith formation classes, many wanted more flexible virtual options for continuing classes during closures or to enhance learning when in-person services could resume. The Office needed an online learning platform that allowed parishes to:

- Continue religious education online, including the abilities to conduct classes virtually, manage lessons and curriculum, and make resources accessible to students and families
- Communicate important information and connect seamlessly across clergy, lay employees, and community members
- Have the flexibility to learn completely virtually or in a hybrid model of both in-person and online activities
- Quickly bring religious education communities online with easy, user-friendly tools

## Building Faith and Community with Edmodo

Finding quick success with a small group of parishes, the Office for Parish Life quickly made Edmodo available to the whole Diocese and is extremely pleased with its first experience with an online learning platform. "Parishes are able to use Faith Alive! powered by Edmodo for religious education, RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults], adult formation, and a wide variety of other options. That means the pastors, DREs [Directors of Religious Education], catechists, and RCIA coordinators can all utilize this platform," says Douglas. More than 3,000 students, parents, and religious education staff across 124 parishes currently use Edmodo to communicate and join in faith formation activities online—and to come together in a time when it's needed more than ever.

- Parishes have found major success in using **Zoom video conferencing in Edmodo** for synchronous sessions such as virtual classes or group meetings.
- Directors of Religious Education, catechists, and other teachers use **Classes and Groups** on Edmodo to make important resources and documents accessible to students and their families.
- Parishes are able to flexibly use the platform in the way that works best for their communities, from fully **virtual to hybrid models** for learning.
- Parishes can increase **collaboration** with each other and open up opportunities for faith sharing during a difficult time for their communities.

"I was worried about how we would continue to prepare the students for the sacrament when forced to meet remotely. Edmodo not only allows us to host virtual classes, but also gives us the ability to make important forms and information accessible to students and parents in a secure, transparent way. I've been super happy with how I've been able to use the platform."

**Terry Talbott, Parish Confirmation Coordinator**

Learn more about using Edmodo to continue education online for your church, school, or organization at [go.edmodo.com/schools](https://go.edmodo.com/schools).

