

## Getting the Most out of a FORMED Subscription



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**Kim Jaresh**

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Pilot Point, Texas

The rapidly growing area of Pilot Point, Texas, lies an hour north of Ft. Worth and Dallas. Founded in 1892, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish erected its current church building in 1950 and is in the midst of a capital campaign to renew its facilities and to begin planning for increasing the size and appeal of the parish.

Soon after the introduction of FORMED to parishes, St. Thomas Aquinas Church subscribed to the online platform. As new families join St. Thomas Aquinas, FORMED serves as “an icebreaker,” said Kim Jaresh, the director of Children’s Formation.

“The families get to see all these wonderful Catholic things,” Jaresh said. “It’s like Catholic Netflix on steroids.”

The parish makes abundant use of the resources on FORMED.

“It’s being used for formation, for RCIA, and for sacramental prep classes,” Jaresh said.

When the parish offered English and Spanish small-group studies of *THE SEARCH*, Chris Stefanick’s series that examines the deepest questions of the human heart, “we had some pretty lively discussions,” Jaresh said. One of the small groups has continued to meet weekly.



**“A FORMED subscription is money well spent. It’s pocket change in the grand scheme of things.”**



Kim Jaresh

SYMBOLON has found its way into RCIA classes and into parent formation in both English and Spanish.

Beyond using FORMED for ministries and spiritual growth, one group in the parish chose a different movie to watch each week on the online platform and then met to discuss the film. Selections included *The Jeweler's Shop*, based on a book by Pope Saint John Paul II, and *The Reluctant Saint*, the story of St. Joseph of Cupertino.

In her work with the nearly 300 children and their parents who participate in family faith formation, Jaresh sees the benefits of FORMED's resources. Children preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion use the English and Spanish versions of SIGNS OF GRACE.

"The curriculum is really good," Jaresh said.

But it is the parent component of the program with *Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession* and *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* that Jaresh finds particularly valuable. She praised the programs' presenters, cinematography, and strong catechesis.

"So many of us were brought up in an era and in a place without good catechesis," Jaresh said.

She sees that deficiency in the adults' understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which for many, remains at a second-grade level.

Some see Reconciliation more as a duty after breaking one of the Ten Commandments than "having an encounter with Jesus and getting in right relationship with him," Jaresh said.

She wants to shift the adults' emphasis from rules to relationship.

"FORMED helps me articulate that and share it," Jaresh said. "The Augustine Institute has all of these great people who can teach very well. I can show the videos and share my personal experience."

Afterward, she said, parents have "a better understanding" of the sacrament, and in some, the seeds of conversion are planted.



To learn more, contact **Brian Truckenbrod**  
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