

INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

RENEWING THE CULTURE OF LIFE



This past year, the pro-life movement gained traction as we saw the historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. However, the work to build a culture of life is far from over. More than ever, advocating for the preborn in our churches and homes is essential. As we enter the new year, encourage your parishioners to support the pro-life movement through their prayers and active participation. To aid your work, FORMED offers several pro-life resources and videos, including the *FORMED Now* series “Renewing a Culture of Life.” In these videos, Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Lynn Grandon, director of Respect Life Denver at Catholic Charities of Denver, to discuss the Church and the pro-life movement at length.



Overturning *Roe v. Wade*

In the first video, Dr. Ben Akers and Lynn Grandon examine the potential ramifications of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. While this was filmed before the Supreme Court’s decision, the conversation offers an enlightening insight into a post-*Roe* America. Through this video, your parishioners will learn some of the history and politics surrounding *Roe v. Wade* and what overturning it really means.



Why Is the Church Pro-Life?

When a culture of death surrounds us, it can be tempting to start questioning the Church’s stance on pro-life issues. However, the more we learn about and discover the realities of abortion, the clearer the truth becomes. In this second video, Dr. Ben Akers and Lynn Grandon discuss the holistic approach of the Church to pro-life issues and her teachings and actions that advocate for life.



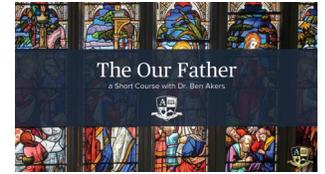
How Do We Live Pro-Life?

The concluding video of the series seeks to answer what it means to respond to the Church’s call to live a “pro-life life.” The Lord asks each of us to step into the heart of this issue, using the gifts he’s given us. Using this video as a guide, invite your parishioners to advocate for life by growing their pro-life knowledge and sharing it with others. Through this and prayer, they can stand for and create a culture of life.

HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

The Our Father: A Short Course with Dr. Ben Akers

As the new year begins, encourage your parishioners to dive deeper into their prayer lives with this Short Course on the Our Father. While we often make prayer resolutions, knowing where to begin can be difficult. This series of videos is a fantastic way to understand better the prayer that Jesus taught us. Each session breaks down a line of the Our Father and examines what it means and why it is a part of the prayer Jesus taught us.



Our Mother Mary

This new year, encourage your parishioners to follow Mary along the way of discipleship. In this conversation between Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Mark Miravalle, your parishioners will discover the beauty of our holy Mother and how they are called to be like her as members of the faith.

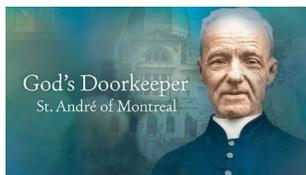
The Slugs and Bugs Show

Are you looking for a family-friendly show for your parishioners? The *Slugs and Bugs Show* is an excellent series for all ages. Each episode is filled with fun songs and laughter, all while teaching kids virtues like love, honesty, and friendship. This show is a wonderful way to encourage families to begin discussing these faith-filled topics.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Encourage your parishioners to discover more about these inspirational saints:



January 6: St. André Bessette

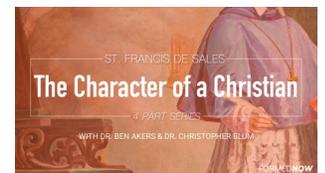
God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal

Celebrate the feast day of St. André of Montreal this January with *God's Doorkeeper*. This film tells the story of the humble doorkeeper who became known across Canada and beyond as a miraculous healer. For forty years, Brother André of the Congregation of the Holy Cross welcomed people in and acted as a model of prayer, hospitality, and compassion. Hear stories from people who knew him and those who continue his work today as you learn of St. André's incredible journey to sainthood.

January 24: St. Francis de Sales

FORMED Now: The Character of a Christian

In this four-part series, learn about the life of St. Francis de Sales while exploring one of his best-known works, *The Introduction to the Devout Life*. Through his life's witness and writings, St. Francis de Sales teaches us the beauty of devotion, prayer, sincerity, and courage. Listen to commentary from Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Christopher O. Blum as they illustrate how each of these characteristics can build us up to be faithful disciples of Christ.



January 28: St. Thomas Aquinas

12 Stories about Aquinas with Peter Kreeft

In this Pints with Aquinas episode, Matt Fradd sits down with renowned author Peter Kreeft and hears twelve stories about the extraordinary life of St. Thomas Aquinas. This quick listen opens a small window into the mind of this saint, whose writings total nearly 50,000 pages. Each story reveals the personality of St. Thomas as listeners learn small anecdotes from his life and path to sainthood.

CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

With millions of viewers worldwide, *The Chosen* brings people into an encounter with the life of Christ and the calling of the first disciples. One of the latest additions to FORMED, this show provides a beautiful opportunity to bring people from any background deeper into the faith.

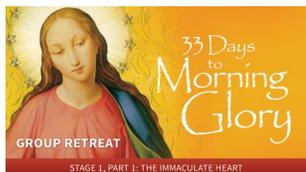
Considering its extensive audience, many of your parishioners have likely seen the show. While it depicts many powerful stories surrounding various characters of the Bible, questions of accuracy and credibility may arise. What should they make of scenes that are not in the Scriptures? How do they respond to the show's portrayal of Mary and the disciples of Christ? To aid your parishioners as they watch *The Chosen*, a production created by Protestants with Catholic consultants, FORMED is excited to announce its new series: *Catholic Commentary on The Chosen*.

In this series, viewers will critically engage with *The Chosen*. Two professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology will join them: Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, an associate professor of theology, and Dr. Michael Barber, a professor of Scripture and theology. Episodes

will walk through the series as they discuss the creative license used in *The Chosen* and how it aligns with the teachings of the Catholic Church and Sacred Scripture. While *The Chosen* tells the backstory of many characters in the Bible, *Catholic Commentary on The Chosen* aims to illuminate which areas of the show have a scriptural basis, which ones use creative license, and how all of this ties in with the historical context of the times. This series is a fantastic follow-up to *The Chosen* and allows viewers to step deeper into the truths of the faith, all the while encouraging them to return to Sacred Scripture.



DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



33 Days to Morning Glory

As we approach the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11, encourage your parishioners to grow deeper in their faith through a total consecration to Jesus through Mary. This series offers a weekly reflective video that teaches the tenets of Marian devotion and consecration. By entrusting their hearts to their divine Mother, each person can unite themselves to Christ and share in his glory. This program is an opportunity to bring the parish together and grow in community and faith while also deepening devotions to Our Lady.



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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  Ignatius press

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give your parishioners the gift of God's Word.



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 SCAN ME

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