



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* PROVIDENCE**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903**

**401-278-4646  
FAX 401-278-4645  
[www.discovercatholicfaith.org](http://www.discovercatholicfaith.org)**

**OFFICE OF  
FAITH FORMATION**

**MEMO**

**TO:** Parish Catechetical Leaders

**FROM:** Office of Faith Formation

**DATE:** September 15, 2020

**RE:** Recommendations from Office of Compliance for Virtual Learning Spaces

The Diocese of Providence Code of Ethical Conduct states that “Adults will not be alone with a young person in a . . . closed room or isolated area.” Kevin O’Brien, Director for the Office of Compliance, after consulting with the RI State Police, suggests that if you choose an online platform or virtual software for online learning, you assign at least 2 adults to each virtual classroom/meeting room (both assigned adults should remain in the virtual meeting space until all children have logged off), or require that an adult be home with the child and nearby during the religious education class when taught virtually. He also suggests that catechists and catechetical leaders consider recording the class (after receiving permission from each child’s guardian). We continue to recommend that all faith formation communication from catechists and catechetical leaders be directed to parents. Please note that in the absence of a directive in our policy at this time this is a highly recommended course of action that should serve you well. We hope to address the matter and amend the policy accordingly at some point in the future.