Hold On To Love (February)
Guide for Local Use

This short guide is intended to assist local parish ministry leaders in utilizing the Hold On To Love live stream recordings for local use.

The guide consist of the following sections:

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Program Structure

The Hold On To Love live stream is divided into four SEGMENTS, each of which is further divided into COMPONENTS.

• SEGMENT 1: Gathering
  o COMPONENT A: Opening Video
  o COMPONENT B: Overview
  o COMPONENT C: Welcome & Opening Prayer

• SEGMENT 2: Message
  o COMPONENT A: Speaker Intro
  o COMPONENT B: Speaker
  o COMPONENT C: Reflection

• SEGMENT 3: Prayer
  o COMPONENT A: Music
  o COMPONENT B: Prayer Time
  o COMPONENT C: Music

• SEGMENT 4: Sending Forth
  o COMPONENT A: Transition
  o COMPONENT B: Final Encouragement
  o COMPONENT C: Thanks & Blessing
  o COMPONENT D: Closing Remarks
  o COMPONENT E: Closing Video
Utilizing the Recording for Local Use

Parishes wishing to use the live stream recording locally with their parishioners can do so in basically two ways:

1. As is, with a few possible modifications
2. Using SCENES, with a local leader utilizing some SCENES to facilitate the experience for participants.

One note of caution: the February live stream recording is 59 minutes long. In Method 1, pay particular attention to the amount of time you include for local participation in relation to what is subtracted for what you do not use from the live stream recording. If you add in more time for local participation than you take away from the recording, the length of the overall program time will increase. If your scheduled time-frame for your local use accommodates this increase, no problem. If it does not, then you may find yourself keeping your participants longer than they expect and/or find that some are leaving before the program is complete. Plan your time carefully as you adjust for local use.

Method 1: The Live Stream Recording as Primary

With this method, the live stream recording is used pretty much as is with a few modifications allowing for local participant engagement.

SEGMENT 1: Gathering. Begin with a few introductory and welcome remarks by the local facilitator, then begin the video. Be careful, however, to not duplicate the remarks by the Hosts in the OVERVIEW.

SEGMENT 2. Message. Use the SPEAKER INTRO and SPEAKER components as is. For the REFLECTION, two options are offered:

- **Option 1:** Use the reflections provided by the hosts stopping the video at the 28:22 mark (right after Candy says: “The older I get, the more convinced I am that God is real.”). The facilitator can take a moment to share what stood out to him/her and then invite participants to share as well.
  - **NOTE 1:** If participants are not sharing, consider utilizing the “mutual invitation” method. Invite one participant to share, and then have that participant invite the next one to share, and so on. Participants always have the option to pass, but each one invites the next to share.
  - **NOTE 2:** While participants are sharing, discretely advance the recording to the 30:14 – the beginning of Aimee Thompson-Almeida’s song. After the sharing has concluded, move into SEGMENT 3: PRAYER.

- **Option 2:** Stop the video at the end of Carrie’s message (at the 25:38 mark). The local facilitator comments a bit on Carrie’s message sharing what struck him/her most and why. He/She then invites participants to share as in Option 1 above.
NOTE: While participants are sharing, discretely advance the recording to the 30:14 – the beginning of Aimee Thompson-Almeida’s song. When sharing has concluded, move to SEGMENT 3: PRAYER.

SEGMENT 3: Prayer. Use one of the options below.

The prayer time comprises of the following:
- Opening Song (begins at 30:14 and concludes at 34:40)
- Giving Voice to Prayers (begins at 34:40 and concludes at 42:55 mark)
- Concluding Prayer (begins at 42:55 and moves right in to the Closing Song)
- Closing Song (begins at 44:52 and concludes at 46:32 mark)

- Option 1:
  - Begin with the “Opening Song.”
  - Use a little or a lot of “Giving Voice to Prayers” as you deem appropriate. (Use at least some of it to “prime the pump” for prayers.) The local facilitator can pause at an appropriate mark so he/she can invite participants to voice or submit their prayers – and can let them know how to submit those prayers if they are not vocalizing them.
  - Use the “Concluding Prayer.”
  - Move into the “Closing Song”

- Option 2:
  - Begin with the “Opening Song.”
  - The local facilitator then leads the “Giving Voice to Prayers” section.
  - Conclude with the “Closing Song”

SEGMENT 4: Sending Forth. Use this section as is.

Method 2: The Live Stream Recording as Resource

With this method, the live stream recording is used as a resource to support the local facilitator in leading the experience. This recording can be used in two ways:

1. In its entirety, most likely in a 1 hour time span.
2. In two parts:
   a. Part 1: SEGMENT 1: GATHERING and SEGMENT 2: MESSAGE. This will allow for some good processing/discussion time of Carrie’s message. If you use this option, be sure to plan an appropriate conclusion to this part.
   b. Part 2: SEGMENT 3: PRAYER and SEGMENT 4: SENDING FORTH. This can allow for a longer reflection and prayer time. If you use this option, you should begin by asking for a recap of what participants remember from Carrie’s message in Part 1, and any thoughts they’ve had about it since the last session. You will also want to plan out prayer a bit more, maybe incorporating some Scripture passages or Psalms throughout the time,
maybe even a witness or two from a teen and an adult on how love sustained them during a tough time in their life.

SEGMENT 1: Gathering. Do not use the Opening Video. The local facilitator covers the main points covered by the hosts in the Overview section. Here’s an outline for the local facilitator:

- Welcome participants.
- **Hold On To Love** is about slowing down, taking some time to process what we’ve going this past year, not just in terms of the pandemic but also in our lives in general. And to look at all that through the eyes of faith. Led by the Holy Spirit we hope to reflect on what our experiences have meant to us personally, and what God may be speaking to us and also through us, and that this can be a time of rest and inspiration where we can receive strength for the journey ahead.
- The theme for tonight is “Love Sustains” we’ll have an opportunity to reflect on that.
- We have some special people to help us with that:
  - The Shepherd of our diocese, Bishop Zinkula, will offer a short reflection, prayer, and give us his blessing.
  - Aimee Thompson-Almeida who’s the Coordinator of Music and Liturgy for Ss. Mary & Mathias parish in Muscatine will share some music with us, and
  - Our special guest, Carrie Ann Ford, a Catholic musician from Buffalo, NY, will provide a powerful message on our theme.
- Tonight will also feature some time in prayer together and some great encouragement for our lives.
- So let’s get started and welcome our Shepherd Bishop Thomas Zinkula. (Use the live stream clip of Bishop beginning at the 5:58 mark and concluding at the 10:44 mark.)

SEGMENT 2. Message.

- Introduce Carrie Ann Ford. Here’s a short bio on her:

  Carrie Ann Ford is a singer, songwriter and presenter from the Buffalo, NY area. She has been sharing her message of God’s unfailing love with audiences across the globe for over 25 years. Carrie has toured the United States, Europe and East Africa using music and drama to communicate the awesome, healing, saving power of God in her life.
  
  Carrie is a wife and mom of 2 teens, and is actively involved in leading music ministries in the Diocese of Buffalo, in addition to speaking, facilitating retreats, keynoting conventions, and leading worship across the country.

- Use the live stream clip of Carrie’s message beginning at the 12:06 mark and concluding at the 25:38 mark.
- The local facilitator shares what struck him/her from Carrie’s message and why it did so. He/She then invites participants to share what struck them and why.
  - NOTE: The local facilitator might consider showing Carrie’s message to another adult and a youth or two ahead of the session asking them to reflect on it and be prepared to share with other participants their take-aways from it. If this
option is chosen, the local facilitator shares, invites these people to share, and then invites the rest of participants to share.

SEGMENT 3: Prayer. The local facilitator leads this entire section. There are many ways to facilitate this segment, as each individual has a different way of approaching prayer, especially group prayer. To assist the local facilitator in his/her preparation, a few guidelines for and an outline of this time are offered.

The prayer time comprises of the following:
- Opening Song (begins at 30:14 and concludes at 34:40)
- Giving Voice to Prayers (begins at 34:40 and concludes at 42:55 mark)
- Concluding Prayer (begins at 42:55 and moves right in to the Closing Song)
- Closing Song (begins at 44:52 and concludes at 46:32 mark)

• The local facilitator introduces this SEGMENT using these or similar words:
  “Carrie’s message has given all of us a lot to reflect on. Maybe you are or have felt like her, and you are wondering or have wondered if God is real. One thing I know is that the older we get, and the more life experiences we have, the more we are convinced that God IS real. At least that’s my experience. And I know that God does get up on the ledge with us – EVERY TIME. He’s even here with us right now as in this (virtual) gathering. So let’s pause for a bit and spend some time with God in prayer. What’s on your heart tonight? Who or what in your life needs prayer? What do you want to thank or ask God for? Quiet yourself and think about that as Aimee Thompson-Almeida prepares our hearts for prayer.”

• Begin the live stream recording with Aimee’s first song at the 30:14 mark.
• After the song, invite people to share any prayer they have. (You may need to instruct them how to do that, i.e., type them in the chat – and facilitator reads them aloud as they appear, or unmute themselves and speak their prayer aloud.) Have some prayers of your own ready to go to get them started. Continue to invite prayers, as well as provide some silent time. (You might want to view this section on the live stream recording for a model of how to facilitate this time.
• When it seems evident that there are no more prayers that will be verbalized, conclude this prayer time in your own words and transition into the Closing Song.
• End this SEGMENT with Aimee’s second song (begins at the 44:52 mark)

SEGMENT 4: Sending Forth. This segment is meant to send participants forth in a positive and hope-filled manner. The suggestion is to use two video clips in this segment with the rest being provided by the local facilitator.

• Transition into the Final Encouragement section. Comment on the prayer time and introduce Brett Adams, Coordinator of Evangelization and Youth Ministry for Our lady of Lourdes parish in Bettendorf. (Show the clip that begins at 50:10.)
• Continue the live stream recording as Candy transitions into Bishop’s remarks and blessing.
• Stop the recording after the Bishop’s blessing (at the 57:00 mark).
• Conclude your session with any closing comments you have.
## Hold On To Love – February Live Stream Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEGMENT</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>BEGIN</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Gathering</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Overview</td>
<td>A. Opening Video</td>
<td>00:00</td>
<td>1:33</td>
<td>Welcome, Hosts, Featured Guests, Special Guest</td>
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<td>B. Overview</td>
<td>01:33</td>
<td>4:25</td>
<td>Introduction of Hosts, Live Stream Overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Welcome &amp; Opening Prayer</td>
<td>05:58</td>
<td>4:46</td>
<td>Bishop’s Opening Remarks &amp; Prayer</td>
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<td>II. Message</td>
<td>Special Guest Presentation</td>
<td>A. Speaker Intro</td>
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<td>0:22</td>
<td>Host introduces Speaker</td>
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<td>B. Speaker</td>
<td>12:06</td>
<td>13:32</td>
<td>Video Message from Carrie Ann Ford</td>
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<td>C. Reflection</td>
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<td>4:36</td>
<td>Hosts share reactions to Message; transition to prayer</td>
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<td>B. Prayer Time</td>
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<td>C. Music</td>
<td>44:52</td>
<td>4:21</td>
<td>Aimee Thompson-Almeida – What Wondrous Love Is This?</td>
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<td>A. Transition</td>
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<td>B. Final Encouragement</td>
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<td>C. Thanks &amp; Blessing</td>
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