

*Building Authentic Relationships in your Parish and Youth Ministry Programs
with the Help of Authentic Media*

1.) BEST CATHOLIC APPS

a.) **The Catholic Novena App**

_____ Brand new on the scene within the past year is a new Catholic app and it makes it so EASY to pray with other Catholics around the world. This new app has a great twist that allows you to share your own specific prayer request and have others join you in prayer.

b.) **Mary our Mother**

_____ The Mary Our Mother app is a mega app that appeals to everyone, and tries to capture what is essential to the Catholic faith. It is designed well to connect to many, many websites for content like Daily readings, Daily meditations, and even information on Eucharistic and Marian miracles.

c.) **Audio Catholic Books**

_____ Take your faith life with you. Are you looking for the best Catholic Audio Book app that is on both the iOS and Android store? This is an excellent option for those of you who spend hours commuting or really for all of us who are busy with life! The books that are included are fantastic and ultimately they are true classics.

d.) **Neubible**

_____ This particular Bible app is incredibly smooth, it is top notch design, and layout, really well thought out. There are many Bible Apps out there and they each have a role, studying scripture, making and remembering notes, and like this one reading scripture. This app takes the clutter, the inline linking, the click for ten times more information, out of the picture and just brings it down to one task. Reading Scripture.

e.) **Catholic Droid**

_____ This is an app that is aimed at Catholics, and it aims to cover a lot of issues, topics and areas in the Catholic faith. It is one of the better reviewed Android Google Play Store Catholic apps, and it does cover a lot of areas.

2.) **Best Social Media Apps for both Youth Ministry and Parishes**

a.) Instagram

b.) Snapchat

c.) Twitter

d.) Facebook

3.) **Best Apps and Ideas for Youth Ministry and Parishes**

_____ a.) **The Social Media apps mentioned above.**

If we like it or not, this is where teens and even pre-teens are focusing their time. This is where they are spending most of their free time. This is where most of their communication is happening. So this is where you can meet them. It can be a starting point to building more authentic relationships. We aren't going to change all pre-teens', teens' and young adults' minds just because we don't agree with it. We need to just use it to our advantage to eventually build stronger and more genuine relationships in person. Hopefully from there we assist them in becoming disciples and help them to see the beauty and purpose that is Catholicism.

b.) **Starbucks**

_____ Build disciples by first building authentic relationships with your youth ministry participants. Listen to what they have to say. Go out and have some coffee. Teens are spending a large amount of their money on going out to coffee with their friends to share about their lives. Listen to what they have to say at those SAME coffee shops. Support your local coffee shops as well. You'll be super cool if you introduce your teens to some random, and hidden coffee shop. Go out for coffee with the parents as well. Our youth have such a hard time growing in their faith if their parents aren't supporting them. Don't forget them. The parents and their children are the future of this Church.

c.) **Random Drawings and Giveaways**

_____ Get your teens involved on social media by offering a giveaway through a drawing. Give them an incentive by getting involved. Remind them that they can't win something without contributing. Get local businesses to donate prizes and promote them on your social media as well. It makes the teens (and young adults!) feel like they are not only part of their church but also part of their community. You are then also evangelizing into your community!!! WIN! WIN!

d.) **OVER**

_____ With "Over" you can add beautiful text to your photos, simply choose from 25 amazing fonts available, and add captions, quotes, jokes... you can then resize, align and position your text, when finished you can quickly publish your creation on your social networks.

e.) **CANVA**

_____ The app also lets you add and edit photos from your camera roll, or choose a licensed image from Canva's library of more than one million. From the app, you can choose various templates such as a Facebook cover banner, thank you cards or social media graphics, among other designs.

f.) **WordSwag**

_____ WordSwag is pre-populated with awesome templates that literally let you create image + text images that look like a designer has played a part in their creation – when all along, it was just you!

***The last three apps (OVER, CANVA, and WORDSWAG) are ideal for Instagram and Facebook.**

3b.) Best CATHOLIC apps for Youth Ministry

a.) Daily Light

_____ While I always promote to youth workers to not use electronics with the Bible (that's a whole other blog post!), I do love the idea of a daily devotional on your phone. Not many people walk around with a devotional book in their hands at all times, but we do have our phones and when we are waiting for a late appointment or showed up early to a meeting (what?! it could happen!), you may want to simply rest your soul with a quick devo.

b.) Lifeteen

c.) iSingWorship

_____ Perfect for churches, small groups, kids groups, music rehearsals or even your own personal use, iSingWorship is an amazing resource designed to engage and inspire people in worship. Using iSingWorship is just like having your own very experienced band playing with you as you sing or lead worship. Download a song from the growing built in library and you can take out the vocal, repeat a chorus, end by going back to verse 1, break down into a quiet instrumental section to talk or pray over, or sing a chorus with just the drums playing.

d.) DOCAT

_____ DOCAT is a popular adaptation of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church that draws on Scripture, YOUCAT, the Catechism and the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching, and features a foreword by Pope Francis. The app helps readers to start groups, participate in discussions, and do acts of justice as a present to the pope, who, in writing the foreword to DOCAT, shared his dream with youth on how to change the world.