

A move to reorganize during the COVID crisis: The Santa Teresa de Avila Mission Experience

Our first step was to consider the important role social media plays in [evangelization](#) and as a vital tool for us as co-ordinators of the faith education program and [youth ministry](#) in our parish. This led to the creation of a committee called "Technology in the New Evangelization" which, for about a year now, has been helping facilitate our community life, spearheaded by Mrs. Azucena Rios.

As soon as our churches closed, our team quickly transitioned to providing live broadcast of our Mass via [Facebook Live](#) and [Radio Cristo Rey Montreal](#) (our mission's online radio channel). We set up two teams: an online liturgy team and a technical team, delegated to prepare all the necessary material for online celebrations. Our goal was to offer the diverse faithful an opportunity to participate. With the experience we already had in using the cloud platform *Zoom* for online spiritual animation, we were quickly inclined to resorting to this same tool for the purposes of organizing ourselves and connecting with parishioners during confinement. The cloud tool also helped facilitate collaboration with the pastoral team of the Marists of Canada, who provided us guidance and support. As a result, all our Triduum celebrations ([Holy Thursday](#), [Good Friday](#), [Easter Vigil](#) and [Easter](#)) were made available for viewing online via the Mission's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCewGTvZFZ4ceUiAviarcjVg/videos>

We are also using the cross-platform messaging service, *WhatsApp*, as a means of maintaining rapid communication between the various committees working during this time of pandemic. We have set up other teams responsible for preparing slides for liturgical celebrations and publicity, as well as a committee to help provide support for seniors and those who have difficulty connecting online for celebrations. The Santa Teresa de Avila Mission *Facebook* page has become the most commonly-used method for communication among our parishioners.

Our community now has online celebrations viewed in several Latin American countries. Every week, our community life thrives online through [Eucharistic celebrations](#), [adoration of the Blessed Sacrament](#), [praying of the Rosary](#), [weekly meetings of the mission's charismatic groups](#); spiritual-sharing group, youth group, and pastoral team. Pre-celebration planning meetings can take up to two hours for each event, in addition to those of the technical team.

As for the mission's catechetical program, catechists had adopted a new means of communication two years ago, using their cell phones and Smart TV. [Program themes are now posted regularly on our website](#). We have also recently set up a [Facebook page dedicated to the catechetical](#)

[program](#), to help facilitate the sharing of resources, learning, and collaboration with catechists who plan to continue the program virtually. [The catechetical posting for feast of Corpus Christie 2020](#) (for example, was shared with the parents through this page, with [Sunday readings presented through PowerPoint slides](#) that included [activities](#). Most of our catechists continue to correspond with the parents by email and to transmit the weekly themes online via the mission's website, *Facebook* page or a video among those proposed by the Catechesis coordinating team [for catechesis each Sunday: another example](#) (we have a [Facebook website](#) and a WhatsApp (private for the communication of the catechists).

VIDEOS, SONGS OR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION Proposed for the corpus christi feast 2020

--Juan 6,51-53, película: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg2bjeDqKTc>
- Juan 6, 51-58, película y reflexión: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cKsh-Ggnt8>
-Juan 6,51-58, película: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1tZ03X1-iE>
-Juan 6,51-58, película: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4r-G1acoE_Q
-Permanecer, Verbo Divino–2011, reflexión: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-NulkUSYog>
-Alimentados, VD–2014, reflexión <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gvNNs4tHe4> (“
-Pan que da vida, VD- 2017, reflexión: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TH_fXJszH4
-Oportunidad para el cambio, VD–2020, reflexión: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtfJJ7Jk4DU>)
-Estás aquí, Jesed (Canto a la Eucaristía): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwRGk-f1mIs>
-Tú estás aquí, Jesús Adrián Romero y Marcela Gándara, canto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uCkah4GXz4>
-Secuencia Corpus Christi, Canto de Javier Brú <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9cPjVHVfHU>
-El que coma de este Pan, canción. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oscqV9Fa8rw>
-Jesús es pan de vida, canto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXzHsk0XcTY>
Abrazo, corto para jóvenes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Olldi-gu8So
Lecturas con lenguaje de gestos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k2rdNdczTo>

Families in our community have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in online celebrations as well as the catechetical program sending by email, ~~online~~ [or in the web site of our church](#). Each week we try to include a new family in the celebrations.

Whenever possible, we try to include the community's children and their parents, e.g. publicly offering their personal Easter wishes through pre-recorded video clips, which are often creative, funny and sincere: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6UWMWb31ZU>; as part of our two-hour [Mother's Day celebration](#) this is the link by offering wishes, songs, poems, interviews with moms, etc. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsQPg0_y8cl&t=222s

We prepared [an online evaluation form](#) to survey the different members of the community regarding our activities through social media networks. Following some feedback we received, we decided to produce [Spanish translations of the messages being issued by the Archbishop](#), ex. mple: [Here is an open letter entitled: “The spiritual, always essential”, written by Archbishop of](#)

[Montréal, Most Reverend Christian Lépine in Spanish](#) the AECQ bishops and our diocese and share them through *Facebook* and *WhatsApp*. We will soon launch a new interactive Q & A segment called: "Questions from the Faithful" to be animated by our priests Fr. Carlos Betancourth and Br. José Apolinario, together with other lay people.

We have other projects also in progress in our church, made available on our [Youtube channel](#), What will happen after deconfinement? In the areas of work life, the economy, society and church life, we will need to identify the best practices of each institution once the deconfinement process is over. It will be a great opportunity to reinforce our spiritual life, fellowship and social solidarity. We have to start by making the transition ourselves, then sensitize others to new ways of evangelization. We believe that after confinement is over, each individual will have to assume their own personal and social responsibility.

We are living a special time with our families, (by being together and spending more time together at home) and we have been working to rediscover the role of the family as the domestic church, offering room in our homes for God's presence through our daily activities. After the confinement period, we need to reflect on the role the home-as-Church has had in living out our faith.

As a community, we need to take time to reflect on what we are experiencing as a society. Praying and sharing together with respect the challenges, the reality and the beliefs that each family has lived during this time with children at home. We have to step back to realize how we lived moments of prayer together as a couple and as a family, now apart from the parish community, creating an ideal environment to live out our faith or developing spaces that were not there before. It is important to know what will happen with those community spaces at the end of the isolation.

"The truth and beauty of the family must be communicated to every Christian family," Pope Francis explained, even those that are fragile, wounded or broken by the resources we now have at our disposition. We know that Pope Francis invites us together to ask ourselves: "Are we up to the task of bringing Christ into this area, or better still, of bringing others to meet Christ? Can we walk alongside the pilgrim of today's world as Jesus walked with those companions to Emmaus, warming their hearts on the way and bringing them to an encounter with the Lord? Are we able to communicate the face of a Church which is 'home' to all?" (*Address of the Holy Father Francis to the Participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Sept. 21, 2013*).

Thank you

Azucena Rios and Fernando Castro

Below are tables outlining the mission's activities and those involved in the co-ordination, operation and maintenance of the different ministries and web platforms, intended to illustrate that ongoing church life at the mission is made possible thanks to the support of our community and the shared commitment of both our priest and lay people.

Overview of Weekly Activities at Saint Teresa of Avila Mission:

Monday	Rosary 7:00 p.m.	https://www.Facebook.com/events/2652176088434925/ 'New Life in Christ' Group (nueva vida en Cristo)
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Liturgy team meeting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Zoom meeting: Preparation for Sunday Mass Technical and Evangelization Team, Liturgy A and Liturgy B Team, and priest, Fr. Carlos
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQxAh-Ga0-s Fr. Carlos Betancourth and Jorge Cuerno Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Animation Group Meeting Monthly: Pastoral Team
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Charismatic Group and Rosary Meeting Live in Christ Nueva Vida en Cristo. Via Zoom and Facebook Live Ste-Thérèse d'Avila Group meeting via Facebook Live.
Saturday	7:30 a.m.	Rosary (Members of the community)
	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual and Gospel Meditation Meeting Buena Madre Group. International Spritual Meeting (Canada, Australia, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil and Argentina)
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Marriage Encounter Meetings (Encuentros Matrimoniales)
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Meeting of Technical Team for Mass
	11:00 a.m.	Mass
	2:30 p.m.	Youth Group Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Meeting for Seniors (Marist Brothers)

Technical and Evangelization Team for St. Theresa of Avila Mission

General Co-ordination	Azucena Rios
Co-ordination Team Evangelization and Technology	Azucena Rios Fr. Carlos Bethancourt, op Brother José Apolinario, op Mr. Fernando Castro Mr. Jorge Cuerno Mr. David Cuervo
Slides and Publicity Team	Azucena Rios Fernando Castro Cristina Cruz Ana Maria C. Gustavo Sequeira Janeth Ruiz
Team 1 Liturgy	Fr. Carlos Bethancourt, op, Co-ordinator Leonel Aguilar, Co-ordinator Awilda Duran, Gladys Torres, Karen Timeo, Francisca García, Anabella Jiménez, Sophia Molina, Justin Muñoz, Rony Muñoz, Jose Antonio Mongueil, Natasha Cesares, Rosa Brito
Team 2 Liturgy	Fr. Carlos Betancourth, op, Co-ordinator Porfirio Rodriguez, Co-ordinator Daysi Ayala, Alberto Guerra Diaz, Mauro Torres, Emily Torres, Griselda Leyva, Heydi Casa, Edgar Arana, Luis Melendez, Silvia Rosa Vasquez Fernando Castro, Azucena Rios, Edgar Arana Arquimides Torres
Youth Animation Team (Sundays at 2:30 p.m.)	Fr. José Apolinario, op Fernando Castro Gustavo Sequeira Ligia Arguello Pedro Chimeno Fabian Carrero
Seniors' Assistance Team for people who have difficulty connecting during celebrations or meetings	Fernando Castro Pedro Chimeno Jeanette Ruiz Norma Elena Emes Escoto Gerardo Narvaez Ana Maria
Rosary Team	Azucena Rios Tere Mancio

	Magaly Andrion Francisca Garcia
Music Ministry Team	Church Choir Leaders (on one-week rotation) Amaury Escalante, Musicians Co-ordinateur Cristina Cruz Gerardo Narváez Gustavo Sequeira Magaly Andrion
Team for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Fr. Carlos Bethancourth and Jorge Cuerno
Marriage Encounter	Fr. Carlos Bethancourth, op, Co-ordinator Jorge Cuerno and Vilmi Hernandez Fredy Munguia and Maris Rosario Erika and Cesar Robledo
Workshops for Immigrants and Seniors	Martha Vizcarra
Translations and liaison with the Archdiocese	Fr. Carlos Betancourth, op Fernando Castro

Web Platform Management Teams:

Co-ordinators	Azucena Rios and Fernando Castro
Website Team	https://www.misionsantateresadeavila.org Azucena Rios David Cuervo
Zoom Technical Team	Azucena Rios Fr. Carlos Bethancourt, op Brother José Apolinario, op Mr. Fernando Castro Mr. Jorge Cuerno Mr. David Cuervo Mr. Gerardo Narvaez
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCewGTVZFZ4ceUiAviarcjVg Azucena Rios Jorge Cuerno David Cuervo
Facebook	https://www.Facebook.com/MisionSantaTeresa Fernando Castro Azucena Rios, Co-ordinators Irma Cristina Cruz Castro Jorge Cuerno Porfirio Rodriguez Nelson Canaveral Gerardo Narváez Isa Alvarez

Facebook catechism	Azucena Rios, Los catequistas de Santa Teresa de Avila https://www.Facebook.com/groups/121635788518424/
Facebook catechism for parents	Fernando Castro, Catequesis en linea MSTA https://www.Facebook.com/2020CatequesisSantaTeresaenMontreal/?modal=admin_todo_tour
WhatsApp catechism	Teresa Mancio
Website online donations	Azucena Rios, Fr. Carlos Betancourth Anabella Jimenez Lien, in collaboration with the Board of Administration and Wardens
Twitter	https://twitter.com/misionsantater1 Fernando Castro, Co-ordinator
Instagram	St. Teresa of Avila Youth Groups Julian Giraldo – Anyeli Duran, Bobby Roberto Lopez, Valentina Rodriguez - Suzanne Restrepo Axel Lopez Aguilar
Online Radio	Radio Cristo Rey Montreal Gerardo Narváez and Norma Elena Emes, Co-ordinators Nelson Canaveral

"To educate a child, you must first love him."

(Marcellin Champagnat)