

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE “MQP STUDIO”

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is sometimes referred to as the “father of the electronic Mass.” While he began his media presence on the radio, he was quick to take advantage of the power of television for evangelization in the 1950s and '60s, most notably with his program *Life is Worth Living*. As we set up each morning at MQP to livestream our liturgies, I can't help but wonder what Archbishop Sheen would think of our version of “electronic Mass.”

In these times of quarantine, we are thankful for the technology that allows us to broadcast these electronic Masses and thereby stay connected as a MQP family. I will admit, however, that it is heartbreaking to stand at the ambo and look out over rows and rows of empty pews. Only eight people are allowed to be present in the church when we are livestreaming, and the eight of us here miss the rest of you terribly!

We are so pleased to hear from many of you that what you are experiencing virtually through the camera does indeed “feel” like home. But I imagine that some of you are wondering what it's like on the other side of the camera in the “MQP Studio.”

On weekdays, we have one video camera connected to a laptop that links us to our YouTube channel. On Sundays we use a two-camera setup that allows for a variety of angles and closer shots. We were able to have this arrangement throughout Holy Week as well, thanks to a generous company who is willing to lend the necessary equipment to us. At every liturgy, the sound system for the church is linked directly into the laptop so that Father, the readers, and the musicians come through more clearly. We also have a mic for the “assembly” so that you can hear us saying the responses with you at home.

Of course, none of this would happen if it weren't for parishioners and staff who share their God-given talents with our community. On behalf of us all, I want to thank parishioners Dan Carollo, John Rodman, Peter Castro, and Maria and Michael Silvers for their consulting expertise and help with weekday Masses, and Adrian DuPre and Steve Napier for running everything on Sundays and all of the Triduum liturgies. MQP is incredibly blessed to have you all; I think Archbishop Sheen would be proud of you, too!

~Julianna Castro, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy

