

1-01 A GOOD CONSCIENCE: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE ONE? ☪

This workshop will discuss two main topics: We will examine the church's understanding of what "conscience" is; and then we will examine ways that ensure a conscience is well formed.



Richard Benson, CM

Since 1993 Fr. Richard Benson has served full time at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif., where he is currently Academic Dean and Chair of the Moral Theology Department. The Vincentian priest is a member of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of the West, and teaches fundamental moral theology, Catholic social teaching (social justice) and Catholic bioethics. He speaks on moral topics to groups throughout California.

1-02 HOLY GROUND – REVERENCING THE SACRED WITHIN US ☪

Through the integration of music, Scripture storytelling, imagery and ritual, participants will be guided and supported in reflecting upon their journey, drawing them into a deeper appreciation of their own being as the holy ground in which the Sacred is most beautifully at home.



Monica Brown

Monica Brown, from Sydney, Australia, is Director of Emmaus Ministries International. The internationally acclaimed Christian composer and workshop facilitator makes frequent visits to the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland as well as Australia. Brown has composed and recorded 16 collections of songs for children, youth and adults, and has written and produced videos and other resources in the areas of liturgy and ritual.



Hilary Musgrave, RSC

Hilary Musgrave, a Religious Sister of Charity from Dublin, Ireland, is Director of the Croí-Ruah, Creative Spirituality Centre in Dublin. She formerly worked as a teacher, principal and Religious Education Advisor in the Dublin Diocese. Sr. Musgrave works throughout Ireland and many other parts of the world in the area of spirituality through facilitation, storytelling and sacred clowning.

1-03 KEEPING THE FAITH ☪

This presentation will explore what we know about how young people learn, and what kinds of experiences we need to provide so that, after they have completed their Catholic school or parish religious education program, they will take away the permanent impressions of what it is to "keep the faith."



Carol Cimino, SSJ, EdD

Sr. Carol Cimino, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Rochester, N.Y., has been professionally involved since 1965 at all levels of Catholic education as a teacher, catechist, administrator and development director. She was the Executive Director of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State for 16 years, and since 2003 has served as a National Reunion Consultant for the William H. Sadlier.

1-04 SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL IN A POLARIZED CHURCH

The Catholic "cultural wars" between conservatives and progressives have discouraged and disillusioned countless members of the church. In this workshop, Donald Cozzens first examines the fears and anxieties at the center of the present polarization and then offers practical steps to achieve the adult, Gospel-based discipleship that is vital to authentic spirituality and to the church's future and mission. (This will be repeated in Session 5-06.)



Rev. Donald Cozzens

Fr. Donald Cozzens is an internationally acclaimed author and speaker. His experiences as Vicar for Priests and Rector of Saint Mary Seminary in Cleveland led to his award-winning and best-selling book, "The Changing Face of the Priesthood." He currently is Writer in Residence at Cleveland's John Carroll University.

1-05 THE HEAVEN BEFORE US ☪

Scripture points to Here. This. Now. To heaven as a new way of seeing. But we've taken the story of "heaven" in a different direction and made that direction our truth. What would it mean to see the heaven before us? And what would change if we could?



Paula D'Arcy

Paula D'Arcy is a writer, retreat leader and speaker. A former psychotherapist, she survived a drunk driving accident in 1975 that took the lives of her daughter and husband. She is author of several books, including the Lenten/Advent guides, "Daybreaks." In 2007 D'Arcy sponsored WomenSpeak, an international gathering of women to help effect worldwide change.

1-06 RAISING CHASTE TEENS

How is a parent to compete with MTV, Abercrombie and Fitch, Internet porn and all the other influences that allure teenagers away from a pure life? In this seminar Jason Evert offers communication techniques, resources, statistics and a wealth of information to assist parents in their task as the primary sex educators of their children.



Jason Evert

Jason Evert is a full-time apologist with Catholic Answers, the nation's largest lay-run apostolate for apologetics and evangelization. He speaks at seminars, participates in debates and responds to thousands of questions about Catholicism from people around the world. Evert is author of "Theology of the Body for Teens," "Pure Faith" and "Pure Manhood." Jason and his wife Crystalina often travel together sharing their testimonies on the virtue of chastity.

1-07 A SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNICATING “WHO I AM”

Who am I today? Am I used to asking that question of myself? Am I able to know “who I am today,” and am I able to share that daily with those people whom I live with, those people whom I care about, and those who care about me? Does God have anything to do with this? Can I share “who I am” with God? Does God have any interest in these questions? All of this is real food for our daily living. Fr. Bob Fabing will explore a way of praying about these questions. He will use music from his new CD, “Let Me Follow,” to bring to light these themes.

**Bob Fabing, SJ**

Fr. Bob Fabing has founded 61 marriage counseling, family and individual therapy centers called “The Jesuit Institute for Family Life International Network,” with locations in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. He is also

Director of the 36-Day Program in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola at the Jesuit Retreat House in Los Altos, Calif., where he lives. Fr. Fabing is also author of five books and composer of nine compilation of liturgical music.

1-08 BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER: A MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTION

This presentation weaves together music, liturgical texts and poetic reflections on the Eucharistic Liturgy’s preparation of the gifts. While a transitional moment between Word and the Table, the preparation rites are both the culmination of all that went before and the foundation on which the Eucharistic Liturgy may soar. In particular, they chart a necessary journey from petition to praise, from consumerism to stewardship, from fear to freedom, and finally from generosity to justice. We will plumb the depths of these rites in mystagogical mode, as a model for reflecting on the whole of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

**Edward Foley**

Capuchin Edward Foley is Professor of Liturgy and Music and founding Director of the Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. With 18 books and over 300

pastoral and scholarly articles to his credit, he is a widely sought-after lecturer on liturgy. He has 25 years of teaching at the graduate level, over 1,000 presentations in more than 50 diocese around the world and in 30 pastoral and academic institutions.

1-09 NUCLEAR FISSION: THE EUCHARISTIC THEOLOGY OF BENEDICT XVI

This workshop will assist participants in understanding the Eucharistic Mystery by taking a look at the post-synodal exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI. The document, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, published in February 2007, is full of rich insights into the mysteries we celebrate and the mysteries we are called to be as disciples of Christ. Wondering how the Eucharist is like nuclear fission? Attend this workshop and find out ... and much more.

**Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni**

Since 1990, Fr. Richard Fragomeni has taught at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he now is Associate Professor of Liturgy and Homiletics and Chair of the Department of Word and Worship. He has been active in parish renewals and diocesan workshops and has been keynote speaker or presenter at many national events. Fr. Fragomeni is author of numerous articles that have appeared in a variety of publications.

1-10 SEX IN THE GARDEN: REFLECTIONS ON THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN VISION OF SEXUALITY

Catholic Christianity has been famously ambiguous in its treatment of sexuality. There are certainly strands in our tradition that have viewed sex and sexual pleasure with profound suspicion. Yet there have been other voices, often not as well heard, who have offered a surprisingly positive, even liberating view of Christian sexuality. In this workshop we will explore the various strands from our tradition and then offer a positive and compelling Catholic Christian vision of sexual relationship.

**Richard R. Gaillardetz, PhD**

Dr. Richard Gaillardetz is the Thomas and Margaret Murray/James J. Bacik (pronounced “basic”) Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo, Ohio. He has published numerous articles and has authored seven books. A frequent conference speaker, Dr. Gaillardetz has served on the U.S. Methodist-Catholic Ecumenical Dialogue and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Catholic Theological Society of America.

My first experience of Congress...

As I prepared for my first L.A. Congress, I was not sure what to expect. I was extremely excited to be attending one of the biggest Catholic events in the United States, yet unsure of what the “biggest” meant. I soon found out that over 40,000 colleagues were in attendance. I am still in awe of the speakers who enlightened and refreshed my ministry for another year. This was without a doubt the “cream of the crop” of conferences and I am very pleased to have attended. I applaud the organizers; what a wonderful job they have done. I also commend the organizers of the Closing Mass. It was simply “divine” and the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament was the smoothest experience I have ever been a part of in my life! Well done!

– Marcy Fessler

1-11 CAUSING BIBLICAL “HEARTBURN”: CREATING AND LEADING EFFECTIVE SCRIPTURE STUDIES

It’s a typical Tuesday afternoon and in a few hours hungry adults or starving teens will file into a room at the parish, Bibles in hand, searching for truth. You rush to your bookshelf, grab the Bible and a concordance and pray that God will quickly bless you with the exact passage you need to salvage the night. Any of this sound familiar? Leading a Scripture study does not have to be as difficult as we make it. If the idea of leading a Bible Study leaves you with “heartburn,” come and allow God’s Word to burn in your own heart, once again, while learning practical tools and resources that are sure to make even the novice Bible Study leaders live much easier.



Mark Hart

Known as the “Bible Geek,” Mark Hart serves as Executive Vice President for Life Teen International. He is a popular speaker, award-winning author and weekly regular on Catholic radio programs. His book, “Blessed are the Bored in Spirit,” is on the Catholic best-seller list. Hart has created an interactive DVD Bible Study series, “T3,” and records a weekly Life Teen podcast.

1-12 THE SACRED PRESENT: FINDING, LOVING, LIVING

In our rush to avoid the mundane, we miss the miracles in the ordinary. In our eagerness to please and join the crowd, we trade the life we have for the life we think we should have. This workshop is about the permission to see anew, and to hear, to touch, to smell and to taste life. However, we live in a world out of breath and out of time. We over-accumulate, leaving us overindulged, overextended, over-committed and over-medicated. What is the alternative? Terry Hershey invites us to see anew each experience – regardless of how mundane or spiritual – as a container of divine presence. We are invited to live in the reality that there are no unsacred moments.



Terry Hershey

Terry Hershey is a Protestant minister and a landscape designer on Washington’s Vashon Island, near Seattle. He lives, writes and teaches the subject of his eighth book, “Sacred Necessities: Gifts for Living with Passion, Purpose and Grace.” Hershey, as founder of “A Few Things That Matter” Seminars and as a national speaker, has presented throughout the country on the topics of relationships, spirituality ... and gardening.

1-13 HEALING A DIVIDED WORLD

How can estranged groups live together in justice? This is one of the most pressing challenges facing us today. This session looks at the contribution of Christian faith in creating more just communities marked by Christ’s compassion for the least among us.



Fr. Bryan Massingale, STD

A priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, Fr. Bryan Massingale is a Professor of Moral Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He is a frequent presenter at conferences throughout the country on social justice and Catholic social teaching.

1-14 HOW TO BECOME A GREAT PARISH!

The church is filled with “good” parishes: Liturgies are planned. Some of the people take an active role in parish leadership and ministry. The collections pay the bills (for the most part). People can get their children baptized without too much hassle. Second-graders receive their First Communion. Lent comes and Easter follows, and sometime around Pentecost things slow down for summer. It’s a “good” parish. But can we really afford to be only good? This workshop explores what constitutes a truly great parish and how to become one.



Bill Huebsch

Bill Huebsch, based in Minnesota, is a pastoral planner and catechetical leader. He serves as a university teacher, an advisor to Catholic publishers, and a coach for parish leaders. Also an author, Huebsch’s most recent work is “Dreams and Visions: Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation.”

1-15 THE PASSION AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS, ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

This year, the entire Passion narrative from Matthew’s Gospel will be proclaimed on Palm Sunday, while the Easter Vigil will include Matthew’s account of the Resurrection (since 2008 uses Cycle A of the Lectionary). This talk will explore how Matthew’s version of Jesus’ death and Resurrection differs from the other Gospels, and how the Matthean themes and emphases can deepen our understanding of these central mysteries of our Catholic Christian faith.



Felix Just, SJ, PhD

Fr. Felix Just (pronounced yoost) has taught at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the University of San Francisco, and at Santa Clara University. He is currently Associate Director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, Calif., and regularly offers courses through LMU Extension and Mount St. Mary’s “Ecclesia” Program. He also maintains a large, internationally recognized website: www.catholic-resources.org.

1-16 THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING: CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR CELEBRATING OCCASIONS AND SEASONS

Baptism, Lent, Mother’s Day, Halloween, Christmas and all seasons and special occasions provide a unique opportunity for each of us in religious education. In this presentation, Fr. Joe Kempf (and his blue, furry helper, “Big Al”) will demonstrate a few principals – and some wonderful ideas – for utilizing seasons and special occasions to deepen all that is good in those we serve.



Fr. Joe Kempf

Winner of the “Great Preacher Award” from the Aquinas Institute of Theology, Fr. Joe Kempf is Pastor of Assumption Parish in O’Fallon, Mo., and author of the book “No One Cries the Wrong Way.” Fr. Kempf is perhaps best-known for his video works. He recently completed a series of DVDs for children called “Big Al LIVE.” The former Associate Pastor, who served in various roles at several parishes, has spoken at numerous religious education gatherings around the United States and in Canada.

1-17 MOSES IN PHARAOH'S HOUSE: A LIBERATION THEOLOGY FOR THOSE OF US IN THE "FIRST WORLD" 🗣️

Throughout the "Third World" many liberation theologies have emerged focused on breaking the cycle of poverty, political oppression, violence and chaos that characterize life for the materially poor. But what about those of us who live in the so-called "First World," who are not materially poor at all? What does the Gospel need to "liberate" us from? John Markey proposes that those of us in the "First World" need a theology of conversion to free us from the moral blindness and ethical irresponsibility that material wealth enables. A true Christian conversion frees us to enter into genuine solidarity with the poor, thereby bringing redemption to both "worlds."

**John J. Markey, PhD**

Dr. John Markey has taught theology and philosophy for the last 10 years at both the graduate and undergraduate level. He is now dedicating his life to the cause of peace education, conflict resolution and violence prevention through the Peace Education Foundation, based in Miami, Fla., where he serves as Vice President and Director of Development.

1-18 JESUS A TO Z: ART AS CATECHESIS 🗣️

When art is involved, catechesis can be a delightful experience for children and teachers alike. Drawing largely on the paintings and stories from his most recent book, a fun collection of catechetical ABCs, Bro. Mickey McGrath will show how the stories and symbols of Jesus and the Sacraments can be made relevant to kids' lives in ways that are creative, memorable and fun.

**Bro. Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS**

Brother Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is a nationally recognized artist, speaker and leader of retreats and workshops. He has been a teacher and Director at the Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth, Wash., and has spoken at conferences of Catholic religious educators around the country. Bro. McGrath is presently Artist-in-Residence at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C.

1-19 LEADERSHIP: SACRAMENTAL AND CHARISMATIC 🗣️

Leadership in today's church has become a major issue. Lay people in ministry, women in ministry, cultural leaders in ministry and deacons in ministry have created new boundaries and areas of authority. The church's sacramental life both helps and hinders our present church structures. How can a religious educator present both sacramental theology and practice on the one hand, and on the other be open to changes in church leadership?

**Kenan B. Osborne, OFM**

Fr. Kenan Osborne, a Franciscan theologian, is entering his 40th year at the Franciscan School of Theology/Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He has written numerous books on church ministry and Sacraments. Fr. Osborne is a past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America and recipient of its John Courtney Murray Award.

My first experience of Congress...

Attending RE Congress was a very uplifting experience that afforded me the opportunity to see our church in a much broader scope. So many wonderful seminars/speakers and exhibits that one could really get into. I specifically enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people. From Fr. J-Glenn Murray's seminar, I really got it that we are to be active participants in Mass on Sunday. Fr. Tony Ricard was indeed an inspiration. Yes, I still believe! The African-American Liturgy surely lit a fire in my heart. It's a joy to see "my" black Catholics praising the Lord with their whole soul and body. I almost could not believe the order in which the Mass was held in the Arena – Holy Communion to 8,000-plus people? Wow! Our church is one of joy!

I left the convention truly re-energized and on fire to be a better Christian and to serve. Yes, I plan to attend 2008 and invite my niece from Colorado. She is very active in her church there, but says she has never heard of the RE Congress.

– Juniel Butler, California

1-20 THE EVANGELIZING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION OF THE CHURCH 🗣️

This workshop will discuss the mission of the church as a continuance of Jesus' mission by reviewing some of the major church documents on evangelization, social and economic justice, racism and women. Participants will be led in a reflection-discussion on how their current ministry reflects aspects of Jesus' ministries of prophetic teaching, healing and the exorcism of demons.

**Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, OP, PhD**

Sr. Jamie Phelps, a member of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Mich., is currently the Katharine Drexel Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in Louisiana. Since 1961 she has served as an educator, social worker, pastoral minister, consultant, lecturer, liturgist, spiritual director, preacher, retreat director, administrator, scholar, theologian and author. She has published over 50 articles in the field of theology and edited two books.

1-21 "BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW": THE GOSPELS AS TOOLS OF "SEEING ANEW" 🗣️

In the Gospels there are five contrasting images of consciousness change: from asleep to awake; from blind to seeing; from deaf to hearing; from lost to found; and from dead to risen. But what do these images mean? What is the awareness they are encouraging us to make our own? How are they trying to make all things new without making any new things?

**John Shea**

Author, theologian and storyteller, John (Jack) Shea is Director of Program and Process Development at the Sacramento-based Ministry Leadership Center, established by five health-care systems to ensure that Catholic values would be part of management's decision-making process. He has published 19 books of theology and spirituality and two books of poetry. Shea lectures nationally and internationally on storytelling in world religions, faith-based health care, contemporary spirituality, and the spirit at work movement.

1-22 HIV & AIDS: AGE OF UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING FOR GLOBAL RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC 🗣️

Billions of dollars have been committed and spent through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (\$15 billion from 2003-08); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (\$8.4 billion since 2003); and the World Bank’s Multi-Country AIDS Program (\$1.3 billion since 2000). What impact has this unprecedented funding had on the global HIV pandemic? What is the ongoing role of the church in response to the global pandemic where 39.5 million people worldwide are living with HIV, 4.3 million new infections are reported annually, and 3 million people die from AIDS each year? Are we doing enough? Can we do more?



Carl C. Stecker

Dr. Carl Stecker has nearly 30 years of international health experience in Africa and over 20 years of experience in international HIV and AIDS. Based in Baltimore with Catholic Relief Services since 2002, Stecker is a Senior Technical Advisor for HIV and AIDS helping to provide technical assistance to the agency’s 250-plus HIV projects in 52 countries. The bulk of his time is spent on policy, advocacy and resource development for faith-based organizations working in HIV and AIDS.

1-23 THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT’S NOT 🗣️

The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the initiation rites of the Catholic Church, but people hear different explanations of its meaning. Learn about the history and theology of Confirmation. Hear practical advice for what to include and what to avoid in Confirmation catechesis.



Paul Turner

Paul Turner, a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., is Pastor of St. Munchin Church and St. Aloysius Church in northwest Missouri. He is a volunteer at Western Missouri Corrections Center, and he writes “Bulletin Inserts” for Ministry and Liturgy magazine. Fr. Turner has served as President of the North American Academy of Liturgy, and is a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

1-24 ADULT FAITH FORMATION: IF IT IS BROKE, LET’S FIX IT 🗣️

At a previous Religious Education Congress, Tom Zanzig challenged those in adult faith formation to change their focus from “adult education courses” to “modified spiritual direction.” In this presentation, he summarizes his theory of adult faith formation and offers concrete strategies for making that vision real in the parish setting.



Tom Zanzig

After devoting over 25 years to the development of youth ministry and adolescent religious education materials, Tom Zanzig now represents RCL-Benziger as their National Consultant for Adult Faith Formation. Also a freelance writer, trainer and retreat director, Zanzig travels worldwide speaking in the areas of adult faith formation and spirituality. He recently founded his own consulting and publishing company, Zanzig & Associates.

1-25 “NO”: WHY KIDS OF ALL AGES NEED IT AND WAYS PARENTS CAN SAY IT

Self-discipline is twice as strong a predictor of school and career success as intelligence. And it’s eroding in our kids. “No” is not just a one word answer; it’s a parenting strategy. By saying *no* when they need to, parents help their children learn skills of self-discipline including self-reliance, respect, integrity, the ability to delay gratification, and a host of other crucial character traits. Although the importance of *no* should be obvious, too many children are not learning it because of powerful cultural messages that scream “more, fast, easy and fun.”



David Walsh, PhD

Dr. David Walsh, a highly sought-after speaker in America, is founder and President of the National Institute on Media and the Family, based in Minneapolis. An award-winning psychologist, Dr. Walsh has taught seminary students for over 20 years. His numerous articles have appeared in both professional and general publications, and he is a frequent guest on national media. He has written nine books including his recent best-seller, “No. Why Kids of All Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It.”

1-70 “Người phạm chỉ thấy điều mắt thấy, còn Đức Chúa thì thấy tận đáy lòng” 🗣️

Buổi hội thảo sẽ dựa vào những giáo huấn của Chúa Kitô để thảo luận về những phương thế cụ thể giúp chúng ta nhìn những sự kiện trong cuộc đời với con mắt của Thiên Chúa, hầu tăng trưởng tình liên đới với nhau và xây dựng một gia đình/cộng đoàn Kitô trong tin yêu, thông cảm và hiệp nhất.



Nữ tu Phan Thanh Thủy

Nữ tu Theresa Phan Thanh Thủy thuộc Hội Dòng Mến Thánh Giá Los Angeles, gốc Phát Diệm, một Hội Dòng nữ do Đức Cha người Pháp Lambert de la Motte thành lập tại Việt Nam năm 1670. Sơ đã từng phục vụ trong chức vụ Giám Đốc Tập Viện, hiện nay, Sơ là thành viên trong ban điều hành của Hội Dòng và giữ chức vụ Giám Đốc Mục Vụ Á Châu Thái-Bình-Dương tại giáo phận San Bernadino, Calif.



2-01 THE JOURNEY OF MINISTRY: EXPLORING THE SIX TASKS OF CATECHESIS 🕊

Catechesis is a “handing on of the faith.” Handing on the faith should begin in love and proceed from love, so that in love we have no other choice but to hand on the faith. In this unique and engaging session, Mark Friedman and Donna Anderle explore our role as catechists and ministers through music, storytelling and prayer woven in and out of the six tasks of catechesis, helping us to work, walk and talk hand in hand and face to face with the person of Jesus in a more intimate way.

**Donna Anderle**

An accomplished dancer, teacher and choreographer, Donna Anderle has performed movement for prayer and celebration at major liturgical conventions across the country. She has four books of choreography and a CD-ROM on liturgical dance. She gives workshops, concerts and keynote presentations, often partnering with composers Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt. Anderle is on the teaching faculty of The Cincinnati Ballet Company and is involved in various outreach dance programs for Cincinnati inner-city schools.

**Mark Friedman**

Mark Friedman is a liturgist, cantor, music director and religious educator. He has been active in religious education, teaching in Catholic schools for more than 20 years, and has presented workshops, concerts and keynote presentations at major gatherings around the country. The published composer serves on the Music Education Board for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and is currently a music minister and liturgist at St. John Fisher Parish in Cincinnati.

2-02 DISCOVER AND LIVE YOUR STRENGTHS 🕊

Learn how to set your community on fire by helping parishioners identify and develop their God-given talents. StrengthsFinder, a process originally developed by The Gallup Organization for teachers, counselors and those in corporate leadership, can now be of benefit to your parishioners as they discover how uniquely they are created, and how they can apply their gifts in service within your parish and beyond it.

**Leisa Anslinger**

Leisa Anslinger is Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis and Stewardship at Immaculate Heart of Mary School Parish in Cincinnati. She contributes regularly to ministerial publications, and has written a new book, “Forming Generous Hearts,” co-authored with Vikki Shepp. Anslinger has presented workshops, in-services and retreats in 45 dioceses in the last four years on topics of catechesis, pastoral leadership and stewardship.

**Rev. Jan Kevin Schmidt**

Fr. Jan Schmidt is a priest of the Cincinnati Archdiocese, where he serves as Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Ordained in 1990, Fr. Schmidt has served as chaplain, faculty member and interim President of Archbishop McNicholas High School in Cincinnati. He has presented workshops at local and national gatherings on topics including stewardship, pastoral planning and catechesis.

2-03 CREATING AN INTIMATE MARRIAGE 🕊

Jim Burns is first to tell you that an intimate marriage does not come easy. But it is very possible to refresh and improve your marriage. In this session, you will learn to set the mood, tone and atmosphere in your relationship, make your marriage your top priority, learn that your circumstances might not always be able to change but your attitude can change and that makes all the difference. Jim will speak frankly about romance and intimacy, communication and conflict, friendship and fun, and growing toward spiritual intimacy with your spouse. You will receive practical help and be encouraged with an exciting strategy of having a healthy marriage.

**Jim Burns**

Dr. Jim Burns is President of HomeWord and host of their 30-minute daily radio broadcast, 30-minute weekly broadcast, and the one-minute daily broadcast, reaching over 1 million people through his radio ministry to families. Burns is a three-time Gold Medallion Award-winning author and has written books for parents, youth workers and students. His resources include “Confident Parenting” and “Creating an Intimate Marriage.”

2-04 ENRICHING CHILDREN’S CATECHESIS THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT 🕊

Ever noticed that children respond with added enthusiasm whenever music and movement are incorporated into religious education? Are you looking for creative, practical and energizing activities that nurture knowledge and faith formation? Then this is the workshop for you! We will explore a variety of songs and activities suitable for children at the elementary level. Areas such as Scripture, doctrine, church seasons, Mary and Sacraments will be addressed during this session. Come ready to sing, move and celebrate!

**John Burland**

John Burland is an educator and composer of religious music for children and adults. He is the Project Officer-Liturgy/Music for the Catholic Education Office in Sydney, Australia, where he conducts workshops, celebrations and reflection days for children, families and teachers. Burland has worked for over 20 years in school and parish communities. He is a regular speaker at conventions and gatherings across Australia and the United States.

2-05 PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

This workshop will deal with one of the most controversial moral issues of our time. The presentation will include the meaning of physician-assisted suicide, the distinction between allowing one to die and killing, autonomy, pain and suffering, and physician-assisted suicide and the elderly.

**Gerald D. Coleman, SS**

Fr. Gerald Coleman is Vice-President for Corporate Ethics for the Daughters of Charity Health System, based in Northern California. He has published widely on moral topics of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. He is presently completing a book on contemporary moral questions facing the church.

2-06 THE CHALLENGE OF ST. FRANCIS: 1209-2009 ☪

The Franciscan Order began 800 years ago, in 1209, with the founding of The Order of Friars Minor. As St. Francis says: “The Lord gave me brothers.” Come explore with Franciscan Fr. Kevin Cronin the enduring life, words, spirit and challenge of St. Francis of Assisi, who continues to attract followers all around the world after these 800 years. “Lord, what do you want me to do?” There are more Franciscan friars, sisters and lay followers than any other order in the Catholic Church. What is it about this little poor man and his message that continues to attract and challenge?



Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM

Fr. Kevin Cronin is a preacher with the Franciscan Ministry of the Word Team of the Holy Name Province. The native New Yorker has pastoral and preaching experience at various conferences, adult education and faith-formation programs across the East Coast. Fr. Cronin has served as a parish priest and vocation director, and is founder of Young Adult Catholic in Boston. He is also editor of “A Friar’s Joy: Magic Moments from Real Life.”

2-07 A WAY OF POWER MODELED ON GOD’S POWER ☪

Everything in the universe is relational, involving power or energy. This holds especially true for our own relationships. When we influence people for good we empower and energize them; when we become negative forces in our families, groups and organizations, we dis-empower and de-energize others. Michael Crosby will suggest that when we “lift our gaze” and “see anew” Jesus’ notion of the Reign (power or energy) of God, we are invited to a new way of relating at all levels of life: the way of compassion.



Michael H. Crosby, OFM Cap

Capuchin Franciscan Michael Crosby lives in a downtown Milwaukee parish that serves the poor. He has been a leader in the ministry of socially responsible investing, advising Catholic investors on how they can bring their moral principles into the marketplace. The majority of his time is writing and lecturing on contemporary biblical spirituality. His latest works are “Finding Francis, Following Christ” and “The Paradox of Power: From Control to Compassion in a World of Violence,” due out in 2008.

My first experience of Congress...

Last March 2007 was my first time to attend the Religious Education Congress, since I am new here in the United States. I was amazed with the huge number of participants and I even told my co-sisters that my vocation became alive again with all the sessions that I had chosen to attend. Great speakers and a well-organized program. Our community will surely attend next year’s Congress for they go yearly and I am looking forward for that big event.

– Sr. Delia Obenza, O.P.

2-08 AN ADULT APPRECIATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF CHRIST ☪

Holy Week and Easter are upon us very soon this year. This workshop will walk us through an adult appreciation of the Scripture texts that are a part of our Holy Week. This material will be very valuable for parish-wide catechesis as well as personal spiritual formation. We will see old things anew.



Rev. John C. Cusick

Fr. John Cusick is Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Chicago Archdiocese. His office and residence are at Old St. Patrick’s Church in downtown Chicago. His full-time ministry is with those in their 20s and 30s, and he speaks nationally on young adult issues. His work and thoughts on young adults was highlighted in the October 2006 issue of U.S. Catholic. Also, Fr. Cusick does extensive speaking and preaching at parish missions several times a year throughout the United States and in parts of Europe.

2-09 FIRE ‘EM UP FOR JESUS!

Have you ever wondered how you might more effectively get others excited about their faith and following Jesus? In this energetic workshop we will look at the heart of religious education and explore five secrets that will be sure to set your ministry on fire. Whether you are a Catholic schoolteacher or a parish catechist, and whether you work with children, youth or adults, don’t miss this one!



Steven Ellair

Steven Ellair has been involved in catechetical ministry for over 18 years. A former parish catechist, youth minister and Catholic schoolteacher, he served as the Consultant for Elementary Catechesis in the Los Angeles Archdiocese for over eight years. Ellair is currently a Senior Editor with RCL Benziger and continues speaking and writing nationally on issues related to catechesis.

2-10 REVISITING OUR STORY: CLAIMING OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ☪

For many of us, the “well” has run dry and we are longing for a deep encounter with the faith of our tradition. Our time together will allow for this opportunity. We will revisit the charter moments of our faith, opened up in our ancient stories and thoughtfully, in the context of today (what we know now and out of the worldview that presents itself to us today), question into them for their power and relevance. Our hope is to reconnect with the energy and with the dream, to re-envision and recommit ourselves.



Barbara Fiand, SND de N

Barbara Fiand, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, is Professor of Spirituality at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago. She lectures, teaches and gives retreats throughout the United States, Canada and abroad on issues related to holistic spirituality, prayer, religious life and the psychology and spirituality of human maturation. She is the author of eight books and a variety of articles as well as cassette tapes.

2-11 OUR LIFE IN WORSHIP/OUR LIFE IN THE WORLD

This workshop will explore the deep connections between the Eucharist and how Christians have lived in the world since the time of Jesus. We will use music and the visual arts to reflect upon how our worship can continue to be faithful to the living tradition and simultaneously be relevant to today's world.

**Marty Haugen**

For the past 30 years, composer Marty Haugen has presented workshops, concerts and presentations across North and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. His range of musical compositions continues to appear in hymnals for U.S., Canadian and Australian Catholics, U.S. Evangelical Lutherans, and several other Protestant denominations. His most recently published works include songs of peacemaking ("In the Days to Come") and simple songs for worship ("Only You, O God").

2-12 THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD VS. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

About 20 percent of people contribute 80 percent of the time, talent and treasure it takes to run a parish. What makes this 20 percent different? How can we encourage the 80 percent to become more like the 20 percent? Are the 20 percent doing things that repel others? In this presentation, internationally acclaimed speaker and author Matthew Kelly will explore the challenges we face as we seek to engage the *actively disengaged* members of our communities.

**Matthew Kelly**

Matthew Kelly is a New York Times best-selling author; his latest release is "Dream Manager." Collectively his titles have been published in over a dozen languages. Born in Sydney, Australia, Kelly began his Catholic ministry in 1993 at the age of 19. Since then, he has given talks, seminars and retreats in his travels to 50 countries, and has also made numerous appearances on radio and television.

2-13 PREPARING PASTORAL PREACHING THAT IS POINTED, PRAYERFUL AND PURPOSEFUL

How does the prayer of the preacher become the preaching of a parish in communion with the mission of the Trinity in the life of the world? Can we outline the steps in the process, analogous to the steps of discernment in the Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola and in the phases of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, that lead to Spirit-filled preaching?

**Rev. Raymond B. Kemp**

Rev. Raymond Kemp, a senior Fellow of the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, is Director of Preaching the Just Word. The former pastor has served as Secretary for Parish Life and Worship and Director of Renew for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. With interests in pastoral theology, liturgy, preaching, Christian initiation, community organizing, urban development and urban politics, Fr. Kemp has written articles appearing in U.S. Catholic newspapers and magazines.

2-14 MULTICULTURAL CHURCH – BEING POWERFULLY CATHOLIC

We are many – we are one. We are different – we are one. We are a variety – we are one. Really?! Living in Christ, in the mission of the church, and welcoming all to the table of plenty is a recipe for trouble. Are we in trouble or are we safe and comfortable? Come and be stretched! We'll be uncomfortable and in trouble together!

**Jesse Manibusan**

Storyteller, speaker, composer and singer, Jesse Manibusan is Director of Two by Two Ministries. With experience as music minister, catechist and youth worker, he travels the country appearing at major gatherings, including the National Catholic Youth Conference and Regional Conventions of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He has composed several collections and has numerous CDs.

2-15 LIFT YOUR GAZE ... SEE ANEW

Do we see as God sees? Seeing with the eye of God is the Spirit's gift of Wisdom and Grace. How do we perceive history, politics and economics, those in leadership positions (like choosing the king in the Book of Samuel), and what is happening in our church and in our own lives? Lift your gaze – what are we supposed to be looking at? What are we to see? Come look, lift your gaze. Meister Eckhart, the mystic preacher, said: "The eye with which I see God is the eye that God sees me with!" Come see God (our eyes are connected to our ears so we will listen to stories of God too).

**Dr. Megan McKenna**

Megan McKenna is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., but resides in Albuquerque, N.M., and travels extensively in Southeast Asia, South America, Europe, Canada and the United States. She lectures and gives parish missions and works on interreligious dialogue and issues of justice, peace and Scripture, storytelling and cross-cultural mission. She is the author of more than 30 books and nearly 100 tapes/CDs.

2-16 THE PASSIONS OF JESUS

This session will be a comparison of the four Passion stories of Jesus to help us approach his death in a variety of ways – pastorally and homiletically. This is intended for preachers, Bible study leaders, those preparing catechumens to enter into Holy Week with profound appreciation for Jesus' saving ministry, and for all believers, demonstrating to participants how differences between the Gospels encourage us to use the different presentations to respond to varying pastoral needs. Bring your Bibles!

**Fr. J. Patrick Mullen, PhD, STL**

Fr. Pat Mullen, author of "Dining With Pharisees," is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, New Testament at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. A priest of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, he is a member of both the Catholic Biblical Association and the Society of Biblical Literature. He is a regular speaker at the Religious Education Congress and at annual diocesan conferences of Reno, Nev.; Boise, Idaho; Las Vegas; and San Diego.

2-17 TEENS WITH SCREENS ☪

MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, texting, iPods, DVD players, Nintendo Wii ... the list goes on. The teens we serve are techno-savvy and media conscious. Like missionaries to a foreign culture, we have to respect their culture while bringing the message of Jesus and using their culture to appropriate it. This workshop will examine current trends and suggest strategies for our ministry.



Mike Patin

Since 2003 Mike Patin has worked full time as a speaker and “faith horticulturist,” speaking to youth, adult and family audiences in diocesan, regional, national and international settings. He has worked with teenagers and adults in a variety of settings since 1984: Patin has taught at the high school level, has served as an adjunct faculty member at the Notre Dame Graduate School of Theology in New Orleans, and has served on the Board of Directors of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

2-18 IS DIALOGUE POSSIBLE IN THE CHURCH TODAY? ☪

The urgent challenge in the church in many countries is to overcome a polarization that is undermining our witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we find words that heal division? That is today’s prophetic challenge.



Timothy Radcliffe, OP

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, a member of the community at Blackfriars, Oxford, England, has taught theology at the University of Oxford, and was involved in the peace movement. He is past President of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors, and from 1992-2001 he served as the Master of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). Since then, as an itinerant preacher and teacher, he has given innumerable lectures. An award-winning author, Fr. Radcliffe has authored four books.

2-19 THE SPIRITUALITY OF CONNECTEDNESS: LIFTING OUR GAZE ☪

We need to take time to smell the flowers; take time to savor special moments; lift our gaze to see anew! When we begin to fully live each moment, we relax and become more creative and happier people. A smile and a joyful spirit trigger others to have good thoughts. Nothing connects us and builds community faster than humor. We improve our mental health and increase trust and hope. As we “lift our gaze,” we begin to see the face of God in each other’s eyes, in a smile, a kind word, an expression of gratitude. This spirituality of connectedness brings us closer to each other and deepens our relationship with each other and with our God.



Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ, PhD

A Sister of St. Joseph, Anne Smollin is a licensed counselor and group facilitator, lecturer and consultant to businesses and religious communities. She is currently Executive Director of Counseling for Laity, based in Albany, N.Y. The former elementary teacher lectures extensively throughout the United States, Ireland and Australia speaking to religious communities and at conventions and businesses. Sr. Smollin has authored four books.

2-20 “INTO GREAT SILENCE”: SPIRITUALITY AND FILMMAKING FOR CATECHISTS ☪

Philip Gröning’s 2006 film, “Into Great Silence,” is an invitation to explore silence within the context of the monastic life of faith; it is a roadmap for a journey most of us would not travel by ourselves. This workshop will consider the grace and mystery of silence, the poetry of cinema and their relevance for catechists in a busy, noisy world.



Ron Schmidt, SJ

Fr. Ron Schmidt is a Jesuit priest and documentary filmmaker. He has produced “Instructions to the Cook: A Zen Master’s Recipe for Living a Life that Matters” and the feature-length documentary, “An Auschwitz Retreat: Spirituality in a Wounded World.” The former Vice President of Loyola Productions now serves on the Board of Directors of the San Damiano Foundation, based in Burbank, Calif. Fr. Schmidt is also co-producer of our Religious Education Congress Catholic Filmmakers’ Showcase.



Rose Pacatte, FSP

Sr. Rose Pacatte is Director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, Calif. She is a media literacy education specialist and award-winning co-author of the “Lights, Camera ... Faith! A Movie Lectionary” series; she regularly contributes film essays to The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Her newest book, with Sr. Gretchen Hailer, RSHM, is “Media Mindfulness: Educating Teens about Media and Faith” and “Into Great Silence: A Film Study Guide,” with Ron Schmidt, SJ.

2-21 FORMING YOUNG DISCIPLES THROUGH TRANSFORMING METHODS: A NEW PARADIGM FOR ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS ☪

Are teens today well formed in their Catholic faith? What needs to happen in the home and classroom to transform faith formation methods and processes into empowering opportunities toward faith ownership by teens? This workshop will present the strategies by which formers of faith can empower young people to become “catechetical apprentices” in passing on their faith to others through supervised teaching, directed faith sharing and intentional leadership in the parish/school community.



Michael Theisen

Michael Theisen has been involved in youth ministry and adolescent catechesis for 25 years, authoring more than 15 books and numerous articles. His experience extends from parish Director of Religious Education to Youth Ministry Director at the parish, diocesan and national levels. Theisen is a frequent speaker at the Religious Education Congress and a trainer throughout the United States and Canada. He is presently Director of Membership Services for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

2-22 AN UPDATE ON THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL 🗣️**Paul Turner**

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy is preparing a revised translation of the prayers we use at Mass. Hear about how the project came to be, what it entails, and where it stands. This session will help you prepare others for the forthcoming replacement of the Sacramentary.

2-23 LET THERE BE LIGHT: SEEING NEW WAYS TO DANCE THE GOOD NEWS

Using the music of Paul Melley, this workshop invites participants to movement and dance that celebrates the “light” of the Good News. Movement to Melley’s “Faith, Hope and Love,” “Let There Be Light” and “Take Lord and Receive” will be taught. These simple dances can be used for a variety of liturgical celebrations.

**Robert VerEecke, SJ**

Fr. Bob VerEecke has been Pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Boston for the past 18 years. In addition to his parish administration, he is a noted liturgist. He has offered workshops on movement and prayer in the United States, Jamaica, Canada, Australia, France and England. Fr. VerEecke is also known for his works in sacred and liturgical dance, especially the Boston holiday performance of “A Dancer’s Christmas.”

2-24 WAKE UP THE ASSEMBLY’S VOICE 🗣️

Some people are reluctant to add their voice to the praying community. Come learn the secrets of helping the assembly find its voice – from the heart. New music, cantor and choir techniques will be explored. Come ready to sing!

**Christopher Walker**

Christopher Walker is an internationally known speaker and musician. His music, especially his children’s music, is sung throughout the United States, the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world, including Australia. The former Director of Music for the Clifton Cathedral in England is presently Director of Music at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Los Angeles.

2-25 SAVORING OUR HERITAGE OF FAITH: EARLY CHRISTIAN WORLD PILGRIMAGE 🗣️

There’s more to our faith than just the Bible. In this session, we will reflect on the significance of four very different pilgrimage sites in modern Turkey: Hagia Sophia, Çatalhöyük, Cappadocia and Ephesus. Through image, music and word we will explore how these ancient sacred places continue to speak to our faith today.

**Msgr. Thomas Welbers**

Msgr. Thomas Welbers is a priest of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, where over the years he has served as Associate Pastor, as a member of the Liturgical Commission, and as instructor in many educational programs. He is currently Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption in Claremont, Calif. Since 2005 Msgr. Welbers has led two early Christian world pilgrimages and is preparing another 40 pilgrims the week after Easter, 2008.

2-26 EVERYONE IS CALLED TO GOD’S TABLE, EVEN THE ONES WHO CAN’T SIT STILL IN THEIR SEATS 🗣️

Adults responsible for educating children with Attention-Deficit Disorder (ADD) often have erroneous information about the condition. This can lead to negative judgments of these children and their families. Dr. Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy will address these myths and give insights on how to evangelize these children and their parents.

**Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy, PhD**

Dr. Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy is a Catholic school-teacher at St. Mary Immaculate School in Plainfield, Ill., and Consultant for Special Needs for the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois. As the mother of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Asperger’s Syndrome, she has presented at the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership and at the National Catholic Educational Association, as well as the NCEA Principals Forum and the NCEA Special Needs Forum.

2-70 Quan Hệ Gia Đình và Vai Trò Giới Tính trong Cộng Đồng Công Giáo Việt Nam 🗣️

Cuộc định cư tương đối mới mẽ của người di dân gốc Việt tại Hoa Kỳ đã ảnh hưởng đến, và có lẽ làm đảo lộn, xáo trộn các vai trò của phái tính cũng như cần phải xem xét lại việc sử dụng quyền bính có tính cách tôn ti phẩm trật. Những mạng lưới liên hệ của giới phụ nữ đóng một vai trò quan trọng trong việc thiết lập sự ổn định về mặt xã hội và kinh tế, đã trở thành vấn đề trung tâm trong việc tranh luận (về vai trò) giữa nam giới và nữ giới trong gia đình. Phụ nữ có toan liệu được hay không những cách thức của riêng họ trong việc gìn giữ gia đình? Và nếu có thì bằng cách nào? Giáo Hội đóng vai trò gì trong cấu trúc gia đình kiểu mới này?

**Giáo Sư Phạm Thanh Vân**

Sinh trưởng tại Việt Nam, Phạm Thanh Vân đến Hoa Kỳ lúc được 6 tuổi. Cô có bằng Tiến Sĩ về Tôn Giáo và Văn Hóa tại Đại Học Công Giáo Hoa Kỳ (Catholic University of America) và hiện nay là giáo sư thỉnh giảng về Nữ Giới và Tôn Giáo tại Đại Học Xavier, Cincinnati. Cô đang tiếp tục chương trình Tiến Sĩ Tâm Lý Trị Liệu đồng thời giảng dạy tại Đại Học Xavier. Các bài viết của cô về Giáo Hội Công Giáo Việt Nam và phụ nữ Việt Nam đăng trên Bách Khoa Công Giáo Bộ Mới (Ấn Bản Lần Thứ Nhì) và Bách Khoa Công Giáo Hiện Đại.



3-01 IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH A PEACE CHURCH?



This workshop will assess the state of Catholic mission and ministry in the arenas of peace-building and work for justice. The impact of recent papal and episcopal teachings on non-violence and reconciliation will be considered alongside a survey of global and local movements to build peace and transform conflict.



R. Scott Appleby

Scott Appleby is Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he teaches courses in American religious history and comparative religious movements. He is also the John M. Regan Jr. Director at the University's Joan B. Kroc

Institute for International Peace Studies. Appleby authored "Church and Age Unite! The Modernist Impulse in American Catholicism," and was General Editor of the Cornell University Press series "Catholicism in Twentieth Century America."

3-02 LET THE SPIRIT PLAY: USING INTERPLAY IN MINISTRY



The challenges of life can be hard to bear, and yet the Spirit calls us to lift our gaze and see anew! In this workshop, learn the joyful tools of InterPlay – a philosophy and practice that fosters play, creativity, affirmation and community-building. Developed by artful theologians, InterPlay invites light-hearted discovery through spontaneous expressions of song, story, movement and stillness. Come play with Spirit and be refreshed for ministry and life!



Betsey Beckman

Betsey Beckman is a freelance liturgical dancer, storyteller, spiritual director and retreat leader based in Seattle. With her extensive background in performance, movement therapy, ministry and InterPlay, she regularly appears as artist/presenter

at national conventions as well as at her home parish, St. Patrick. Beckman's publications include books, audiocassettes and videos, and she is co-teacher of "Awakening the Creative Spirit: Experiential Education for Spiritual Directors in the Arts and Imagination."



Laura Ash

Laura Ash is Music Director at St. Patrick Parish in Seattle where, with Betsey Beckman, she has been involved in the ministry of dance for over 15 years.

Laura, with her husband, David, has composed and published three albums of liturgical music and has created music for numerous liturgical dance and InterPlay offerings, including the video, "The Dancing Word: Miriam and Mary."

My first experience of Congress...

This was my first experience attending the Congress and I will do it again. It was very rewarding and educational, but more than anything – it was awesome, exhilarating and a spiritual awakening. I needed that boost for my music ministry. I recommend the Congress to all lay ministers – it was a vitamin shot for the soul.

– Pilar

3-03 SPIRITUALITY AND SEXUALITY IN COLLEGE STUDENT LIFE

This session will look at recent research regarding sexuality and spirituality in the lives of college students, and will consider some of the implications for Catholic life on campus. What might the Catholic tradition and Catholic college students have to say to each other on these matters today?



Dr. Tom Beaudoin

Tom Beaudoin is Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department at Santa Clara University in California, and a Fellow in the American Psychoanalytic Association. He lectures nationally and internationally on practical theology, and is author of the book "Consuming Faith," as well as many published articles and essays. Dr. Beaudoin is a frequent and popular speaker at the Religious Education Congress.

3-04 WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PARISHES: CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST-CENTURY CHURCH

The school gets closed. The bishop merges the parish. The pastor quits. Worse still: he remodels the sanctuary. Immigration! Yikes! There are a thousand issues that can put a congregation in crisis. Noted parish-life commentator and award-winning author Fr. Paul Boudreau will lead this discussion of how to deal with change when it suddenly descends on an unsuspecting parish.



Rev. Paul Boudreau

Fr. Paul Boudreau is a pastor, noted speaker, and award-winning author. His articles appear regularly in Catholic Digest, U.S. Catholic, and Today's Parish Minister, and he is author of "Between Sundays: Weekday Gospel Reflections and Prayers." His new book, "The Forgiveness Book," co-authored with Alice Camille, is due out in May. Before becoming a priest, Fr. Boudreau was a professional motorcycle racer. He is presently Priest Minister at Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Beaumont, Calif.

3-05 GOOD GROUND WILL YIELD A FRUITFUL HARVEST

A worshipping community starves for ways to grow spiritually. The experience of this workshop is an attempt to plant a seed on the hearts of participants, the Good Ground, to yield the musical fruit worthy of giving honor and glory to God.



Appearing left to right: Richard Cheri, Jalonda Robertson, Kenneth Louis, W. Clifford Petty, Jennifer Broyard Bonam and Timothy Jones Jr.

Richard Cheri

Richard Cheri is Director of Liturgy and Music at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church in New Orleans. He formerly served on the faculties at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana and at Loyola University of New Orleans. Cheri has published several musical compositions and has made numerous presentations at liturgical and catechetical conferences throughout the country with his team of liturgical musicians.

The Team

Richard Cheri has been the principal director of the New Orleans Archdiocese Mass Gospel Choir, which sang in 1992 for the National Black Catholic Congress in New Orleans. In the ensuing years, Cheri has worked alongside Jalonda Robertson, Timothy Jones Jr. and Jennifer Broyard Bonam. With the musical contributions of Kenneth Louis, W. Clifford Petty, and Cheri's young son, Richie, this team of liturgical music ministers has given workshops and provided music at conferences throughout the United States.

3-06 LOURDES: 150 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING FOR A HURTING WORLD

The year 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes to French peasant Bernadette Soubirous. Seemingly undaunted by an increasing attitude of secularism and advances in modern medicine, Lourdes continues to attract more than 6 million pilgrims a year as an important center for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Discover why this popular Marian shrine – with its call to prayer, penance and service to others – offers valuable life lessons and teaching opportunities, and why it remains a vital expression of Catholicity and the Gospel message today.

**Elizabeth Ficocelli**

Elizabeth Ficocelli is a best-selling and award-winning Catholic author of books for children and adults. She has written numerous books and magazine articles for children and adults. Her recent book, "The Imitation of Christ for Children," is a Catholic Press Association winner. A convert and mother of four sons, Ficocelli has presented to students in school settings and to Catholic educators at national and regional conferences.

3-07 THROUGH THE THRESHOLD: AN APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS ED FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Is it possible to challenge and engage youth today in the context of Catholic religious education? In this workshop, Mícheál de Barra and Tom Gunning will share an approach to religious education for high school students that they have recently developed for the Irish education system. Their program presents the spiritual riches of Catholic tradition as an answer to the many questions posed by today's youth culture. This tactic has transformed the landscape of religious education for senior students in Ireland.

**Mícheál de Barra**

Mícheál de Barra has been working as Editor/Coordinator for the past four years on the "Faith Seeking Understanding" series, a resource for the religious education examination syllabus that was introduced in 2003 in Ireland. Prior to that he was Diocesan Advisor for Post Primary Religious Education (the DRE equivalent in the Irish church) for three years in the Diocese of Cork and Ross in southern Ireland.

**Tom Gunning**

Tom Gunning is a catechist at Loreto Secondary School Wexford, Ireland. He has spent the last few years writing catechetical materials for Veritas Publications in Ireland. In all, he has written four senior level textbooks. He has researched and written on the area of sacramental theology and is currently developing his own retreat center in Ireland.

My first experience of RECongress...

Hi! I loved your RECongress! I stayed within walking distance ... the weather was perfect (and that's just for starters)! I was impressed with the number of people in attendance at the workshops. The speakers kept me writing note after note on their "special topics" (90% of the time)! I did actually walk out of one, but not because the speaker wasn't "good," I just realized after 5 minutes that this just wasn't for me and went and took a much needed rest in the hallway and browsed through the exhibits. And speaking of those exhibits, I met up with Katrina Rae after 10 years and ended up arranging for her "Mission" to come to our parish in September! Thank you, RECongress!

I expected to attend a very conservative, ordinary Mass because I am a very conservative, ordinary DRE!! (smile) Instead I found myself at the Native-American Mass ... absolutely beautiful, reverent!! ... and a Jazz Mass ... beautiful!! I really liked your keynote speakers – especially the line that I just came across a couple of days ago as I was looking through some notes: "Imagine if we believed what we are teaching?!" That sums it up, folks!

And yes, by the Grace of God, I and my parish catechists and anyone else I can get to come will return next year. It took me 15 years and one very determined new pastor to get there. We need to keep going. We need to keep growing!

– Shirley Roberts

3-08 ROMAN CATHOLICISM: GLOBAL RELIGION OR EUROPEAN EXPORT? 🗣️

Richard R. Gaillardetz, PhD

Roman Catholicism is often conceived as a largely Western religion that was profoundly shaped by European cultural forms. Yet Catholic Christianity is at heart, as was revealed at Pentecost, a “translated religion,” trusting that the Gospel message can be translated into any cultural context. In this workshop we will explore the possibilities for Catholicism’s moving beyond a largely Western European and North American framework to recover its status as a true global church.

3-09 MYSTICS, MYSTICISM AND MYSELF

This workshop will explore our call to become mystics in our time. As we look at some of the mystics who have gone before us, we will open ourselves to how grace invites each one of us to enter into a deeper awareness of our own potential to sink into God.



Edwina Gateley

Edwina Gateley is founder of the international Volunteer Missionary Movement, which has sent over 2,000 lay missionaries to 26 countries. She is an international public speaker and author of 11 books; her work and ministry have been publicly commended by numerous groups and individuals. Gateley is currently writing, leading retreats for abused and marginalized women, and serving as “Mother Spirit” for Exodus, a program in Chicago for women in recovery from prostitution.

3-10 THE CHURCH, MATRIMONY AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: A CATECHETICAL PERSPECTIVE 🗣️

The church’s position on same-sex marriage is a point of delight for some and consternation for others. However, for all members of the church, it is a point that needs to be discussed publicly in a clear and concise manner. This session will look at the church’s theology of matrimony in relation to the recent civil anomaly of same-sex marriage. The session is directed to those who are interested in a serious theological conversation, e.g., pastoral, catechetical and theological personnel, and members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender ministries and their families.



Dr. Greer G. Gordon

Greer Gordon, a native of Baton Rouge, La., is a Roman Catholic theologian, lecturer and author. She was formerly the Director of Adult Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.; Director of the Office for Black Catholics in the Boston Archdiocese; Consultant for Catechist Formation in the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.; and on the theology faculty at Regis College in Weston, Mass. Dr. Gordon is also a former keynoter for the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

3-11 “I AM NOT THE MESSIAH” 🗣️

How can good people in ministry sustain their own spiritual journey, be of real service to other people, and yet not fall into the devastating trap of feeling that they must “save the world”? Perhaps the struggle and confession of John the Baptist may have something to teach us.



Thomas Groome, PhD

Dr. Tom Groome is Director of Boston College’s Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. The award-winning author has written more than a half dozen books and over 100 published articles and essays. He has made over 500 public presentations in the past 25 years, including keynote addresses at all the major North American conferences of religious educators, both Catholic and Protestant.

3-12 THE ORIGINAL TEXT MESSAGE: A CRADLE CATHOLIC’S “DUMMY GUIDE” TO THE BIBLE 🗣️

Mark Hart

Have you ever said to yourself, “I need to start reading the Bible more,” but wondered where to start? Do you desire a stronger foundational understanding of the Bible and how to pray with it? In this workshop we will discuss the “basics of the Bible” and encounter the authentic God of Sacred Scripture, not the academic. And while 90 minutes won’t make you a Scripture scholar, it can give you enough practical insights and tools to “get more out of” your Bible. Bring a blank sheet and an open heart for a walk through the Bible that is sure to leave you joyful, thankful and hungry for more!

My first experience of Congress...

RE Congress 2007 was my first time. I have to say I found it a most uplifting experience. I was in awe of the American Church at the way they can so openly express their true faith. Probably the highlight for me were the liturgies, in particular were Fr. Liam Lawton’s Mass held in the Hilton Hotel and the Closing Liturgy which took place in the Arena. (I found these so prayerful that I attended both morning and afternoon!)

Sr. Edith Prendergast and Rev. Bryan Massingale’s keynote addresses both left me challenged and wanting to explore theology and religious education in greater depth and take it to a new level for me personally. As for the workshops that I attended, two of them were David Hass and Marty Haugen. I have been using their music in my parish for years, so was delighted to finally meet them in person!

Over the few days I found great peace (even with the thousands of people in attendance)! I was filled with a real sense of prayerfulness and joy. I returned home invigorated, enthused, refreshed and a phrase of Msgr. Ray East’s that stuck with me, we were truly “blessed beyond belief” to have been present.

– Catherine Daly, Co. Kildare, Ireland

3-13 ABCs OF PRAISE

There are so many ways to praise you, Lord, I don't know where to start. But with these ABCs of praise, I can express my heart ... from A-Z! Are you having trouble getting your kids to sing? Are you looking for ways to include the little ones? Are you in need of new object lessons to reinforce your main point or Bible story? Do you want to incorporate music into your lesson theme? With simple hand motions, performance ideas and more, you can be musical even if you are not musical. You don't have to be a singer to attend; however, knowing how to operate a CD/cassette player will help!

**Mary Rice Hopkins**

Recording artist, author and speaker Mary Rice Hopkins is celebrating 30 years in family music ministry. She is also known for keynote speaking as well as leading worship at events such as MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Moms in Touch, Women's Retreats, The Association of Christian Schools International, and more. She has a number of works available, and more recently has teamed up with Darcie Maze, who makes and designs puppets; together they combine music and puppetry.

**Darcie Maze**

Darcie Maze has been in children's ministry for over 30 years. She creates and designs puppets, conducts teacher training workshops and seminars nationally that cross many denominational lines. Her puppet designs are used on the Cartoon Network and throughout the world. She studied Child Evangelism at Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas, and Life Bible College in Los Angeles. Her vision is to train teachers for children's ministry and to supply puppets and resources.

3-14 CONVERSION, FAITH-SHARING AND CATECHESIS: THE GREAT BALANCING ACT ☪

"Evangelization is what we are all about," the U.S. bishops unequivocally proclaimed in their 1992 document "Go and Make Disciples, A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States." Since then catechists have been struggling to balance providing opportunities for conversion with teaching the basics of the Catholic faith. This workshop will provide practical ideas for creating an environment that enables learners to grow in communion and intimacy with Christ while developing a solid theological understanding of their faith.

**Dr. Kathy Kleinlein**

Dr. Kathy Kleinlein is Diocesan Director of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Venice, Fla., and an elected member and Chair of the Sarasota County School Board. She was previously Chair of the Florida Catholic Conference of Diocesan Directors and a Representative Council member of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. Dr. Kleinlein conducts retreats, seminars and catechetical formation workshops on a variety of topics.

3-15 FROM DOERS OF SERVICE TO PEOPLE OF JUSTICE: DOING YOUTH MINISTRY THAT INSPIRES YOUTH TO LIVE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ☪

Tired of the same old service project? Looking for ways to make youth ministry in your parish something that transforms young people into people of justice? Join Sean Lansing in this workshop as he talks about the foundations engaging youth in Catholic social teaching and describes four strategies to help you infuse justice and service into your entire youth ministry.

**Sean Lansing**

Sean Lansing is a Project Coordinator for Youth Ministry Services at the Center for Ministry Development in Milwaukee, where he was previously a parish youth minister for the Central City Catholic Parishes. Lansing is author of the "Call to Faith" Session Leader's Guide and was a contributing author of "Total Youth Ministry Resources for Justice and Service."

3-16 HOW CAN WE SING A SONG IN AN ALIEN LAND?

We live in a world where practicing our Christian faith can be countercultural. We search for hope and courage in a world of fear and revenge. Our liturgies can be places of comfort and consolation offering hope to sustain us when life becomes difficult. In this workshop, Liam Lawton examines how music and worship can transcend barriers and boundaries and offer God's healing presence to a hurting world.

**Rev. Liam Lawton**

Liam Lawton is Director of Music for the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in Ireland. He has recorded 12 collections of music and is currently writing his second book. He has appeared on numerous TV broadcasts and radio shows, and is presently touring in the United States with a new PBS Television show that was recorded live in Dublin.

3-17 BE WHO YOU ARE! ☪

For many people the road to self-acceptance – and the realization that God loves you as you are – is a long journey. We will look at what the Old and New Testaments, the church's great spiritual masters, the saints and the Catechism of the Catholic Church have to say about the path to self-acceptance. We will especially focus on those who might feel marginalized in society today – those in minority groups, those in the gay and lesbian communities, the unemployed and underemployed, and people with disabilities. Practical resources for prayer and spiritual nourishment will be offered.

**James Martin, SJ**

Jesuit priest James Martin is Associate Editor of America magazine. His book, "My Life with the Saints," received a 2006 Christopher Award and was named as one of the Top 100 Books of the Year by Publishers Weekly. He is also author of "Becoming Who You Are," and, most recently, "A Jesuit Off-Broadway: Center Stage with Jesus, Judas and Life's Big Questions."

3-18 DISNEYLAND'S MILLION DREAMS – A CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC REFLECTS THE MILLION STORIES ☺

Disneyland is currently celebrating a “year of a million dreams.” We are challenged as believers to live by a consistent life ethic as we listen to the million stories in our own lives and those connected by the news media, 24/7 Internet connections and our Catholic belief in the “millions of witnesses” beyond this present life. The Congress theme will be used as an integration process for persons to reflect on the Bible parables, the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and the millions of stories that challenge us to integration and justice actions. This workshop will help us to know ourselves and find out how we are called to be “Gospel creators of dreams.”



Fr. Chris Ponnet

Born and raised in St. Luke's Church in Temple City, Calif., Fr. Chris Ponnet served in parish ministry until he was appointed as Pastor of St. Camillus Church in Los Angeles in 1995. He also serves as Chaplain at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center, the Norris Cancer Hospital and the USC University Hospital. He has spoken at national conferences on death and dying, consistent life ethic, AIDS, the death penalty, interfaith working and chaplaincy.

3-19 FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL BELIEVERS ☺

How do we contribute to the formation and nurturing of the next generation of faithful believers? Aware of the cultural realities and social dynamics that can work against being faith-filled Christians and faithful Catholics, what strategies can we use to enhance the faith of our daughters and sons? This workshop explores what it means to be faithful in the church today and the ways that we can foster that in all the daughters and sons in our lives.



Dr. Jane Regan

Dr. Jane Regan is Associate Professor of Religious Education and Theology at the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College. Her research and teaching focus primarily on adult faith formation. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Regan serves as an adult faith-formation consultant on the local and national level. She has extensive university teaching experience and is a workshop leader/speaker at major conferences.

My first experience of Congress...

The Congress was full of information and ideas. I had two primary interests: Speakers whose essays and books I had read, such as Frs. Ronald Rolheiser and Richard Rohr; and help, guidance for the Bible study group I have lead for several years. I was certainly not disappointed in what I heard.

– Mary Starrs

3-20 DEAL OR NO DEAL: STRATEGIES FOR MORAL DEVELOPMENT

This session will provide practical ideas for teaching the principles of Catholic morality, including the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. We will share ways to help students learn how to make moral choices in their daily lives.



Kate Ristow

Kate Ristow has been involved in the religious education of children and catechists for over 30 years. She is the author of student texts and catechists guides at all grade levels and is a Contributing Editor for Catechist Magazine. A former Director of Religious Education and Catholic schoolteacher, Ristow has been a frequent speaker at national, regional and diocesan conferences. She is presently National Catechetical Consultant for RCL Benziger.

3-21 RADICAL FAITH – THE STRUGGLES WITH FAITH AND THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SPIRIT ☺

On the basis of her journals, many feel that Mother Teresa lived in doubt rather than in faith. Is this true? Was this a crisis of faith? What constitutes real faith and what constitutes real doubt? Insights from Scripture and the classical Christian mystics will be brought forth to show the difference between a crisis of faith and a dark night of the spirit, namely, a purification of the soul that was experienced by Jesus and often experienced by spiritual athletes such as Mother Teresa, which isn't the opposite of faith, but is genuine faith.



Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. For most of the 28 years of his priesthood, Fr. Rolheiser taught theology and philosophy at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

3-22 FROM EVANGELIZATION TO INITIATION ☺

In this session participants will explore together how the church's vision of evangelization takes flesh in our communities' ministries of initiation. The workshop format will use presentation and facilitated conversation.



Jim Schellman

Jim Schellman has served in church ministry for over 20 years at the parish, diocesan, national and international level. He is an occasional speaker and writer on liturgical matters and serves as Executive Director of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, a network of church ministers devoted to implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and its implications for reconciliation.

3-23 DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING “SEEING ANEW”: SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AND CONSCIOUSNESS CHANGE ☺**John Shea**

Talking to flowers. Receiving Communion. Contemplating the ocean. Saying the rosary. Walking the labyrinth. Counting my blessings. Reading the Bible. Centering prayer. Examining my faults: People have named these activities and many more as spiritual practices. But how are spiritual practices meant to help us see anew? Should we change spiritual practices? How do we know when a spiritual practice is working? What is the value of a spiritual practice in a life dedicated to social change?

3-24 “FARMS NOT ARMS”: READING THE PROPHET MICAH ☺

In this session we will consider the biblical prophet Micah as the Bible’s true “radical farmer” who questioned Ancient Israel’s build-up of weapons. Do we need a new Micah for 2008?

**Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher**

Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher served from 1986-88 in peace work/research in Israel/Palestine and maintains an active interest in the modern Middle East. He is Professor of Old Testament at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he has taught for 18 years. He also serves as Director of Peace Studies at LMU. Dr. Christopher has published dozens of scholarly articles, reviews and 10 books. He appears regularly on television documentaries as a consultant and scholarly commentator.

3-25 NEW PROOFS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD: CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONTEMPORARY PHYSICS TO THE EFFORT OF EVANGELIZATION ☺

Contemporary physics (particularly contemporary big-bang cosmology) shows the virtual inevitability of a singularity in inflationary model universes. This reveals the high likelihood of a creation event arising out of a “power transcending universal space-time asymmetry,” which resembles Christianity’s *creatio ex nihilo*. Fr. Robert Spitzer will help decipher the implications of creation and supernatural design in these very current models of astrophysics.

**Robert J. Spitzer, SJ**

Professor, writer and speaker, Jesuit Fr. Robert Spitzer has been President of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., since 1998 and founder of the Gonzaga Institute of Ethics. He has authored many scholarly articles, journal entries and three books. Fr. Spitzer, who presents widely to national and international audiences, has started seven academic centers and is involved in a variety of educational, philosophical and scientific organizations.

3-26 BEYOND WORDS: TEACHING FAITH AND VALUES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH SYMBOL AND ACTION ☺

Ever wonder what a hammer, a grocery bag, and a TV remote can teach about Christian values? Learn how to: dispense 1-A-Day verbal vitamins; influence children by “talking behind their back”; and let your walls, CD player, and oven speak. Based on the values covered in her book, “Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference,” Susan Vogt will help parents and educators deal with the issues of self-esteem, time, materialism, ecology, the media, morality, peace-making, diversity and service as dimensions of a living faith.

**Susan V. Vogt**

Susan Vogt is a freelance speaker and writer who conducts workshops on faith, marriage and parenting across the country and internationally. She has been a lay advisor to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Marriage and Family and is Editor of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers Journal. Vogt, a vowed lay Marianist, formerly served as Diocesan Director of Family Ministry for over 25 years, and has taught university marriage and family spirituality courses.

3-70 Hôn Nhân, Ly Hôn, Tiêu Hôn, Tái Hôn theo Giáo Huấn của Giáo Hội ☺

Buổi hội thảo này sẽ đề cập đến hôn nhân, ly hôn, tiêu hôn, tái hôn theo giáo huấn của Giáo Hội Công Giáo và cũng đề cập đến hồng ân Thánh Phê-rô và Thánh Phao-lô.

**Linh mục Phê-rô Ngô Công Thắng**

Linh mục Phê-rô Ngô Công Thắng là Phó Đại Diện Tư Pháp của Tòa Án Hôn Phối Tổng Giáo Phận Los Angeles. Cha Thắng cũng là Chánh Án và Thẩm Phán của Tòa Án Hôn Phối. Cha Thắng tốt nghiệp bằng Cao Học Giáo Luật tại Đại Học Giáo Hoàng Thánh Phao-lô, Cao Học Giáo Luật Học tại Đại Học Ottawa, và Tiến Sĩ Thần Học tại Học Viện Thần Học Indiana.

