

7-01 THE FUTURE OF LIBERAL CATHOLICISM 🔊**John L. Allen Jr.**

Liberal Catholicism has been described as bankrupt, finished, and all but pronounced dead. But is it really? Or will the 21st century create a surprising renewal for the liberal instinct in the church?

7-02 LITURGICAL MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN 🔊

Learn creative and effective ways to engage children K-8 in liturgical celebrations, prayer services and classroom activities. Simple gestures, liturgical dance, ritual and the acting out of Scripture is a wonderful way to involve our young students in the richness of our faith! This workshop is about “doing,” so come prepared to move!

**Donna Anderle**

An accomplished dancer, teacher and choreographer, Donna Anderle has performed movement for prayer and celebration at major liturgical conventions across the country, including the L.A. Congress. She has four books of choreography and a CD-ROM on liturgical dance. Anderle is on the teaching faculty of The Cincinnati Ballet Company and is involved in various outreach dance programs for Cincinnati inner-city schools.

7-03 THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT 🔊

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, according to the Second Vatican Council. In this session, Fr. Robert Barron will explore this central mystery of the faith under the rubrics of sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence.

**Rev. Robert Barron**

Chicago-native Fr. Robert Barron first served the Chicago Archdiocese as Associate Pastor at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Park Ridge, Ill. Since then, he has served as Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake-Mundelein Seminary, located outside of Chicago. His numerous articles on theology and spirituality have appeared in a variety of journals. He also gives frequent retreats, missions and workshops.

7-04 GOD LOVES ME! CALLING CHILDREN TO FAITH THROUGH SONG 🔊**John Burland**

How can we share the great news *that God loves us* with the children in our care? What are some creative and practical ideas for passing on the riches of our Catholic faith tradition? Incorporating song, movement and meditative prayer, this workshop will offer a variety of age-appropriate activities suitable for children at the elementary level. Catechetical themes such as revelation, Trinity, Jesus Christ, church, morality, God’s Kingdom, Sacraments and justice will be addressed during this session.

7-05 CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL AWARENESS WITH YOUNG ADOLESCENTS 🔊

This session will explore concrete principles and processes for helping junior-highers develop spiritual sensitivities and moral imagination. Examples from the young adolescent paperback series, “Lincoln Park,” will be used to illustrate these specific dynamics, including the unique function of adults as spiritual teachers.

**Michael Carotta**

For over 30 years Michael Carotta has worked with young people in educational, pastoral, clinical and athletic settings. His recent books include “Have Faith: A Candidate-Sponsor Resource for Confirmation and Beyond” and “Lincoln Park,” a junior-high mystery series co-authored with John Shea. Currently, Carotta serves as the Consultant for Adolescent Catechesis for Harcourt Religion and teaches graduate courses at several Catholic universities nationwide.

7-06 THE CALL OF THE CATECHIST 🔊**Carol Cimino, SSJ, EdD**

This presentation will explore the special ministry and vocation of those who teach youngsters about their faith. It will offer some thoughts about what the ministry demands of our personal and spiritual lives, and how catechists can exemplify what the Acts of the Apostles calls them to be: “of one mind and one heart.”

7-07 THE ONCE AND FUTURE DIACONATE: A NEW VISION FOR A RENEWED CHURCH 🔊**William T. Ditewig**

While many people are still discovering the diaconate renewed by the Second Vatican Council, and while the progress of this renewed order has sometimes been uneven at best and problematic at worst, the fact remains that the diaconate is the fastest-growing ministry in the church today. What is required today, now that we have had four decades of experience upon which to build, is a renewed vision of the diaconate based on a renewed vision of the servant-nature of the church herself. This workshop examines the theological, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of such a vision for the future.

7-08 HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS 🔊**Michael S. Driscoll**

The cathedral stands out as the Mother Church of each diocese and it should model good liturgical practice for the diocese. The Constitution on the Liturgy (par. 41) states, “Therefore all should hold in great esteem the liturgical life of the diocese centered around the bishop, especially in his cathedral church.” This workshop will use the Los Angeles Cathedral as a case study to determine whether what happens at Our Lady of the Angels is the model for what can happen throughout the Los Angeles Archdiocese. How is this principle applicable in other (arch)dioceses?

7-09 HELPING KIDS DEVELOP A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS ☪

Elizabeth Ficocelli

Children today are constantly bombarded with messages, distractions and temptations that lure them away from the spiritual and create an over-emphasis on the worldly. Here are some practical ideas and activities to encourage children to consciously choose Jesus Christ as their true leader and, in the process, become happier and more fulfilled followers. Drawing from the wisdom of Thomas a Kempis' "The Imitation of Christ," this talk is geared to teachers and parents who nurture the spiritual development of children ages 8-13.

7-10 "A WORD IN YOUR EAR": HEARING THE WORD AND PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE ☪

Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp

Attentive listening does not come easily, as the first disciples discovered. But because they failed to listen, they frequently failed to learn from Jesus. We will explore the significance of "having ears" in Jewish culture and will identify some of the "deaf spots" that cause us to be less than we are called to be. Emphasizing some of Jesus' concerns, we strive to be more faithful disciples ourselves.

7-11 GRACE UNDER PRESSURE: LIVING WITH HOPE AND COURAGE ☪

Dr. Greer G. Gordon

As modern-day believers, we live in a society that is filled with suffering. For many, that suffering brings with it a kind of immobilizing pressure that fills them with fear and doubt. From a spiritual perspective, that doubt and fear must be replaced with hope and courage, which only come through grace. In this session, a contemporary theology of grace will be explored, with a particular emphasis on what it means to live with hope and courage in a society of pressure and despair. This session is directed toward those working in evangelization, catechetical and pastoral ministries and spiritual development.

7-12 TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE: THE JOURNEY OF PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH

David Haas

Far too often our tradition and prayer forms seem to isolate rather than unite. In our prayer and liturgical life, we tend to get "sectioned off" into different generational and other types of groupings, usually according to "stereotypes" of style, piety and approach. This session will be a musical, biblical and prayerful celebration of the many approaches, genres and resources of prayer that can help all of us – children, youth and adults together – to become active and engaged participants in the prayer-filled liturgical, catechetical and sacramental life. Together we will sing, pray and share stories that hopefully bring us together and form us to become a community centered in the mission of Christ.

7-13 INWARD, OUTWARD, UPWARD: HENRI NOUWEN'S INTEGRATED JOURNEY

In his book "Reaching Out," Henri Nouwen presents his own schema of the spiritual life in a threefold movement reaching out to our innermost being, to other fellow human beings, and to God. This represents the inward, outward and upward journey that we all embark upon – weaving psychology, ministry and theology with spirituality into a seamless whole. In this session we take a closer look at the integrated dynamics of such a journey.



Wil Hernandez, PhD

Dr. Wil Hernandez works as the Southern California Spiritual Formation Partners Coordinator for The Leadership Institute, in partnership with the Denver-based Spiritual Formation Alliance. Hernandez is author of "Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection," and he regularly teaches on the spirituality of Henri Nouwen as an Adjunct Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

7-14 EXCITING "NEW" GOSPELS? WHAT CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS AND OTHER APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS ☪

Felix Just, SJ, PhD

Some astounding claims have recently been made about newly discovered "Gospels," such as the Gospel of Judas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, etc. But what value do these works really have? Do they teach us anything new about Jesus? Why are they so controversial? This talk will explore what we, as Catholic Christians, should know about these "non-canonical Gospels," and what we should teach our children about them.

7-15 THE CATECHUMENATE AND CONVERSION TO MISSION ☪

Rev. Raymond B. Kemp

Have we slipped backward in our adult initiation to just giving instructions, and missed the challenge of conversion catechesis for engaging all the initiated in the mission of the church? Can the Lectionary and the coming synod on the power of the Word bring us back to the wonders of initiation processes that lead to vocation, mystagogia and mission? Let's outline why the young adult generation values this authentic approach.

7-16 LEADING IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY ☪

Lynn M. Levo, CSJ, PhD

Leading in a transitional time such as ours is both challenging and opportune. Leaders today are invited to embrace their full humanity, as they focus on the global reality and their current reality, guided by principles, values and a clear identity. This workshop will explore how leaders need to value and utilize the three types of human intelligence – rational, emotional, and spiritual – and will conclude with how trust is critical for any group/community to be mutual and healthy.

7-17 SOY CATEQUISTA: THE DIGNITY, VOCATION AND MISSION OF THE CATECHIST

The calling of the catechist is one of the most ancient and venerable vocations in the church. But today the complexity of faith communities is a challenge to the catechist in his or her concrete situation. This workshop will focus on what Scripture and Catholic tradition teach us about the dignity and vocation of the catechist. The workshop is based on a 2006 national consultation on catechesis in Hispanic communities and is intended to animate participants to convene *Soy Catequista* (I am a Catechist) events in their own parishes and dioceses.

**Timothy Matovina**

Timothy Matovina is an Associate Professor of Theology and the William and Anna Jean Cushwa Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. In addition to his scholarly work, Matovina offers presentations and workshops on U.S. Catholicism and on ministry and theology. His publications include the recent, co-edited book, "The Treasure of Guadalupe."

**Natalia M. Imperatori-Lee, PhD**

Dr. Natalia Imperatori-Lee grew up in Miami, the child of Cuban immigrants. She is currently Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Her interests include Vatican II and U.S. Latino/a theology. The former co-coordinator of Spanish-language RCIA, has spoken at the Detroit Archdiocese Pastoral Ministry Conference and at the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry, and was keynote at the Miami Archdiocese Youth Ministry Conference.

**Michael E. Lee, PhD**

Dr. Michael Lee combines academic theological work with years of experience in catechesis, ministry to the poor and music ministry in various church settings. He is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Fordham University, where he also serves at their Latin American & Latino/a Studies Institute. Dr. Lee writes on Christology, soteriology (study of salvation), Hispanic and Latin American theology.

**Victor Valenzuela**

Born in Arizona to parents of Mexican descent, Victor Valenzuela is fully bilingual and bicultural. He has been in ministry for 20 years, including classroom teaching, youth ministry, teacher training and writing and development of new materials. He has presented workshops to numerous groups both regionally and nationally. Valenzuela currently is a National Religion Consultant for Bilingual Resources at William H. Sadlier.

7-18 PASTORAL CARE OF THE ADOLESCENT: A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**Robert J. McCarty, DMIn**

At the core of effective youth ministry is fostering the positive development of young people, even as they deal with a variety of risk issues and behaviors. This session provides a framework for comprehensive pastoral care and explores the principles and methods of caring for young people and their families. Practical strategies for developing life skills, crisis intervention, prevention programs and building youths' assets will be explored.

7-19 "I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS": LIVING A CONTEMPORARY LITURGICAL SPIRITUALITY**J-Glenn Murray, SJ**

We have so often heard that by virtue of our Baptism each of us has a right and duty to participate fully, consciously and actively in the church's liturgy. But what does that mean? How do we enter daily into this dying and rising of Christ that we celebrate Sunday after Sunday? Having looked to the hills, having been to the summit, how do we enter into a celebration that leads us day by day to a union of hearts and minds, that leads us day after day to answer the burning question: If we worship this way, how can we act any other way except in justice and in peace?

7-20 LIFE AS LITURGY (LAUNDRY INCLUDED)

Is it possible to have a contemplative life when there are so many demands on our time and energy, and we grow weary of juggling? This presentation will examine ways of seeing that can help us regain a sense of balance and renew our faith in the essential holiness of life.

**Kathleen Norris**

Award-winning poet and New York Times best-selling author, Kathleen Norris has published seven books of poetry and four non-fiction books on her spiritual life. A Benedictine oblate since the late-'60s, she also has several published essays on monasticism. Norris resides in Hawaii, where she volunteers at her mother's retirement home and her local Episcopal church. She travels regularly to the mainland speaking to hospital staff, social workers and medical professionals.

7-21 LIBERATION FOR COMMUNION**Sr. Jamie T. Phelps, OP, PhD**

This workshop will explore the primary ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council, i.e., the church as communion. Participants will be lead in a reflection-discussion of their ministry as it contributes to the embodiment of Jesus' vision of liberating humanity from sin and all that oppresses to make salvation – communion with God, other human beings and all creation a reality referred to biblically as the Reign of God or the Kingdom of Heaven.

7-22 WHEN THE WORD LIVES AND BREATHES: REFLECTIONS ON BIBLIODRAMA

Fr. Erik Riechers, SAC

Bibliodrama is a holistic method of delving into a biblical text. By laying the text out in a room, the participants have the opportunity of touching their personal lives to the text and letting the text come in contact with their personal lives. This session will offer an overview of this unique and invigorating approach of working with the biblical texts, and offer several short practical examples of how it is done.

7-23 INTERACTION IN MULTICULTURAL SETTINGS



Robert Schreiter, CPPS

Where are we in understanding the interaction of people in multicultural settings? This workshop will review some of the major approaches and look at some emerging models and their implication for ministry. (This is a repeat of Session 6-26.)

7-24 GLOCAL: THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY TO STOP AIDS

Carl C. Stecker

Sure, 39 million people worldwide are living with HIV. But they're all "over there," so, what can I do about it? The compassionate and comprehensive response of the church means *both* thinking and acting, *both* globally and locally – a "glocal" response. Know your epidemic (educate yourself and others), know your HIV status, act responsibly (both personally and corporately), advocate (governments and global community), give (time and resources), reach out (local and global), and remove stigma and discrimination. The brief presentation will be followed by stimulating discussion about what the body of Christ is doing and can do.

7-25 CLUSTERING PARISHES: THREE SCENARIOS

Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ & Peg Bishop, OSF

No longer can Catholic parishes remain in isolation from one another. Today, two out of five parishes must share an ordained priest. Other parishes are being closed or combined with others close by. Still others must share staff, ministries and programs because of limited funds and resources. This presentation will offer three ways to cope with the shortages and draw out positive results: 1) clustering parishes that includes the parishioners in the deliberation; 2) providing a way in which priests who minister in more than one parish can find relief; and 3) sharing best practices and areas of need among groups of parishes so that all can learn from one another.

7-26 SEVEN COMMITMENTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Jim Wallis

Some of the most important moral challenges we face today – global poverty, climate change, human trafficking and genocide – often feel like huge mountains to move. It's often not the information, knowledge, technology and resources that we lack to change the big issues, but rather, the lack of moral and political will. It's really a matter of our commitments. This workshop will explore seven basic commitments that could literally change the world by providing a "tipping point" on the greatest challenges we face.

7-70 ĐỨC TIN TRONG CUỘC SỐNG NGƯỜI KITÔ HỮU HỒM NAY

Thực tế cho thấy chúng ta đang sống trong một xã hội đầy những văn hóa sự chết phẫn với đức tin và luân lý Kitô giáo, đến nỗi đã làm cho nhiều người bị khủng hoảng đức tin. Bởi vậy, trước một bối cảnh như thế làm sao Kitô hữu chúng ta có thể giữ vững đức tin cho chính bản thân mình mà còn thực hiện việc truyền giáo rất khẩn thiết cho thế giới hôm nay.



Bishop Vu Huy Chương

Đức cha An-tôn Vũ Huy Chương sinh quán tại Sơn Tây, Việt Nam. Vào chủng viện khi còn trẻ, theo học tại Giáo Hoàng Học Viện Pi-ô X và thụ phong linh mục lúc 27 tuổi tại Saigon, dưới sự đặt tay của Giám Mục Phan-xi-cô Xa-vi-ê Nguyễn Văn Thuận. Sau đó, phục vụ gần 30 năm tại Chủng Viện Cần Thơ trong vai trò linh hướng và giáo sư thần học; đồng thời giúp một xứ đạo. Năm 2003, được bổ nhiệm làm Giám Mục Hưng Hoá, một giáo phận vùng núi Đông Bắc bao gồm 10 vùng đất rộng. Giáo phận này có khoảng 200 ngàn người Công Giáo, 75 giáo xứ và 498 khu truyền giáo. Từ năm 2005, đức cha là chủ tịch Ủy Ban Đào Tạo chủng sinh và linh mục của Hội Đồng Giám Mục Việt Nam.



My first experience of Congress...

I came back very inspired from my first RECongress! The workshops were mostly well-prepared, but especially Jesse Manibusan, who is not only able to miraculously connect with today's youth and old people alike, but his entire 90-minute workshop kept steadily with the theme. And if that wasn't enough, it was very motivational and compelling.

– Tom Guenther

8-01 THE WORD IS MADE FLESH – CREATIVELY BREAKING OPEN THE WORD OF GOD WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Monica Brown & Hilary Musgrave

This workshop will be a practical exploration of the use of creative process in breaking open the Word of God with children and youth. Through the integration of Scripture storytelling, music, mime, sacred clowning and ritual, participants will be actively involved in developing creative ways to support and nurture the spirituality and faith development of their students. This will be a down-to-earth, hands-on workshop that will enthuse and inspire a new approach to faith formation and, at the same time, affirm and enrich participants in their own journey.

8-02 UNCHAINING CONFIRMATION

Michael Carotta

Confirmation now seems to serve a functional purpose. But given all we know about adolescent spirituality, youth culture, good adolescent catechesis and youth ministry, how might we enhance Confirmation prep's potential to be a more transformative experience for young people? What might it look like? What might be the tasks, and what are the challenges?

8-03 PRAYERS/CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS FROM THE GOSPELS

Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM

Prayer has often been defined as conversation with God. Did you ever have questions you'd like to ask Jesus, now or when you meet him face to face? "What must I do?" "What are we going to get out of it?" or just want to say things about your life: "Lord, if you were only here, then..."; "The one whom you love is sick"; or even, "There's no more wine." Come explore with Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM, some interactions with Jesus from real people like us in the Gospels. Maybe you'll find yourself again, your answers, or *him!* Maybe you'll find in the Scriptures some new ways to prayer!

8-04 LIVING RELEVANCE

We are the People of God, the leaven in the bread, called to transform the world, to live a life that makes a real difference. The church has provided social teachings to show the way, but many find these teachings overwhelming that they feel paralyzed. The truth is that Catholic social teaching is for all people in every walk of life. It is meant to be lived, not adored. Come be inspired in how to saturate your own life and ministry with relevance.



Mia Crosthwaite

Mia Crosthwaite is a lecturer, catechist, minister and author of "Go and Do Likewise, Catholic Social Teaching in Action." She serves as Coordinator of Parish Life & Faith Formation for the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, where she formerly served as Director of Adult Catholic Education and as Legislative Liaison for the Idaho Catholic Conference. Crosthwaite has presented at numerous parish adult catechesis, catechist formations and retreats.

8-05 SENT TO LEAD AFRESH

Msgr. Ray East

Our human vocation is to imitate God in being givers of life and leaders who can motivate, inspire and sustain growth. What are the challenges for leaders in our parish communities today? How do we envision the future, engage and sustain the whole community and send them out to make a difference?

8-06 DOROTHY DAY: A SAINT FOR TODAY

Robert Ellsberg

In this session, Robert Ellsberg outlines the life and spirituality of Dorothy Day and shows why she is a particularly relevant saint for today. As a lay person, a single mother and a convert, Day launched a movement to live out the radical social implications of the Gospel. She embodied the option for the poor and the spirit of gospel non-violence. But her activism was deeply rooted in prayer, the Sacraments and reflection on Scripture. Drawing on his work as editor of Day's diaries, Ellsberg shows how her spirituality responded both to the challenges of history and the demands of the every day.

8-07 CREATED FOR COMMUNION: CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND THE CHALLENGE OF INCLUSION

John Heagle, JCL & Fran Ferder, FSPA, PhD

What makes us Catholic? This question has become a crucial concern for our church, both as an institution and for each of us as members of the Body of Christ. This presentation seeks to re-ground Catholic identity in the rich soil of Gospel relationships. In his preaching and ministry, Jesus focused on the "Reign of God" as the all-embracing compassion of God and the call to human communion. This vision of relationships is both an invitation and a challenge. What insight can it give us in facing the creative tension between Jesus' practice of inclusion and contemporary church teaching?

My first experience of Congress...

We are from Philadelphia and had a wonderful experience and came in touch with a Church alive.

God bless you all.

– Ann Menna, Pennsylvania

8-12 MUSIC AND LITURGY – WORSHIP, PROCLAMATION AND CHARITY 🎧

Jesse Manibusan

Full, conscious, active, passionate participation of the People of God in the work of God: How does our music flesh this out in our practice and celebration? How does it not?

8-13 SETTING HEARTS ON FIRE: USING MUSIC FOR EVANGELIZATION, MISSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE 🎧

Michael Mangan

Michael Mangan, one of Australia’s foremost liturgical composers, will focus on using the power of music to build up the Body of Christ through vibrant and meaningful celebrations in parishes and schools. The shared musical experience and the messages carried in the lyrical content of song can help build communion with Christ and each other and to “set hearts on fire” for mission in the world. Come along ready to sing, move and have fun as this energetic presenter introduces us to repertoire from his catalog of over 130 compositions including music for First Communion, Confirmation, peace, justice and our mission in the world.

8-14 A PEDAGOGY FOR THE OPPRESSORS: TRAINING OURSELVES TO TRAIN OUR CHILDREN IN PEACE, JUSTICE AND MERCY 🎧

John J. Markey, PhD

All knowing comes through imitation: Aristotle’s profound observation implies that if we want to change our children’s behavior then we have to change our own. To accomplish this, first we need to be freed from the false value system that material wealth creates, which keeps us from adequately seeing and hearing the cry of the poor. In this session, John Markey will develop a concrete and practical process of training ourselves in empathy, non-violence, conflict-resolution and compassion. We need to train ourselves so that we can train our children to live differently, to act justly, to seek peace and to genuinely hope for the coming of the Reign of God.

8-15 CATHOLIC LAUGHTER 🎧

James Martin, SJ

Come have a laugh for an hour or so! Too often joy, humor and laughter are forgotten as an important part of the Catholic spiritual tradition. We will look at how the saints and the great spiritual masters understood humor, and how they used it to move toward greater wholeness and holiness in life. Practical ways of incorporating these insights into your daily life, as well as some great jokes, will be included.

8-08 THE TOUGH CHALLENGE: WHEN PEOPLE MOURN A SUICIDE 🎧

Fr. Richard B. Gilbert, PhD, CT

This session will offer a frank discussion, with comfort and resources, to help those grieving a suicidal death (including children) and equipping the church to be more empathetic responders to this walk through sorrow.

8-09 TO BE GOD’S HEART ON EARTH: A FRESH INTERPRETATION OF “DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART”

Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ

Inspired art, flaming hearts, devotional practices verging on the superstitious: all of these virtually guaranteed that devotion to the Sacred Heart would rapidly wane in light of Vatican II’s emphasis on the liturgy. This presentation of word and image will attempt to reinterpret the core mystery – the love of Christ – and will challenge 21st-century Christians who, by our vocations, are also meant to be God’s Heart on Earth. (This is a repeat of Session 5-15).

8-10 FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER: PASSION/ RESURRECTION NARRATIVES OF MATTHEW AND JOHN 🎧

Sr. Dorothy Jonaitis, OP

The journey through Holy Week has its own rhythms when one looks carefully at the Scriptures used for the week. Particular attention needs to be paid to the proclamation of the Passion narratives on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. This year, you will hear the Passion accounts of Matthew and John. How do they differ in their structure and message intended for different audiences, and how do we apply this message to today?

8-11 IS JESUS JUST ANOTHER SUPER HERO?

Rev. Richard Leonard, SJ

Six of the highest grossing films in 2007 are science fantasies, many with “super heroes” in the lead. What does this, now, long-standing trend have to say to our belief in Jesus as the savior of the world, to our mystical tradition, and to the value formation the people of God are receiving at the multiplex?

8-16 LIFE JACKETS, PARACHUTES AND ARMOR ☺

Every catechist knows the feeling of sinking in the middle of a lesson or wanting to jump when a class is on a nosedive or to retreat when bombarded with questions. Participants will not only review survival basics but discover a variety of tactics that lead to the mission successfully accomplished.

**Leland D. Nagel**

Lee Nagel has held a variety of positions on both the diocesan and university level. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. A faith-filled storyteller, he is an educator by profession and a catechist by vocations, a teacher by trade and an evangelist by Baptism. He has taught at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., and has presented at several national conferences and diocesan conferences.

8-17 THE TWILIGHT WISDOM OF THE HEART: THE ART OF HARVESTING YOUR INNER LIGHT ☺**John O'Donohue, PhD**

After its creative voyage of light, the day slows down at twilight to recall and illuminate all of its hidden color and investment. We need to learn to trust the wisdom of the heart, to take twilight-time so that the hidden color of our becoming might illuminate for us. Experience is squandered if it is not savored and integrated. The Holy Spirit, mother of the soul, harvests each day's light so that when night overtakes us, we can rely on its hidden, inner twilight-heart. Everything we need for the journey has already been secretly given to us. It awaits us there on the twilight-altar of the heart.

My first experience of Congress...

This past year we heard about the Congress for the first time from a new parishioner who used to live in California and had attended many times. We were extremely interested and went online to research it. I could not imagine that anything that big and wonderful had escaped us. We are both very active in the Catholic Church both in the parish and diocese and have traveled to retreats, etc., in different parts of the country.

Our experience was wonderful. We went with three other people, two of whom also had never been before. We needed the paper Registration Guidebook as the amount of workshops was a bit overwhelming at first to do online ... can't put sticky notes and highlighter on the computer! Picking workshops was probably the hardest part of the Congress. There were just too many that we wanted to attend, and too many prominent speakers we wanted to hear. Out of the 16 workshops between us, we were only disappointed in three ... an amazing record.

– Patti and Bill Pollitt

8-18 FORMING A SPIRITUAL CHILD IN A SECULAR WORLD ☺**Jo Ann Paradise**

How can parents and religious educators engage a child's religious imagination in a way that enables them to develop as spiritual people in a world that is often toxic to spirituality? We will explore practical ideas for making room for the Spirit in both family life and classroom experiences.

8-19 DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION AMONG HISPANIC YOUNG ADULTS ☺

Young adult ministry (pastoral juvenil for young adult Hispanic ministry) is for the evangelization of the young people. This evangelization should immerse them into the fundamental experience of their faith, the historical discipleship of Jesus and to the continuing of their project for the here and now. According to the Gospel of Mark, "And Jesus appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach" (Mk 3:14). This double experience of call of discipleship and the mission today for Hispanic young adults continues to be the central core of the Christian experience and it should also be for the young adult/pastoral juvenil as well.

**Jorge Rivera**

Jorge Rivera has worked for over 10 years with the Hispanic/Latino community in the Chicago area. Presently, he is Coordinator for Hispanic Young Adults for the Chicago Archdiocese. He previously served as Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry in the archdiocese. His speaking engagements have taken him to more than 15 states and dioceses in the nation. Rivera also developed, in conjunction with Chicago's DePaul University, a formation program for training youth leaders.

8-20 SHEPHERDS ON THE EDGE ☺

Tending to the needs of our flock is a blessing and our responsibility. Being a spiritual guide in the lives of our young teens can be ministry at its best. Walk away from this workshop with a new confidence and effective ways to minister to young people. Shepherding on the edge requires openness, awareness and true love to tune into young people where they are in their lives.

**Anna Scally**

Anna Scally, President of Cornerstone Media, is a columnist for their Top Music Countdown online resource and host of their audio show, "Burning Issues." She is recipient of the National Youth Ministry Performer/Artist/Author of the Year Award from the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry. She has made over 2,200 public presentations, and has been a presenter at all the major conferences for religious educators in North America.

My first experience of Congress...

This was the first year I attended RECongress and I am still on fire!! I look forward to not only attending but participating. I would like to be notified of the scheduled choir rehearsals in advance so that I may express my gratitude for God's blessings through song and possibly liturgical dance!

– Alfredia Johnson, RN

8-25 SEVEN PEACEMAKING STRATEGIES FOR THE HOME AND CLASSROOM

Susan V. Vogt

Learn how to start an argument and how to end it. Use the Pledge of Nonviolence to change the culture of your school, class or family. Learn how to stop nagging by “running a race” and to cure gripes by taking plenty of vitamins B and C. It’s not magic; it just takes planning, know how, and courageous parents and educators.

8-26 HAPPY ARE YOU? A CATECHESIS FOR JOY

David Wells

When we gather in Anaheim – opposite “the happiest place on Earth” – will we find happiness there? Many of us don’t know what happiness is until we experience it, then we want it for everyone! So where is happiness to be found, and how do we lead people there? Can we help the world find the happiness? By taking a look at Jesus’ preaching, together with some contemporary spiritual writers and our rich tradition, we will consider how to find a deeper joy – a joy Pope Paul VI spoke of in *Gaudete in Domino*. Together, let us look at some good news. Are you ready to help others find that happiness too? An informative, practical and moving experience!

8-70 DÁM YÊU NHƯ CHÚA GIÊ-SU YÊU

Trong khóa này, Frère Phong sẽ chia sẻ với quý vị những kinh nghiệm thực tế đã học được từ giới trẻ, những người trẻ dám yêu như Chúa Giê-su yêu, để công hiến một cái nhìn mới về giới trẻ công giáo Việt Nam ở Mỹ, và thử đề nghị một vài phương cách cụ thể để giúp trẻ hiểu và sống Tin Mừng, đặc biệt giáo huấn về công bằng xã hội của Hội Thánh. “Sáng tạo trong bác ái, bền chí trong dẫn thân, can trường trong sáng kiến, và các con sẽ góp phần xây dựng nền văn minh tinh yêu.” (ĐTC Bênêdictô XVI). *Quý vị có thể mang theo “flash drive” để tải lại các “files” ngay sau khóa này.*

8-21 CONTENT IN THE CATECHUMENATE

Jim Schellman

In this session participants will explore together the church’s understanding of how doctrinal content in the catechumenate is derived, developed and delivered. The workshop format will use presentation and facilitated conversation.

8-22 THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: A MYSTIC VISION OF WHOLENESS?

Alexander Shaia, PhD

Over the centuries, parts of St. John’s complex Gospel have been used for some of the greatest abuses of Christian evangelism, leading to exclusionism, murder and even war. Yet his text also contains some of the most exquisite mystical poetry available in any holy book – and a message of peace and unity. We will examine this Gospel thoroughly to discover what accounts for this apparent dichotomy, and what an appropriate study and prayer of the Gospel can be. Recapture the ancient view of wholeness and mystery imbedded in John, and deepen your reflection on Lent, the Triduum and the Easter Season.

8-23 WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT MATTERS: AMOS & HOSEA

Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher

Using some ideas from the two contemporary prophets Amos and Hosea, this session will show how reading prophetic texts sheds light on the otherwise somewhat difficult aspects of the teachings of Jesus. Recommended for religious education teachers!

8-24 POPE BENEDICT XVI’S VISION OF THE CHURCH

Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle, STD

Using some of the theological and pastoral writings of Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger), this workshop will highlight his vision for the church and its mission in our contemporary time.

