

7-01 ALL THINGS CATHOLIC: WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT IN THE CHURCH 🗣️

John L. Allen Jr.

Noted pundit on the global Catholic Church, John Allen will survey today's headlines on church affairs, putting current events in context and making sense of what's coming down the line. Among other things, the session will provide insight on the direction of Benedict XVI's papacy ... and what might come next.

7-02 ETERNAL LIFE: A SELF-HELP GUIDE 🗣️

Scott Appleby

Jesus offers eternal life here and now to his disciples. What, concretely, does this mean? We often hear homilies or read scriptural commentaries on this question, but how can we go deeper in imagining and experiencing the abundance of life in Christ? In addressing this question, we shall draw upon Scripture, tradition, "church history" and contemporary cultural criticism.

7-03 SPIRITUALITY AND ABUNDANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH 🗣️

Parishes are becoming vibrant centers of spirituality especially in places that foster mission leadership, integrating contemplative prayer, social justice, care of our sacred earth, and a credible vision of Christ for today's global community.



Msgr. Arturo J. Bañuelas, STD

Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas is a native of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, where he presently serves as Pastor at St. Pius X Church. He is co-founder of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States and is founding Director of the Tepeyac Institute, a diocesan ministry formation center. Msgr. Bañuelas is a member of various boards and commissions and presents at conferences in dioceses across the country.

7-04 THE DANCE OF FAITH 🗣️

Betsey Beckman

Our faith is mediated by stories of abundant life. Come celebrate our shared stories through the art of dance – explore dances of longing as Isaiah calls us to come to the water. Explore dances of prayer, discovering God in the "still small voice." Explore dances of resurrection as we are called to meet Jesus in the garden of Easter. Dance your faith!

7-05 SHEKINAH – PRESENCE: SEEN, HEARD, TOUCHED AND FELT ... 🗣️

Monica Brown & Hilary Musgrave, RSC

Creative ritual, imagery, Scripture storytelling and song – these feed the soul and draw us into the actual experience of the Sacred in our lives. This session is an opportunity for catechists and all who minister to pause and be present to the mystery of the indwelling of God, as appreciated in the mystical understanding of *Shekinah*, a Hebrew word expressing the indwelling presence of God made visible in what is seen and heard, touched and felt in our human experience.

7-06 THE MAJESTY OF GRACE, THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT 🗣️

Grayson Warren Brown

In my 45 years in ministry, I have witnessed wonderful happenings like ecumenism and enculturation take place in the church. I participated in the civil rights movement and even met Martin Luther King once, and witnessed the great effects that movement had on both our church and our country. And after all the liturgies and conferences I have participated in, I have arrived at one simple thought: Grace and the Holy Spirit are two things most of us still do not fully understand. There is a reason why Grace is "Amazing"! We must learn how to fully accept God's precious gift of Grace, and to use his awesome gift of power. The time is now; God's instrument is you.

7-07 A WOMAN'S CUP OVERFLOWS WITH ABUNDANT ENERGY 🗣️

How is a woman's spiritual development different than the male journey? Where's the manual? A vibrant feminine spirituality unleashes an incredible abundance of life in women, one which Jesus encouraged. This presentation will include a critical look at some false perceptions of spiritual growth that can be destructive for women. Engage with some women saints from our Catholic tradition who reflect a feminist spirituality viable for today.



Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC

Sr. Kathy Bryant, a Religious Sister of Charity, is a retreat facilitator, spiritual director, speaker and writer. Over the years she has given retreats and workshops nationally and internationally. Sr. Bryant has authored numerous articles and books and worked in Australia, Ireland and Africa as well as throughout the United States in the field of spirituality.

7-08 APPROACHING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER 🗣️

Fr. Michael Casey, OCSO

Catholicism has a strong mystical tradition, although this has been overshadowed in recent centuries. Fr. Michael Casey shares some of the insights of Western monastic tradition, including Thomas Merton.

7-09 SPEAK MY WORD TODAY: USING MUSIC TO BRING SCRIPTURE TO LIFE FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN 🎧

Andrew Chinn

Young minds learn in many ways. In this workshop Andrew Chinn provides some musical strategies to bring Scripture to life for elementary-age children. From Creation to Revelation, from Noah's Ark to Palm Sunday, from Micah to Matthew, Chinn will present songs, stories and movements to help teach children the greatest story ever told.

7-10 PASSING THE BATON: INTERGENERATIONAL EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS 🎧

"Generations of Faith" and "Lifelong Faith Formation" have become the new standards for catechesis at the parish level. The relay race is on! Are we going to pass the baton of our Catholic faith to young adults or drop it? The key to actively engaging the missing generation between the grandparents in the pew and the children in religious instruction could be a new "intergenerational evangelization." Come share the incredible abundance of this novel approach applied to an urban parish.



Msgr. Ray East

Msgr. Ray East, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., served in several local parishes before being named Pastor at St. Teresa of Avila. The former Director of the Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization for the Washington Archdiocese continues to present workshops, facilitations and keynote addresses for major national events. Msgr. East is a board member of several organizations, and has worked in the areas of liturgy, youth ministry, initiation and evangelization.

7-11 YOUTH LEARNING AND GROWING IN FAITH AS PART OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY 🎧

How are communities engaging youth in catechesis and ministry within the intergenerational community? Parishes across the United States are involving youth in leadership and faith learning with people of all ages in the parish. This workshop explores practical strategies and models for involving youth in catechesis utilizing the resources of the whole community.



Tom East

In addition to his position as Director of the Center for Ministry Development, Tom East is their Project Coordinator for Youth Ministry Services and Coordinator of the Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies. Previously, he served as Director of Youth Ministry and Associate Director of Religious Education for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. East is the primary author and editor of numerous books, including "Leadership for Catholic Youth Ministry."

7-12 LORD, WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO? 🎧

Steven Ellair

Have you been a catechist for a while and are looking to renew your enthusiasm and passion for ministry? Have you recently received a call to become a catechist for the parish and aren't even sure what that word means? Come to this fun and engaging workshop where we'll explore and celebrate the many facets of being a catechist and learn how to go from surviving to thriving!

7-13 PRAYING LIKE A MONK: A CONTEMPLATIVE PATH THROUGH THE CHAOS 🎧

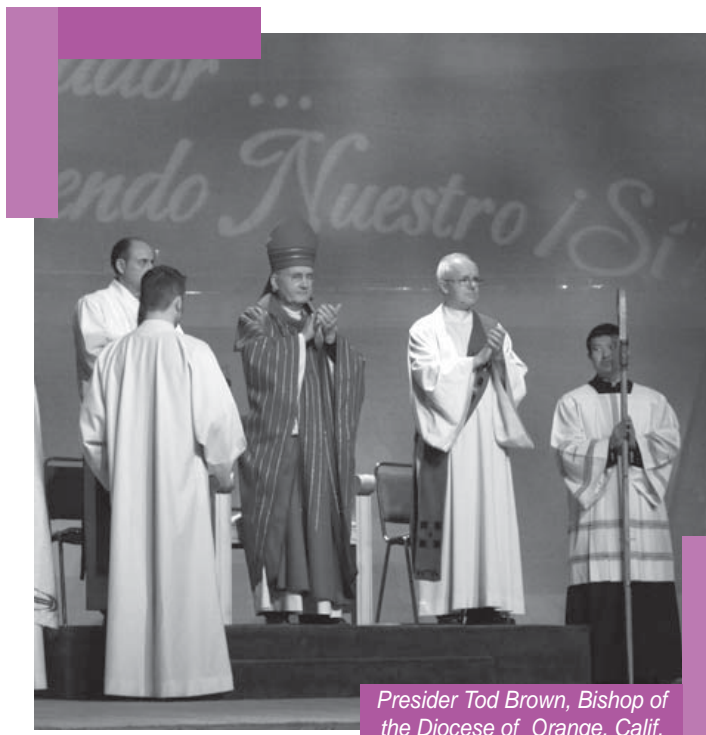
Paula Huston

Yes, we are all too busy. Yes, modern life is stressful and hectic. But the question is: How do we develop a deep, rich prayer life while continuing to live with realities that can't be changed? Join us as we look at some ancient spiritual practices that can revolutionize your relationship with God and transform the way you handle life.

7-14 LUKE AND ACTS: ABUNDANT PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 🎧

Felix Just, SJ, PhD

Did you know that the Holy Spirit is the most important character throughout both Luke's Gospel and his Acts of the Apostles? God's Spirit is active before the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, anoints Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry, remains present in all of Jesus' words and deeds, fills the disciples gathered at Pentecost, and continues working in them throughout their lives. In fact, the Holy Spirit is so prominent in both of Luke's volumes that they could more precisely be called "The Gospel of the Holy Spirit" and the "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." Just like Jesus and his first disciples, we too must be led by God's Spirit in all aspects of our lives.



President Tod Brown, Bishop of the Diocese of Orange, Calif.

7-15 THE JESUS QUESTION

Matthew Kelly

Sooner or later there is the question that every man and woman has to answer – the Jesus question. There are many different ways to answer the question, and often we give different answers in different situations. Nonetheless, Jesus keeps presenting the same question ... and how we answer determines how we live our lives. How do you answer the Jesus question? Perhaps you don't even know what the question is. Or maybe you're interested in helping others discover and answer the Jesus question. In this presentation Matthew Kelly will introduce the Jesus question and help participants prepare to answer it once and for all.

7-16 MARKETING YOUR MINISTRY

In today's fast-paced society, it is important to maximize every opportunity to capture the attention of your audience. This requires creativity, planning and position imaging. See your role as an advocate for Church ministry by learning how to make the most of your resources while sharing the "Good News" of your ministry efforts. You will learn strategies to get your ministry noticed and achieve your outcomes. Come and discover a "new twist" on marketing your ministry rooted in over 30 years of youth ministry experience.



Colette A. Kennett

Colette Kennett is Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., where she has been employed in professional youth ministry for over 30 years. Kennett has also been a prison minister for over 15 years. She has been a keynote or presenter at numerous diocesan events and many national youth conferences, including four World Youth Day events. Recently she was invited by the St. Louis Cardinals to participate in their on-field ceremonies for the 2009 All Star Game in St. Louis.

7-17 TRANSFORMING "TRANSFORMERS"

Rev. Richard Leonard, SJ

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" was the biggest film at the box office in 2009. Both the original "Transformers" and its sequel have become cult movies among our young. Most of the young adults we teach or want to reach have found in these films a modern connection to transcendence. So what's the deal, and why should we care? Can this media phenomenon be put at the service of the Good News? How can believers transform "Transformers"?

7-18 ENGAGE YOUR PARISH! STRAIGHT TALK ON HOW TO INCREASE PARISHIONERS LEVEL OF SERVICE, GIVING AND INVITATION

Rev. Daniel J. Mahan

Why do 20 percent of the parishioners do 80 percent of the "heavy lifting," and what can be done about it? The answer to those questions hinges on the concept of engagement. Many parishes are experiencing anemic collections and exhausted volunteers because of a crisis in the amount of engaged parishioners. Those who attend this stewardship session will learn the hard facts about the crisis in engagement – and what can be done about it.

7-19 AGGIORNAMENTO: MOVING PARISHES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Aggiornamento, literally meaning, "bringing up to date," was one of the key words used at the Second Vatican Council. For over 40 years the Church has struggled to effectively implement its meaning and spirit in a sustainable way. In this session we will explore real experiences of team leadership in the parish and the diocese with a powerful approach to engage and empower the community. Let's throw open the windows of the Church.



Fr. Brendan McGuire

Fr. Brendan McGuire is Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and School in San Jose, Calif. He is also Vicar General for the San Jose Diocese and responsible for the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Fr. McGuire has delivered many stewardship and parish management talks at several parishes throughout Canada as well as in the dioceses of Orange, Calif., and Atlanta.

7-20 ECUMENISM IN PRACTICE

Rev. Malcolm McMahon, OP

How can we work ecumenically with other Christians when the distance between some Christian traditions and the Catholic Church seems to be greater than ever? The Agreed Statement of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, entitled "Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ," will be presented in this session as an example of ecumenism in this millennium.

7-21 THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CATECHIST: RE-IGNITING THE FLAME

Lent is a good time for all Catholics, especially catechists, to renew their faith and deepen their spirituality. Joe Paprocki will help catechists reflect on six characteristics of the spirituality of the catechist that will help to re-ignite the fire within.



Joe Paprocki, DMin

Joe Paprocki is National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press in Chicago. He has 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry and is author of "The Bible Blueprint" and the best-selling "A Well-Built Faith." Paprocki serves as an eighth-grade catechist and blogs about the experience on the Internet at www.catechistsjourney.org.

7-22 CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER 🗣️**LeAnn Thieman, CSP, CPAE**

While rewarding, care-giving requires tremendous emotional, physical and spiritual stamina, making burnout an everyday challenge. In “Chicken Soup for the Caregiver’s Soul,” LeAnn Thieman offers remedies by encouraging caregivers to care for themselves as devotedly as they do for others. By sharing stories from her book and her own life experiences, she fills caregivers with hope, courage and strength and honors them for the difference they make in the world. (This is a repeat of Session 1-23.)

7-23 GOSPEL PEOPLE BELIEVE THE NEWS IS GOOD 🗣️**Catherine Upchurch**

Is it naive to be bearers of Good News in a world where so much fights against this message? Or is it a matter of seeing with new eyes and hearing with new ears? We’ll explore the Gospels as the central message of our lives and the proclamation our world most needs to hear.

7-24 NEW HABITS OF THE HEART 🗣️**Jim Wallis**

Across the country we are hearing that people are returning to old values and lessons that they have somehow forgotten. Things they learned as a child from their parents, maybe in Sunday school, church or just the values that seemed to define the community where they grew up, but have now disappeared. It’s more than nostalgia; it’s a feeling of loss. And they can’t quite remember when and how they got away from these old values. It is time to reform our “habits of the heart.”

7-25 CONNECTING YOUNG ADULTS WITH THE FAITH COMMUNITY 🗣️**Joan Weber**

This workshop shares strategies for parishes becoming more responsive to young adults. We will explore ways of integrating young adults into the life of the faith community through catechesis, liturgy and sacraments, spirituality, and justice and service.

7-26 PRAYERFULNESS: NAVIGATING THE PERILS AND JOYS OF SPIRITUAL INTIMACY**Dr. Robert J. Wicks**

Author and physician Walker Percy once posed the question: “What if I missed my life like a person misses a train?” Well, this is easy to do when we are not aware of the ancient and contemporary lessons on prayerfulness and spiritual mindfulness that will be the focus of this presentation. Lively and practical, the material is designed to refresh the compassionate soul.

7-27 HOW TO RAISE CARING CHILDREN 🗣️

What do kids need the most from their parents to become caring people today? What are the best parenting strategies to promote their emotional well-being? How to help them become socially competent? How to improve communication with them? How to help children internalize and apply Christian values in their daily lives? In this seminar Dr. John Yzaguirre will address these questions and offer concrete and effective approaches to assist parents in their sacred and challenging journey of parenting.

**Dr. John Yzaguirre**

Dr. John Yzaguirre is a psychologist and author specializing in family life and Catholic spirituality. He co-directs the California Prosocial Institute, based in Irvine, with his wife Claire Frazier Yzaguirre, MFT, with whom he has co-authored “Thriving Marriages.” He has been a keynote speaker at conventions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Australia. Besides his active private practice, Dr. Yzaguirre offers numerous marriage and family formation seminars at parishes in the local area.

7-70 SISTERS EXCHANGING GIFTS 🗣️

On July 1, 2008 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, representatives of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Archdiocese of Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Vietnam, entered into a relationship as Sister Dioceses. This entails a mutual exchange of gifts in faith, hope and charity. What can the people of the Catholic Church in the United States learn from the Church in Vietnam? What can Catholics in Vietnam learn from the Catholic Church in the United States? (Though part of the Vietnamese workshops, this session will be presented in English.)

Chị Em trao đổi quà tặng cho nhau

Ngày 1 tháng 7 năm 2008, tại Vương Cung Thánh Đường Đức Mẹ Các Thiên Thần, đại diện của Tổng Giáo Phận Los Angeles và Tổng Giáo Phận Sài Gòn đã cùng ký giao ước kết nghĩa chị em. Các tín hữu thuộc Giáo Hội tại Hoa Kỳ có thể học hỏi được gì từ Giáo Hội Việt Nam? Và các tín hữu Công giáo tại Việt Nam có thể học hỏi được gì nơi Giáo Hội Hoa Kỳ?

**Most Rev. Peter Nguyen Van Kham**

Bishop Peter Nguyen Van Kham was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in November 2008. Born in Ha Noi, he was ordained in 1980 and received his doctorate from The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. He is well-known throughout Vietnam for his skills as a preacher. This is his first time at the Religious Education Congress.

Đức Cha Phêrô Nguyễn Khâm

Đức Cha Phêrô Nguyễn Văn Khâm sinh năm 1952 tại Hà Nội, thụ phong linh mục năm 1980, tốt nghiệp Tiến sĩ Mục Vụ (D. Min.) tại Đại học Công giáo Hoa Kỳ năm 2004. Ngày 15.11.2008, Đức Thánh Cha Bênêđictô XVI đã bổ nhiệm Đức Cha làm giám mục phụ tá tổng giáo phận Sài Gòn. Là nhà giảng thuyết nổi tiếng tại Việt Nam, nhưng đây là lần đầu tiên Đức Cha tham dự Đại hội Giáo lý tại Los Angeles.

8-01 THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Bruce Baumann

As we all know, teaching a middle school or high school faith formation class is not as easy as it looks. In fact, it can be downright maddening at times. We signed on to make a difference. Instead, we feel like banging our head against the wall and walking away from it all. Take heart. There is hope! Come join us as we explore the principles and practical strategies to effectively minister to our young people.

8-02 LOVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE THROUGH *LECTIO DIVINA*

Lawrence Boadt, CSP

Fr. Lawrence Boadt will lead an exploration of the key spiritual insights of both Old and New Testaments and how we can not only develop a biblical spirituality as Catholics, but also make the Scriptures the source of our daily prayer, especially through *Lectio Divina*.

8-03 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: WHY STANDARDS MATTER

Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ, EdD

A cooperative effort on the part of several leadership groups dealing with catechesis has led to a set of standards for persons in ministry. This presentation will offer some strategies for selecting and training persons for ministry in catechizing.

8-04 EMBRACING THE GOD OF EVERYWHERE

Fr. Paul Coutinho

This workshop will develop ways in which we open ourselves to receive God's infinite gifts. As we receive God's love into our lives we will also find ways to share this experience with others. As we grow in our spiritual life we become more effective spiritual guides.

8-05 WHAT? ME LEAD THE PRAYER?

Amy Florian

Have you noticed that sometimes the presider at prayer makes all the difference? With one presider, prayer is heartfelt, effective and life-giving, but with someone else it seems routine or even dead. What about when you preside? In your classroom, in rituals with children, in adult formation sessions or even family gatherings, how can you ensure that when you craft and lead prayer, it falls into the life-giving category? This practical session teaches tools and tips to counteract deadness, helping you to effectively lead good prayer.

8-06 GRIEF AND OUR OLDER ADULTS

Fr. Richard B. Gilbert, PhD

While wisdom is said to come with age, little prepares us, at any age, to face the losses that come to us and those we love. Being older doesn't make it more appreciated or appropriate, though it may be more frequent. Our older adults, the largest group in many parishes, tend to feel forgotten, marginalized and often overwhelmed by the many losses in their lives. We will consider what loss is, unique losses among older adults, the cumulative effects of loss, how loss isolates, and how the church must respond.

8-07 RIGHT RELATIONS AND GENTLE CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Greer G. Gordon

Good conversation is a vivifying and at times even edifying experience. It can delight and enlighten the heart. Yet, Americans seem to be losing the ability to hear and accept the opinions of others. Fast-paced talking with equal give and take is rapidly being replaced by monologues, diatribes and rhetorical tactics. Responsive civility, let alone Christian kindness, is sadly passing away. This session will address the art of Christian conversation, and its necessity for adult faith formation and theological discourse. This session is recommended especially for those in ministries of evangelization, education, catechesis, youth and right to life.

8-08 INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE: CATECHIZING ADULTS WITH NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES

Lisa M. Hendey

The Catholic Church is learning to harness and embrace new media and social networking technologies to respond to the call for new evangelization. From the Vatican's YouTube channel, to hundreds of Catholic podcasts and applications on iTunes, to thousands of Catholic interest groups on Facebook, today's Catholics are turning to new media for faith formation, fellowship and evangelization. Learn to employ new media technologies in adult catechesis and explore the creative use of podcasting, streaming video and social networking techniques. A brief overview of software options and resources for new media basics will be provided.



Congress 2010 will present 187 speakers and 305 workshops.

8-09 RETURN TO THE PASSION 🗣️

Each of us has had life-changing experiences that help shape our faith journey and ultimately lead us to the work we do in bringing others to the well of Christ's love. "Come and go with me to that land," where there will be no more sadness, tears or even death as we share experiences of the living God through ritual and music.

**Tom Kendzia**

Tom Kendzia has been a professional liturgical musician for over 30 years and has 20 collections of liturgical and instrumental music. He has appeared in concert and as a speaker throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Far East, and he is regularly featured at national conferences. Kendzia is the National Music and Liturgy Consultant for Harcourt Religion Publishers, and since 2002, has been the Music and Worship Director of the East Coast Conference for Religious Education.

8-10 MOVING FROM REQUIREMENT TO ENTITLEMENT: THE YOUNG ADULT JOURNEY FROM INHERITANCE TO OWNERSHIP 🗣️**Fr. Patrick LaBelle**

It is often said that the most neglected part of the Catholic church family is the young adults. Is there a way for these younger members of the Catholic family to make the transition from being "young people" to "young adults" as they wrestle with also being Catholic?

8-11 MULTICULTURAL CATECHESIS: WHAT, WHY, HOW**Eva Marie Lumas, SSS, DMin**

All people have a culture, and God works through each culture. This workshop will demonstrate the importance of multiculturalism for the ministry of catechesis. It will also propose practical strategies for catechetical ministers to plan and develop their faith formation efforts that reflect the incredible abundance of the Catholic faith tradition and the God-given dignity of the people they serve.

8-12 THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 🗣️**Rabbi Michael Mayersohn, DD**

Isaiah's is the dominant prophecy of the Hebrew Bible, and his prophecy has become a central part of Jewish and Christian teaching over the millennia. Judaism and Christianity interpret the very nature of prophecy differently and certainly view Isaiah's prophecy differently. Rabbi Michael Mayersohn will share the Jewish understanding and interpretation of those prophecies of Isaiah that are especially important to Christianity (Chapters 7, 9, 11 and 53). See how Judaism and Christianity can reach such different understandings of the same text, and how we can look at the same words and understand them differently in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

8-13 LIFE IN ABUNDANCE? CATHOLIC TEACHING ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACT ON POOR PEOPLE 🗣️

This workshop will explore the serious moral questions raised by environmental degradation, particularly climate change. What does an authentically Catholic approach to climate change look like? What are Pope Benedict and the Catholic bishops saying? How can I make a difference as an individual, a teacher, a student? We will focus specifically on the Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.

**Daniel J. Misleh**

Daniel Misleh is founding Executive Director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, based in Washington, D.C. The Coalition is comprised of 12 national Catholic organizations including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, where he previously served as Director of Diocesan Relations. For the past 20 years, Misleh has given workshops and keynote addresses to engage the Catholic community at the national, state and diocesan levels on the ongoing debate and solutions to climate change.

8-14 STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER 🗣️

Diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer in 2004, Lynn Neu found herself standing in the need of prayer. She sent out an email cry for help that unleashed the power of prayer, community and the Internet ... and gave birth to an online community of loving kindness and ministry called "The God Box." Building relationships and learning how to pray don't happen overnight. Sickness and death do. Here, Lynn shares how she learned to pray, how family, faith and friends helped her heal, how cyberspace can become sacred space, and how you can develop your own lifeline should you be the one singing, "It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

**Lynn Neu**

Lynn Neu is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and author. She has served as a Catholic high school religion teacher in Racine, Wis., as Director of Youth Ministry for the Milwaukee Archdiocese, as Campus Minister for the Catholic Community at U.C. San Diego, and as Adjunct Professor for the Center for Ministry Development. She is the author of "God Box: Seeking Justice" and "The God Box: Hope Strength Courage @ Your Fingertips."

8-15 HOW TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH SEEKERS (WITHOUT BEING OBNOXIOUS) 🗣️**Martin Pable, OFM Cap**

Despite the scandals in the Catholic Church and the decline in membership, there are large numbers of people, including inactive Catholics, who still feel some attraction to the church. They are "seekers," but they will usually not make the first move to connect. But if someone reaches out to them, they will often respond. This workshop will present some simple, practical ways for individual Catholics and parish communities to connect with these seekers, without being pushy or offensive.

8-16 LOVE EVOLVES: DIVINE CREATIVITY IN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE 🎧

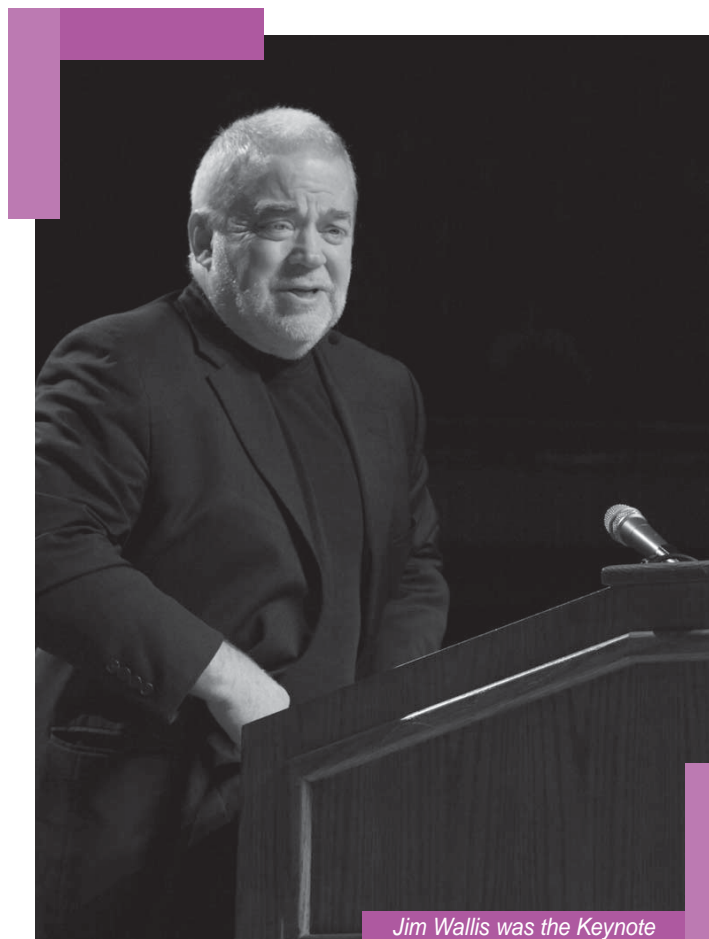
Brian D. Robinette

The theory of evolution is frequently viewed as a significant threat to religious belief, particularly those religions, like Christianity, that affirm divine relationship with the world. Drawing upon exciting new trends in the religion/science dialogue, this workshop examines how a Christian theology of evolution can yield surprising insights into God’s interaction with the world. Creation, on such a view, is a “loving risk” undertaken by a God who encounters us in the mode of creative vulnerability.

8-17 WAS JESUS A JAZZ MUSICIAN? MUSIC AND MYSTICS IN THE FLOW OF SPIRIT 🎧

Philip D. Roderick

If music can be a gateway to the soul drawing us into another dimension, what can we learn from the jazz greats and saints when they share the source of their deep energy and vibrant celebration of life in all its fullness? We shall “travel light and dwell deep,” touching base with luminaries ranging from Dizzy Gillespie to Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, from Louis Armstrong and Annie Lennox to Walter Brueggemann and the Archbishop of Canterbury!



Jim Wallis was the Keynote presenter at Congress 2009.

8-18 RCIA: TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH? 🎧

James Schellman

We are in the second generation of labor recovering the wisdom and practice of adult initiation in the Catholic tradition. This session will explore whether this process is fulfilling its promise of transforming the church. This session will include presentation and facilitated discussion.

8-19 DEBATES IN THE BIBLE: INVITATIONS TO DIALOGUE WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT 🎧

Prof. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher

One of the most difficult ideas proposed by conservative/fundamentalist arguments about Scripture is that the Old Testament presents only one view of the issues that these writings discuss. In this session, Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher will argue that the Old Testament already contains internal debates on a variety of issues – and rather than seeing this as a threat to Scripture – these debates are, instead, an exciting invitation to dialogue with Scripture in both prayer and study. If discussion and debate is not part of biblical theology – why does the New Testament present Christians debating with each other regularly as a part of their life together in faith?

8-20 LAUGHTER: THE ABUNDANT GIFT WE GIVE AND RECEIVE 🎧

Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ, PhD

We need to dance like no one is watching; sing like no one can hear ... and laugh like a child at play, giggling with delight. The healing power of laughter is within each of us. Through laughter, we connect with others. This connection evolves into relationships which enable us to seize in-the-moment joy and free one another to risk becoming more wholly the person we were created to be. Through relationships, we call forth each other’s gifts and realize possibility that could not be imagined alone. Astounded by everyday blessings, we live life from a place of abundance and discover the richness of our true self.

8-21 WHY BE CATHOLIC? WHAT MAKES US “DISTINCT”?

Fr. Dick Sparks, CSP

In this era of ecumenical and interreligious sensitivity we sometimes gloss over what divides us. Or, in the opposite direction, we might tend to measure our own worth by highlighting and criticizing the shortcomings of other religions or Christian denominations. That’s not what this presentation is about! It’s about the positive – what makes us tick? Why be Catholic? Are there any core beliefs, practices or slants-on-life which make Roman Catholicism “unique,” or at least “distinct”? Yes, there are six of them!



Congress offers both lunchtime and evening concerts.

8-22 WITH THE DAWN REJOICING: A REFLECTION ON PAIN AND HOPE 🗣️

Melannie Svoboda, SND

Many of us need help in dealing with pain (our own and that of others) and with our efforts to hang on to hope. This workshop will provide help by exploring the universality of pain, pain as wise adviser, and the great Christian paradox of cross and resurrection. Using Scripture, stories and humor, Sr. Melannie Svoboda will also probe the nature of hope and offer suggestions for sustaining hope in our contemporary world.

8-23 CREATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY 🗣️

Michael Theisen

Tired of the same old “youth group” gathering that occupies their time but not the hearts and minds of the young teens who are present? How can we be faithful to our catechetical calling to echo the faith and lead young teens down the road of discipleship while making sure that we actively engage and apprentice them in the process? Let’s have some fun as we actively answer these questions together. Warning: This workshop is very hands on – you will not leave empty-handed or empty-headed!

8-24 MAKING A DIFFERENCE: BRINGING REALISM TO K-12 PARISH PROGRAMS 🗣️

Thomas P. Walters, PhD

Catechesis is the church’s formal effort to share the light of faith. Realistically, what can catechists and parents expect as a result of active involvement in parish K-12 programs? This session will take a realistic look at the one-hour, once-a-week, 30-times a year structure currently in place in many parishes and suggest how it might be used more effectively.

8-25 EVERY DAY ABOVE GROUND IS A GOOD ONE! LEARNING TO APPRECIATE GOD’S ABUNDANCE 🗣️

David Wells

Abundance is not something we are used to. It is tempting to be more conscious of what we don’t have, than what we do. In this workshop we will consider how to grasp and then communicate the sheer generosity of God. By exploring this theme we will consider the uplifting role that gratitude can play in our lives and that the first obstacle to gratitude is to fail to see what God has done for us. By using church teaching, the spiritual masters and poets, images and stories, we will consider together not only how to experience God’s abundance, but also how to communicate it in the sessions we lead in our parishes and schools.

8-26 DON’T GET WEARY: CARE OF SELF AS MINISTER 🗣️

Dr. C. Vanessa White

Why are today’s ministers burnt out, stressed out and wiped out? Ministers are continually challenged with caring for self while ministering to and with others. Now, Jesus clearly states that the Greatest Commandment is to Love God and your neighbor as *yourself*. Ultimately our lack of caring for self is a justice issue – which impacts our effectiveness as ministers. This workshop will share strategies for caring for self that are attentive to our spiritual, emotional and physical well-being, which in the process will make us better ministers.

8-70 CỘNG TÁC TRONG MỤC VỤ 🗣️

Mong-Hang Nguyen - Nguyễn Mộng Hằng

Hồng ân của Thiên Chúa được thể hiện thật dồi dào qua sự cộng tác giữa linh mục/tu sĩ và nam/nữ giáo dân trong mục vụ. Mỗi thành viên được lớn lên trong ân sủng qua sự tôn trọng, cảm thông, và giúp nhau phát triển năng khiếu. Buổi hội thảo này sẽ trình bày một số cách thức cộng tác trong mục vụ phù hợp với văn hóa Việt Nam. Thuyết trình viên cùng một số người đã từng cộng tác trong các mục vụ sẽ chia sẻ những tâm tình sâu sắc dựa trên kinh nghiệm mục vụ làm việc chung.

