

PERIOD 1 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

- 1-01 Teaching Youth to Follow Christ ... “The Way” of Discipleship (*) - **Steve Angrisano**
- 1-02 The Word of God in the New Evangelization (*) - **Stephen Binz**
- 1-03 Time for Passion (*) - **Renée Bondi**
- 1-04 The Need for Pastoral Leadership (*) - **Rev. Patrick Brennan**
- 1-05 CaTECHchesis with TECH Tools (*) - **Sr. Caroline Cerveny**
- 1-06 Blessed Are You - **Dr. Kathleen Chesto**
- 1-07 The Suffering That Speaks Justice (*) - **Dr. Michael Downey**
- 1-08 Teaching and Reaching Junior High Youth (*) - **Steven Ellair**
- 1-09 Love and the Eucharist of Jesus - **Fr. Robert Fabing**
- 1-10 Beyond Belief: Reclaiming Biblical Faith (*) - **Sr. Fran Ferder & Fr. John Heagle**
- 1-11 How to Prepare Children – and Their Parents – for the Sacraments (*) - **Elizabeth Ficocelli**
- 1-12 The Art of Grieving: Learning to Die Well, Learning to Live Well (*) - **Fr. Richard Fragomeni**
- 1-13 Behind the Scenes at Vatican II: The Council that Almost Failed (*) - **Dr. Richard Gaillardetz**
- 1-14 A Child Asks: Why Did Jesus Take Grandpa/Grandma Away? (*) - **Rev. Richard Gilbert**
- 1-15 Live from a Burning Fire: Three Practices of the Abundant Life (*) - **Sr. Bridget Haase**
- 1-16 Soft Hearts from Hard Places (*) - **Rev. Terry Hershey**
- 1-17 Heralds of the Good News: Becoming the Best You Can Be (*) - **Dr. Sandra Kennedy**
- 1-18 Glimpsing Eternity: Film, Faith and the Last Things - **Fr. Richard Leonard**
- 1-19 Whatever Happened to the Common Good? (*) - **Rev. Bryan Massingale**
- 1-20 Helping Young People Work Through Difficult Times: Pastoral Care! (*) - **Bob McCarty**
- 1-21 A Head-on Collision: American Culture and the Bible (*) - **Fr. J. Patrick Mullen**
- 1-22 Food Is Love: A Eucharistic Theology for the Family - **Fr. Leo Patalinghug**
- 1-23 Faith Formation for Every Adult in Your Church – It’s Possible Today! (*) - **John Roberto**
- 1-24 Recognizing God’s Voice: The Cadence and Tone of the Voice of the Good Shepherd (*) - **Rev. Ronald Rolheiser**
- 1-25 Liberated from the Literal: Genesis 1-11 as Theological Challenge (*) - **Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher**
- 1-26 Global Events/Local Events: Religious Perspectives of a Jew, a Catholic and a Muslim (*) - **Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith**
- 1-27 Celebrating the Way of the Cross and Other Prayers with Children (*) - **Christopher Walker**
- 1-28 Lean Back: The Art of Regaining a Healthy Spiritual and Psychological Perspective - **Dr. Robert Wicks**
- 1-70 Vietnamese Workshop: (The Spirituality of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan) (*) - **Rev. Bao Nguyen**

PERIOD 2 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

- 2-01 The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines (*) - **John Allen Jr.**
- 2-02 Liturgical Dance for Children: Just Imagine! (*) - **Donna Anderle**
- 2-03 A Culture of Discipline for Contagious Faith (*) - **Rev. Patrick Brennan**
- 2-04 Children Are Crying: Who Is Listening? (*) - **Sr. Kathy Bryant**
- 2-05 Connect, Awaken and Share: Practical Ways to Engage Parents in the Faith Formation of Their Children (*) - **Joellyn Ciccirelli & Tom McGrath**
- 2-06 A Spirituality for Busy Persons (*) - **Rev. Jim Clarke**
- 2-07 Discernment: Using the Internet Skillfully (*) - **Sr. Mary Margaret Funk**
- 2-08 The Resurrection and the Glory of the Cross (*) - **Dr. Greer Gordon**
- 2-09 The New Order of Mass: Celebrating & Deepening Our Understanding of the Liturgy - **David Haas**
- 2-10 The Psalms: Songbook of Faith - **Marty Haugen & Tony Alonso**
- 2-11 Social Media Strategies for Today’s Church (*) - **Lisa Hendey**
- 2-12 Character Counts: Formation and Education - **Michael Josephson**
- 2-13 The Prologue of John (1:1-18): Proclaiming the Good News of Life! (*) - **Fr. Felix Just**
- 2-14 “Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair?” (*) - **Fr. Joe Kempf**
- 2-15 What I Wish Parents Understood (*) - **Keri Krout**
- 2-16 The New Evangelization (*) - **Fr. James Mallon**
- 2-17 National Lay Ecclesial Ministry Standards and Certification: Can They Make a Difference? (*) - **Charlotte McCorquodale**
- 2-18 The Word of God Brings Us Back to Life! (*) - **Dr. Megan McKenna**
- 2-19 Restoring Hope, Restoring Lives, Restoring Justice (*) - **Suzanne Neuhaus**
- 2-20 “Extreme Makeover”: Foundations and Blueprints for Youth Ministry Teams (*) - **Michael Patin**
- 2-21 “I’m Not a Chicken! I’m an Eagle!” Re-kindling the Fire of Jeremiah! (*) - **Rev. R. Tony Ricard**
- 2-22 Christian Morality 2012: Relationships Trump Rules - **Fr. Dick Sparks**
- 2-23 Identity and Inclusiveness: A Tug-of-War in Today’s Church? (*) - **Peter Steinfelds**
- 2-24 Can You Tell Me What a Parish Is? (*) - **Michael Sweeney**
- 2-25 New Evangelization: Some Perspectives from Asia (*) - **Archbishop Luis Tagle**
- 2-26 Five Things Teachers Need to Know to Help Students Develop Self-discipline (*) - **Char Wenc**
- 2-27 So You Love an Alcoholic (or Addict)? And Everything Is Getting Worse? (*) - **Fr. Thomas Weston**
- 2-70 Vietnamese Workshop (Teaching Chastity to Youth) (*) - **Bro. Fortunat Phong**

🎧 and (*) are recorded sessions

PERIOD 3 – 3:00 - 4:30 PM

- 3-01 Being “Spiritual” vs. Being “Faithful” (*) - **Ansel Augustine**
- 3-02 Music for Celebrating the Mass with Children (*) - **John Burland**
- 3-03 The Music and Magic of Ignatian Mysticism (*) - **Fr. Paul Coutinho**
- 3-04 Praying Psalm 23 with the Body (*) - **Roy DeLeon**
- 3-05 Celebrate Recovery: A Catholic Approach (*) - **Mike Eisenbeiss**
- 3-06 Stay Here, Keep Watch with Me, Watch and Pray (*) - **Sr. Barbara Fiand**
- 3-07 Symphony of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI Exhortation on the Word of God in Our Lives (*) - **Fr. Richard Fragomeni**
- 3-08 Mark My Words: Giving Voice to Mark’s Gospel Through Drama (*) - **Anne Frawley-Mangan**
- 3-09 Four Paths to Wisdom in the Christian Tradition (*) - **Dr. Richard Gaillardetz**
- 3-10 RCIA: Back to the Basics (*) - **Dr. Jerry Galipeau**
- 3-11 Implementing the Bishops’ Framework on High School Catechesis (*) - **Dr. Thomas Groome**
- 3-12 Walking With Mary Through Media (*) - **Beth Mahoney & Fr. David Guffey**
- 3-13 Good News People: An Affirming Approach to Parish Social Ministry (*) - **Jack Jezreel**
- 3-14 Finding Catholic Game Changers - **Matthew Kelly**
- 3-15 Saved By Beauty (*) - **Bro. Michael O’Neill McGrath**
- 3-16 Creating a Partnership with Parents Toward Discipleship (*) - **Daniel Mulhall**
- 3-17 “This Generation Shall Not Pass”: Christ’s End-time Discourses (*) - **Rev. William Nicholas**
- 3-18 Practice Makes Catholic: Moving from a Learned Faith to a Lived Faith (*) - **Joe Paprocki**
- 3-19 Living the Call – The Lay Vocation at Work (*) - **William Simon Jr. & Cambria Smith**
- 3-20 Making Each Moment Count (*) - **Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin**
- 3-21 Giftedness: The Secret to Full Parish Involvement (*) - **Bro. Loughlan Sofield**
- 3-22 AIDS and Our Global Catholic Compassion (*) - **Carl Stecker**
- 3-23 Fun Formation: Essential Elements of an Engaging Youth Ministry Program (*) - **Michael Theisen**
- 3-24 Theology and Technology – Making It Work for High Schools (*) - **Ailis Travers & Elaine Mahon**
- 3-25 Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday (*) - **Rev. Paul Turner**
- 3-26 Pastoring & the New Evangelization: Issues and Strategies Pastors and Pastoral Leaders Ask for Most (*) - **Fr. Freddy Washington**
- 3-27 I Just Wanna Praise: African-American Spirituality for Today (*) - **C. Vanessa White**
- 3-70 Vietnamese Workshop: (Liturgical Catechesis) (*) - **Rev. Thinh Duc Pham**

I-01 TEACHING YOUTH TO FOLLOW CHRIST ... "THE WAY" OF DISCIPLESHIP

It's not enough to teach our young people about God, we need to provide them with opportunities that draw them into an experience with God that they can share with the world. The youth that we encounter in our parishes as part of catechesis, youth ministry and sacramental preparation are ready for this challenge. Participants will explore ways to engage youth to live the Word, share the Word, and *be* the next generation of faith-filled disciples.



Steve Angrisano

Steve Angrisano is a musician, inspirational speaker and workshop presenter. He has been featured at major youth events nationally and internationally, including four World Youth Days, five National Catholic Youth Conferences and numerous L.A. Congress Youth Days. Angrisano lives in Coppell, Texas. His works include a CD called "Inescapable Love" and a book titled "Live: Essential Songs for Youth Ministry."

I-02 THE WORD OF GOD IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

It is not enough to discover Jesus Christ; we must bring him to others. The New Evangelization, initiated by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, is now taking concrete form in the Church's ministry. All of us are called to be a part of this renewed missionary energy – invigorating the baptized, attracting new disciples of Jesus, and renewing culture with the splendor of the Gospel. This New Evangelization is enkindled by the Word of God. Explore how Scriptures can lead Christ's Church to become a more vital community of faith and prepare us to fulfill our Christian mission for the work of Christ.



Stephen J. Binz

Stephen Binz is a Catholic biblical scholar, popular speaker and award-winning author of more than two dozen books on the Bible. Following graduate biblical studies in Rome and Jerusalem, he has developed Bible studies in the church for over 25 years. Binz is author of "Lectio Divina Bible Study," "Ancient-Future Bible Study" and the series, "Conversing with God in Scripture."

I-03 TIME FOR PASSION

When we get right down to it ... just what are we passionate about? What do we live for? What drives us? As Christians our response should be, "We are passionate about living our lives for Christ." But where do we start? In this sometimes challenging and always encouraging talk, Renée Bondi will take you through the necessary steps of defining what it means to be passionate and how to become close to and passionate about Jesus Christ.



Renée Bondi

Recording artist and speaker, Renée Bondi travels throughout the United States singing and speaking for conferences, churches, retreats, youth rallies and corporate events. She has appeared as a guest on EWTN's "Life on the Rock" and on St. Joseph Radio. Bondi has been special guest for many adult formation programs, sharing her life story before and after her accident.

I-04 THE NEED FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Some feel that leadership is a unique ability that only a few possess. The fact is that most people can become leaders. However, they must be given the proper training and formation if their leadership is to emerge. True leaders help with the challenge of adaptive change. They develop new knowledge to address emerging needs and challenges. The relationship between leadership and authority will be discussed as well as the development of systems thinking, learning from failure, the importance of learning conflict management skills, and the need for community as a context to grow in leadership. This session will also study some of the areas of need in parishes and in the Church crying out for the development of leadership.



Fr. Patrick Brennan, MDiv, STL, DMin, PsyD

Chicago native Fr. Patrick Brennan founded the Office for Chicago Catholic Evangelization as well as the National Council for Catholic Evangelization. He is currently President of the National Center for Evangelization and Parish Renewal. Through this organization, he travels and resources parishes and dioceses in evangelization and parish renewal. Fr. Brennan also serves as the Director of Mission Integration and Pastoral Care at The Clare, a Franciscan retirement community in Chicago while still sacramental minister/minister of formation at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, Ill.

I-05 CA"TECH"CHESIS WITH TECH TOOLS

In this session, Sr. Caroline Cerveny will present some creative tools to engage your students in sharing the Gospel with their families, friends and parish family. You will learn how to apply Web 2.0 tools to your catechetical ministry with or without technology in your classroom. Come learn about 10 tools that are mostly free and students love to use.



Caroline Cerveny, SSJ-TOSF, DMin

Dr. Caroline Cerveny, a sister of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, is founder and President of Interactive Connections, a faith-based educational technology ministry. She has been involved in educational technology since 1984 with experience in teaching at Catholic high school and college levels, involvement in parish religious education and in educational technology in the publishing industry. Sr. Cerveny is author of several articles for ministry magazines, and she regularly blogs and tweets.

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RECongress Milestones

In 1956, the first Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine (CCD) "institute" was held at Mount Carmel High School on Hoover Street in Los Angeles. Some 500 teachers and catechists attended the two-day conference, listened to speakers and gained experience from other teachers.

In 1957, the event at Bishop Conaty Catholic Girls High School saw attendance double in size. In subsequent years attendance continued to increase at Loyola University; and culminated with over 4,000 attending the event at Immaculate Heart College.

I-06 BLESSED ARE YOU

Blessed are you poor ... you meek ... you who mourn. Was Jesus challenging us to act differently, or was he telling us the blessings, the gifts, we already possess? Come take a gentler look at the Beatitudes, the people of Scripture and history and everyday life who embodied them. Recognize the blessing in yourself and how it is an essential part of the voice that is infusing life.

**Dr. Kathleen O. Chesto**

Dr. Kathleen Chesto is a retired consultant in religious education and family spirituality – topics on which she has produced many books, videos and articles and has received many awards. The former parish and diocesan Director of Religious Education has taught kindergarten through graduate school. Although Dr. Chesto no longer travels to do so, for over 20 years she led workshops at conferences in the United States, Canada, England and Ireland for parents, catechists, clergy and care-givers.

I-07 THE SUFFERING THAT SPEAKS JUSTICE 🗣️

The Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the source of all the other mysteries of Christian faith, the light that enlightens them (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 234). In its treatment of social justice (CCC 2419-49), in the section on the moral life, the Catechism is rather sparse. In this workshop Dr. Michael Downey will provide clues for an integrated and integrating approach to the whole of the Christian life in the Spirit, inclusive of an ethic of social justice springing from the contemplation of the Divine Trinity.

**Dr. Michael Downey**

Dr. Michael Downey has served as professor of theology and spirituality at U.S. universities and seminaries for 30 years, in addition to guiding retreats, giving conferences and lecturing in developing countries throughout the world. From 1997-2011, he served as the Cardinal's Theologian for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He is now Diocesan Theologian and Director of Continuing Formation of Priests for the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif.

I-08 TEACHING AND REACHING JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH 🗣️

Today's youth are connected to the world in ways never imagined before, and they have much competing for their attention. Where does faith fit into this picture, and how do we celebrate and teach our faith in ways that engage junior high youth? Come to this workshop to explore these questions, and leave with some ideas that can enliven your ministry!

**Steven Ellair**

Steven Ellair is a Senior Editor and National Presenter with Minnesota-based Saint Mary's Press. He has been involved in catechetical ministry for 20 years and has served as a parish catechist, youth minister, Catholic school teacher, and catechetical consultant for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Ellair has been involved in Catholic publishing for nearly 10 years and continues to write and speak nationally on issues related to catechesis. He has presented at national religious education events for 17 years.

I-09 LOVE AND THE EUCHARIST OF JESUS

This eucharistic spirituality session will move into a practical and meaningful understanding of the sacrament of Eucharist as a place to go with our “here and now” experience embodying the presence of God inviting us to come simply as we are. We will explore how Christ gifts us in the Eucharist with a home for our need for love. Materials will be used from Fr. Bob Fabing's new liturgical music collections and “new Mass” as well as from his previously published books to enliven and develop this session.

**Bob Fabing, SJ**

Fr. Bob Fabing has founded 89 marriage counseling and family therapy centers – The Jesuit Institute for Family Life International Network – with locations in Europe, Africa, Asia, Central America and the United States. The Jesuit priest also founded and has served for over 30 years as Director of the 36-Day program in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, Calif., where he lives. Fr. Fabing is the author of five books and a composer of 12 CDs of liturgical music.

I-10 BEYOND BELIEF: RECLAIMING BIBLICAL FAITH 🗣️

What does it mean to “keep faith”? What does it mean to believe? In Scripture, faith is a verb before it is a noun. The Latin word *credo* originally meant “I give my heart to.” It implies a radical act of commitment to the person of the Risen Christ. Over the centuries this earlier meaning of faith gradually evolved into belief – the assent to formal doctrines. This shift has contributed to a growing chasm between spirituality and religion, and a “crisis of faith” for many people. This presentation explores practical ways in which we can reclaim a more personal, biblical way of believing.

**Fran Ferder, FSPA, PhD**

Franciscan Sister Fran Ferder is a clinical psychologist, university teacher, author and international speaker. Since 1985 she has been Co-Director of Therapy and Renewal Associates (TARA) in the Pacific Northwest. She is also an adjunct instructor in the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. Sr. Ferder has authored several books, including “Words Made Flesh” and, with John Heagle, “Tender Fires: The Spiritual Promise of Sexuality.”

**John Heagle, MA, JCL**

John Heagle is a priest, counselor and author with more than 46 years of pastoral experience as a campus minister, college professor, pastor and retreat director. Since 1985 he has served as a licensed psychotherapist and Co-Director of Therapy and Renewal Associates. He is also an adjunct instructor in the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. Fr. Heagle is the author of eight books, including “Justice Rising: The Emerging Biblical Vision.”

I-11 HOW TO PREPARE CHILDREN – AND THEIR PARENTS – FOR THE SACRAMENTS ☪

The sacraments are the special and intimate ways God becomes present in our daily lives. This workshop is unique in that it takes a family approach in making all seven of these important connections to God come alive in our young children and their parents, instilling in all of us a deeper appreciation of our Catholic faith.



Elizabeth Ficocelli

Elizabeth Ficocelli is an award-winning and best-selling Catholic author of 14 books for adults and young people, writing on the sacraments, Marian topics, vocations awareness and family issues. Her latest book is "Seven From Heaven: How the Sacraments Can Heal, Nurture, and Protect Your Family Today." A Catholic convert and mother of four, Ficocelli is a frequent guest on Catholic radio and television, and is a popular speaker at conferences, parishes, schools and events.

I-12 THE ART OF GRIEVING: LEARNING TO DIE WELL, LEARNING TO LIVE WELL ☪

This session will examine the importance of grieving as a Christian act of a spiritual life. It will offer participants the opportunity to examine the losses in their lives as moments of grace and to honor death as a way of learning to live well.



Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni

Fr. Richard Fragomeni, a priest of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., is Associate Professor of Liturgy and Homiletics, and Chair of the Department of Word and Worship at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Fr. Fragomeni has written widely on liturgy, music, symbolism, the catechumenate, the Eucharist and liturgies with children among other subjects. In addition to his teaching and preaching duties, he serves as spiritual director for the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, an Italian-American parish in Chicago's Little Italy.

I-13 BEHIND THE SCENES AT VATICAN II: THE COUNCIL THAT ALMOST FAILED ☪

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. Many are familiar with the Council's key reforms and basic teachings, but not many appreciate how close Vatican II came to being a complete disaster. This workshop will tell the behind-the-scenes story of the key factors and events that forestalled disaster and profoundly reshaped our Church.



Richard Gaillardetz

Richard Gaillardetz is the Joseph McCarthy Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. He previously served as Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo, Ohio, and as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the Graduate School of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. Gaillardetz is a popular public speaker and has published numerous articles and eight books including, "Keys to the Council," co-authored with Catherine Clifford.

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RECongress Milestones

In 1973, Msgr. John Barry began what became his 10-year term as the new Director. The CCD office was renamed the Office of Religious Education and the Congress event became the "Religious Education Congress." Scores of workshops in Spanish were offered for the first time that year. Each year the number of workshops escalates as do the crowds swarming to hear the speakers and engage in the various outreaches.

I-14 A CHILD ASKS: WHY DID JESUS TAKE GRAND-PA/GRANDMA AWAY? ☪

Children grieve. We all do, in different ways and with unique meanings. As a church dedicated to the religious education and care of our children we must set the standard for bereavement care for children. Children will ask you about the death of their grandparent: "Why?" Don't run and hide. Stay. Listen. Bless. Be blessed.



Rev. Richard B. Gilbert, PhD, DMin, CT

Dr. Richard Gilbert, an Anglican priest, is the John D. Morgan Chair for Pastoral Psychology and Counseling at The Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana. He has made several presentations at the Religious Education Congress and his speaking, lecturing and keynoting have taken him to several national and international conferences. A review editor for the journal, "Illness, Crisis, and Loss," Dr. Gilbert is a prolific writer, whose books include "HeartPeace: Healing Help for Grieving Folks."

I-15 LIVE FROM A BURNING FIRE: THREE PRACTICES OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE ☪

What do we do when we discover that, instead of living from a burning fire, we are trying to fan our life's flame from cold, smoldering ashes? In this session we will find kindling in three practices of the abundant life: to live in the moment; to trust in divine care; to see God everywhere. From personal experience, Sr. Bridget Haase knows these practices can set life ablaze: be it ministry to the paralyzed and dying; journeying with her mother with Alzheimer's disease; or struggling to accept her father's suicide. Faithful to these practices and our own graced story, we will live with fiery passion and keep Jesus' dream for our world alive. Come, join us!



Sr. Bridget Haase, OSU

Ursuline Sister Bridget Haase, a former missionary to Africa, Mexico and Appalachia, is currently Spirituality Coordinator at The Boston Home, a care facility for adults in Massachusetts. She also leads days of prayer, parish missions, retreats and presents throughout the United States. Sr. Haase is author of "Generous Faith: Stories to Inspire Abundant Living" and co-author of "Enkindled: Holy Spirit, Holy Gifts." She has been featured on the TV program "NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams" and co-hosts Relevant Radio Network's weekly show, "Spirit and Life."

I-16 SOFT HEARTS FROM HARD PLACES ☺

We know that we should love one another. But love can only spill from a heart that has been softened. When faced with tragedy or uncertainty or misfortune, we want to have a “handle” on it, or fix it, or make it go away. Terry Hershey teaches us how to live and love from a soft heart. This is not about a way to figure life out. It’s about the permission to see the world – this day – through the eyes of our heart. It happens when: we allow ourselves to feel, fully and wholly; we allow ourselves to receive love, compassion and kindness without suspicion; we are free to embrace an extraordinary core of strength that resides inside of us ... and let it spill to those around us.

**Rev. Terry Hershey**

Terry Hershey is an inspirational speaker, humorist, author and landscape designer on Vashon Island in the Puget Sound, near Seattle. His gardens and books have been featured in magazines and newspapers of the Pacific Northwest, and his work has been featured on CNN, PBS, and NPR, and he is a regular contributor to The Hallmark Channel’s “New Morning” show. Hershey speaks throughout the United States and Canada.

I-17 HERALDS OF THE GOOD NEWS: BECOMING THE BEST YOU CAN BE ☺

The word “catechist” comes from a word meaning “to echo” and, in our role as catechists, in whatever way we carry out that role, our ministry is to echo the person of Jesus. Whether we are catechists in a parish or Catholic school setting, we are called to be the messengers or heralds of the Good News of Jesus. This presentation will examine the various qualities of a good catechist and what it takes to become the very best that we can be.

**Dr. Saundra Kennedy**

After many years as a Catholic schoolteacher at the elementary through high school levels, Dr. Saundra Kennedy became a representative for William H. Sadlier publishers. Based in New Orleans, she now serves as Sadlier’s National Religion Consultant and has been a contributor for many of their catechetical materials. Dr. Kennedy has been keynote for diocesan Catholic school events and religious education conferences across the country.

I-18 GLIMPING ETERNITY: FILM, FAITH AND THE LAST THINGS

For the last 20 years the most successful box office films have been science fantasies. There is great interest in other worlds and other modes of existence. How can these elements of popular culture be reconciled with Catholic theology, and what contemporary things can we preach and teach in regard to heaven, hell and purgatory?

**Rev. Richard Leonard, SJ**

Jesuit priest Fr. Richard Leonard is Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, based in Melbourne, Australia. As a visiting professor, he has taught at the Gregorian University in Rome; at the University of California, Los Angeles; and at the University of Melbourne and the Jesuit Theological College in Australia. Fr. Leonard is author of several books.

I-19 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE COMMON GOOD? ☺

Political and social discussions in the United States have become divisive and contentious. Yet Catholic social teaching calls us to promote the “common good” of society. This session examines our belief in the common good, and the challenges of living this conviction in a fragmented and divided society.

**Fr. Bryan Massingale, STD**

Fr. Bryan Massingale, a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, has taught at the seminary and university levels for 20 years and is currently Professor of Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee. A noted authority on Catholic moral theology and social ethics, he has lectured extensively on social and racial justice issues throughout the United States. A former President of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Fr. Massingale has addressed most national Catholic conferences and is a past Religious Education Congress keynoter.

I-20 HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WORK THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES: PASTORAL CARE! ☺

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless when our young people are hurting and in crisis. Peer relationships, family, school and neighborhood – young people can experience difficulties in any aspect of their lives. Yet our relationship with young people is our best resource! During this session we will describe the crisis signs and causes among young people, identify distress signals, and consider possible responses to youth in crisis. We will also look at the three “Rs”: recognition, response and referral.

**Robert J. McCarty, DMin**

Bob McCarty is Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, based in Washington, D.C. He has been in youth ministry since 1973, serving in parish, school, community and diocesan settings. McCarty is an author with several books, and provides training in ministry skills and issues internationally. He also serves as a volunteer in his parish youth ministry and catechetical program at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fulton, Md.

I-21 A HEAD-ON COLLISION: AMERICAN CULTURE AND THE BIBLE ☺

Even though parts of American culture are remarkably biblical, there are elements that are not. This workshop, based on the principle that “every human culture needs to be evangelized, including mine,” will probe some of the Scripture passages that challenge us as Americans to new ways of living out our lives more faithfully.

**Rev. J. Patrick Mullen**

Fr. Pat Mullen, a priest of Los Angeles, is Professor of Biblical Studies at St. John’s Seminary and Parish Administrator of Junipero Serra, both in Camarillo, Calif. He is author of “Dining with Pharisees” and “Sacred Scripture,” a high school introduction to the Scriptures due out in 2011. He has been a presenter at diocesan and regional conferences throughout the Southwest and speaks annually at the L.A. Religious Education Congress.

I-22 FOOD IS LOVE: A EUCHARISTIC THEOLOGY FOR THE FAMILY

Based on the Grace Before Meals movement, Fr. Leo Patalinghug shares practical eucharistic theology around the communion of the family's dinner table, knowing that food is what brings the family together. In our modern world, families are being pulled apart from the Lord's Table and from their dining room table. Jesus shows the way to win this "food fight" is to feed our families with love – what we all crave! Join this inspiring, funny and theologically profound talk with the winner of the "Steak Fajita Throwdown with Bobby Flay" on Food Network to learn more about Fr. Leo's movement.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug

Fr. Leo Patalinghug, a priest of the Baltimore Archdiocese, is a professor at Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary in Maryland, where he is also Chair of Pastoral Theology. Fr. Patalinghug is an internationally known conference speaker and popular TV and radio personality who has appeared on ABC, EWTN, CBS and even the Food Network, as he hosts the movement, "Grace Before Meals." He is author of the book "Grace Before Meals: Recipes and Inspirations for Family Meals and Family Life."

I-23 FAITH FORMATION FOR EVERY ADULT IN YOUR CHURCH – IT'S POSSIBLE TODAY!

What would it be like if your church really believed that you could provide faith formation for every adult in your faith community? What new insights and assumptions about adult faith formation would you need to adopt? What would a "faith formation for every adult" plan look like? What would it be like if you conceptualized adult faith formation, not as a series of program offerings, but as a faith formation network – in online and physical settings – with a diversity of ways to learn and grow in faith? This session will present a 21st-century model of adult faith formation and a variety of strategies, resources and technologies to bring the model to life.



John Roberto

John Roberto is President of LifelongFaith Associates, editor of their journal and coordinator of the Faith Formation 2020 Initiative and the Faith Formation Learning Exchange (with Vibrant Faith Ministries). Roberto works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, and gives presentations and workshops in lifelong faith formation across the United States. His latest publications include "Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith" and "The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry," which he co-authored.

I-24 RECOGNIZING GOD'S VOICE: THE CADENCE AND TONE OF THE VOICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus assures us that his disciples will recognize his voice. But we are surrounded by many voices which beckon us and promise life. How do we recognize which is the voice of the Good Shepherd? How do we distinguish voices which infuse life from voices which lead away from life? What is the cadence and tone of God's voice in this world? In this session we will look to discerning the voice that infuses life.



Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Fr. 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. Fr. Rolheiser's books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than 80 newspapers worldwide. For most of the 38 years of his priesthood, he has taught theology and philosophy at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

I-25 LIBERATED FROM THE LITERAL: GENESIS 1-11 AS THEOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

Serious Christians are tired of arguing about taking Genesis literally – but beyond this debate are fascinating issues of theological importance when reading Genesis as "inspired," but not necessarily "literal history." We will discover that not only is fundamentalist literalism not the best way to read Genesis, it actually misses the central and compelling points! In this session, we will explore some of those profound theological issues.



Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher

Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher has taught at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles for 21 years, where he is currently Professor of Old Testament Studies and Director of Peace Studies. He has been honored with numerous teaching awards and has published dozens of scholarly articles and numerous books. Dr. Christopher maintains particular interest in theological issues related to African- and Native-American history and experience. He has presented at the RECongress for the past 16 years in addition to Catholic conferences in Las Vegas and Salt Lake City, Utah.

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RECongress Milestones

In 1967, with the cooperation of the dioceses of Monterey-Fresno and San Diego, the agenda for the first three-day "Congress" was set. The purpose, as stated by officials, was "to provide an atmosphere of Christian unity ... for the benefit of each and the common good of all mankind." It was on January 13-15, 1967 that the first "Southern California Confraternity Congress" was held at LAX-area International Hotel (the property located at Sepulveda and Century boulevards) with a registration fee of \$5. An estimated 3,000 teachers were expected, but more than 7,000 were in attendance, causing major problems with services and programming. Then-Tidings writer (later Editor) Al Antczak from the Los Angeles Archdiocesan newspaper recalled waiting 10 minutes to get on a crowded elevator that still stopped at every floor.

I-26 GLOBAL EVENTS/LOCAL EVENTS: RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES OF A JEW, A CATHOLIC AND A MUSLIM 🗣️

From the perspectives of their religious traditions, Father Alexei Smith (Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Los Angeles Archdiocese), Rabbi Randy Brown (American Jewish Committee), and Professor Najeeba Syeed-Miller (faculty at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, Calif.) will discuss the changing impact of global events on the ability of Jews, Catholics and Muslims to live together peacefully here.

**Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith**

In 1987, Fr. Alexei Smith, a Greek Catholic priest and Los Angeles native, was assigned to two Eastern Catholic communities in El Segundo, Calif.: St. Andrew Russian Greek Church and St. Paul Melkite Greek Mission. He has served as the Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the Los Angeles Archdiocese since 2000, and as Vice President of the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers. Fr. Smith is a frequent speaker at the L.A. Congress and at local interfaith venues.

I-27 CELEBRATING THE WAY OF THE CROSS AND OTHER PRAYERS WITH CHILDREN 🗣️

The Way of the Cross and daily prayer help form our children in their life of faith. Using music, word and image, we will explore different ways of helping our children talk with God.

**Christopher Walker**

Christopher Walker is an internationally known church composer, speaker on liturgical music and choral conductor. Presently, he is Director of Music at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles. Walker's music is sung in churches worldwide, and he travels frequently, giving workshops and lectures on liturgy, music and children's worship in countries around the globe. His latest music offerings include a rich variety of songs and psalms.

I-28 LEAN BACK: THE ART OF REGAINING A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Our faith teaches us, it is not the amount of darkness in the world or ourselves that matters, it is how we stand in that darkness. Sound psychology supports this in many practical and exciting ways. In this lively presentation, Dr. Robert Wicks will offer insights and approaches he normally shares with professional helpers and healers (priests, Catholic vowed religious, physicians, nurses, therapists, relief workers and others) ways in which all of us can appreciate and enjoy in our intense lives.

**Dr. Robert J. Wicks**

Psychologist, speaker and author, Dr. Robert Wicks is a Professor at Loyola University Maryland and has taught in universities and professional schools of psychology, medicine, social work, nursing and theology. In his clinical practice, Dr. Wicks focuses on working with psychotherapists, physicians, nurses, educators, relief workers and persons in full-time ministry. He has served as General Editor of three series of books, and has published over 40 books, including his latest book, "Streams of Contentment."

I-70 Linh Đạo của Đức Hồng Y Nguyễn Văn Thuận 🗣️

Sau ngày Sài Gòn thất thủ năm 1975, Đức Cha Nguyễn Văn Thuận bị cộng sản Việt Nam bỏ tù 13 năm, trong đó có 9 năm biệt giam. Nhà cầm quyền không tuyên hay kết án ngài. Ở tù ngài dâng Thánh Lễ với ba giọt rượu và một giọt nước trong lòng bàn tay. Ngài cảm hóa các cai tù và cán bộ. Năm 1991, ngài bị trục xuất khỏi Việt Nam. Được tấn phong hồng y năm 2001, tên của ngài lọt vào trong danh sách của giới chuyên môn phỏng đoán các vị có cơ hội cao đắc cử giáo hoàng khi Đức Gioan Phaolô II băng hà. Ngày 17 tháng 9 năm 2007, Giáo Hội mở án phong thánh cho ngài. Trong thông tri Spe Salvi, Đức Thánh Cha Bênêđictô XVI tán dương ngài là một mẫu gương hy vọng sáng ngời. Buổi hội thảo này đào sâu về những nhân đức tạo nên nền tảng linh đạo hy vọng của ngài.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF CARDINAL NGUYEN VAN THUAN 🗣️

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, the late Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, neither tried nor convicted of any offense, was imprisoned by communist Vietnam for 13 years. In prison, he celebrated Mass with three drops of wine and one drop of water in his palms. He converted prison guards and government officials. In 1991, the regime forced him into exile. Elevated to cardinal in 2001, he died in Rome on September 16, 2002. On September 17, 2007, the Catholic Church began the process for his canonization. This workshop discusses the principal dimensions of Cardinal Thuan's spirituality that together formed the foundation of his indomitable hope.

**Rev. Nguyễn Huy Bảo**

Cha Nguyễn Huy Bảo là linh mục triều thuộc Tổng Giáo Phận Los Angeles. Cha thành công đệ trình luận án Cao Học Thần Học về linh đạo của Đức Hồng Y Nguyễn Văn Thuận. Các tài liệu và văn bản gốc được khảo cứu ở Việt Nam. Năm 2011, cha được mời bởi Bộ Tuyên Án Phong Thánh cho Đức Hồng Y Thuận làm chứng về vị Tôi Tớ Chúa. Cha Bảo từng là giảng viên tại Đại Hội Giáo Lý Việt Nam Toàn Quốc. Cha hiện phục vụ tại Giáo Xứ Thánh Margaret Mary Alacoque, Lomita, California.

Rev. Bao Huy Nguyen

A priest of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, Fr. Bao Nguyen successfully completed a thesis on the spirituality of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, with original research done in Vietnam. He was invited by Rome's Postulation for the Cause of Cardinal Thuan's Canonization to give formal testimony regarding the candidate for sainthood. Fr. Nguyen currently serves as Associate Pastor at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Lomita, Calif.



2-01 THE GLOBAL WAR ON CHRISTIANS: DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Seventy-five percent of all acts of religious persecution in the world today are directed against Christians, but in the West it is often difficult to conceive of Christianity as a persecuted minority. Yet in the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Christians are paying in blood every day for their faith. Right now, there's a real possibility that the Holy Land could turn into a "spiritual Disneyland," full of glittering attractions but empty of living Christian communities. This session will sketch the global war against Christians and highlight what we can do about it.



John L. Allen, Jr.

John Allen is the prize-winning Senior Correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter and Senior Vatican Analyst for CNN. He is author of seven best-selling books and writes frequently on the Church for major national and international publications.

His weekly internet column, "All Things Catholic," is widely read as a source of insight on the global Catholic Church. Allen divides his time between Rome and his home in Denver, Colo.

2-02 LITURGICAL DANCE FOR CHILDREN: JUST IMAGINE!

Learn how to tap into the imaginations of your young students and expand their knowledge of biblical characters by using dance and simple movement to recreate and "experience" the stories of our faith. Oh, yes – we will kick off our shoes and dance in this session. Just imagine!



Donna Anderle

An accomplished dancer, teacher and choreographer, Donna Anderle is on the teaching faculty of the Cincinnati Ballet Company and the Midwest Theatre Ballet and is involved in Cincy Dance, an outreach program for Cincinnati inner-city schools.

Anderle has choreographed for major conferences including the National Catholic Youth Conferences and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Her work is compiled in books of choreography and a video. She continues to give workshops, keynote presentations and dance in concert.

2-03 A CULTURE OF DISCIPLINE FOR CONTAGIOUS FAITH

Fr. Patrick Brennan

If we become truly evangelizing parishes, we are creating environments where faith becomes contagious and caught. This workshop will explore the culture of discipline that is needed for such an evangelizing dynamic. Issues explored will be the discernment of gifts in parish life, training of parishioners in parish-based schools of ministry, the empowerment of the laity to develop and minister in their own parishes, the importance of relational evangelization that takes place in small communities, and parish ministries that operate out of a family perspective. It is the development of a culture of discipline that can help good parishes become great parishes.

2-04 CHILDREN ARE CRYING: WHO IS LISTENING?

Child slavery exists hidden in our neighborhoods in this "land of the free" as well as in the rest of the world. Your voice can give visibility and life to those children, women and men who are suffering. Your voice could release someone from being enslaved through human trafficking. Learn how to recognize the signs through listening and paying attention, and respond as an advocate through action. How can this assault on humanity find a place in our catechesis and parish ministry so that more voices are heard?



Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC

Sr. Kathy Bryant, a Religious Sister of Charity, ministers as a retreat facilitator, spiritual director and workshop presenter. Her special interests are in spirituality, formation, women's spiritual development, and the abolition of human trafficking. Sr. Bryant has authored numerous articles and books and has presented workshops in Australia, Ireland and Africa as well as throughout the United States.

2-05 CONNECT, AWAKEN AND SHARE: PRACTICAL WAYS TO ENGAGE PARENTS IN THE FAITH FORMATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

Through activities, stories, reflection and prayer, Joellyn Cicciarelli and Tom McGrath will lead participants through more than a dozen practical, useful tips and practices that can be put to use immediately in religious formation programs. This workshop will show how to invite parents into a deeper appreciation of their own spiritual lives so that they can more effectively nurture the faith of the children in their care.



Joellyn Cicciarelli

Joellyn Cicciarelli is Director of Curriculum Development for Loyola Press in Chicago. She has taught in pre-school and elementary schools and is a national workshop presenter. Cicciarelli has authored, co-authored or served as editor on numerous projects, programs and books and worked closely with Fred Rogers ("Mr. Rogers") as editor on 12 of his books for children and adults. She and her family are members of St. Francis Xavier Parish in La Grange, Ill.



Tom McGrath

Tom McGrath is Vice President for Product Development at Loyola Press, based in Chicago. He previously served as Executive Editor at U.S. Catholic magazine. He is an avid writer and speaker on family-life issues and spirituality. McGrath is author of several books, including "Raising Faith-Filled Kids, Ordinary Opportunities to Nurture Spirituality at Home and Together" and "Preparing at Home for First Eucharist." He and his wife, Kathleen, are members of St. Viator Parish community.

2-06 A SPIRITUALITY FOR BUSY PERSONS 🗣️

With our busy lives and so many diverse commitments, how is a person able to infuse their life with healthy spiritual practices? In this workshop, Fr Jim Clarke will offer 12 cross-cultural, interfaith practices that can help sustain a person over the long haul. Each practice will also include different prayer forms.

**Rev. Jim Clarke, PhD**

Fr. Jim Clarke is Director of Spiritual Formation and Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. With a background in spirituality, adult education, counseling and psychology, Fr. Clarke currently serves as Chair of the Spirituality Commission for the Los Angeles Archdiocese and is an Associate Spiritual Director at the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests in Los Angeles. He has presented at national events and has given retreats for more than 30 years.

2-07 DISCERNMENT: USING THE INTERNET SKILLFULLY 🗣️

The Internet requires new skills and training in judgment. The Internet can be a skillful means for growing in prayer and discipline. It can also contribute to addictions and afflictions that harm the individual soul. This session will provide guidelines for schools, students, pastors, spiritual directors and parents for healthy Internet usage.

**Sr. Meg Funk, OSB**

Sr. Mary Margaret "Meg" Funk, a Benedictine nun from Beech Grove, Ind., is currently teaching and writing on the early monastic practices. With experience in East-West dialogue, she has served as Executive Director of Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, as Prioress of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Ind., and as Director of Religious Education for the Indianapolis Archdiocese. Sr. Funk has speaking engagements globally and has authored several books, including "Lectio Matters."

2-08 THE RESURRECTION AND THE GLORY OF THE CROSS 🗣️

Having become accustomed to suffering and distress, many of us have forgotten that the cross is not the *end*, or primary focus of Christian life. The reality is that, in and through Christ Jesus, we are called to be people of the resurrection, who reflect a spirit of peace, hope and joy! As such, we are called to be witnesses to the resurrected Christ's transformation of the cross into an instrument of salvation. This session will address, from a catechetical perspective, the relationship between the cross and the resurrection, and it will present a contemporary theology with practical implications for the lives of believers.

**Dr. Greer G. Gordon**

Dr. Greer Gordon, a Roman Catholic theologian, author and lecturer. She has taught at the University of Massachusetts and at Regis College in Massachusetts, and has served as a diocesan director in Boston; Washington, D.C.; Oakland, Calif.; and Baton Rouge, La. Dr. Gordon was one of eight American women invited by the Vatican to respond to Pope John Paul II's Encyclical on Women, and was the first woman Baccalaureate speaker at Boston University and at Regis College.

2-09 THE NEW ORDER OF MASS: CELEBRATING AND DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LITURGY

This session will be a time to reflect on the experience of celebrating the New Roman Missal since its beginning this past Advent – a time to examine how the new translation is being received, a time to deepen our understanding and our catechetical and formational efforts to help our communities truly pray, sing and celebrate the liturgy, a time to deepen our liturgical literacy ritually and musically, and most importantly, a time to probe our hearts to celebrate how the liturgy is a call to transformation and conversion. Come ready to share stories, sing and plot a course for the future.

**David Haas**

David Haas is Director of The Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry, and Campus Minister/Artist-in-Residence at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, both in St. Paul, Minn. He has authored over 25 books and is composer of over 40 original collections of liturgical music. Haas has traveled around the world giving concerts and presenting workshops. He authors the monthly column "Sung Prayer" for Ministry and Liturgy magazine, and is founder and Executive Director for "Music Ministry Alive," a liturgical music formation program for high school youth.

2-10 THE PSALMS: SONGBOOK OF FAITH

The introduction of a new translation of psalms for the Roman Catholic liturgy provides an opportunity to reflect upon the importance of these rich, beautiful and faithful songs that have been a bedrock for both private and corporate prayer for both Jews and Christians. Join us as we explore new resources which enable Christian assemblies to sing the psalms in liturgical worship.

**Marty Haugen**

For over 30 years, composer Marty Haugen has presented workshops, concerts and presentations across North and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. With over 35 recordings and 400 published editions, his range of musical compositions continues to appear in hymnals for United States, Canadian and Australian Catholics, Evangelical Lutherans and other Protestant denominations. Haugen's latest music offerings include "In the Days to Come: Songs of Peacemaking" and "Only You, O God: Simple Songs for Worship."

**Tony Alonso**

Tony Alonso serves as Director of Liturgical Music at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. As one of the most prominent voices in contemporary liturgical music, he has shared his musical gifts and knowledge of liturgy at conferences across the United States, Canada and Europe. His music appears in numerous hymnals throughout the world. In addition to several published collections of liturgical music, Alonso is author of many books for youth and youth ministers about liturgy.

2-11 SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES FOR TODAY'S CHURCH 🗣️

Returning from the Vatican-hosted bloggers meeting, Lisa Hendey will lead an overview of the latest in social media technology and tactics for parishes, schools and ministries. From policies and best practices to streamlining your use of the latest tools and techniques, learn to harness the power of these tools for catechesis, youth ministry, community building and evangelization.



Lisa M. Hendey

Lisa Hendey is founder and Editor of CatholicMom.com and best-selling author of "The Handbook for Catholic Moms." She is a technology contributor for EWTN's "Son Rise Morning Show" and a regular guest on Relevant Radio's "On Call" show. Hendey is a columnist for Faith & Family, Catholic News Agency, and Catholic Exchange, and her articles have appeared in the National Catholic Register and Our Sunday Visitor. She gives frequent workshops at parishes, diocesan events and women's conferences.

2-12 CHARACTER COUNTS: FORMATION AND EDUCATION

This session will address the "Character Counts" approach to character formation and education. To enable young people and adults to understand the pillars of character, several ethical values such as trustworthiness, respect and responsibility will be developed.



Michael Josephson

Michael Josephson is a highly sought-after speaker and consultant in the field of ethics and character. His award-winning "Character Counts!" radio commentaries play daily on stations across the country and around the world. After a distinguished 20-year career teaching law and as the CEO of a prominent legal education company, he resigned his professorship and sold his business to found the Joseph and Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics, a non-profit organization in honor of his parents. Josephson is author or co-author of over 20 books.

2-13 THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN (1:1-18): PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF LIFE! 🗣️

The fourth Gospel's Prologue is a wonderful summary of the entire biblical message, and an important key to appreciating the richness of Christian theology overall. This workshop will give you a deep and clear understanding of the content, structure and meaning of John's Prologue (1:1-18), and its foundational influence on the Nicene Creed. The more clearly we hear God's voice speaking to us through the Scriptures, the more easily we will appreciate God's gift of life to those who believe!



Fr. Felix Just, SJ, PhD

Fr. Felix Just is Director of Biblical Education at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, Calif. He has been a member of the faculties at all three Jesuit universities in California. Fr. Just conducts many adult faith-formation programs for parishes and dioceses, and leads biblically based days of prayer, parish missions and retreats across the country. He also has three audio-lecture programs, including "The New Testament: A Guided Tour."

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RECongress Milestones

At the 1972 Congress, Los Angeles Archbishop Cardinal



Timothy Manning presided at a jubilee Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary

of the beginnings of a formal religious education program in the Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles by Bishop John J. Cantwell.

2-14 "SOMETIMES LIFE IS JUST NOT FAIR?" 🗣️

Sufferings can come in so many ways for us – and for the children in our lives. This insightful and moving presentation addresses the tears in the heart of a child – whatever our ages. It includes a special focus on the grief that comes through the death of a loved one. By way of brief teachings, prayers, stories and demonstrations, Fr. Joe Kempf will give us a hope-filled perspective and practical ideas to help us love well the children entrusted to our care – and the child inside each of us.



Fr. Joe Kempf

Fr. Joe Kempf is Pastor of Assumption Church in O'Fallon, Mo., and founder and President of Gospel Values, a non-profit company dedicated to proclaiming the message of Jesus to children of all ages. Fr. Kempf is a well-known invited speaker at religious education gatherings across Canada and the United States, including repeat appearances at the L.A. Congress. He is author of numerous books and videos for children of all ages, which includes his most recent book, "Sometimes Life Is Just Not Fair," and the four DVDs of "Big Al LIVE."

2-15 WHAT I WISH PARENTS UNDERSTOOD 🗣️

This session is created for those who work with parents and families and discusses what recent research indicates children and their parents need most. The answers may surprise you! With all the challenges families face today, here are some concrete answers and resources to share. This is an interactive workshop with time set aside for questions and concerns to be voiced.



Keri Krout

Keri Krout was a preschool teacher presenting parenting classes when she began to see the need for new models of childhood education. For the past 20 years, she has traveled throughout the country as a national consultant and certified parent coach providing keynotes, workshops and consulting to educators and parents. Krout has presented at local, regional, state and national gatherings of educators conventions, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children, New Horizons and KinderCare.

2-16 THE NEW EVANGELIZATION 🗣️

This workshop will look at the mission of the Church *ad gentes* beginning with Matthew 28 and the Great Commission. It will provide an overview of the call to evangelization in the Church over the last 50 years from Vatican II, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, to the writings of John Paul II and Pope Benedict. It will also look closely at the Lineamenta for the 2012 Synod. Particular attention will be given to how catechesis relates to, and is different from, evangelization as presented in these documents. Attention will also be given to the particular challenges that face us as Catholics to respond to this call, and possible responses to these challenges will be discussed.

**Fr. James Mallon**

Fr. James Mallon is a priest of the Archdiocese of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where he currently serves as Pastor of St. Benedict Church. He is founder and Director of the John Paul II Media Institute in Halifax. Fr. Mallon is the creator of an eight-week catechetical video series entitled "Catholicism 201," which currently runs in 24 countries and has been translated into Russian, Chinese and Spanish. His love for his dog inspired him to create the new video-based theology course entitled "Dogmatic Theology," which was released in 2011.

2-17 NATIONAL LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION: CAN THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE? 🗣️

With the approval of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in September 2011, national certification for lay ecclesial ministers (LEMs) serving in key pastoral ministry roles is now a reality for catechetical, liturgical, pastoral and youth ministry leaders. What difference will this new national certification and accompanying national standards make to individual ministers and the communities they serve? This workshop will answer this question, as well as introduce participants to the new national standards and how LEMs can obtain national certification.

**Charlotte McCorquodale, PhD**

Dr. Charlotte McCorquodale has served in parish, school and diocesan ministry settings for 30 years. She is past chair of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry's Board of Directors and served as a lay consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. In 2000, Dr. McCorquodale co-founded the non-profit organization, Ministry Training Source, and is currently President of their Board of Directors, and serves as an international educator, researcher and consultant for the fields of lay ecclesial ministry, youth ministry and e-learning.

2-18 THE WORD OF GOD BRINGS US BACK TO LIFE! 🗣️

The Scriptures are filled with stories of the power of the Word of God – to heal, to confront with the truth, to encourage and give hope, to comfort and instill awe. But the Word of the Lord (in Jesus) in the Scriptures and in the Body of Christ (the community) seizes us from the power of death and grasps us drawing us back into life, instilling us with the grace and Spirit of God. With Lazarus we are summoned forth from the tombs of our lives and world and together we are the people of resurrection life that begins now in our baptisms. Come forth from your tomb and stand in the light of the Word!

**Megan McKenna**

Megan McKenna, a native of New York City currently living in Albuquerque, N.M., travels internationally working with indigenous peoples, base communities, parishes, dioceses and religious orders. She is the author of 48 books; her latest book, "This Will Be Remembered of Her," won a Catholic Press Association award, and her book, "Like A Hammer Shattering Rock," is due to be released around Congress time. She teaches at a number of universities, colleges and pastoral institutes around the world.

2-19 RESTORING HOPE, RESTORING LIVES, RESTORING JUSTICE 🗣️

Our Catholic Christian responsibility is to bring all people into right relationship with God and one another. This workshop will examine the tremendous impact of violent crime on those harmed including victims, offenders and communities, and consider how our response to each can bring hope and healing in its aftermath.

**Suzanne E. Neuhaus, MACP**

Suzanne Neuhaus has been involved in youth and adult ministries, RCIA, parish council, music ministry, Eucharist formation and catechesis. She currently serves on both the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee to the California Catholic Conference and the Restorative Justice Advisory for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Neuhaus has been employed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for 23 years, including victim services and delinquency prevention.

2-20 "EXTREME MAKEOVER": FOUNDATIONS AND BLUEPRINTS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAMS 🗣️

It's amazing how those TV "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" crews get not only the best experts but a lot of local help to take something that was in need of repair and turn it into a state-of-the-art dwelling. Now ... what if we applied some of their principles to our parish youth ministry teams?

**Mike Patin**

Mike Patin has worked in youth ministry since 1984, spending six years as a high school teacher and coach before working for the CYO/Youth Ministry Office for the New Orleans Archdiocese. He was also on the adjunct faculty at the Notre Dame School of Theology Seminary in New Orleans. Since 2003, he has been speaking full time to young people and adults on issues of Catholic faith. Among his many book titles is "A Standing Invitation."

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RECongress Milestones

In 1962, one of the early religious education “Institutes” was held on the 13-acre campus of Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, near Los Feliz Blvd and Western Ave. It was designed to serve religious and lay catechists teaching in the archdiocese. The cramped workshops met in small classrooms on the campus. Today, workshops are held in conference rooms and the ballrooms of surrounding hotels holding thousands.

(Immaculate Heart College finally closed in 1981 due to financial difficulties. Its successor, named the Immaculate Heart College Center, lasted a number of years, but it too closed its doors in 2000. The property is presently the home of the American Film Institute).



2-21 “I’M NOT A CHICKEN! I’M AN EAGLE!” REKINDLING THE FIRE OF JEREMIAH! 🎧

“I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart” (Jeremiah 20:9). From the dawn of time, God has been lighting the fire of evangelization in our hearts. Sometimes, we can grow weary with all of the “stuff” that comes along with being the modern day teachers and preachers of God’s Word. Yet we still feel compelled to bring that Word to all of God’s children. This energizing workshop will help renew your commitment to evangelization and rekindle the fire that burns within you. By workshop’s end, you’ll be ready to declare to the world, “I’m not a chicken! I’m an eagle!”



Rev. R. Tony Ricard, MTh, MDiv

Fr. Tony Ricard, a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese, currently serves as Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in New Orleans, as Director of KnightTime Ministries, and Chief Editor for Two Knights Publishing Co. Fr. Ricard is also author of “I Still Believe: A Testimony of Faith After The Storm,” “Don’t Be Stupid!: Lessons You Should Already Know” and “I Don’t Make Them Up! Reflections Stories and Jokes from a Faithful Fool.”

2-22 CHRISTIAN MORALITY 2012: RELATIONSHIPS TRUMP RULES

The Gospel story really is about *love*, more than obedience. We live in a web of relationships – God, neighbors, and self – and we try to “do the loving thing.” Oh, you mean “obey the rules”? Not exactly! Laws and rules are guidelines. They can help us. They can also stifle the Spirit. This session focuses on how to be a healthy, happy, holy and wholesome follower of Jesus, a vibrant member of his family the church – infused and infusing life all along the way.



Richard C. Sparks, CSP

Paulist priest Fr. Dick Sparks serves on the parish staff at Old St. Mary’s Church in the “South Loop” of Chicago. He has served as Pastor of the Newman Center at University of California, Berkeley and as Director of the Paulist Center in Boston. In addition to local parish work, Fr. Sparks is an author and a popular teacher and speaker on the ethics/morality workshop and retreat circuit around the United States and Canada. He is frequently sought to consult with health-care systems and ethics committees because of his biomedical ethics expertise.

2-23 IDENTITY AND INCLUSIVENESS: A TUG-OF-WAR IN TODAY’S CHURCH? 🎧

Among the divisions afflicting the church today is that between Catholics primarily concerned about strengthening Catholic identity and Catholics primarily concerned about embracing groups or individuals who have been excluded or marginalized. The first feels the need for clearly defined boundaries, the other feels the need to reach beyond them. This is a genuine conflict. How can it be overcome?



Peter Steinfels

Peter Steinfels is author of “A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America.” He has taught and lectured at many Catholic campuses and is founding Co-Director of the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham University in New York, where he is a professor and journalist-in-residence. Steinfels was a religion reporter and columnist for The New York Times, former editor-in-chief of Commonweal magazine, and editor of American Catholics in the Public Square.

2-24 CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT A PARISH IS? 🎧

The parish is an altogether unique community and all of us belong to one, but, because it is unique, it is extremely difficult to define exactly what a parish is. We will look at the parish as a legal reality (canonically and civilly) and as an ecclesial reality to attempt a definition, and what this implies for parish leadership.



Rev. Michael Sweeney, OP

Fr. Michael Sweeney is President of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., where he also teaches. He is co-founder and former Co-Director of the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado. Fr. Sweeney has developed and offers retreats and talks in over 50 U.S. dioceses and in Canada and Indonesia on the theology of the laity, vocation and pastoral governance.

2-25 NEW EVANGELIZATION: SOME PERSPECTIVES FROM ASIA 🗣️

The call to a “New Evangelization” is addressed to the whole Church. What is the New Evangelization? What are its challenges for the Churches of Asia?

**Archbishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle, STD**

Most Rev. Luis Antonio Tagle was recently appointed Archbishop of Manila, Philippines. He formerly served as Bishop for the Diocese of Imus, Philippines. He is Rector of the diocesan major seminary and teaches in various schools of theology in Manila, Philippines. Bishop Tagle is a former member of the International Theological Commission in Rome. He is a member of the Council of the Synod of Bishops, and is also Chair of the Office of Theological Concerns for the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences.

2-26 FIVE THINGS TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP SELF-DISCIPLINE 🗣️

Teachers are not given much assistance in developing sound disciplinary skills. With God’s grace this needs to change. Teaching efficiency is reduced whenever disciplinary disruptions occur and continue to occur. Teachers today need a caring helping hand. Char Wenc has been an educator for 30 years from the primary to the graduate school level. Her realistic, humorous session will energize and empower you with practical techniques for discipline and positive reinforcement in your classrooms.

**Char Wenc, MEd**

Internationally known author and speaker Char Wenc is a Professor at Loyola University and at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, both located in Chicago. She is author of “Parenting: Are We Having Fun Yet?” and “Cooperation Learning through Laughter.” Wenc is winner of a “Those Who Excel in Education” award, and has 30 years teaching experience, 20 years in public speaking and 10 years as a Member of the National Speakers Association.

2-27 SO YOU LOVE AN ALCOHOLIC (OR ADDICT)? AND EVERYTHING IS GETTING WORSE? 🗣️

This will be a presentation on the wisdom, hope and healing from families and friends who have been through it. Many of us find ourselves exhausted, angry and alone because of active addiction in a friend or family member. Here are some better ideas and practical suggestions drawn from Al-Anon family groups, adult children of alcoholics groups, and the power of the 12 Steps.

**Fr. Thomas Weston, SJ**

Fr. Thomas Weston is Retreat Director for the Jesuit Ministries in Oakland, Calif. A speaker and facilitator, he has worked extensively with alcoholics and addicts in recovery and their families since 1976. Fr. Weston, a former high school teacher and associate pastor, has been a conference and education speaker for over 30 years and is a frequent presenter at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

2-70 Thử dạy một lớp về ĐỜI SỐNG TRONG SẠCH - “CHASTITY” cho giới trẻ 🗣️

Trong khóa này Frère Phong xin cố gắng trả lời một số câu hỏi, vấn đề mà giới trẻ Công giáo Việt Nam ở Mỹ đang đặt ra: “Nó cứ đòi hoài! I dunno what I’m gonna do, Frère?”, “Làm sao thấy được sự thánh thiêng của tình yêu và tình dục?”, “Làm sao giải quyết những áp lực của dục tình?”, “Làm sao nói ‘Không’ một cách tích cực khi xác thịt của mình cứ nói ‘Vâng’?”, “Lỡ con đã làm lỡ, bây giờ phải làm sao?”, “Làm sao sống TRONG SẠCH, KHIẾT TỊNH trong xã hội ngày nay?”...

TEACHING CHASTITY TO YOUTH

With candor and humor, Frere Phong will try to answer some tough questions and issues that young Vietnamese-Americans are facing: How to step on the holy ground of love and sexuality? How to unplug from the sexual pressure cooker? How to say “no” in a positive way when my body says “yes”? What about the sexual purity challenge? What if I’ve already blown it?, etc.

**Frère Fortunat Phong, FSC**

Frère Phong là một tu sĩ thuộc Dòng La San, một Dòng chuyên lo phục vụ giáo dục, đặc biệt trẻ nghèo. Frère được gọi đến phục vụ ở L.A. Religious Education Congress trong nhiều năm qua, và thường được các nơi trong nước Mỹ và Châu Âu gọi đến phục vụ trong các khóa huấn luyện giáo lý viên, tình tâm giới trẻ ...

Brother Fortunat Phong, FSC

Bro. Fortunat Phong, a De La Salle Christian Brother, has been spoken at many L.A. Congresses, youth conventions and retreats around the country as well as internationally. A humble, dark “old man” with a smile that bespeaks a loving heart, he’ll definitely touch your heart with his many tales and recollections. Funny, energetic, and down to earth, he will surely make you laugh, learn, think and pray as he takes you on a road where spirituality intersects with true life experiences.



3-01 BEING “SPIRITUAL” VS. BEING “FAITHFUL” ☞

Many young adults are choosing a life of being “spiritual,” taking faith into their own hands, versus being part of the faith community. This workshop will look at the dangers of this mentality and how the church can use its gifts to help young adults navigate the waters of life to a better communion with Christ.



Ansel J. Augustine, MPS

Ansel Augustine is Associate Director and Coordinator of Black Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Catholic Youth Organization Office of the New Orleans Archdiocese. He also serves on the faculty for the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in Louisiana and with their Campus Ministry, where he previously worked. Augustine has also published several articles related to ministry and has keynoted and presented workshops at various youth rallies and conferences around the country. He was MC and hosted the 2010 National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in New Orleans.

3-04 PRAYING PSALM 23 WITH THE BODY ☞

Bring your prayer to the next level. Pray with more than the mind and spirit – learn to pray with your body as well. This prayer session is for anyone who wants a more integrated, holistic and fresh approach to prayer. This innovative way of praying can transform both your interior and daily life. We will pray Psalm 23 with gentle movements harmonious to its essence. You will also learn gentle movements to accompany the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, and the Glory Be.



Roy Espiritu DeLeon, ObISB

Roy DeLeon, an Oblate of St. Benedict, is a spiritual director and certified yoga instructor. He wrote and illustrated “Praying with the Body: Bringing the Psalms to Life.” Mr. DeLeon has presented at conferences, colleges and churches about the practice of praying with the body, heart and soul, and conducts workshops at churches, monasteries and retreat centers. Professionally, he works as a graphic designer with a consulting engineering firm and resides in the Pacific Northwest with his wife, Annie.

3-02 MUSIC FOR CELEBRATING THE MASS WITH CHILDREN ☞

As religious educators, the introduction of the new translation of the Roman Missal has called us to ensure that children and families continue to grow in their knowledge, understanding and celebration of the Mass. In this workshop, John Burland will share a collection of catechetical songs for deepening children’s understanding of the Mass and a variety of liturgical music that can be used in Masses with children. Come ready to raise your voice as we celebrate together in song!



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. Burland has worked as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and religious education coordinator for over 20 years in school and parish communities. He is a regular speaker at conventions and gatherings across Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

3-05 CELEBRATE RECOVERY: A CATHOLIC APPROACH ☞

Celebrate Recovery (CR) is a Jesus-centered program based on the Beatitudes and the Twelve Steps of Alcohol Anonymous. It reaches out to parishioners with addictions, life’s hurts, negative habits, codependency and other addictive, compulsive and dysfunctional behaviors. The door is opened to share our experiences, strengths and hopes with others. We become willing to accept God’s grace in solving our lives’ problems. As we grow spiritually, we shed dysfunctional behavior and we experience the freedom of peace, serenity, joy and most importantly, a stronger relationship with God and others. Learn how to set up a CR program in your parish.



Michael J. Eisenbeiss, PhD

Dr. Mike Eisenbeiss was ordained a permanent deacon in 1980, and served three others communities before arriving at Sacred Heart Church in Boise, Idaho. For six years, he served as Parish Life Director at Sacred Heart Church, where he has been instrumental in launching a number of parish-related programs, including Celebrate Recovery. Deacon Eisenbeiss is also a licensed psychologist and has been in private practice for 27 years. He serves as co-chair for the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Review Board.

3-03 THE MUSIC AND MAGIC OF IGNATIAN MYSTICISM ☞

This workshop will explore in practical ways the mystical diary and journey of St. Ignatius. Participants will be helped to understand and embrace the richness of the mystical tradition. They in turn will be encouraged to be “a mystic” in their daily lives.



Paul Coutinho

Paul Coutinho, a native of India and a Jesuit of the Bombay province, is an internationally recognized Ignatian scholar, author and speaker. Fr. Coutinho formerly served as Editor of Ignis: South Asian Journal of Ignatian Spirituality, and taught Pastoral Theology at the Pontifical Atheneum Jnana Deepa Vidyapeetha in Pune, India. He received his doctorate from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Mo., where he is now on the faculty for the School for Professional Studies.

REC
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RECongress Milestones

The origins of the Religious Education Congress spring from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, popularly known as CCD, a ministry that actually began in Los Angeles in 1922 under Bishop John Cantwell to teach refugees of the Mexican Revolution. Bishop Cantwell had appointed Fr. Leroy Callahan, pastor of San Antonio de Padua in East Los Angeles, to work in this ministry.

3-06 STAY HERE, KEEP WATCH WITH ME, WATCH AND PRAY 🗣️

Each liturgical year and every time we celebrate the Eucharist, our faith asks us to encounter our human reality of dying, even as we embrace the conviction of eternal life. This is our heritage in Christ Jesus. During our time together we will reflect on his story into which we entered at our baptism; on his life of which we are a part; on the radical demands it makes on us, and the transformation it promises in turn. Our commitment to the Christian covenant and the vision and courage it offers can be a major factor in helping us be witnesses to hope, to the opportunity that love always provides, and to the new dawn that is ever ready to grace us.

**Barbara Fiand, SND**

Sr. Barbara Fiand, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, is a consultant, author and lecturer who gives retreats throughout the country and abroad. Sr. Fiand has written nine books and lives in Cincinnati. She formerly taught as adjunct Professor of Spirituality at Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Studies in Chicago and as Professor of Spirituality at The Athenaeum of Ohio.

3-07 SYMPHONY OF THE WORD: POPE BENEDICT XVI EXHORTATION ON THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR LIVES 🗣️**Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni**

In November 2010, Pope Benedict published the document *Verbum Domini*, which was a summary of the Synod of the Word, which took place in Rome in 2008. This workshop hopes to infuse the hearts of the participants with the power of God's Word while exploring the insights of our Holy Father.

3-08 MARK MY WORDS: GIVING VOICE TO MARK'S GOSPEL THROUGH DRAMA 🗣️

In this year of Mark's Gospel, come and join Anne Frawley-Mangan in an interactive and fun workshop! You will discover practical ways to help children engage with this Scripture by involving their mind, body and spirit through the creative process of drama.

**Anne Frawley-Mangan**

For over 20 years, Anne Frawley-Mangan has been Creative Director of Litmus Productions in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, where she writes and publishes drama and music resources for use in liturgy and education. She teaches Speech and Proclamation at Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane, and presents workshops and keynote addresses in Australia, New Zealand and North America. Her latest book is "Let Your Light Shine: Dramas from Matthew's Gospel" and three others co-written with Michael Mangan.

REC
7
2**RECongress Milestones**

At the 1972 Congress, Los Angeles Archbishop Cardinal Timothy Manning presided at a jubilee Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beginnings of a formal religious education program in the Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles by Bishop John J. Cantwell.

3-09 FOUR PATHS TO WISDOM IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION 🗣️**Richard Gaillardetz**

Any authentic spirituality today will have to acknowledge the challenges raised by individualism, technology and pluralism. This workshop will briefly consider those cultural challenges and then map out four "paths to wisdom" drawn from Scripture, literature and contemporary theological insights.

3-10 RCIA: BACK TO THE BASICS 🗣️

This workshop will explore the basic principles of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Newcomers to initiation ministry, as well as seasoned RCIA ministers will discover or re-discover the originating vision for the RCIA articulated by the Second Vatican Council.

**Dr. Jerry Galipeau**

Dr. Jerry Galipeau is Associate Publisher at World Library Publications in Franklin Park, Ill. He is past Chair for the Board of Directors of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate and has authored numerous publications. Dr. Galipeau has presented keynotes and workshops throughout the United States and Canada. His popular blog (gottasinggottapray.blogspot.com) provides an arena for those interested in liturgy, music and initiation.

3-11 IMPLEMENTING THE BISHOPS' FRAMEWORK ON HIGH SCHOOL CATECHESIS 🗣️

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has mandated a curriculum framework for high school age catechesis, in both Catholic schools and parish programs. This workshop will make proposals on how to implement the framework effectively, highlighting the approach of the new Credo religion curriculum.

**Dr. Thomas Groome**

Dr. Tom Groome is Professor of Theology and Religious Education and Chair of the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Department at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry. The award-winning author has written more than half a dozen books and numerous articles and essays. Dr. Groome has made over 500 public presentations throughout the last 25 years, including all the major North American conferences of religious educators, both Catholic and Protestant.

3-12 WALKING WITH MARY THROUGH MEDIA 🗣️

This workshop will give participants the opportunity to see what takes place behind the scenes of film production and will provide various ways that films can be used in the classroom with your catechists and with families. Opportunity will be given for questions and answers. Each participant will receive classroom materials for use in the classroom.



Beth Mahoney

Beth Mahoney is the Mission Director for Holy Cross Family Ministries, based in North Easton, Mass. She has years of experience in retreat ministry, 10 years as a pastoral associate, and experience teaching in elementary and high schools. Mahoney has presented at numerous national and diocesan religious education events. She is author of "Grant Us Peace: Rosary Meditations for Those Who Mourn" and "Pray with Me Still." She has extensive experience teaching the rosary and on family prayer.



Rev. David L. Guffey, CSC

Holy Cross Father David Guffey is Director of the Film, Television and Video Department at Family Theater Productions, the Hollywood media company founded in 1948 by Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC. He has presented pastoral care courses at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and film studies courses at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles. Fr. Guffey gives frequent talks and retreats nationally and internationally using art and film to explore and deepen the spiritual life. He lives in residence and serves at St. Monica Parish in Santa Monica, Calif.

3-13 GOOD NEWS PEOPLE: AN AFFIRMING APPROACH TO PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY 🗣️

A common portrayal of the Church's social mission is that it is a response to desperation and suffering, that it is unpleasant and a burden, and that it interrupts what we'd rather be doing. In contrast, the Gospels, the witness of the saints and the vision of Catholic social teaching suggest something very different, something very exciting and even miraculous. The work of compassion and justice is a profoundly satisfying spiritual adventure and a tried-and-true way to discover God! The happiness of the saints is rooted not in wealth and power but in compassion. Come hear a Good News way to talk about, preach about, and live the "Good News to the poor"!



Jack Jezreel

Jack Jezreel spent six years in a Catholic Worker community before turning his attention to transformative education. For the last dozen years he has given 40-50 presentations annually, including continuing education opportunities for priests, deacons, religious communities as well as keynote addresses for Pax Christi, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities USA, and the National Association of Diaconate Directors. Jezreel is the original author of "JustFaith" and serves as founder and Executive Director of JustFaith Ministries, based in Kentucky.

3-14 FINDING CATHOLIC GAME CHANGERS

Even the most casual observer is aware that the tide is going out on Catholicism. Do we just sit here and watch? Or is there something we can do? In this session, Matthew Kelly will explore what it will take to regenerate interest and engagement among Catholics today. He will also discuss the essence of a game-changer and teach you how to find them both in your life and in your parish.



Matthew Kelly

Born in Sydney, Australia, Matthew Kelly is a business consultant and speaker who has presented to more than 4 million people in over 50 countries in business forums, high schools and churches. Raised Catholic, Kelly founded and is President of The Dynamic Catholic Institute to research what it takes to establish vibrant Catholic communities in the 21st century. His books have been published in 25 languages and have appeared on best-seller lists; his latest title is "Rediscover Catholicism."

3-15 SAVED BY BEAUTY 🗣️

Using his own paintings and stories inspired by the life of Dorothy Day, Bro. Mickey McGrath will share the healing power of beauty and the joy that comes from discovering beauty in unexpected places. With humor, insight and creativity, he will show us how to welcome the stranger, both within our own hearts as well as the church at large.



Bro. Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS

Brother Mickey McGrath is an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who paints pictures, tells stories and speaks as keynote or presenter at retreats and conferences around the country. He has been Artist-in-Residence at the Washington Theological Union for 20 years, and has taught at the Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth, Wash. Bro. McGrath has produced 10 books and creates art for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and many Catholic publishers, including America magazine, Crossroads Press, Harcourt Religion and Saint Mary's Press.

3-16 CREATING A PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS TOWARD DISCIPLESHIP 🗣️

The National Study of Youth and Religion project makes clear that parents truly are the primary educators of their children when it comes to faith, but for many of our programs it is difficult, if not impossible, to get parents to engage at all in their children's faith formation. This presentation will look at some of the reasons parents are reluctant to get involved with their children's faith formation and at a few simple steps that parishes can take to get the parents fully engaged.



Daniel S. Mulhall

Daniel Mulhall is the Director for Catechist and Professional Development for RCL Benziger. He served for nearly 10 years as the Assistant Secretary for Catechesis and Inculturation at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. Mulhall is a regular speaker at major gatherings and diocesan conferences nationwide. He is a columnist and book reviewer with Catholic News Service and co-author of "The Catechism and the Ecumenical Dialogues" with Bro. Jeff Gros.

REC
05**RECongress Milestones**

In 2005, Vikki Shepp, co-coordinator of Youth Day, was appointed as Congress Coordinator. RECongress 2005 totaled 36,331 registrants, 210 speakers, 379 volunteers, 214 exhibitors with 1,553 representatives, and 14,586 in attendance for Youth Day.

**3-17 “THIS GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS”: CHRIST’S END-TIME DISCOURSES** 🗣️

Jesus speaks of the events surrounding his Second Coming in the Gospels’ Eschatological Discourses. This workshop will examine and comment on the various and often extreme interpretations of Jesus’ words. The primary focus, however, will be on how we, as Catholics, can understand these words in light of the historical experience from which they emerged, the Scriptural context in which they are found and, most importantly, the expectation of our Catholic faith that “Christ will come again.”

**Rev. William C. Nicholas, Jr.**

Since his ordination for the San Francisco Archdiocese, Southern California native Fr. William Nicholas has had three parish assignments. He has also written Scripture reflections and guest commentaries for the Catholic San Francisco, newspaper of the San Francisco Archdiocese. He has also participated in programs for continuing education of Catholic school teachers and has been a guest speaker at high school functions.

3-18 PRACTICE MAKES CATHOLIC: MOVING FROM A LEARNED FAITH TO A LIVED FAITH 🗣️

If being a Catholic doesn’t make a bit of difference in your everyday living, why bother? Catholic identity means much more than going to Mass on Sunday. Catholicism is a vision for life that can be characterized by five distinct characteristics: a sacramental sensibility; a commitment to community; a respect for the dignity of human life and a commitment to social justice; a reverence for tradition; and a disposition of faith and hope and not despair. In this presentation, Joe Paprocki will identify and describe 21 tried-and-true practices that both flow from and shape the Catholic way of seeing – a way that can and will make a difference in how you live and act.

**Joseph S. Paprocki, DMin**

Joe Paprocki, National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press in Chicago, has over 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry. He has served as a Consultant for Catechist Formation for the Chicago Archdiocese and as a parish pastoral associate and DRE. Paprocki has presented in over 60 dioceses across North America, including Alaska, Hawaii and Canada. He is author of numerous books on pastoral ministry and catechesis, and he serves as a catechist and blogs about the experience.

3-19 LIVING THE CALL – THE LAY VOCATION AT WORK 🗣️

Since 1965 the number of U.S. priests has fallen by some 30,000, while the number of Catholics has risen by about 20 million. And over that same period, more than 30,000 laypeople have come into the employ of parishes and other Church institutions. Laypeople have stepped up to serve in a variety of new ministries – as marriage counselors, financial advisors, liturgical directors as well as pastoral associates and parish life directors. As laypeople seek to live out their baptismal call to the universal priesthood within the Church, they need new knowledge and a new kind of nurturing. This workshop will explore the opportunities for laypeople as they step forward to help the Church face the challenges of the coming years.

**William E. Simon Jr.**

Businessman, lawyer and philanthropist, William Simon Jr. presently serves as Co-Chair of William E. Simon & Sons and the William E. Simon Foundation, based in California. The former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York was on staff at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he served as a Visiting Professor School of Law and a Senior Fellow in their School of Public Affairs. Simon was also Professor of the Practice of Political Science in the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Southern California. His book is titled “Living the Call.”

**Cambria Smith**

Cambria Smith is the Parish Life Director at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena, Calif., part of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. She is the Moderator of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, serves on the San Gabriel Regional Pastoral Council and chairs the Ministerial Formation Committee of St. John’s Seminary Board. Smith has presented numerous workshops for regional congresses, regional pastoral councils, parishes and other groups on social justice, pastoral and pastoral councils, as well as retreats.

3-20 MAKING EACH MOMENT COUNT 🗣️

Let us discover who we truly are and foster an awareness of all the blessings that surround us. Within the ordinariness of daily life we can find graces clothed in the surprise and wonder of the beauty of blessings around us. The 13th-century poet Rumi grounds us in the moment: “Be a light, a ladder, a lifeboat. Help someone’s soul heal.” All of these moments touch our own souls with joy and our bodies with smiles and laughter.

**Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ, PhD**

A Sister of St. Joseph, Anne Smollin is a therapist and group facilitator, lecturer and consultant. She is presently Executive Director of Counseling for Laity, based in Albany, N.Y. A former elementary teacher and member of the adjunct faculty at several colleges, she lectures internationally speaking to religious communities, conventions and businesses. Sr. Smollin has authored five books; her latest is “Making Each Moment Count.”

3-21 GIFTEDNESS: THE SECRET TO FULL PARISH INVOLVEMENT ☺

Every baptized person has been gifted and called by God to live their Christianity in very unique ways. There are two major problems: 1) many, if not most, Christians do not know their gifts; and 2) parishes, and other Christian communities and organizations, do not provide opportunities for their members to discern their gifts. This session will provide a practical way to help all discover the gifts that God has given them. The concept of gift presented will be a very broad one, exploring how some of our most painful and shameful experiences are potentially gifts if we are willing to explore and embrace the gift offered through the experience.



Bro. Loughlan Sofield, ST

Brother Loughlan Sofield, a Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity, is Senior Editor of Human Development magazine. In addition to publishing numerous articles on ministry, he is author or co-author of a number of prize-winning books. Bro.

Sofield has lectured or served on the faculty of many colleges and universities, both in the United States and in other countries, working in almost 300 dioceses on six continents. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lumen Gentium award and the Gaudium et Spes award for fostering an enhanced role of the laity.

3-22 AIDS AND OUR GLOBAL CATHOLIC COMPASSION ☺

Thirty years ago few could have predicted the emerging AIDS pandemic. AIDS has become a global concern and a worldwide Catholic ministry of care, presence and advocacy. From Los Angeles to Lagos, Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals and social services are reaching out to help prevent the spread of AIDS, treat and feed people with AIDS and their children, and organize and train caregivers. The AIDS pandemic unites Catholics committed to life, human dignity, social justice and service to the poor. Join staff from Catholic Relief Services-Haiti in this workshop that will send you forth informed about AIDS and how to engage your community in solidarity with the Church's people and worldwide response.



Carl Stecker

Dr. Carl Stecker is Catholic Relief Services' Senior Technical Advisor for HIV and AIDS. Based at CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Dr. Stecker has more than 30 years of international health and HIV experience. In February 2010, Dr. Stecker was sent to

Haiti after the devastating earthquake the month before. His duties have called on his expertise to advise on the AIDS Relief/Haiti program, help with temporary relocation, reconstruction and operations of Hospital St. Francois de Sales in Port-au-Prince. In August, 2011, he was asked to become head of the new Program Quality and Support Unit for CRS Haiti.

3-23 FUN FORMATION: ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN ENGAGING YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM ☺

Tired of the same old "youth group" gathering that occupies the time but not the hearts and minds of the teens who are present? How can we echo the Catholic faith and lead teens down the road of discipleship while making sure that we actively engage and apprentice them in the process? Let's put some intentional fun back into youth ministry as we seek out the essential elements that comprise a comprehensive youth ministry program. Warning: This workshop is very hands-on – you will not leave empty-handed or empty-headed!



Michael Theisen

Michael Theisen has been involved in youth ministry and adolescent catechesis for over 25 years, authoring more than 15 books and numerous articles. He currently works at the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in Washington, D.C. His experience extends from parish to diocesan and national levels, and is a frequent speaker and trainer throughout the United States. Theisen serves as the convenor for the Partnership for Adolescent Catechesis, a collaborative group of national organizations that oversee the National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis.

3-24 THEOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY – MAKING IT WORK FOR HIGH SCHOOLS ☺

This workshop will explore the use of technology to enhance processes and pedagogies for those working with the new "Curriculum Framework for Young People of High School Age," approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. The speakers will demonstrate a number of digital resources available and will help teachers have the confidence to use the various tools effectively in class.



Ailís Travers

Ailís Travers is the Catechetical Specialist for Veritas publications in Ireland, where she previously served as writer and researcher in the Department of Catechetics. She now develops textbooks, supplemental resources and online materials for religious education. Travers has taught religion in high schools in Ireland and as a catechist at her parish, and previously taught theology at Loreto College in Dublin, and has presented numerous talks, in-services and workshops throughout Ireland.



Elaine Mahon

Elaine Mahon works as a Catechetical Specialist for Veritas in Ireland. She had previously worked as a primary schoolteacher, a parish catechist, and a Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland, where she developed digital resources to supplement the national catechetical program. Mahon also lectures in the area of religious education methodologies at the post-graduate level at St. Patrick's College in Dublin.

3-25 PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY THURSDAY 🗣️

The third edition of the Roman Missal has introduced some changes to the celebrations of Holy Week. How can we celebrate Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday with renewed fervor? What changes are there to the music, words and rubrics of these important days?

**Fr. Paul Turner**

Fr. Paul Turner, a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, is currently Pastor of St. Munchin Church in Cameron, Mo., and of its mission, St. Aloysius Church, in Maysville. He has served as a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy and has spoken at the North American Forum on the Catechumenate and at the L.A. Religious Education Congress. Fr. Turner has authored several books and writes "Bulletin Inserts" for Ministry and Liturgy magazine.

3-26 PASTORING & THE NEW EVANGELIZATION: ISSUES AND STRATEGIES PASTORS AND PASTORAL LEADERS ASK FOR MOST 🗣️

This workshop welcomes cross-cultural and indigenous priests as well as other pastoral leaders wanting to explore the theological and practical pastoral issues that arise in the dynamics of the pastoring role in black and multicultural Catholic parishes. We will explore the historical and cultural realities of Catholic parishes in the United States including pastoring multi-parishes and pluri-cultural parishes, and to plan effective pastoral strategies.

**Fr. Freddy Washington, CSSp, DMin**

Fr. Freddy Washington, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans), is Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Ambrose Parishes in Chicago. The Charleston, S.C., native is an Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Xavier University in New Orleans and an adjunct instructor of Pastoral Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Fr. Washington has presented at conferences, revivals and retreats, and was Formation and Spiritual Director for his religious community.

3-27 I JUST WANNA PRAISE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY**C. Vanessa White**

This workshop will focus on the characteristics and gifts of African-American spirituality. Through the history and religious context of African-Americans and with the use of storytelling, song, art and prayer, participants will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the spiritual life of African-Americans and the importance of sharing these gifts within today's church community.

3-70 Giáo Lý Phụng Vụ 🗣️

Bài hội thảo sẽ tập trung vào tầm quan trọng của giáo lý phụng vụ nhằm chuẩn bị người tín hữu hiểu rõ hơn những mẫu nhiệm bí tích trong Phụng Vụ Thánh. Qua năm khía cạnh của Phụng vụ, chúng ta sẽ suy niệm về mẫu nhiệm Chúa Ki-tô được "đẫn từ hữu hình tới vô hình, từ dấu chỉ tới thực tại, từ các bí tích tới các mẫu nhiệm" (Giáo Lý Công Giáo # 1075)

LITURGICAL CATECHESIS 🗣️

This workshop will focus on the importance of liturgical catechesis as a means to prepare the faithful to encounter fully the sacramental mysteries in the liturgy. Reflecting on five aspects of the liturgy, participants will be initiated into the mystery of Christ by "proceeding from the visible to in the invisible, from the sign to the thing signified and from the sacraments to the 'mysteries'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1075).

**Rev. Bartôlômêô Phạm Đức Thịnh**

Thụ phong linh mục cho Tổng Giáo Phận Los Angeles vào năm 2002, Cha Phạm Đức Thịnh đã phục vụ tại Giáo xứ Thánh Gioan Thiên Chúa ở Norwalk. Sau bốn năm phục vụ tại giáo xứ, cha đã được gửi sang Roma để theo học chuyên ngành phụng vụ tại Giáo Hoàng Học Viện Sant'Anselmo. Cha đã hoàn tất chương trình cao học của Phụng Vụ vào năm 2010 và hiện đang tiếp tục chương trình tiến sĩ chuyên về Giáo Lý Phụng Vụ.

Rev. Thinh Duc Pham

Ordained a priest for the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 2002, Fr. Thinh Pham served for four years as Associate Pastor at St. John of God Parish in Norwalk. Upon completing his first assignment, he was sent to pursue graduate studies at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy in Rome. He has completed his License of Sacred Liturgy in 2010 and is currently working on his doctoral degree specializing in liturgical catechesis.

