

PERIOD 1 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

- 1-01 **Moral Loneliness in Our Lives and Ministry: The Deeper Reality Beneath Our Longing for a Soul Mate (*)**
- Fr. Ronald Rolheiser
- 1-02 **Teens and Social Media (*)**
- Sr. Helena Burns
- 1-03 **Is Your Heart in the Eucharist of Jesus?**
- Fr. Robert Fabing
- 1-04 **Many More Stories and Songs of Jesus (*)** - Sr. Paule Freeburg & Christopher Walker
- 1-05 **The Newly Revised and Translated Rite of Marriage: A Way to Celebrate Love, Communion and Covenant (*)**
- Fr. Richard Fragomeni
- 1-06 **Teachers, Transformation and Technology: Teachers Guiding Students to Change Our World (*)** - Dan Friedt
- 1-07 **Loving God: A Sacrifice of Praise**
- Greer Gordon
- 1-08 **Walk with Christ: Praying and Singing as the Beloved of God** - David Haas
- 1-09 **The Magic Bullet: Where Ministries Go Wrong ... and How We Can Change It (*)**
- Mark Hart
- 1-10 **Blessed are the Disenchanted: Finding God in a World of Meh (*)** - Sarah Hart
- 1-11 **Rest, Renew, Live – A Place for Grace in Our Life (*)** - Rev. Terry Hershey
- 1-12 **Sparks from Ashes: Young Adult Evangelization (*)** - Paul Jarzembowski
- 1-13 **Do You See What I See: From a Catholic Schoolteacher's Perspective (*)**
- Dr. Sandra Kennedy
- 1-14 **Praying in Color: Doodling and Coloring as a Path to Prayer (*)** - Sybil MacBeth
- 1-15 **The "Culture of Encounter" and Social Justice (*)** - Fr. Bryan Massingale
- 1-16 **Catch Me Lord! I'm Falling: The New Testament on Peter (*)** - Fr. J. Patrick Mullen
- 1-17 **Catholic Schools in an Increasingly Hispanic Church (*)** - Dr. Hosffman Ospino
- 1-18 **A Theology of Food, Communion and the Domestic Church** - Fr. Leo Patalinghug
- 1-19 **Created to Relate (*)** - Bob Perron
- 1-20 **Hurts So Good – Ministering to Adolescents Who Self-injure (*)** - Roy Petitfils
- 1-21 **They Could Trample Me: Ministering to Young Adolescents (*)** - Katie Prejean
- 1-22 **Mission Matters: The Social Dimension of Evangelization (*)** - Sr. Theresa Rickard
- 1-23 **The Bible Across Cultures (*)**
- Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher
- 1-24 **Where Is There a God Like You? – Micah 7:18-20 (*)** - Sr. Maureen Sullivan
- 1-25 **Francis, Families and the Synod: Where Do We Go From Here? (*)** - Michael Theisen
- 1-26 **The Church in a Digital World: Sharing Good News (*)** - Msgr. Paul Tighe
- 1-27 **Spiritual Friendship: The Art of Receiving and Offering Gentle Wisdom**
- Dr. Robert Wicks
- 1-70 **Vietnamese Workshop (The Vietnamese Martyrs: Witnesses to God's Boundless Mercy) (*)** - Rev. Joseph Hung Viet Nguyen & Prof. Le Xuan Hy

PERIOD 2 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

- 2-01 **Be Fearless for Me: Courage and the Gospel of the Marginalized (*)**
- Fr. Gregory Boyle
- 2-02 **A House of Prayer for All People: Liturgy, Music and Daily Life** - Tony Alonso
- 2-03 **Gotta Move! Sing, Dance, Pray! (*)**
- Donna Anderle
- 2-04 **Bringing the Music and Spirit of Taizé to Your Community** - David Anderson
- 2-05 **Lessons from the David Stories**
- Bishop Robert Barron
- 2-06 **RCIA: Evangelization and Faith Formation in the Pre-Catechumenate (*)**
- Mary Birmingham
- 2-07 **Let's Pray! Let's Sing! An Engaging Way to Teach Catholic Prayer to Children (*)**
- John Burland
- 2-08 **Sing With Boundless Joy! (*)**
- Andrew Chinn & James Wahl
- 2-09 **Crossing the Sacred Threshold: Mindfulness in the Dying Season**
- Jeanne Cotter & Dr. Jaena Wisniewski
- 2-10 **Beyond Content: Engaging the Heart, Not Just the Head (*)** - Richard Curran
- 2-11 **Why Should I Go to Church? (*)**
- Fr. John Cusick
- 2-12 **Why Does God Want to Forgive Me? The Sacrament of Reconciliation for Teens (*)**
- Fr. Paul Farren
- 2-13 **The Influence of Music on the Lives of Teens (*)** - Noelle Garcia
- 2-14 **The Bees Are Back! (*)** - Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik, Martin Marklin, John Flaherty
- 2-15 **So What? I Mean, Really, So What? (*)**
- Fr. Joseph Kempf
- 2-16 **Mission-centered Ministry: What Difference Does Our Mission Make? (*)**
- Douglas Leal
- 2-17 **The Season of the Nativity: Celebrating the Incarnation with Embodied Practices (*)** - Sybil MacBeth
- 2-18 **Ever Ancient, Ever New: New Media for the New Evangelization (*)**
- Fr. James Martin, Keith Maczkiewicz, Joseph Simmons & Jason Welle
- 2-19 **The Holy Family: Models of Mercy for Today's World (*)**
- Bro. Michael O'Neil McGrath
- 2-20 **The Names of God (*)**
- Dr. Megan McKenna
- 2-21 **Called to Discipleship: Removing Our Sandals Before the Sacred Ground of the Other (*)** - Ted Miles & Ben Walther
- 2-22 **Faith Formation for Ministry with the Special Needs Community (*)**
- Mary O'Meara
- 2-23 **A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion (*)**
- Joe Paprocki
- 2-24 **Pope Francis and the Environment: Caring for Mother Earth and Her Children**
- Fr. Thomas Reese
- 2-25 **Same Lord, New Soundtrack (*)**
- Anna Scally
- 2-26 **Connecting with Generation C (*)** - Victor Valenzuela
- 2-27 **"Harvolic": Lessons Learned from Working for Two Worldwide Brands (*)**
- Matthew O'Donnell Weber
- 2-70 **Vietnamese Workshop (The Boundless Mercy of God) (*)**
- Bishop Joseph Thien Van Vu

PERIOD 3 – 3:00 - 4:30 PM

- 3-01 **Encounter: Significance Over Success (*)** - Mike Patin
- 3-02 **Aw Snap! The Pastor Wants Me to Start a Young Adult Ministry** - Clarissa Valbuena Aljentera
- 3-03 **The Good News About Desire, Sex and the Path to Freedom (*)** - Mary Bielski
- 3-04 **Demystifying the Book of Revelation (*)**
- Fr. William Burton
- 3-05 **Ancient and Holy Truths in the Language of the New Generation** - Dallas Carter
- 3-06 **Effective Prayer with Children! It's Easier Than You Think! (*)** - Steven Ellair
- 3-07 **The Quinceañera and Its Capacity to Truly Reach Hispanic Families (*)**
- Santiago Fernández
- 3-08 **God's Mercy Alive Through Ministry to the Poor (*)** - David Fields & Fr. Perry Henry
- 3-09 **Love Is Our Mission with LGBT Catholics: Church and Family Fully Alive (*)**
- Arthur Fitzmaurice & Fr. Chris Ponnet
- 3-10 **A Friend Indeed: Helping Someone in Grief (*)** - Amy Florian
- 3-11 **My Journey from Teen Rebellion, Depression and Addiction, to Priesthood**
- Fr. Rob Galea
- 3-12 **Education in Faith and the Challenges of High School Theology (*)**
- Dr. Thomas Groome
- 3-13 **Incarnation Anyway: The Spirituality of Why God Became Human (*)**
- Fr. Daniel Horan
- 3-14 **Women at the Crossroads (*)**
- ValLimar Jansen
- 3-15 **Celebrating Merciful Liturgy**
- Fr. Jan Michael Joncas
- 3-16 **Neuroscience and Contemplative Practices (*)** - Anne Kertz Kernion
- 3-17 **Sing Mercy, Sing Justice, Sing Mission (*)**
- Michael Mangan
- 3-18 **Black and Catholic: The Gift and Challenge Today (*)** - Fr. Bryan Massingale
- 3-19 **Mercy and the Spiritual Life (*)**
- Fr. Jonathan Morris
- 3-20 **Reconciling the Polarized Church the Pope Francis Way (*)** - David O'Brien
- 3-21 **"Ask Fr. Tony" – Answering the Questions on Faith, Hope and Love (*)**
- Fr. R. Tony Ricard
- 3-22 **The Importance and Beauty of the Eastern Catholic Churches (*)** - Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith & Very Rev. David Petras
- 3-23 **From Maintenance to Mission (*)**
- Doug Tooke
- 3-24 **Missionaries of Mercy: The Reflection Component of Youth Service Projects (*)**
- Bishop Joseph Tyson
- 3-25 **What Are You Waiting For? 100 Tips for Becoming a Missionary Parish (*)**
- David Wells
- 3-26 **Becoming a Parent is a Gift, While Parenting Itself is a Learned Skill (*)** - Char Wenc
- 3-70 **Vietnamese Workshop (Things You Need to Know about Marriage Nullity) (*)**
- Fr. Truc Nguyen

🎧 and (*) are recorded sessions.
Arena sessions in color.

OUR WORKSHOPS

both in English and Vietnamese, appear in this Workshops section, with descriptions of the sessions presented by our 200 speakers, with topics ranging from personal growth to music to spiritual topics. New this year, you will find all the Arena sessions highlighted, numbered as -01 and listed first in each of the periods.

In addition, throughout this section, you will find milestones from our 60-year history of the Religious Education Congress, originally begun as an Institute of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program, popularly known as CCD.

I-01 MORAL LONELINESS IN OUR LIVES AND MINISTRY: THE DEEPER REALITY BENEATH OUR LONGING FOR A SOUL MATE ARENA

Our deepest loneliness is not emotional, but moral. More than longing for someone to sleep with sexually, we long for someone to sleep with morally. In our depth, we often feel we are *unanimity-minus-one*, hence our poignant longing for a soul mate. What is moral loneliness? From where does it derive? What's its role in our spiritual journey? How does it play out in our lives? What is its invitation to a deeper grace, and what are its specific dangers?



Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. He has taught at the college level and served as Provincial Superior of his Oblate Province and as General Council for the Oblates in Rome. Fr. Rolheiser is currently President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books have been translated into many languages, and his weekly column is carried by more than 80 papers worldwide.

I-02 TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our world is increasingly a media world. Teens are constantly wired, plugged in, communicating. Media devices are potential portals for connection, entertainment, education, information and inspiration. But they also have a dark side. Who is helping young people navigate their social media world? Are we adults giving them media skills, tools and modeling good media habits? This workshop will offer insight and life hacks to help teens (and everyone!) be media-savvy, media-literate and media-virtuous.



Sr. Helena Burns, FSP

Sr. Helena Burns, a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, is a movie reviewer for Life Teen. She is writer-director of the documentary on the life of Blessed Fr. James Alberione, founder of the Daughters of St. Paul, a co-producer on www.The40Film.com, and on the vocation team for the Daughters of St. Paul. Sr. Burns has presented media literacy talks and seminars since the 1990s, and since 2006 she has presented Theology of the Body talks to teens and adults across the United States and Canada.

I-03 IS YOUR HEART IN THE EUCHARIST OF JESUS?

Is the Eucharist of Jesus the heart of your life? Why would you answer “yes” to this question? And why would you answer “no”? Do you wish the Eucharist of Jesus were the heart of your life? In this session, Fr. Bob Fabing will take an in-depth look at these questions, bringing to light the gift of this sacrament and the driving force of Christ Jesus that is home to all people. Fr. Bob will use his music and poetry to aid in pondering these questions and seeking their resolutions.



Robert Fabing, SJ

Fr. Bob Fabing has founded 89 marriage counseling and family therapy centers – The Jesuit Institute for Family Life International Network – with locations on five continents. He is also founder and 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 composer of 12 CDs of liturgical music with Oregon Catholic Press and author of five books.

I-04 MANY MORE STORIES & SONGS OF JESUS

Experiencing the joy of children listening to the true simplicity of the Gospel message and responding from their own profound spirituality can be very rewarding and enriching for us. Children's natural spirituality is deepened by hearing Gospel stories and then singing Gospel songs written just for them. Join Christopher Walker and Sr. Paule Freeburg to see how fulfilling it is to share “Many More Stories and Songs of Jesus” with young children.



Sr. Paule Freeburg, DC

Sr. Paule Freeburg, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, is the Western Region Spiritual Advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and based in Mountain View, Calif. She has an extensive background in religious education for children and adults. For the past 25 years, Sr. Freeburg and Chris Walker have written and published biblical material for children, and she has written song and prayer texts for many well-known collections of children's music.



Christopher Walker

Christopher Walker is an internationally known church composer, choral conductor and speaker. He served as Director of Music for the Clifton Cathedral in the United Kingdom for 18 years and now is Director of Music at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles. A conductor of choirs and orchestras in England and the United States, Walker travels the globe giving workshops and lectures on church music and liturgy, choral and cantor techniques and children's spirituality.

IN 1967

, with the cooperation of the dioceses of Monterey-Fresno and San Diego, the agenda for the first three-day “CCD Congress” (previously known as the CCD Institute) 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.”

I-05 THE NEWLY REVISED AND TRANSLATED RITE OF MARRIAGE: A WAY TO CELEBRATE LOVE, COMMUNION AND COVENANT

Marriage liturgies are opportunities to celebrate the core values of our Christian faith. Study the newly revised and translated rite of marriage and consider pastoral recommendations that could revitalize the depth of this liturgical moment in the life of the parish and in the lives of couples joining in this sacrament at the service of communion.



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. He has written widely on liturgy, music, symbolism, the catechumenate, the Eucharist and liturgies with children, among other subjects. In addition to his teaching, preaching and other duties, Fr. Fragomeni serves as Spiritual Director for the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, an Italian-American parish in Chicago's Little Italy.

I-06 TEACHERS, TRANSFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY: TEACHERS GUIDING STUDENTS TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

Are you a Catholic schoolteacher who would like a better understanding of how to use technology more effectively? Are you also looking for strategies that will transform your teaching to address the learning of all students? Today, mobile and personal technology has called teachers to examine their pedagogy. In this dynamic, interactive presentation, Dan Friedt will take you on a journey with the latest apps and strategies to support your work in the classroom. The heart of this presentation is how you can become a transformed teacher who uses technology to support students on their learning journey.



Dan Friedt

Dan Friedt is Principal at St. Angela School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He has 36 years of teaching experience from kindergarten to grade 12, with 18 years of administrative experience, and is recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator (2013). Friedt has presented throughout North America, including the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec, as well as in California.

I-07 LOVING GOD: A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

At its core, Christian life is about love of God. For God so loved us that the Christ, the Messiah, was sent into the world. In and through Christ Jesus, we have the opportunity for relationship with God. The active pursuit of God's love results in the radical transformation of our hearts into compassionate reflections of God's mercy in the world. All of this is the result of generations upon generations of believers offering God "a sacrifice of praise." Through a scriptural and theological analysis of what it means to offer God "a sacrifice of praise," this workshop will explore the necessity of a life of prayer for all the baptized and the forms of prayer available in and through Christian tradition.



Dr. Greer G. Gordon

Dr. Greer Gordon is a Roman Catholic theologian, author and lecturer. She served in administration at the University of Massachusetts and at Regis College in Weston, Mass., and was a diocesan director in Washington D.C., Oakland, Boston and Baton Rouge, La. Dr. Gordon was one of eight American women invited by the Vatican to respond to John Paul II's encyclical on women. The first woman to deliver a Baccalaureate Address for Boston University, Greer is a frequent speaker at RECongress, having delivered the Keynote and Sunday Morning Addresses.

I-08 WALK WITH CHRIST: PRAYING AND SINGING AS THE BELOVED OF GOD

Come for a time of prayer and song, where we will celebrate how our spiritual life connects more deeply with our liturgical journey as the Body of Christ. We will pray, sing, reflect, celebrate and mark time with each other with the liturgical arts of proclamation, song, dance and communal prayer, uniting our hearts with the music and stories of our faith, as we pound the pilgrim path to strengthen our search for God. As God's blessed works of art, we will give thanks not for what we have or what we do, but celebrate who we are as God sees us – as the Beloved.



David Haas

David Haas is a member of the Campus Ministry team at Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul, Minn., where he is also founder and Executive Director of "Music and Ministry Alive!" – a formation program for high school and college-age youth. Haas has composed over 50 original collections and recordings of liturgical music with GIA Publications and has been active as a conference and workshop speaker, concert performer and recording artist for over 30 years. He has spoken internationally and has authored more than 20 books.

I-09 THE MAGIC BULLET: WHERE MINISTRIES GO WRONG ... AND HOW WE CAN CHANGE IT

Ministry sure is glamorous ... and, oh, so easy, isn't it? There never seem to be enough dollars in the basket or laborers in the parish vineyard. Thousands come to Mass; thousands more do not. The same few souls appear to do a majority of the work. So, where is the disconnect? What's the good news? What do we try next? How do we "turn a corner" in our ministries and parish programs once and for all? We know the challenges. Come pray, laugh and learn with Mark Hart as he proposes a few solutions.



Mark Hart

Mark Hart is Executive Vice President for Life Teen International. A best-selling and award-winning author, he has traveled the globe speaking to millions. Hart is a regular guest on several Catholic radio programs, co-host on SiriusXM Radio, and produces a weekly podcast for Life Teen. He has a popular DVD Bible Study series, "T3" and "Altation," and is co-author of over a dozen books; his latest include "Behold the Mystery" and "Zealous."

I-10 BLESSED ARE THE DISENCHANTED: FINDING GOD IN A WORLD OF MEH

It's a selfie world. We are all victims of this social media-crazed, busy, noisy, self-absorbed planet. This often leads us to boredom, distraction and a troubling sense that we are "less than" everyone else. Where is God in the midst of all this? How does it affect our faith? With stories, songs, prayer, sharing and general good vibes, come participate in a workshop that will reveal what God really wants to say to and through us. Lose the "meh," dive a little deeper and learn what it means to fully live a life inspired by God and informed by faith!



Sarah Hart

Sarah Hart of Nashville, Tenn., has been a singer, songwriter and keynote speaker for 20 years. Her parish missions and itinerant ministry have taken her across the United States and abroad. Hart has performed for countless parishes, conferences and conventions, and for Pope Francis in 2013. She has written several retreats for parish, women's and adult catechesis, which she herself presents. She is a Grammy-nominated artist and her songs have been recorded by numerous performers and are found in many hymnals.

I-11 REST, RENEW, LIVE – A PLACE FOR GRACE IN OUR LIFE

Have you known times when life is just "too much"? When that happens where do we go for the reservoir of strength and grace that assures us we cannot be undone by life's unkindness or sadness? Terry Hershey reminds us that we cannot access that reservoir as long as we are running with a deficit – without time, resolve, heart or fortitude. When we see only the deficit, we are owned by fear. We shut down and don't listen to our heart. So, where do we rest, renew and replenish? Any one of us can be selfish, petty, fearful and controlling, but today we are reminded that we also have the capacity to be vulnerable, forgiving and generous.



Rev. Terry Hershey

Rev. Terry Hershey is a speaker, humorist, author, dad, Protestant minister and landscape designer on Vashon Island in the Puget Sound near Seattle. He is an internationally renowned speaker and retreat facilitator. His work has been featured on CNN, PBS and NPR. Hershey is a regular contributor to The Hallmark Channel's "New Morning" show and his gardens and books have been featured in magazines and newspapers of the Pacific Northwest. He regularly speaks throughout the United States and Canada.

I-12 SPARKS FROM ASHES: YOUNG ADULT EVANGELIZATION

On Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent each year, an increased number of young adults and inactive Catholics return to church, at least for a short while. This session will explore the meaning behind such an incredible phenomenon and creative ways we can turn these brief moments into boundless milestones for young adults on their journey of faith. We will also consider how church

leaders can learn from this particular moment of return to enhance the community's year-round outreach to and ministry with men and women in their 20s and 30s.



Paul Jarzembowski

Based in Washington, D.C., Paul Jarzembowski works for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, serving as key staff for the bishops' initiatives on youth and young adult ministries and World Youth Day USA. Prior to this, he was Executive Director of the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association. Jarzembowski has consulted with over 250 dioceses, parishes and Catholic organizations in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and at the Vatican.

I-13 DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE: FROM A CATHOLIC SCHOOLTEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

What we see in life depends on lots of things. What is it that contributes to how we see or how we form our perspectives? What are the perceptions we hold as Catholic schoolteachers? It's important to ask ourselves these questions from time to time to make sure that our answers reflect the call of Jesus in our lives. This session will discuss perspectives and perceptions that Catholic schoolteachers might hold in regard to their ministry, their faith and their students and how these perspectives and perceptions contribute to our teaching as Jesus did.



Dr. Saundra Kennedy

As a Catholic schoolteacher, Dr. Saundra Kennedy has taught at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. She began working in Catholic publishing 26 years ago serving as a national consultant, speaker and contributor to catechetical basal series. Based in New Orleans, Dr. Kennedy has presented keynotes and workshops at diocesan events across the country, in addition for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Presently, she serves as Our Sunday Visitor's Senior National Curriculum Consultant.

I-14 PRAYING IN COLOR: DOODLING AND COLORING AS A PATH TO PRAYER

Sometimes doodling and coloring are just a way to relax and de-stress. Other times, they are a way to be with God. When words fail, the mind wanders and the body protests, the childlike practices of coloring and doodling can help us to pray. In this participatory workshop, we will pray for others, explore a word of Scripture and learn how to create our own prayer coloring pages. No artistic skill necessary! Bring paper, pen, colored markers or pencils (if desired) and a hard surface to draw on.



Sybil MacBeth

Author Sybil MacBeth is a dancer, doodler and teacher. She combines her experience of 15 years as a community college mathematics professor with her lifelong love of prayer to offer workshops and retreats on Praying in Color. Her 2007 book "Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God" has been translated into Korean, Spanish and Italian. Author of four other books, MacBeth's latest offering is titled "The Season of the Nativity: Confessions and Practices of an Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Extremist."

I-15 THE “CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER” AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 🎧

A core message of Pope Francis’ social teachings is the need for a “culture of encounter” in both the Church and society. Building on his addresses and homilies during his visit to the United States, we will explore the Pope’s affirmations of our social life – and the challenges he presents to U.S. Catholics, too.



Fr. Bryan N. Massingale, STD

Fr. Bryan Massingale, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wis., has served as a seminary and university professor for 20 years and currently is Associate Professor of Theology at Marquette University. A noted authority on Catholic moral theology and social ethics, Fr. Massingale has addressed most national Catholic conferences and numerous colleges and universities. He is a previous RECongress Keynote and past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America and Convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium.

I-16 CATCH ME LORD! I’M FALLING: THE NEW TESTAMENT ON PETER 🎧

There is probably no more attractive and distressing figure in all the Scriptures than Peter, who loves so passionately, speaks too quickly, fails catastrophically and repents so deeply. We all end up feeling better about ourselves when we study Peter’s life, and how, despite his failures, he remained so close to Jesus. In this workshop, we will immerse ourselves in the scriptural evidence to deepen our love for this great saint, and to find, through this study, a window into our Lord’s mercy and compassion.



Rev. J. Patrick Mullen

Fr. Pat Mullen, a priest of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, is Professor of Biblical Studies at St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, Calif., and Pastor at the neighboring Junipero Serra Parish. He is author of two books and numerous articles. Fr. Mullen often presents to priests of various dioceses in the Southwestern United States and annually speaks at the L.A. Congress as well as other regional conferences, from San Diego to Detroit, as well as the Little Rock Bible Study Summer Conference and the Texas Catholic Conference.

I-17 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN AN INCREASINGLY HISPANIC CHURCH 🎧

Catholic schools have served as a major resource to help immigrant communities in the United States promote Catholic identity and social mobility. At a time when nearly 60 percent of U.S. Catholic children under age 18 are Hispanic, we need to examine with new eyes how Catholic schools are serving this population. This workshop introduces the findings from the National Survey of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families (2015), conducted under the leadership of Dr. Hosffman Ospino. Come and learn from fresh data and analysis on a very important topic for the future of the Catholic community in the United States.



Hosffman Ospino, PhD

Dr. Hosffman Ospino teaches Pastoral Theology and Religious Education at Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry, where he is also Director of Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry. Having served as principal investigator for the National Study of Catholic Parishes with Hispanic Ministry (2011-2014), Dr. Ospino is currently working on a book on multicultural congregations as well as one on parishes with Hispanic ministries. His most recent book is titled, “Evangelizaci3n y Catequesis en el Ministerio Hispano.”

I-18 A THEOLOGY OF FOOD, COMMUNION AND THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

In today’s world, relevant conversation can lead to conversion, and it all starts in the family home. Join award-winning chef and theologian, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, a.k.a. “The Cooking Priest,” as he brings our attention back to the “theology of the dinner table,” presenting a dynamic pastoral theology for the domestic church. Using family-based catechesis and starting with a “theology of food” as a lesson for Catholics families, Fr. Leo teaches us how God desires to feed us – from the Garden of Eden all the way to the Supper of the Lamb in Heaven.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug

Fr. Leo Patalinghug is a priest member of a Secular Institute of Consecrated Life called Voluntus Dei (The Will of God). Born in the Philippines and raised in the Baltimore area, he is a best-selling author, an internationally renowned speaker, host of “Savoring Our Faith” on EWTN and a SiriusXM Radio contributor. Fr. Patalinghug is founder and host of the Grace Before Meals movement and author of the book, “Grace Before Meals: Recipes & Inspirations for Family Meals & Family Life.”

I-19 CREATED TO RELATE 🎧

We were created for relationships. From the moment we are born, they are central to who we are and who we become. Through our interactions with our parents and family, and through our friendships, we learn the most valuable lessons of life. Building strong relationships in youth ministry is an art. This workshop will provide practical ways to build solid relational ministry that will ultimately point young people to a relationship with Christ.



Bob Perron

Bob Perron is Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, W.V. He is one of the most popular Catholic speakers in the United States and Canada, and for over a decade, he has presented in more than 60 dioceses. Perron has been keynote presenter at the National Catholic Youth Conference and moderated workshops at the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry. His most recent book is titled “Lessons Learned From a God-Sized Family: In a Me-Sized World.”

I-20 HURTS SO GOOD – MINISTERING TO ADOLESCENTS WHO SELF-INJURE

Research shows that one in four adolescents cut, carve or burn themselves in order to feel better. You will not want to miss this session, especially if you have ever wondered: “What would make a teenager do this?” and “What can I do to help?”



Roy Petitfils, MS, LPC

For 20 years Roy Petitfils has ministered among youth and young adults in parish, diocesan and school settings. Today, a counselor in private practice and a speaker, Petitfils has presented at conferences, workshops and parish missions in over 30 dioceses throughout North America. He has written many articles, has a syndicated monthly column and has published several books, including “What Teens Want You To Know (But Won’t Tell You)” and “What I Wish Someone Had Told Me About the First Five Years of Marriage.”

I-21 THEY COULD TRAMPLE ME: MINISTERING TO YOUNG ADOLESCENTS

Katie Prejean teaches high school freshmen and has a recurring nightmare that large groups of children will one day trample her. Both of those facts make her an expert in how to minister to the most awkward kids on the planet: teens, tweens and everything in between. Effectively teaching and ministering to young people between the ages of 11 and 15 can be challenging, intimidating and exhausting, but in the end, it is perhaps the most rewarding ministry you will ever do. Come join in; we’ll discuss how to create a culture of encounter, how to share the truth joyfully, and what this age group needs the most. And don’t worry, Katie won’t trample you.



Katie Prejean

Katie Prejean teaches theology at St. Louis Catholic High School and is Youth Director at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, both in Lake Charles, La. She has spoken at events throughout the country, ranging from small sessions to the National Catholic Youth Conference. Prejean reads voraciously, blogs occasionally, is a diehard New Orleans Saints fan, binge watches Netflix, loves Jesus, works out every day, and doesn’t like to be hugged. She is presently working on her Master’s degree in theological studies.

I-22 MISSION MATTERS: THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION

Pope Francis’ call to transform the parish into “a center of constant missionary outreach” is more important than ever. Now is the time to bring the healing message of Christ’s mercy to persons who are poor and marginalized – as Pope Francis says, to go “out from the sacristy and into the street.” This workshop presents pastoral approaches based on insights drawn from “The Joy of the Gospel” and the social doctrine of the Church. Participants will leave with practical ideas for how to do all parish ministry activities in a “missionary key.”



Sr. Theresa Rickard, OP

Sr. Theresa Rickard, a Dominican Sister of Blauvelt, N.Y., is President and Executive Director of RENEW International. Before joining RENEW, she ministered in two inner-city parishes in the South Bronx, was Director of Vocation and Formation ministry for her congregation, and was a member of the New York Archdiocese Parish Mission Team. Sr. Rickard is author of “The Living Gospel: Daily Devotions for Advent 2015” and “We Preach Christ Crucified,” and blogs for RENEW under “God in the Stuff of Life” and is an avid sports fan.

I-23 THE BIBLE ACROSS CULTURES

In this session, we will explore two issues in biblical interpretation: 1) the Bible itself as a writing that engages different cultures; and 2) why modern “cross-cultural” analysis of the Bible represents an exciting frontier of biblical interpretation in the 21st century.



Prof. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher

Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher has taught for 26 years at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he is Associate Director for Graduate Studies in Theology. He has received numerous awards for teaching and for research, including a Fulbright award. Dr. Christopher has published over 40 scholarly articles and 14 books. In addition to his primary focus on the Old Testament, he maintains particular interest in theological issues related to African-American and Native-American history and experience.

I-24 WHERE IS THERE A GOD LIKE YOU? – MICAH 7:18-20

Sr. Maureen Sullivan, OP, PhD (bio 8-01)

The prophet Micah reflects on this God who pardons our sins, delights in forgiveness and continues to have compassion on us. We too are overwhelmed by God’s boundless mercy. In the song, “Greater” by MercyMe, the lyrics state: “I hear a voice and he calls me redeemed.” We are redeemed. Our role is to bring those in our ministries to a point where they also are able to say: “I hear a voice and he calls me redeemed.” So much depends on our concept of this God. Do we fear this God? Does this God truly love unconditionally? The response to these questions will be the focus of this presentation.

I-25 FRANCIS, FAMILIES AND THE SYNO D: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Pope Francis chose “family” as the foundational element in reviving the Church, spending much of the past two years teaching, listening and accompanying leaders and parents alike toward a deeper and richer sense of what it means to be church in the world. What impact will Francis’ methods and models, along with the insights and outcomes of the Extraordinary Synod, have upon the daily practice of faith among our families and faith leaders? Let’s join together to reflect on the possibilities.

**Michael Theisen**

Michael Theisen has been involved in youth ministry and faith formation for 30 years, authoring more than 15 books and numerous articles. His experience as a speaker, trainer and ministry leader reaches from parish to diocesan and national levels. Theisen serves as Director of Training and Formation for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in Washington, D.C., where he also is National Coordinator for the Strong Catholic Families Initiative. He resides with his family in Rochester, N.Y.

I-26 THE CHURCH IN A DIGITAL WORLD: SHARING GOOD NEWS

This workshop will focus on establishing criteria to ensure that the Church maintains an appropriate presence in the environment of social media. The following issues will be addressed: the mission of the Church; the nature of digital culture; the digital presence of believers and Church institutions; and the language of the networks. The workshop will articulate a strategy for appropriate engagement and evangelization by the Church.

**Msgr. Paul Tighe**

Msgr. Paul Tighe, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland, served as Head of the Department of Theology at the Mater Dei Institute in Dublin before moving to the Vatican. In 2007 he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Msgr. Tighe has been involved with various initiatives of the Holy See in the area of social media, including the Vatican's use of Twitter and development of the Pope app.

I-27 SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP: THE ART OF RECEIVING AND OFFERING GENTLE WISDOM

A spiritual friend is one who calls us to be all we can be without embarrassing us that we are where we are. Understanding the wondrous, practical and simple dynamics of spiritual friendship helps us accept, offer and embrace this relationship informally and formally with family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances and those in a special position to offer to, or receive from, us gentle, clear companionship.

**Dr. Robert J. Wicks**

Dr. Robert Wicks is Professor Emeritus at Loyola University Maryland. He has taught in universities and professional schools of psychology, medicine, nursing, theology and social work, and has published over 50 books. His latest books are "Availability: The Challenge and the Gift of Being Present" and "Conversations with a Guardian Angel." In 2006, Dr. Wicks received the first annual Alumni Award for Excellence in Professional Psychology from Widener University.

I-70 Các Thánh Tử Đạo Việt Nam: Chứng Nhân Lòng Thương Xót vô bờ của Chúa

Đức Thánh Cha nhận xét là cả chức sắc trong một xã hội ngày nay cũng tránh trách nhiệm, sợ mất giờ riêng, nên khó kiếm những giáo lý viên trung thành dân thân nhiều năm. Ngược lại, Các Thánh Tử Đạo Việt Nam hy sinh giây phút của cuộc đời, sống Niềm Vui Tin Mừng, yêu người không điều kiện. Là con cháu các ngài, chúng ta rút những bài học để sống Niềm Vui Tin Mừng trên đất Mỹ ngày nay.

THE VIETNAMESE MARTYRS: WITNESSES TO GOD'S BOUNDLESS MERCY

Pope Francis lamented that even pastoral leaders today "avoid any responsibility that may take away from their free time" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, #81). In contrast, the Vietnamese Martyrs lived the joy of the Gospel, loving others boundlessly. In this session, we examine their lives to see what we can draw from their heritage, to live the joy of the Gospel in America today.

**Rev. Giuse Nguyễn Việt Hưng, ICM**

LM Giuse Nguyễn Việt Hưng thụ phong linh mục năm 1969 tại Việt Nam, dậy Chủng viện Thánh Lê văn Phụng thuộc giáo phận Long Xuyên, và làm cha sở giáo xứ Thánh Anton Padua & Lê văn Phụng tại Baton Rouge. Hiện nay Ngài là chủ tịch Ủy ban Giáo Lý Việt Nam tại Hoa Kỳ, đồng thời là Tổng Phụ Trách Tu Hội Nhập Thể Tận Hiến Truyền Giáo.

Rev. Joseph Hung Viet Nguyen, ICM

Fr. Joseph Nguyen was ordained in 1969, taught at St. Le-van-Phung Seminary in Vietnam, and was Pastor at St. Anthony of Padua & Le Van Phung Parish in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is Chair of the Vietnamese Catechetical Committee in the USA and Superior General of his religious congregation Incarnatio Consecratio Missio (ICM).

**Lê Xuân Hy**

Tiến sĩ Lê X. Hy dậy tâm lý và thần học mục vụ, và làm giám đốc chương trình Công Giáo Học cũng như Viện Phát Triển Nhân Cách tại Seattle University. Chương trình Chuyên Viên Fulbright Cao Cấp gửi ông qua phục vụ bên Đất Thánh.

Prof. Le Xuan Hy, PhD

Prof. Le Xuan Hy teaches psychology and pastoral theology, directs the Catholic Studies Program, heads the Institute for Human Development, and holds The Reverend Louis Gaffney, SJ Chair at Seattle University. He served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist to Israel.



2-01 BE FEARLESS FOR ME: COURAGE AND THE GOSPEL OF THE MARGINALIZED ARENA

Pope Francis insists that the credibility of the Church rests in how we bring the Gospel to the marginalized. Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, will explore the invitation of Jesus to be courageous in living the Gospel at the margins. Drawing upon 30 years of working with gang members, Fr. Boyle will focus this reflection on joy, hope and the courage of tenderness.



Fr. Gregory J. Boyle, SJ

Author and speaker Fr. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest, is founder and Executive Director of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation program in the United States, now in its 26th year. The native Angeleno was transformed by his work in Bolivia, Mexico and Folsom State Prison in Northern California, and when he returned to the Boyle Heights community of Los Angeles he started what would become Homeboy Industries. Fr. Boyle is also author of the N.Y. Times best-selling book, "Tattoos on the Heart."

2-02 A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE: LITURGY, MUSIC AND DAILY LIFE

Music is one of the most profound ways in which we give voice to our praise and lament before God through all the seasons of life. This workshop will inspire reflection on ways in which music-making, inside and outside of liturgy, shapes and expresses our belief about one another and about God.



Tony Alonso

Tony Alonso is one of the most prominent voices in contemporary liturgical music. His latest release is "A House of Prayer" with GIA Publications. He presents at workshops and conferences across North America and Europe. Alonso formerly served as Director of Music at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and at St. Nicholas Church in Evanston, Ill. An emerging theologian, he is currently a doctoral student at Emory University in Atlanta.

2-03 GOTTA MOVE! SING, DANCE, PRAY!

Here is a creative movement workshop for teachers who work with children, from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Tap into the creative spirit and energy of your students. Come ready to move and learn how to weave some of our favorite songs and dances from several collections of music for young people by OCP artists Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt into your classroom activities.



Donna Anderle

Donna Anderle is an accomplished dancer, teacher and choreographer who is nationally known. She is on the teaching faculty of the Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Theatre Midwest, and is involved in Cincy Dance, an outreach program for Cincinnati inner-city schools. Anderle continues to give workshops, keynote presentations and dance in concerts, and has choreographed for major national youth conferences. Her work is compiled in four choreography books and a video with Oregon Catholic Press.

2-04 BRINGING THE MUSIC AND SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Learn more about the mission and songs of the Taizé community. Find out ways to introduce this simple prayer to your local community and beyond. Find out why so many are drawn to the life, spirit and song of this international, ecumenical monastic community.



David Anderson

David Anderson is Vice President for Church Music and Senior Editor for GIA Publications, in addition to being Director of Music at his parish, Ascension Church in Oak Park, Ill. For the past 22 years, his home parish has welcomed hundreds for a monthly service of prayer and song in the spirit of Taizé. Anderson presents at various conferences throughout the year on topics of liturgy and music for the parish. He frequently leads services and retreats that incorporate the spirit of music of the Taizé community.

2-05 LESSONS FROM THE DAVID STORIES

The cycle of stories dealing with King David, found in First and Second Samuel, are among the most compelling, psychologically rich and theologically significant texts that have come down to us from the ancient world. From these great narratives, we learn about sin and grace, courage and duplicity, heroism and corruption. Throughout, we are provided with an incomparably vivid presentation of the ever-faithful God of Israel. In this talk, Bishop Robert Barron will explore some of the splendor of the David stories.



Bishop Robert Barron

Most Rev. Robert Barron is a prominent theologian, a podcasting bishop, media evangelist and author. The Chicago native was appointed in 2015 as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. In 2000, he launched Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and appears regularly on EWTN and Word on Fire's YouTube Channel. Bishop Barron lectures extensively in the United States and abroad and he has published numerous books, essays and DVD programs. He is a frequent commentator in the media on faith and culture.

2-06 RCIA: EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION IN THE PRE-CATECHUMENATE

This session will unpack the period of pre-Catechuminate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the faith formation intended by the rite. We will explore the vision of the period – that evangelization and conversion of heart are primary to the context – and make practical applications for the parish.



Mary Birmingham

Mary Birmingham is Director of Liturgy, Music and Christian Initiation at Ascension Parish in Melbourne, Fla. She has been involved in RCIA ministry on a national level since 1992 and is a former team member of the North American Forum on the Catechuminate. Birmingham travels extensively throughout the United States and Canada providing diocesan workshops in the areas of Christian initiation and sacramental and liturgical catechesis.

2-07 LET'S PRAY! LET'S SING! AN ENGAGING WAY TO TEACH CATHOLIC PRAYER TO CHILDREN

The journey in faith for children encompasses many Catholic prayers that children come to know and use on a regular basis. As religious educators, we are tasked with teaching these prayers to our children and students – and sometimes the families we serve. Incorporating song into faith formation to teach and join in traditional prayer has a positive impact on learning and makes the role of the catechist, teacher and parent much easier. Join John Burland as he shares the treasure of Catholic prayer through easy-to-use, engaging and prayerful music resources for children and families.

**John Burland**

John Burland is an educator and composer of religious music for children and adults. He is the Education Officer-Liturgy/Music for the Catholic Education Office in Sydney, Australia, and a workshop presenter, composer and touring musician for Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division. Burland has worked as a teacher and religious education coordinator for over 20 years in school and parish communities. He is a regular speaker at conferences and gatherings across Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and North America.

2-08 SING WITH BOUNDLESS JOY!

Pope Francis said, "Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a person: Jesus, in our midst." Join WLP artists James Wahl (from North Carolina) and Andrew Chinn (from Australia), as they share songs, stories and strategies for the early childhood classroom that bring the joy of knowing Jesus to young children. See how music can be used to teach Scripture, lead prayer and celebrations, and draw children deeper into their faith. This workshop is designed for those who teach young children (3-8) ... and for the young at heart as well!

**Andrew Chinn**

Andrew Chinn worked as a teacher in Catholic elementary schools in Sydney, Australia, for nearly 20 years before moving into full-time music ministry as Director of Butterfly Music. He has performed in more than 2,000 concerts across Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Chinn has released nine CDs, five DVDs and five picture books for children. In 2013 he became part of the WLP family, which now distributes his music in North America.

**James Wahl**

WLP composer James Wahl has been performing children's music for over 15 years. He has presented at various diocesan youth events in the dioceses of Phoenix and Raleigh, N.C., over past 10 years. Wahl is currently Director of Music at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, and previously ministered in California, and at SS. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix. He has a CD of original music for young children titled "Standin' On the Rock."

IN 1972

Los Angeles Archbishop Cardinal Timothy Manning (center at altar) presided at an Arena jubilee Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beginnings of a formal religious education program (CCD) in the Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles begun by Bishop John J. Cantwell.

**2-09 CROSSING THE SACRED THRESHOLD: MINDFULNESS IN THE DYING SEASON**

In terminal illness, there is an urgent invitation to cross the sacred threshold into both meaning and loving connection. This workshop is for patients, caregivers, clergy, pastoral ministers, family members, friends and health-care advocates. Together, we will explore end-of-life issues from medical and spiritual perspectives. Dr. Jaena Wisniewski provides clinical experience and health-care advocacy strategies, while musician/storyteller Jeanne Cotter creates the spiritual environment where we can sensitively attune to the dying season.

**Jeanne Cotter**

Jeanne Cotter is a liturgical composer, author, parish mission director and prolific inspirational speaker. For over a decade she has performed her original piano works and songs throughout the United States and Canada. Cotter shares a bounty of knowledge, grounded in her own story and what she calls "the authority of experience." Her latest works include "Tender Hearted" and "The Old Gravel Road."

**Jaena Wisniewski, MD**

Dr. Jaena Wisniewski is a pathologist who has been in practice for 10 years as Partner at North Pathology Associates in Robbinsdale, Minn., and Chief of Pathology at North Memorial Health Care in Saint Paul, Minn. Dr. Wisniewski works with oncologists, critical care doctors and nurses. She is Chair of the Blood Management Committee and has presented for webinars, fundraisers and conferences.

2-10 BEYOND CONTENT: ENGAGING THE HEART, NOT JUST THE HEAD

Witnessing the awakening of the mind gives us great joy and a spring in our step. Witnessing the awakening of the soul takes our breath away and even changes us. We are more than teachers: We are evangelizers. Explore the difference between those who teach knowledge and those who transform lives.

**Rich Curran**

Rich Curran is founder and Executive Director of the Parish Success Group. Having served as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., Curran is a regular presenter at the National Catholic Youth Conference and the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry conferences and other national, regional and diocesan Catholic conferences, parish and school events. He has keynoted at 30 diocesan conferences and is a regular presenter of parish missions at parishes and schools.

2-11 WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH?

This might be the most frequently asked question today. Sad to say, it might be the most seldom answered question, too. This workshop will answer that question with a simple, declarative sentence. And then we will explore how the many dimensions of Catholic Mass help us appreciate why we *should* go to Mass.



Rev. John C. Cusick

Fr. John Cusick, a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese, was creator, coordinator and Director of the diocese's Young Adult Ministry from 1970 to 2013. He resides at Old St. Patrick's Church in downtown Chicago, has spoken at numerous national and international conferences and is a part-time adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. In June 2014, he received The Spirit of the Conference Award for Service on behalf of Lay Ministry from the National Association of Lay Ministers.

2-12 WHY DOES GOD WANT TO FORGIVE ME? THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR TEENS

This workshop unwraps the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation for teens. It addresses the questions: Who am I? How does God relate to me? What is forgiveness? Is forgiveness possible? The sacrament of reconciliation is introduced in the context of God's relationship with the young person. The sacrament is a powerful expression of God's love for and trust in the one who celebrates. The sacrament calls teens to reflect on their own lives and on the confidence that God has in them.



Fr. Paul Farren

Fr. Paul Farren, a native of Ireland, is Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Derry, Northern Ireland, where he is also Administrator of St. Eugene's Cathedral. He teaches adult religious education courses in the diocese and gives presentations throughout Ireland, England and the United States. In 2014, Fr. Farren formed the Derry Youth Community, a diocesan community of young people ministering to teens. His latest book is titled "The Light of Forgiveness."

2-13 THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC ON THE LIVES OF TEENS

There is one thing every human being, no matter age, race or creed, has in common: love of music. Music can impart powerful social messages and capture the attention of teenagers. Society "gets" the influence of music from the marketing standpoint. It's time for us to "get" it from the perspective of our call to evangelize!



Noelle Garcia

Noelle Garcia is a Catholic recording artist with World Library Publications. She travels the country speaking at parishes and conferences, appearing at events including CNN's "Latino in America" documentary, EWTN's weekly show "Life on the Rock," in addition to World Youth Day 2008, the National Catholic Youth Conference, and the L.A. Congress. She is married to fellow musician and youth minister, David Garcia, and lives in Dodge City, Kan.

2-14 THE BEES ARE BACK!

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to care for all creation. In the Roman Missal, we find that the bees have returned to the Exsultet. Learn about the meaning of the Exsultet, the music you can use and the candle that it praises. Illumine your appreciation of Easter and deepen your respect for bees! Human survival is dependent on the work of the bee. Life on Earth depends on bees. Albert Einstein once said, "Once we lose the bees, the human race has only four more years to exist."



Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik

Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik is currently Pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. After ordination and two associate pastorships, he served as Priest-Secretary to then Archbishop (now Cardinal) Roger Mahony. He held that post for 10 years until the Cardinal appointed him to the Cathedral pastoral post on February 1, 1999. On July 1, 2016, Msgr. Kostelnik will conclude his term as first Pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.



Martin Marklin

Martin Marklin has been fascinated by paschal candles since he was an altar server at Holy Cross Parish in St. Louis. In 1975, he began creating paschal candles and worked to perfect a wax-inlay process. Ten years later he started his own business, Marklin Candles, based in Contoocook, N.H. – one of about seven U.S. liturgical candle companies. Marklin, a woodworker by training, made candles for the U.S. visits of Pope Francis, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.



John K. Flaherty

John Flaherty has been involved in music and educational ministry for over 20 years as an educator, elementary school principal, music director, liturgy director and composer. He is presently on the Campus Ministry team at Loyola Marymount University, where he serves as Director of Liturgy and Music. Flaherty has served as the chairperson of the Liturgy Committee and Music Director for the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress since 1991.

2-15 SO WHAT? I MEAN, REALLY, SO WHAT?

What difference *does* all this make? Whatever our life calling, sometimes there is just so much to discourage us. We try so hard. We have some successes. We are set back by many failures. Sometimes we wonder why we do what we do. Yet, could the question "So what?" actually rekindle for us, and for those we serve, joy and meaning in our daily living? Fr. Joe Kempf offers several key perspectives and concrete strategies that will make a profound difference in your ministry – and in you.



Rev. Joseph G. Kempf

Fr. Joe Kempf, a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese, is founder and President of the non-profit Gospel Values. He has presented at religious education gatherings across the United States and Canada. Fr. Kempf is author of "No One Cries the Wrong Way" and a number of children's books, including "My Sister is Annoying," and "Don't Drink the Holy Water." He has a CD of guided prayer reflections and four volumes of DVDs under the "Big Al LIVE" series.

2-16 MISSION-CENTERED MINISTRY: WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES OUR MISSION MAKE? 🔊

You probably have a carefully crafted mission statement for your community, organization or ministry, but what difference does it really make in how your ministry is practiced? Do we really need a mission separate from the one given to us by Jesus? Being mission-centered is one of the qualities of truly transformational parishes and ministries. We'll share practical advice on what a good mission looks like and some of the traps we need to avoid. We'll also explore how a mission can help focus our ministry, making it more effective, more attractive to others, and even help avoid burnout.

**Douglas Leal**

Douglas Leal is Director of Mission Services for St. Joseph Health, based in Irvine, Calif., and previously led the Division of Adult Faith Formation for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He has worked as a management consultant and as a professional actor and director. Leal has presented at numerous conferences, including the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, the Catholic Bible Institute, and Theology on Tap. He is author of the skill-building book for lectors, "Stop Reading and Start Proclaiming!"

2-17 THE SEASON OF THE NATIVITY: CELEBRATING THE INCARNATION WITH EMBODIED PRACTICES 🔊

Sybil MacBeth (bio 1-14)

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany celebrate God's coming into the world as flesh and blood. This is a season for delighting in and engaging all of the senses – smell, taste, sight, hearing and touch. Learn simple, sensory ways to experience this rich season each day at home – whether you are 5 or 85. We will sing, move, pray in color, engage Scripture and celebrate the season of the Incarnation with our whole body. Enrich the chaos of the "Christmas" season with playful and prayerful practices.

2-18 EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW: NEW MEDIA FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION 🔊

Fr. James Martin, Editor at Large for America Media, hosts a panel of writers and editors from The Jesuit Post (TJP). Staffed by Jesuits in formation, TJP regularly publishes articles, spiritual reflections and essays that share the Gospel in light of trends and issues in popular culture. The panel will share what this ministry has taught them about how to engage young Catholics and seekers: by speaking "as one friend to another" (to quote St. Ignatius). Online communities and social media have formed a new marketplace of ideas where people gather and share. Come explore what the work of TJP shows us about communicating faith and evangelizing young people today.

**Fr. James Martin, SJ**

Jesuit priest Fr. James Martin is Editor at Large of America magazine. He is author of several award-winning books, including "Together on Retreat," "Between Heaven and Mirth," "The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything," "My Life

with the Saints" and, most recently, "The Abbey." Fr. Martin is a frequent speaker at national conferences, retreats and parish groups and has presented at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress over the past several years.

**Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ**

Keith Maczkiewicz joined the New England Province of Jesuits in 2008. He has served as a Campus Minister in high schools and at universities, including Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. Maczkiewicz has offered retreats at the Jesuit houses in Barrington, Ill, and in Los Altos, Calif. He currently serves as Associate Editor for The Jesuit Post.

**Joseph Simmons, SJ**

Joseph Simmons is a Jesuit of the Wisconsin Province, currently studying theology at Boston College in preparation for ordination to the priesthood in 2017. He taught at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis and at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Simmons has been writing and now editing for the Jesuit Post since its launch in January 2012.

**Jason Welle, SJ**

After several years working as a flight attendant and serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in southeastern African country of Malawi, Jason Welle entered the Jesuits in 2006. He has worked at Seattle University, studied Spanish in Colombia, and traveled Mexico's migrant corridor. He joined The Jesuit Post in 2013, and just finished a term as Managing Editor. Welle will be ordained to the priesthood in June.

2-19 THE HOLY FAMILY: MODELS OF MERCY FOR TODAY'S WORLD 🔊

Using the colorful images and stories from his trilogy of art books on Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Bro. Mickey McGrath will offer unique and inspirational glimpses into the life of the Holy Family and their relevance for us in our 21st-century, multicultural church. The themes of respect for women and a thirst for social justice will be highlighted alongside the simple details of ordinary family life. A joyful and moving look at life, death and love – all the elements that make ordinary families quite extraordinary indeed.

**Bro. Michael O'Neill McGrath**

Bro. Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is an artist, author and popular speaker at retreats and religious education conferences throughout the country. He also creates art for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and many Catholic publishers. Bro. McGrath has won awards for his books "Go to Joseph" and "Good Pope John XXIII," which was presented to Pope Francis. His latest works are "Dear Young People: Inspiration from Pope Francis for All" and a series of video presentations based on his most popular books.

2-20 THE NAMES OF GOD

Among the 99 names for God in Islam is God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Jesus tells us we must be as merciful and as compassionate as our Father/ God is toward all. Names reveal truth, but they also call us not only to preach and proclaim, but to practice as witness to our belief in God. What does it mean to be merciful and/or compassionate today in our personal relationships, in Church and in the world? Come try out the cloak of mercy and compassion in story, example and hope.



Megan McKenna

Megan McKenna is an international speaker and storyteller, author and theologian. She has spoken at national and international conferences. Author of 50 books, McKenna teaches at universities, colleges and pastoral institutes worldwide and presents workshops for dioceses and small communities. She is an Ambassador of Peace for Pax Christi USA and has won the Isaac Hecker Award for Justice and Peace.

2-21 CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP: REMOVING OUR SANDALS BEFORE THE SACRED GROUND OF THE OTHER

Pope Francis tells us, “The Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary. In our world, [we] can make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 169). God invites us to accompany others, so they may know the companionship of God – and so we may know it more deeply with them. Using prayer, music, photographs and storytelling, explore the themes of missionary discipleship and accompaniment through the Sacred Ground of our sisters and brothers who live on the margins and discover how these concepts shape our call to serve.



Ted Miles

Baltimore native Ted Miles first worked in Belize and Guatemala in a two-year Jesuit Volunteer position. For nearly 30 years since then, he has served in parish ministry, Catholic high school education and archdiocesan leadership development. For 10 years, Miles has worked for Catholic Relief Services as Relationship Manager for Youth and Religious Education and Coordinator of Outreach for the United States. He now speaks nationally and internationally on behalf of CRS.



Ben Walther

Ben Walther began writing songs while serving as a worship leader in college. He taught religion for over five years and spent 13 years in parish and school ministry. He has served as a diocesan event worship leader, retreat host and conference speaker. Walther now teaches religion at St. Paul Catholic School in North Canton, Ohio. He is a recent addition to the OCP/SpiritandSong.com family; his CD is titled “Make Your Home in Me.”

2-22 FAITH FORMATION FOR MINISTRY WITH THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

In this workshop, faith formation leaders will be guided in best-practice models, methodologies and resources. Mary O’Meara will use, “Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization,” as the teaching guide to better help special needs students and their families grow in the knowledge, understanding and living out their faith as valued members of their parish communities.



Mary O’Meara

Mary O’Meara serves the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. as Executive Director of the Department of Special Needs. She is a presenter at national conferences for children with disabilities and special needs and at diocesan workshops across the United States. O’Meara serves on the Executive Board of the International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons and is Course/Certificate Designer for the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation Certificate in Disability Ministry.

2-23 A CHURCH ON THE MOVE: 52 WAYS TO GET MISSION AND MERCY IN MOTION

Pope Francis is eager for our parishes to become places of boundless mercy. In response, several popular books and seminars have proposed ways to “rebuild” and “renovate” the Church according to Francis’ vision. Unfortunately, these proposals require “rock star” pastors, large budgets and an upper middle-class demographic. In this workshop, pastoral minister, catechist, author and speaker Joe Paprocki offers 52 exciting, practical, realistic and viable transformation strategies. We can change the way average parishes think, function, worship, form people in faith and engage the world to truly become a Church on the move where we encounter *boundless mercy*.



Joe Paprocki, DMin

Joe Paprocki has over 35 years of experience in pastoral ministry and is presently National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press in Chicago. He has presented in over 100 dioceses in North America, including Alaska, Hawaii and Canada. An author of numerous books on pastoral ministry and catechesis, Paprocki serves as a catechist at Evergreen Park, just outside of Chicago, and blogs about the experience.

2-24 POPE FRANCIS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: CARING FOR MOTHER EARTH AND HER CHILDREN

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis tells us what he learned from scientists about threats to the environment and why he thinks this is a moral issue. He explains the causes of the environmental crisis in our political and economic systems and how we should respond to what is the most important challenge of the 21st century.



Thomas J. Reese, SJ

Jesuit priest Fr. Thomas Reese is a senior analyst at the National Catholic Reporter. From 2006 to 2013, he was Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, where he focused on religion and public policy.

From 1998 to 2005, he was editor of America magazine. Fr. Reese is author of several books, including "Archbishop: Inside the Power Structure of the American Catholic Church." He frequently appears on television and radio discussing Catholic issues and is often quoted in the press.

2-25 SAME LORD, NEW SOUNDTRACK 🎧

How did Jesus do it? He met people and knew instantly what they needed. Could we claim this in our ministry with young people? Jesus is in tune with the soundtrack of their lives. His message is also constant as is the change in music teens listen to. Learn ways to incorporate the real needs of young people, honor their culture and tap into the music of their hearts to improve your ministry. Arrive to this workshop ready to laugh, listen, share and walk away with *four* proven strategies.



Anna Scally

Anna Scally, President of Cornerstone Media, is a columnist for their Top Music Countdown online resource and host of the audio show, "Burning Issues." She has made over 2,300 presentations at youth rallies, training events, retreats and adult education days and major conferences for religious educators in North America. Serving on the Board of Directors for the Catholic Youth Foundation USA, Scally has presented at RECongress for over 20 years. Her most recent book is titled, "Keys to Happiness."

2-26 CONNECTING WITH GENERATION C 🎧

"Generation C" is being defined as people who are under 25 years of age. The reason for the "C" label is that they are connected, creative, curious and seeking community and good content. One of the things that may be missing from the "C" generation is Christ. In the spirit of the New Evangelization, we need to develop new and engaging ways to connect with this generation and not just evangelize, but catechize as well. In this workshop, we will explore who is Gen C and possible strategies on how to reach out to this group. Online and social media activities will be shared during this session.



Victor Valenzuela

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

2-27 "HARVOLIC": LESSONS LEARNED FROM WORKING FOR TWO WORLDWIDE BRANDS 🎧

Harvard University and the Catholic Church are two of the most recognizable worldwide institutions and brands. Loyola Press author Matt Weber spends his day job as Director of Digital Communications Strategy for the Harvard Graduate School of Education – and his lunch hours

and nights as a host and producer for the CatholicTV Network. Drawing from his experiences leading the Harvard University brand and shaping the conversation on his new CatholicTV show, "The Lens," Weber will provide useful tips and insights for best positioning your school/parish ministry with an authentic "digital heart and soul."



Matthew O'Donnell Weber

Since 2009, Matt Weber has appeared as a host and producer on CatholicTV. He is also Director of Digital Communication Strategy at Harvard University, where he produces their Graduate School of Education's podcast "The Harvard EdCast." Weber, author of the book, "Fearing the Stigmata," is a frequent contributor at Harvard University and to "Busted Halo" and the Huffington Post. For the past three years, he has had national speaking engagements at colleges, parishes and national educator gatherings across the country.

2-70 Lòng Thương Xót Hải Hà 🎧

Lịch sử cứu độ cũng là lịch sử diễn tả lòng thương xót của Chúa đối với con người. Thiên Chúa của Kitô hữu được trình bày như Đấng Sáng tạo, Đấng Giải phóng và Đấng Che chở (Quan phòng). Lòng thương xót của Ngài thể hiện cách đặc biệt qua Chúa Giêsu Kitô, Đấng Cứu độ trần gian. Qua Đức Giêsu, Thiên Chúa đã trở nên gần gũi con người và đồng hành với họ. Chúng ta cần nhận ra lòng thương xót của Ngài đối với nhân loại và đối với đời sống cá nhân mỗi người.

THE BOUNDLESS MERCY OF GOD 🎧

The history of salvation is also a history that express the mercy of God for humanity. God of the Christians is presented as the Creator, the Liberator and the Divine Protector (Providence). His mercy is shown especially through Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the World. Through Jesus, God became intimate with humankind and companioned with them. We need to realize His mercy for humanity as well for each individual.



Đức Cha Giuse Vũ Văn Thiên

Đức Cha Giuse Vũ Văn Thiên sinh ngày 26 tháng 10 năm 1960 tại Hải Dương, chịu chức Linh Mục ngày 24 tháng 1 năm 1988 và được bổ nhiệm giúp giáo xứ Mỹ Đông và cha còn hỗ trợ lo cho trên 10 nhà thờ xung quanh. Ngày 6 tháng 11, 2002 Đức Giáo Hoàng Gioan Phaolô II đã bổ nhiệm Cha Thiên làm Giám Mục Giáo phận Hải Phòng và được Phong chức Giám Mục ngày 2 tháng 1, 2003. Hiện tại Đức Cha Giuse Vũ Văn Thiên đặc trách lo cho giới trẻ của Hội Đồng Giám Mục Việt Nam.

Bishop Joseph Thien Van Vu

Bishop Joseph Thien Van Vu, born on October 26, 1960, was ordained a priest on January 24, 1988 for the Hai Duong Province in Vietnam and served at My Dong Parish and provided pastoral over 10 parishes. Pope John Paul II appointed Fr. Vu as Bishop of Hai Phong on November 6, 2002 and was ordained on January 2, 2003. Currently, Bishop Vu heads the Episcopal Commission for Youth of the Vietnamese Bishops' Conference.

3-01 ENCOUNTER: SIGNIFICANCE OVER SUCCESS

ARENA

Pope Francis has been making “culture of encounter” a theme of his papacy. What specifically does this mean? How do we do this in ordinary ways and in our evangelizing efforts/ministry in the Church?



Mike Patin

“Faith Horticulturist” Mike Patin lives in Lafayette, La., and has worked in ministry since 1984 as a high school teacher, coach and diocesan youth minister for the New Orleans Archdiocese. He has spoken to groups ranging from 10 to 23,000 in over 130 dioceses in the United States and Canada on issues of Catholic faith, positive attitude, using our gifts and living life fully. Patin has published two books: “A Standing Invitation” and “This Was Not in the Brochures: Lessons from Work, Life and Ministry.”

3-02 AW SNAP! THE PASTOR WANTS ME TO START A YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

It always takes courage to start something new. In this session, we will look at invitation, communication and evangelization strategies to help equip young adults to lead among their peers. We’ll explore dynamic and engaging strategies to start building Christ-centered community. Young adult ministry is an exciting place to be, so let’s get there together.



Clarissa Valbuena Aljentera

Clarissa Aljentera is Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation and Media Resources at the Chicago Archdiocese’s Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry. She is a speaker and consultant, appearing at regional and parish conferences around the Chicago area and nationally, and author of “The Parish Guide to Social Media: How Social Networking Can Recharge Your Ministry.” Originally a newspaper reporter from California, Aljentera now performs “improv” and writes rap based on Scripture.

3-03 THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT DESIRE, SEX AND THE PATH TO FREEDOM

This talk addresses the two hottest topics on the planet: Sex and God. St. John Paul II “marries” these two topics through his compelling vision for love and life. Using a mix of real-life examples, theology and cultural references, Mary Bielski will answer questions about our deep desires for intimacy, sex, our bodies and provides a vision and path to fulfill our unique call to greatness.



Mary Bielski

Based in New Orleans, Mary Bielski is a national speaker, youth minister and founder of ALL4HIM Ministries. With 15 years in youth ministry and 12 years as a national speaker, she has presented to over 75,000 teens and adults across the nation, at high schools, parish and diocesan rallies and young adult retreats and conferences, including the Steubenville Youth Conference and Life Teen-Inspiration. Bielski focuses on a variety of topics, including conversion, prayer, the Holy Spirit, sacraments, chastity and the theology of the body.

3-04 DEMYSTIFYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION

In America today, the loudest voice in the discussion of the Book of Revelation has been the “Rapturist’s” – a voice characterized by the “left behind” books and movies. This popular interpretation is at odds with mainstream biblical studies and does not attend to the apocalyptic genre of which the book is part. Yet, without understanding this peculiar style of writing, we risk misunderstanding the book itself and miss its pointed message. In our session, we will recapture the challenge this enigmatic book continues to pose to us and to our society.



Fr. William L. Burton, OFM

Fr. Bill Burton, a Franciscan friar of the Sacred Heart Province, began his 20-year teaching career as a professor of undergraduate and graduate courses in Biblical Studies at Quincy University in Illinois and at DePaul University in Chicago. Currently an Assistant Professor of Scripture and a spiritual director, Fr. Burton has published several articles in The Bible Today and a DVD series. He leads parish Bible study, retreats and workshops, study tours and pilgrimage travels throughout the Holy Land, Greece and Turkey.

3-05 ANCIENT AND HOLY TRUTHS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW GENERATION

Hebrews 13:8 makes it clear that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Utilizing advancing technologies and the power of social media, we will take a look at how we have been empowered to engage in unprecedented opportunities to bring Christ’s Truth and the beauty of Catholic tradition and culture to a new generation.



Dallas Carter Jr.

Hawaiian native Dallas Carter is a small business owner, Catholic apologist, national Catholic speaker, marketer, lecturer and consultant. He also is a Diocesan Catechist for the Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii, and since 2004 has been part of the diocesan faculty, lecturing in theology. Carter appears annually at the Faith Formation Conferences in Oahu, Kauai and Maui, and presented at the 2012 National Conference for Catechetical Leadership in San Diego.

3-06 EFFECTIVE PRAYER WITH CHILDREN! IT’S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

Ever get stuck when it comes to prayer with children? Looking for new and creative ideas? Then sign up for this workshop! We will explore how essential prayer is for children and learn easy (and fun!) skills for creating powerful prayer experiences.



Steven Ellair

Steven Ellair is a Senior Editor and National Presenter, Content Passioner and Curriculum Manager with Saint Mary’s Press. He has been involved in catechetical ministry for 25 years and has served as a parish catechist, youth minister, Catholic schoolteacher and archdiocesan catechetical consultant. Ellair has been involved in Catholic publishing for over 12 years and continues to write and speak nationally on issues related to catechesis. He has presented at national religious education events for 18 years.

3-07 THE QUINCEAÑERA AND ITS CAPACITY TO TRULY REACH HISPANIC FAMILIES 🗣️

As the Church of United States continues to celebrate this most beloved Latino tradition, parish ministers have realized that, in embracing this celebration, they have a unique opportunity to truly reach Hispanic families. In this interactive session, Santiago Fernandez will review the liturgical celebration step by step, present various musical options and discuss opportunities for evangelization and catechesis as you work with families in your own parish. Come ready to sing!

**Santiago Fernandez**

Active in parish ministry for the past 30 years, Santiago Fernandez is Music Minister at the Church of the Holy Family in Novi, Mich. He also serves as a clinician and composer for Oregon Catholic Press and is a frequent speaker and workshop presenter at events and conferences around the country. Fernandez was Music Director for the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry and served as Music and Liturgy Coordinator for the First National Encuentro for Hispanic Youth in 2006.

3-08 GOD'S MERCY ALIVE THROUGH MINISTRY TO THE POOR 🗣️

This workshop will create an awareness about poverty and a heightened sensitivity about it. One of the objectives is to instill in everyone a sense of responsibility and empowerment to the tools and resources available to overcome or survive financial and other difficulties. Everyone can suffer some type of poverty, but people have at their hands the ability to provide assistance and offer support to our brothers and sisters in need, in a Christian manner.

**David R. Fields**

For more than 20 years, Southern Californian David Fields has been a dedicated Vincentian with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Los Angeles Council, where he currently is Executive Director. He served as President of St. Elizabeth Conference in Altadena, District President of the San Gabriel Council, Chair of the Council's Vincentian Services Committee, and member of the L.A. Council's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Fields has also served as President of the Black Catholic Association of Altadena and Pasadena.

**Fr. Perry Henry, CM**

Since 2014, Vincentian priest Fr. Perry Henry has served as Director of the DePaul Evangelization Center in Montebello, Calif., where he regularly presents ministry formation programs. He was Provincial for the Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission. Fr. Henry was Pastor of St. Joseph Church in New Orleans from 1996 to 2010, where he led the rebuilding of the parish following Hurricane Katrina and established the Rebuild Center, which provides relief and recovery assistance to the chronically homeless.

3-09 LOVE IS OUR MISSION WITH LGBT CATHOLICS: CHURCH AND FAMILY FULLY ALIVE 🗣️

Pope Francis challenges the Church to acknowledge difficult pastoral situations and respond with love and mercy. The Synod on the Family has accordingly opened a space to hear the stories of families of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Catholics. In this workshop, we will present a brief background of Church teachings on homosexuality. Our focus will be discussing the writings surrounding the Synod and reflecting on how the Church and our families can grow fully alive through love and acceptance of LGBT Catholics.

**Arthur Fitzmaurice, PhD**

Dr. Arthur Fitzmaurice is Resource Director of the Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry, based in Atlanta. He formerly served as Chair for the Los Angeles Archdiocese Catholic Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons and has received the Archdiocese's Lumen Christi and Cardinal's Young Adult in Ministry Award. Dr. Fitzmaurice has contributed to America Media and appears in the Ignatian News Network's YouTube series on pastoral care of LGBT Catholics.

**Fr. Chris Ponnet**

Los Angeles-native Fr. Chris Ponnet was ordained for the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1983. Since then, he has served as Director for the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry. Fr. Ponnet has also been involved with the U.S. bishops' peace pastoral regarding non-violent action. Their statement, "Always Our Children," is among the many primary Church documents he addresses. He speaks regularly and provides consultation and spiritual direction to those in and connected to ministry.

3-10 A FRIEND INDEED: HELPING SOMEONE IN GRIEF 🗣️

A friend in need is a friend indeed. And we need each other most of all when life doles out inevitable grief and loss. Yet, because we are never taught what to say and what not to say, we perpetuate mistakes and platitudes that too often fail to comfort. Learn about grief itself – what the experience is like and what is normal. Learn practical strategies and words that are truly comforting. Look at the impact of faith when a person is grieving. Discover how to help your parishioners, friends and family become whole and heal back to life, so they can live it vibrantly and find joy.

**Amy Florian**

Amy Florian is a liturgy and bereavement consultant, instructor in a graduate ministry program at Loyola University Chicago, and CEO of Corgenius, a company that teaches professionals to support clients in transition and loss. Florian has 30 years of parish and conference experience and has authored over 90 articles and three books, including "No Longer Awkward: Communicating with Clients through the Toughest Times of Life."

IN 1957

, the second CCD Institute was held at Bishop Conaty Catholic Girls High School and saw attendance double in size. In subsequent years (1958-1966), attendance continued to increase at the venues



of Loyola University and culminated with over 4,000 attending the event at Immaculate Heart College. Here, in a 1962 photo, Cardinal James McIntyre celebrates Mass in the Immaculate Heart College Auditorium.

3-11 MY JOURNEY FROM TEEN REBELLION, DEPRESSION AND ADDICTION, TO PRIESTHOOD

Join Fr. Rob Galea as he recounts his personal story of coming through sadness, anxiety and anger to a place of hope. He will share this journey through story and music.



Fr. Rob Galea

Singer/songwriter Fr. Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic priest currently serving in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. In addition to his series of recordings and CD releases, he has written a number of songs for various events and international conferences. Fr. Galea is founder of "Stronger," a youth program in and around Victoria state's Sandhurst Diocese, Perth and beyond. He performed at the 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, and has appeared on several TV and radio shows in Europe, Canada and Australia.

3-12 EDUCATION IN FAITH AND THE CHALLENGES OF HIGH SCHOOL THEOLOGY

In their theology curriculum, Catholic high schools are uniquely situated to nurture the faith life of their students at a time when it is most strategic for their spiritual growth. Are we taking full advantage of this opportunity? The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' Curriculum Framework for Young People, when coupled with engaging and effective pedagogy, can help us to meet the challenges.



Dr. Thomas Groome

Dr. Tom Groome is Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, where he is also Chair of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. The award-winning author has written or edited 10 books and numerous articles and essays. For the past 35 years Dr. Groome has lectured all over the world, presenting thousands of workshops and seminars, and has presented at all the major North American conferences for religious educators and pastoral ministers.

3-13 INCARNATION ANYWAY: THE SPIRITUALITY OF WHY GOD BECAME HUMAN

Why did God become human? The typical answer – "because of human sin" – suggests the Word would not have become flesh had humanity not sinned. However, a closer look at Scripture, the theological tradition and the insights of key Christian thinkers such as St. Paul, Irenaeus of Lyons, John Duns Scotus, Thomas Merton and Francis of Assisi, among others, offer an alternative yet entirely orthodox answer to this question: It was God's plan from all eternity to become human regardless of human sin. This workshop explores the spirituality and theology of the Incarnation to renew our personal and pastoral understanding of Christology, especially in this Year of Mercy!



Rev. Daniel P. Horan, OFM

Franciscan priest Fr. Dan Horan, a speaker and columnist at America magazine, lives in residence at St. Anthony Shrine and Ministry Center in Downtown Boston. He is author of several books, including "The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton" and "The Last Words of Jesus," as well as numerous academic and popular articles. Fr. Horan has taught in New York at Siena College in Religious Studies and at St. Bonaventure University in the Department of Theology and has lectured throughout North America and Europe.

3-14 WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS

Using her unique style of storytelling, music and inspirational message, ValLimar Jansen will lead participants through a journey in which they'll meet women of Scripture and tradition who encountered Jesus at a pivotal moment in their lives. What can we learn from them? What can they reveal to us about God's boundless mercy? What can they teach us about how to respond in faith?



ValLimar Jansen

Traveling to over 80 events annually, ValLimar Jansen serves the Church as a composer, singer, storyteller, speaker and evangelizer. She received critical acclaim for her solo albums, "You Gotta Move" and "Anointing," winning UNITY Awards recognition in 2008 and 2010. She was the MC for the National Catholic Youth Conference in 2011 held in Indianapolis. ValLimar and her husband, Frank, performed for over 300,000 people at the Loreto/Angora international papal event in Italy, broadcast on EWTN and across the world.

3-15 CELEBRATING MERCIFUL LITURGY

This session will be an exploration of celebrating mercy through the texts, music and gestures of the Eucharist, the sacrament of reconciliation, the anointing of the sick, and the Liturgy of the Hours. Various resources will be presented.



Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

Composer, author and speaker, Fr. Michael Joncas is Artist in Residence and Research Fellow in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. He has served as parochial vicar, campus minister and pastor. Fr. Joncas,

an ordained priest for the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese, is author of six books and over 200 articles and reviews in journals including Worship, Ecclesia Orans, and Questions Liturgiques. He is also composer and arranger of over 300 pieces of liturgical music.

3-16 NEUROSCIENCE AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

What do neuroscience and contemplative practices have in common? A lot more than you might think! Come join us in exploring our contemplative tradition, from the Desert Fathers and Mothers to the saints, mystics, Thomas Merton, Mother Teresa, Thomas Keating, and more. These spiritual guides provide timely advice on how to nurture silence and live in the present moment, enhancing our lives in myriad ways. We will see how the latest neuro-science findings support and affirm these contemplative practices, revealing that meditative prayer, mindfulness and gratitude can bring greater peace, compassion and joy to ourselves and others.



Anne Kertz Kernion

Anne Kertz Kernion is owner and artist of Cards by Anne, a greeting card company specializing in hand-calligraphied cards begun in 1986. She has taught theology at Carlow University in Pittsburgh for over a decade, and chemistry and religion courses at the nearby Community College of Allegheny County. Kertz is also a public speaker, gives retreats and teaches yoga. Her latest book is titled, "A Year of Spiritual Companionship."

3-17 SING MERCY, SING JUSTICE, SING MISSION

Music can help open our ears, eyes and hearts to core Gospel values. Join Australian composer Michael Mangan as he presents a vibrant and engaging intergenerational repertoire sure to inspire children and adults alike to experience and embrace the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bring your voice and be ready to sing!



Michael Mangan

Michael Mangan is a composer, teacher and music liturgist from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The former elementary school music specialist teacher has over 250 compositions that are used in parishes and schools throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Mangan is a member of the Australian Academy of Liturgy, National Deputy Chair of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and is Music Director at All Saints Catholic Parish in Brisbane. His latest music collection is entitled "Sing Mercy."

3-18 BLACK AND CATHOLIC: THE GIFT AND CHALLENGE TODAY

Fr. Bryan N. Massingale, STD (bio 1-15)

This workshop explores the reality of black Catholic faith today, especially in light of the challenges of racial justice in our country. After looking at these challenges, we will examine the responses of the Catholic Church and then see the contributions that black Catholics can make as the quest for social justice continues.

3-19 MERCY AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

In this session – and in this Year of Mercy – Fr. Jonathan Morris will talk about letting go of resentment, anger and a misplaced passion for fairness to embrace the freedom of mercy.



Fr. Jonathan Morris

Fr. Jonathan Morris is currently Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bronx, N.Y., and was parochial vicar at the historic St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in New York City. Fr. Morris previously served as Program Director for Sirius-XM's Catholic Channel and as Communications Advisor to New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan. He is The New York Times best-selling author of "The Promise," "God Wants You Happy," and "The Way of Serenity," and is regularly called on by the national media for ethical and moral commentary.

3-20 RECONCILING THE POLARIZED CHURCH THE POPE FRANCIS WAY

Aren't we all sick of hearing how "they" are like that and "they" just don't get it? Enough with the "us" and "them"! Are we Catholic or not? Is this Church big enough for all of us or not? Pope Francis is cutting through these divisive factions and offering a way forward as a community that is united enough to be a family even when we disagree. What is he doing, and can we adopt it in our lives?



David M. O'Brien

David O'Brien is Professor of Theology at Saint Leo University in Tampa, Fla., and works as Director of Faith Formation at St. Timothy Parish in Lady Lake, Fla. He is an international speaker on Catholic evangelization and social justice and recently returned from six months in Uganda working with child soldiers. O'Brien is author of "Catholic Strategic Peacebuilding" and "There's a Beer in My Handbag: Unusual Thoughts about Everyday Faith." He is caring for his aging parents and still grieving the loss of his 7-week-old baby.

3-21 "ASK FR. TONY" – ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS ON FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

Fr. R. Tony Ricard, MTh, MDiv (bio 6-01)

In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, the Apostle to the Gentiles asks, "How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?" (10:14). In these two basic questions of faith, Paul points out that we need ministers of Christ who are willing to answer the questions the followers of Christ may want to ask. This interactive workshop will deal with some of the major questions of our faith. It will also allow participants to "Ask Fr. Tony" their questions about faith, hope and love.

3-22 THE IMPORTANCE AND BEAUTY OF THE EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

First, we must answer two important questions: What are the Eastern Catholics Churches? What is their origin? The answers will show that the Eastern Churches are an essential part of the universal Church of Christ, which would be incomplete without them. They are very relevant to the life of the Church today, and the beauty of their theology, spirituality and liturgy has enlivened the faith and are necessary for its health in the contemporary world.



Very Rev. David M. Petras

Rev. David Petras is a priest of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, which is headquartered in Parma, Ohio, and covers the Midwestern United States. Having formerly served as Pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Cleveland, Rev. Petras taught at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary from 1995 to 2013 and was Director of Spiritual Formation. He has been a member of the Orthodox Catholic Theological Consultation from 1984 to the present. In 2013, he retired and is living in Phoenix, where he teaches online courses.



Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith

Born and raised in the Hyde Park area of Los Angeles, Greek Catholic priest Fr. Alexei Smith is 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. In 2011, he was elected President of the Southern California Ecumenical Council, the first Catholic to hold this position. Fr. Smith is a frequent speaker at the L.A. Congress and at local interfaith venues.

3-23 FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

Empowering the young Catholic faithful as authentic witnesses is hard work! Through the lens of genuine discipleship formation, we will immerse ourselves in authentic realistic approaches. Come learn about creative leadership empowerment in youth ministry. This workshop will break open effective and practical means of developing healthy youth leaders in your faith community not just today, but for life!



Doug Tooke

Doug Tooke, Executive Director of Reach Youth Ministry and owner of Monarch Catholic Ministries, directs youth ministry events in the Diocese of Helena, Mont., where he formerly served as diocesan Director of Faith Formation. He has over 20 years of professional ministry experience and has traveled to more than 75 dioceses in the past 15 years teaching, training youth ministers, keynoting conventions and presenting at events, including World Youth Day and the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry.

3-24 MISSIONARIES OF MERCY: THE REFLECTION COMPONENT OF YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

Are we just clocking the hours, or are our service projects tied to deepening of our relationship with the Lord? Pope Francis speaks of God's "boundless mercy," a mercy that goes far beyond the human notions of fairness. Do those who engage in "required" service projects in our schools and parishes know this? Have we given them the tools to discover that they are "missionaries of mercy" for those they serve? If you've wondered about how those service hours in school curriculum and confirmation preparation can be better anchored in the spiritual life, this might be a workshop for you! Participants should come ready to network and share current best practices.



Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson, DD

Born and raised in Washington state, Bishop Joseph Tyson was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle in 2005 and named Vicar General. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Bishop Tyson is presently Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima, Wash. He is an active member in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and sits on the Sub-Committee for Asia Pacific Affairs and is Region XII Chair, serving on the Administrative Committee and on the Plans and Priorities Committee.

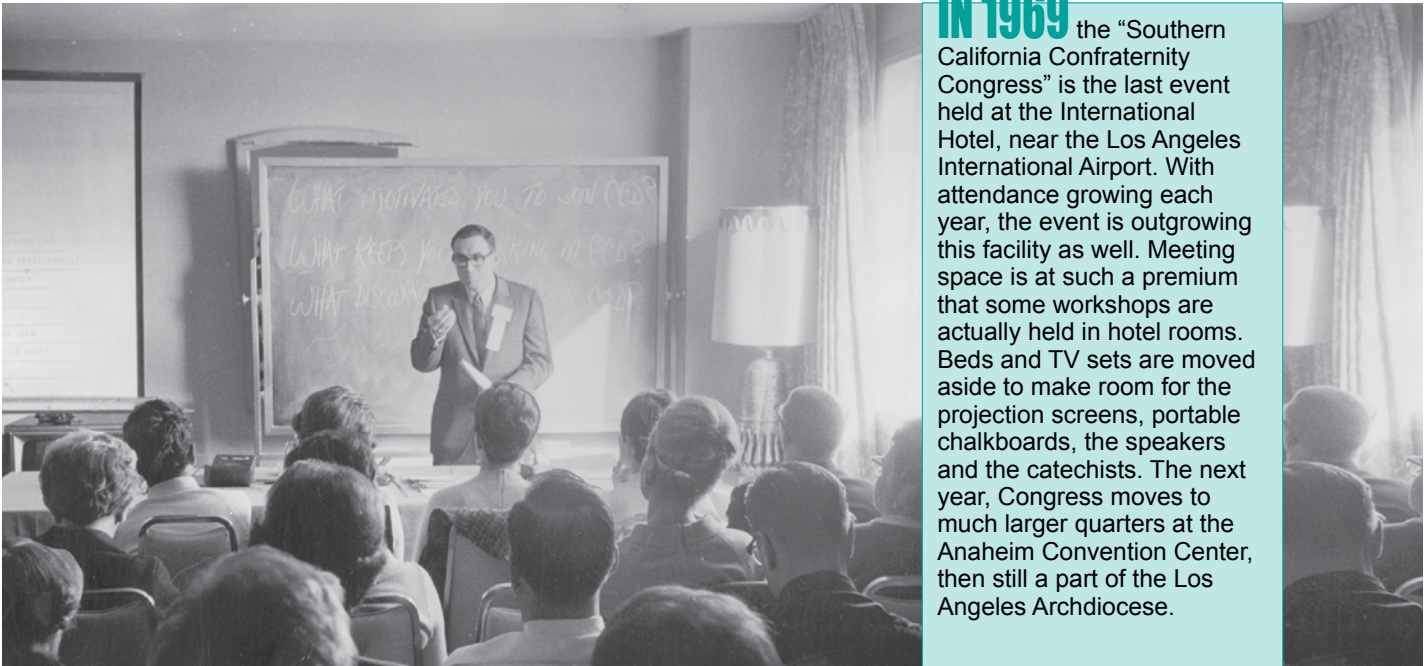
3-25 WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? 100 TIPS FOR BECOMING A MISSIONARY PARISH

In July 2015, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales gathered delegates to consider the "how" of a New Evangelization. Pope Francis has given the Church a firm "why," but it is now time to put his *Evangelii Gaudium* into practice! Gathering the wisdom offered at that conference, a list of 100 tips has been compiled to help parish communities and individuals get excited, confident and active about the mission of the Church. In this workshop, David Wells will summarize these tips and suggest that whoever you are, or wherever you live, it is time for every one of us to get busy proclaiming the reason for the hope we have!



David Wells

David Wells began his career as a teacher before becoming a research assistant for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and the Adult Religious Education Adviser in the Diocese of Nottingham, England, where he is currently Diocesan Adviser for Evangelization. Wells has spoken at more than 350 conferences worldwide, in Europe and North America, and has guest lectured at three English universities; this will be his 15th appearance at Congress. He is author of two books, including "The Reluctant Disciple."



IN 1969 the “Southern California Confraternity Congress” is the last event held at the International Hotel, near the Los Angeles International Airport. With attendance growing each year, the event is outgrowing this facility as well. Meeting space is at such a premium that some workshops are actually held in hotel rooms. Beds and TV sets are moved aside to make room for the projection screens, portable chalkboards, the speakers and the catechists. The next year, Congress moves to much larger quarters at the Anaheim Convention Center, then still a part of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

3-26 BECOMING A PARENT IS A GIFT, WHILE PARENTING ITSELF IS A LEARNED SKILL 🎧

A parent’s job is indeed challenging at times. Though it may be difficult to be consistent in parenting, it is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Setting limits for our children provides them the security and boundaries they so need in this world. This workshop will empower parents with the wide range of skills to set limits with respect and love. Our goal is to empower and encourage everyone in their parenting journeys.



Char Wenc, MEd

Char Wenc, an internationally known professional speaker, coach and author, is President of Char Wenc Communications, which specializes in building positive relationships at work, school and in families. She is a professor in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies program at Loyola University Chicago, and teaches in the doctrinal programs at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. With 30 years teaching and 20 years public speaking, Wenc is author of “Stop the Door from Slamming: The Power of Respect.”

3-70 Những điều cần phải biết về việc tuyên bố Hôn Nhân vô hiệu 🎧

Những Thủ Tục Mới 2015 về sự Cứu Xét Hồ Sơ do Đức Thánh Cha Phanxicô – Những Ngăn Trở Tiêu Hôn và Ai Được Quyền Miễn Chuẩn.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MARRIAGE NULLITY 🎧

This session will discuss Pope Francis’ 2015 procedural norms – identifying the teaching of the Church on impediments to marriage and the appropriate dispensing of power by the Church’s competent authority.



Linh Mục Nguyễn Quang Trục

Năm 1975, LM Nguyễn Quang Trục cùng với gia đình rời khỏi Việt Nam và định cư tại California. Sau 8 năm làm việc Kỹ sư cha nghe tiếng Chúa kêu gọi và gia nhập Đại Chủng Viện St. John. Cha được thụ phong Linh mục năm 2000, Cha có cử nhân về Điện tử và Triết học; Cao học về Thần học và Giáo Luật tại Giáo Hoàng Học Viện St. Paul University, Canada, Cha được mời giảng thuyết nhiều nơi về ơn gọi linh mục, về Giáo Luật, đặc biệt về Hôn Nhân và Văn Hóa Việt Nam. Hiện tại cha là Đại diện Tư Pháp của Tòa An Hôn Phối thuộc Tổng Giáo Phận Los Angeles và là cha sở của Giáo xứ Cathedral Chapel of Vibiana, cũng thuộc TGP Los Angeles.

Rev. Truc Quang Nguyen

Among the thousands of Vietnamese refugees escaping Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, Fr. Truc Nguyen came to the United States in 1975 with his parents and seven other siblings. Having worked professionally for eight years as an engineer, Fr. Nguyen entered the seminary in 1994. He was ordained a priest in January 2000 for the Los Angeles Archdiocese and is currently Judicial Vicar for the Metropolitan Tribunal. He is also Pastor at the Cathedral Chapel of Saint Vibiana in Los Angeles, where he has served since 2010.

