

## PERIOD 4 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

- 4-01 **The Abbey (\*) - Fr. James Martin**
- 4-02 Dancing with Monks and Mystics (\*)  
- **Betsy Beckman & Laura Ash**
- 4-03 Divine Mercy in the Womb of God (\*)  
- **Sr. Dianne Bergant**
- 4-04 The Church in Action: A Field Update from Today's Top Humanitarian Emergencies  
- **Caroline Brennan**
- 4-05 Engaging New Parents Through Baptism and Beyond (\*) - **Paul Canavese**
- 4-06 Gotta Sing, Gotta Pray (\*) - **Andrew Chinn**
- 4-07 The Courageous Parish (\*)  
- **Richard Curran**
- 4-08 "Aid in Dying" and the Ethics of Physician-Assisted Suicide (\*)  
- **Dr. Roberto Dell'Oro**
- 4-09 God's Anger Lasts but a Moment, His Mercy FOREVER! (\*) - **Fr. Joseph Espallat II**
- 4-10 The Challenge Still Before Us: Implementing Vatican II with Pope Francis (\*)  
- **Dr. Richard Gaillardetz**
- 4-11 Church in the 21st Century: Continuing the Renewal and Reform (\*)  
- **Dr. Thomas Groome**
- 4-12 The RCIA: Who Really Belongs? (\*)  
- **Dr. Jerry Galipeau**
- 4-13 Soul & Science of Healing: Bridge Between Ministry and the Healing Arts (\*)  
- **Richard Groves**
- 4-14 Born to Dance: Let's Break Out the Wine and Live from the Inside Out (\*)  
- **Rev. Terry Hershey**
- 4-15 The Name of God is Relationship (\*)  
- **Fr. Daniel Horan**
- 4-16 The Laughter, the Tears and the Boundless Mercy in the Heart of God (\*)  
- **Fr. Joseph Kempf**
- 4-17 Sex and the Cinema: A Christian Approach to How the Media is Forming Our Values  
- **Fr. Richard Leonard**
- 4-18 This is the Time: Songs for the Seasons (\*) - **Michael Mangan**
- 4-19 "The Quality of Mercy Is Not Strain'd" (\*) - **Dr. Megan McKenna**
- 4-20 What Do Young Adults Have to Offer the Church? (\*) - **David O'Brien**
- 4-21 Encountering Islam: Catholics and Muslims and the Challenges of Today (\*)  
- **Jihad Turk**
- 4-22 Forgive Us Our Trespasses as We Execute Those Who Trespass Against Us? (\*)  
- **Fr. Gregory Boyle, Javier Stauring & Mike Farrell**
- 4-23 Commuter Spirituality: Lessons Learned from Migrant Workers (\*)  
- **Bishop Joseph Tyson**
- 4-24 The Skills of Christ-like Leadership (\*)  
- **Char Wenc**
- 4-25 The 12 Steps of AA and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius ... Parallel Paths (\*)  
- **Fr. Thomas Weston**
- 4-26 The Challenge and Gift of Being Present to Others, Ourselves and God  
- **Dr. Robert Wicks**
- 4-70 Vietnamese Workshop (People of God: The Christian Faithful) (\*) - **Rev. Peter Viet Ho**

## PERIOD 5 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

- 5-01 **Songs of Mercy - Tony Alonso, Jeanne Cotter, Chris de Silva, David Haas, Marty Haugen, Fr. Jan Michael Joncas, Liam Lawton & Donna Peña**
- 5-02 Molehill to Mountaintop: Transforming Everyday Prayer into Profound Moments of Grace as a Young Adult  
- **Clarissa Valbuena Aljentera**
- 5-03 Reverse Thinking: The Joy of the Gospel Reveals that Everything is Under Review (\*) - **John Angotti**
- 5-04 Building Bridges to the Heart of Discipleship (\*) - **Leisa Anslinger**
- 5-05 Reaching the Next Generation of Ministry Leaders: A Mission of Mercy (\*)  
- **Dr. Ansel Augustine**
- 5-06 Formation of Unbaptized Children and Teens in the RCIA (\*)  
- **Mary Birmingham**
- 5-07 Songs of Mercy and Celebration: Echoing the Message of Jubilee (\*) - **John Burland**
- 5-08 "Reaching the Multitudes" – Effective Content and Viral Concepts - **Dallas Carter**
- 5-09 Life Changes: Swim or Struggle? (\*)  
- **Fr. James Clarke**
- 5-10 Spirituality for Blended Families: A Step-mom's Story of Finding Faith, Following Love and Feeding a Family (\*)  
- **Robin Davis**
- 5-11 Mercy in the Street and in the Home (\*)  
- **Msgr. Raymond East**
- 5-12 Transgender in the Church: One Bread, One Body (\*) - **Arthur Fitzmaurice & Fr. Bryan Massingale**
- 5-13 The Sacrament of Boundless Mercy: Pondering the Seven Gifts of the Eucharist (\*)  
- **Fr. Richard Fragomeni**
- 5-14 Why You Always Marry the Wrong Person: Toward a Practical Spirituality of Marriage (\*) - **Dr. Richard Gaillardetz**
- 5-15 The Power of Beauty (\*) - **Darrell Hall**
- 5-16 Our Vocation Is Love: Called to Be a Catholic Artist (\*) - **Heather King**
- 5-17 From Surviving to Thriving (\*)  
- **Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie**
- 5-18 Reaching the Marginalized (\*)  
- **Jesse Manibusan**
- 5-19 Renewing the Face of the Earth: Scriptural Support for *Laudato Si'* (\*)  
- **Fr. J. Patrick Mullen**
- 5-20 Making Core Values into Core Memories: The "Inside Out" of Values and Virtues in Media (\*) - **Sr. Rose Pacatte**
- 5-21 Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues ... (\*) - **Sr. Helen Prejean**
- 5-22 Synod on the Family: What Happened, Why It Matters - **Fr. Thomas Reese**
- 5-23 The Spirituality of Administration: Pathways for Inspirational Leadership (\*)  
- **Julianne Stanz**
- 5-24 The Lost Art of Sacred Symbols (\*)  
- **Johan van Parys**
- 5-25 Spiritual Care for Your Choir and Music Ministers (\*) - **Christopher Walker**
- 5-26 Moving with God's Inexhaustible Mercy Within Us (\*) - **John West**
- 5-70 Vietnamese Workshop (Youth Leadership in the Church: An Everyday Journey of Holiness) (\*) - **Sr. Vuong Do**

## PERIOD 6 – 3:00 - 4:30 PM

- 6-01 **All Lives Matter: Recognizing the Inherent Dignity of All (\*)**  
- **Fr. R. Tony Ricard**
- 6-02 All Things Catholic: What's Hot and What's Not in the Global Church (\*)  
- **John Allen Jr.**
- 6-03 The Community of Earth (\*)  
- **Sr. Dianne Bergant**
- 6-04 Crossing the Great Divide – Creating Events for Whole Parish Communities (\*)  
- **Steve Angrisano**
- 6-05 True Stories of Survival on the Streets (\*)  
- **Sr. Kathleen Bryant**
- 6-06 At Table with Jesus: "Do This in Memory of Me" (\*) - **Fr. William Burton**
- 6-07 God's Gift of Intimacy: A Catholic Understanding of Human Sexuality (\*)  
- **Fr. Luke Dysinger**
- 6-08 Preparing Youth for Confirmation Through the Life of the Parish (\*) - **Tom East**
- 6-09 Science, Faith and Atheism (\*)  
- **Robert Feduccia**
- 6-10 Eucharist and the Real Presence: The Modern Contribution to the Conversation  
- **Fr. Edward Foley**
- 6-11 The Gospel of Luke: The Drama of It All! (\*) - **Anne Frawley-Mangan**
- 6-12 Leadership and Social Justice: How Catholic Parishes and Schools Can Change Our World (\*) - **Dan Friedt**
- 6-13 Challenging Conversations: Strategies for Working through Ministerial Conflicts - **Ann Garrido**
- 6-14 Video and Film for Evangelization, Catechesis and Community Building (\*)  
- **Fr. David Guffey**
- 6-15 Mere Spirituality: The Spiritual Life According to Henri Nouwen  
- **Wil Hernandez**
- 6-16 Walking with Young Adults: Transition and Pilgrimage (\*) - **Paul Jarzembowski**
- 6-17 Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice: Opening to Boundless Mercy (\*) - **Douglas Leal**
- 6-18 Margins, Mission, Mercy: Following Jesus the Galilean Reject (\*)  
- **Dr. Timothy Matovina**
- 6-19 Examining the Catholic Myths and the Legal Impact on the Family after a Civil Divorce and Church Annulment: A Necessary Dialogue (\*) - **Fr. Truc Nguyen & Hon. Richard Montes**
- 6-20 Adoring Food: Pastoral Theological Presentation on the Eucharist  
- **Fr. Leo Patalinghug**
- 6-21 The Second Step in Spirituality: The Deeper Secrets Inside the Gospels (\*)  
- **Fr. Ronald Rolheiser**
- 6-22 Science at the Doorway to God: An Assessment of the Universe, Near-Death Experiences, and the Shroud of Turin (\*)  
- **Fr. Robert Spitzer**
- 6-23 What Happens When We Accompany Families in Their Faith Journey? (\*)  
- **Michael Theisen**
- 6-24 Five Steps to Telling a Great Story: How to Teach Like Jesus (\*) - **Nick Wagner**
- 6-25 Gut Check: The Thread of Love (\*)  
- **Matthew O'Donnell Weber**
- 6-26 "The Perfect Family Doesn't Exist": Encouraging Boundless Mercy in the Home (\*) - **David Wells**
- 6-70 Vietnamese Workshop (Vietnamese-American Families and Communities Learning from the Vietnamese Martyrs) (\*) - **Rev. Joseph Hung Viet Nguyen & Prof. Le Xuan Hy**

## 4-01 THE ABBEY ARENA

In a different kind of session, come and hear Fr. James Martin read excerpts from his first novel, "The Abbey." Anne is a recently divorced woman struggling to make sense of the death of her young son. Mark is a handyman at a Trappist abbey, frustrated with a stalled career and the turns his life has taken. Paul is the abbot of the Abbey of Sts. Philip and James, and wonders about the loneliness he often feels. Come and see how God brings all three of these people together and what you might learn from how each of them encounters God.



**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.*

## 4-02 DANCING WITH MONKS AND MYSTICS

Through the centuries, monks and mystics have called us to a deep encounter with the boundless mercy of God. Come enter into six simple participatory dances based on the gifts of the mystics for our time. Dance with King David, kindle the Divine Fire with abbess Amma Syncretica, sail on a sacred voyage with St. Brendan, encounter God's greening power with Hildegard of Bingen, enter the flow of the river with poet Rainer Maria Rilke, and start a revolution of the heart with Dorothy Day! These are simple chants and dances for every body, commissioned and published by Abbey of the Arts.



**Betsey Beckman, MM**

*Betsey Beckman, a freelance movement artist, teacher, performer, producer and author, is founder of The Dancing Word: Embodying the Sacred in Liturgy and Life, a ministry that includes her offerings in liturgical movement, choreography, storydance, SpiritPlay and spiritual direction. Beckman is also Director of Movement Ministry at her home parish of St. Patrick Church in Seattle, and collaborates with Abbey of the Arts in creating online retreats, overseas pilgrimages and prayer resources, including the recent "Dancing with Monks and Mystics" DVD.*



**Laura Ash**

*Laura Ash is Music Director at St. Patrick Parish in Seattle, where she has supported the ministry of movement for over 20 years. She has presented with Betsey Beckman at a number of RECongress workshops over the last 14 years. Laura and her husband, David, have composed and published three collections of liturgical music and have created music for many dance offerings with Beckman. Their most recent work is music for the production, "Grace on the Margins," which debuted in April 2013.*

## 4-03 DIVINE MERCY IN THE WOMB OF GOD

In the Old Testament, the word for "mercy" is derived from the same word as "womb." Therefore, one might say that Divine Mercy is "womb-love." This idea is found again and again in passages that depict God's care.



**Dianne Bergant, CSA**

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She was President of the Catholic Biblical Association of America and an active member of the Chicago Catholic-Jewish Scholars Dialogue for the past 30 years. Sr. Bergant wrote the weekly column, "The Word," for America magazine (2002-06) and is now on the Editorial Board of Biblical Theology Bulletin.*

## 4-04 THE CHURCH IN ACTION: A FIELD UPDATE FROM TODAY'S TOP HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

In this session, Caroline Brennan will share reports from the front lines of emergency and developmental work across the world, including recent events in Northern Iraq, the Syrian border, Eastern Ukraine and the Philippines. Perspective, stories and insights of the Church's response to the most pressing humanitarian crises of today will be discussed.



**Caroline Brennan**

*Caroline Brennan is Senior Communications Officer, Global Emergency Response Team for Catholic Relief Services, and has worked in 22 countries. She was based in CRS' South Asia bureau in Delhi for three years covering emergency response in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Brennan was deployed to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and to the Philippine islands struck by the 2013 typhoon. Previously, she worked with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Washington, D.C.*

## 4-05 ENGAGING NEW PARENTS THROUGH BAPTISM AND BEYOND

Many families drift away from church during the stressful early childhood years. At parishes, we may struggle with the question of what we can offer them. We wonder how to communicate God's Boundless Mercy to them. This is when we need to help parents step into their role as the primary cultivators of faith for their children. But we need to start with where they are. This workshop will explore how can we use the baptism preparation process to evangelize and support new parents, how we can continue to keep young families engaged, and what resources are available to support leaders in this ministry.



**Paul Canavese**

*Paul Canavese with his wife, Ann, are co-Directors of The Pastoral Center and the Web site GrowingUpCatholic.com. Based in Alameda, Calif., their family operates a mini-urban farm. Paul focuses his ministry on coaching parents, daily life discipleship and evangelization, and helping parishes implement Pope Francis' vision. He is a presenter for The Pastoral Center at parish, deanery and diocesan events.*



**4-06 GOTTA SING, GOTTA PRAY** 🎧

Music is a path to the heart and a path to faith. Come and join Australian Andrew Chinn on a journey through the school and liturgical year and see how music can be used to enhance teaching and learning, prayer and celebration, sacraments and liturgy. From September to June, from kindergarten to eighth grade, from Christmas to Holy Week, from baptism to confirmation through graduation, Andrew will share a range of songs, stories and strategies that will bring joy and depth to the faith life of your class, your school, your church. This session is geared for all who work with elementary school children.

**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 Chinn became part of the WLP family, which now distributes his music in North America.*

**4-07 THE COURAGEOUS PARISH** 🎧

Rich Curran (bio 2-10)

Every Catholic parish in the world wants to grow and multiply, but few seem able to achieve it. Why? How can two parishes, in the same region with similar populations, produce such different levels of engagement? Both have the same ancestry, same sacraments, same love from God. The difference is behavioral. Tap into a few of the essential behaviors all growing parishes share. It's not an accident, it's courageous!

**4-08 "AID IN DYING" AND THE ETHICS OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE** 🎧

"Aid in dying" legislative proposals have defined the American public debate in various states, most recently in California with Senate Bill 128. The conversation, and the ethical challenge it entails, is here to stay, quite independent of its unsure legal trajectory. The challenge must be met by competent response on the part of the Catholic community. Far from demonizing the understandable appeal of a "good death," we work to unmask the hidden premises of legislative proposals favoring "aid in dying," their impact upon medicine's understanding of the physician-patient relationship, and society's commitment to the care of the elderly and the sick.

**Roberto Dell'Oro, PhD**

*Dr. Roberto Dell'Oro is Director of the Bioethics Institute and a Professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He has written three books, translated two from German and is published in national and international journals. Dr. Dell'Oro has presented papers on bioethical issues at the Pontifical Academy for Life and the 2014 International Conference on Autism, organized by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers under the auspices of Pope Francis.*

**4-09 GOD'S ANGER LASTS BUT A MOMENT, HIS MERCY FOREVER!** 🎧

If you think God can't forgive you or that He is angry with you, this is the talk you've been waiting for! We will take a look at how our most merciful Father has loved us from the beginning of time and how, even though we keep messing up, He continues to love us through our faults and weaknesses. As a matter of fact, God laughs at us continually because we don't seem to learn the lesson. If you want to laugh and cry, don't miss this session. I promise that after this session you will leave renewed with a sense of purpose and be the "missionary disciples" that Jesus and Pope Francis need us to be!

**Rev. Joseph A. Espaillet II**

*Fr. Joe Espaillet is Pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Church in the Bronx, N.Y., as well as Director of Hispanic Charismatic Renewal for the New York Archdiocese and of the Hispanic Charismatic Catholic Center in the Bronx. Before this, he was assigned by Cardinal Timothy Dolan to open up an Office for Youth Ministry, where he became Director and is now Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Espaillet is keynote speaker at youth rallies around the country and has led diocesan youth conferences along the East Coast and in Alaska and Texas,*

**4-10 THE CHALLENGE STILL BEFORE US: IMPLEMENTING VATICAN II WITH POPE FRANCIS** 🎧

As important as it was, the Second Vatican Council represented an "unfinished building site" in which important work was left uncompleted. This workshop will offer an understanding of the work still to be done in completing the council's unfinished project, using the pontificate of Pope Francis as a guide.

**Dr. Richard Gaillardetz**

*Dr. Richard Gaillardetz is the Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. He previously taught at the University of Toledo in Ohio and at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota and served as President of the Catholic Theological Society of America from 2013 to 2014. Dr. Gaillardetz has authored over 100 pastoral and academic articles and has written or edited 10 books, including "Keys to the Council" (co-authored with Catherine Clifford) and "When the Magisterium Intervenes..."*

**4-11 CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CONTINUING THE RENEWAL AND REFORM** 🎧

Thomas Groome (bio 3-12)

Pope Francis is calling the Church to redouble our efforts in the great program of renewal and reform that the Holy Spirit launched on the Church and the world with the Second Vatican Council. This presentation will reflect on some pressing challenges in our time and how best to respond to them.

## 4-12 THE RCIA: WHO REALLY BELONGS?

Baptized uncatechized; baptized and never catechized in another Christian tradition; non-practicing baptized Catholic who missed First Communion and confirmation; practicing Catholic who missed confirmation; practicing Episcopalian who wants to become a Catholic – the list goes on and on. This workshop will focus on the question: Who belongs in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process?



**Dr. Jerry Galipeau**

*Dr. Jerry Galipeau is Vice President and Chief Publishing Officer at World Library Publications in Franklin Park, Ill. He is past Chair of the Board of Directors for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate and has authored numerous publications and has offered keynotes. Dr. Galipeau has presented workshops at all the major Catholic liturgical and catechetical conferences as well as diocesan conferences throughout the United States and Canada. He also maintains a blog for those interested in liturgy, music and initiation.*

## 4-13 SOUL AND SCIENCE OF HEALING: BRIDGE BETWEEN MINISTRY AND THE HEALING ARTS

There is an explosion of scientific and clinical data regarding the inter-relationship among spirituality, human health and well-being. Yet many health-care professionals and those trained for ministry often miss the connection of science, medicine and the sacred work of healing. The Soul & Science of Healing offers a model where the lay minister and parish community of the future can provide a more holistic and integrated approach to dealing with spiritual pain and human suffering. This model especially speaks to younger generations of spiritual seekers, but also offers wisdom for care givers and ministers of all ages, cultures and backgrounds.



**Richard F. Groves**

*Richard Groves is an internationally respected teacher of the sacred art of living and dying. A chaplain for 30 years, he has spoken throughout North America as well as internationally in Asia, Europe and Africa. He and his late wife, Mary, are co-founders of the Sacred Art of Living Center in Bend, Ore. Groves has served as a retreat director for numerous programs including health-care and faith-community professionals. His latest work is titled "The Anamcara Project."*

## 4-14 BORN TO DANCE: LET'S BREAK OUT THE WINE AND LIVE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

**Rev. Terry Hershey (bio 1-11)**

In our hearts, we are all dancers. God wants us to be our true selves – joyous, aware and living each moment with arms wide open, responding to the love of the Beloved. So why do we choose to live guarded and afraid, our days filled with hurry and noise? Fear labels and dismisses and restricts. The voice of *grace* tells us we are more than our labels, more than our fear. The Hopi say, "To watch us dance is to hear our heart speak." So, in

this workshop, let's dance. Terry Hershey will help us learn what it means to dance free from our limitations of fear, insecurity or pain; and how, in the eyes of the Beloved, we are free to love, free to serve, free to live.

## 4-15 THE NAME OF GOD IS RELATIONSHIP

**Rev. Daniel P. Horan, OFM (bio 3-13)**

While some philosophers claim that the name of God is "pure being" and some theologians claim that the primary name of God is "the good," Fr. Dan Horan suggests the name of God is best understood as "relationship." Beginning with the way God reveals who God is to creation throughout Scripture and moving toward a deeper look at what the spiritual wisdom of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis and others tell us about God, this workshop encourages contemporary women and men to reconsider how they imagine their Creator and renew their understanding of faith in the modern world.

## 4-16 THE LAUGHTER, THE TEARS AND THE BOUNDLESS MERCY IN THE HEART OF GOD

**Rev. Joseph G. Kempf (bio 2-14)**

What if God laughed – so much more often than you thought? What if God wept – more tenderly than you ever pictured? What if the mercy in the heart of God were indeed boundless – beyond anything you could ever earn, deserve or imagine? What if there were ways for you to experience all of that in your *own* heart? Would you like a taste? Using stories, demonstrations and the wisdom and insight of 35 years of parish priesthood, Fr. Joe Kempf (and his helpers) will lead you – and help you lead the children entrusted to your care – more deeply into the heart of God.

## 4-17 SEX & THE CINEMA: A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO HOW THE MEDIA IS FORMING OUR VALUES

Whether we like it or not, the media is now a major player in forming the hearts, minds and values of our young people, especially in regard to sexuality. How did we get here? What's happening now? What can we do about it?



**Rev. Richard Leonard, SJ**

*Jesuit priest Fr. Richard Leonard is Director of the Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting, based in Sydney, Australia. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Gregorian University in Rome and a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles. A popular speaker at the Religious Education Congress, Fr. Leonard is author of nine books, including "What Are We Doing on Earth for Christ's Sake?" and, his latest, "What Are We Hoping For?"*



**4-18 THIS IS THE TIME: SONGS FOR THE SEASONS****Michael Mangan (bio 3-17)**

So much of our liturgical “circle of life” is contained in the songs we sing. Australian composer Michael Mangan will lead us on a musical journey through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter as he shares his passion for vibrant, inclusive and meaningful music in parish and school liturgy, and in catechesis.

**4-19 “THE QUALITY OF MERCY IS NOT STRAIN’D”****Megan McKenna (bio 2-20)**

The line from Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice” begins a prayer: “...we do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.” These words – mercy, pity, compassion, justice – what do they mean? How do we express them beyond words in our deeds and priorities? How do we look like our God for others? Come listen, obey and catch a glimpse of mercy’s power and presence.

**4-20 WHAT DO YOUNG ADULTS HAVE TO OFFER THE CHURCH?****David M. O’Brien (bio 3-20)**

Are Catholics in their 20s and 30s really as absent and apathetic they say we are? Maybe the Church is trying to catch up with how we experience and express our deep faith and desire to live the Kingdom that Jesus preached. How do we take our place in the Church and hold onto our unique insights and contributions? How do we help our peers see that the Church is a place where they can find meaning, direction and guidance as they make the biggest decisions of their lives?

**4-21 ENCOUNTERING ISLAM: CATHOLICS & MUSLIMS AND THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY**

This workshop will explore the historical and theological relationship between Islam and Catholicism with a focus on contemporary challenges such as ISIS, the environment, and Islam in America.

**Jihad Mohammed Turk**

Jihad Turk, the former Imam/religious leader at the Islamic Center of Southern California in Los Angeles, is founding President of Bayan Claremont, an Islamic graduate school at the Claremont School of Theology in California. Imam Turk is a Palestinian-American Muslim who spent his college years traveling and exploring the Muslim world, studying Arabic at the Islamic University of Medina and Farsi in Iran at the University of Tehran and in Qum. Turk has been featured on the History Channel, CNN, and in the Los Angeles Times.

**IN 1973**

**Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson** became Director of the Office of Religious Education. On his staff was **Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC**, who served as Consultant for Youth Ministry and would become the first woman Associate Director for the Office. In 1987, Cardinal Roger Mahony appointed Sr. Prendergast as Director of the Office of Religious Education and became the first non-ordained person to hold this position.

**4-22 FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE EXECUTE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US?**

This session invites you to participate in one of the most merciful actions people of faith can participate in: to self-reflect, understand and put into action our faith teachings as they relate to the use of the death penalty as a form of justice. Chaplain Javier Stauring will moderate a panel of inspiring and insightful speakers, including gang intervention expert Fr. Greg Boyle, activist Mike Farrell, and a family member of a homicide victim. As Pope Francis notes: “The death penalty is contrary to the sentiment of humanitas and to divine mercy, which must be the model for human justice.”

**Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ**

Fr. Greg Boyle 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 and Jesuit priest was transformed by his work in Bolivia, Mexico and Folsom State Prison in California. It was in the Boyle Heights community of Los Angeles that Fr. Boyle started Homeboy Industries, which serves former gang members. He is author of The New York Times best-selling book, “Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion.”

**Mike Farrell**

Mike Farrell, an activist best-known for his portrayal of Army Capt. B.J. Hunnicutt in the TV series “M\*A\*S\*H,” is President of Death Penalty Focus. As a host and narrator of documentaries, he has discussed alcoholism, environmentalism, children of divorce and the death penalty and enriching the lives of the disabled. Farrell also served on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and is former Co-Chair of the California Committee of Human Rights Watch.

**Javier Stauring**

Javier Stauring is Co-Director of the Office of Restorative Justice for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Since 1996, he has overseen the largest Catholic detention ministry program in the nation. Stauring supervises programs at all juvenile halls and probation camps in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. In addition, he oversees three restorative justice programs: Ministry to Victims of Crime, Ministry to Families of the Incarcerated, and Ministry to the Formerly Incarcerated.

## IN 1970

the annual Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine Congress was moved to the Anaheim Convention Center. The happy result was over 10,000 in attendance and use of the several surrounding hotels.



### 4-23 COMMUTER SPIRITUALITY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM MIGRANT WORKERS

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson (bio 3-24)

Do you spend inordinate amounts of time in a car? Do you find yourself trying to become more rooted spiritually even though you're constantly on the move? Bishop Joseph Tyson from the Diocese of Yakima, Wash., will share 10 key lessons he's learned from the migrant ministry in which he and his seminarians have been engaged that apply to people on the move who desire to grow spiritually in their love of Christ and love of neighbor.

### 4-24 THE SKILLS OF CHRIST-LIKE LEADERSHIP

Char Wenc, MEd (bio 3-26)

Have you ever walked into a church and felt a sense of community? As a parishioner, do you feel you are valued in this environment? Does your parish model the virtues of integrity, responsibility and respect? It is the ability to treat people well that is the success in our churches; it is knowing how to listen, talk, write and establish rapport with others. This is key to successful leadership. This session will empower everyone to lead with Christ ... successfully!

### 4-25 THE 12 STEPS OF AA AND THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF IGNATIUS ... PARALLEL PATHS

Some people credit/blame the Jesuits with helping write the 12 Steps of Recovery. This is not true. Bill Wilson, one of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, did not meet his first Jesuit until 1940 when he was five years sober. Ignatius of Loyola developed a way of living and thinking that fosters a life of gratitude and service. Many have commented on the similarities of these two spiritual paths. In this session, Fr. Thomas Weston will examine these two powerful experiences and tell the story of these two pilgrims.



Rev. Thomas C. Weston, SJ

Fr. Tom Weston has been working with alcoholics and addicts since 1976. The Jesuit priest is a leader of retreats for people in recovery from addiction and serves as Superior of the Jesuit Community of Oakland, Calif. Fr. Weston has spoken at conferences for over 30 years. His world travels served him in past rolls as Director of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working with Jesuit Retreat and Renewal Ministries, and teaching at Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

### 4-26 THE CHALLENGE AND GIFT OF BEING PRESENT TO OTHERS, OURSELVES AND GOD

Robert J. Wicks (bio 1-27)

Sitting in a small kitchen in an apartment just off Harvard Square near the center of Cambridge in Massachusetts, author Robert Wicks discussed with spiritual writer Henri Nouwen the true importance of the attitude of "availability." That encounter over 30 years ago was to prove transformative as he began a lifelong journey of fathoming the balance of being present to others, himself and God. Starting with the intriguing scriptural image of "pruning," in this presentation he shares the result of this journey by addressing such themes as faithfulness, openness, darkness, true prayer and experiencing, in Nouwen's words, "a quiet stream" within.

### 4-70 Cộng Đoàn Dân Chúa: Đức Tin của người Tín Hữu

Ai là người Kitô hữu? Ai thuộc về dân của Chúa, về Giáo Hội: Ai là thành viên? Dựa vào Giáo luật, thuyết trình viên nhằm bàn thảo vài khía cạnh của giáo hội học về đề tài "Kitô hữu."

### PEOPLE OF GOD: THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL

Who are the Christian faithful? Who belongs to the people of God, to the Church: who is a member? Using his canonical background, the presenter aims to discuss some ecclesiological perspectives on the topic of the "Christian faithful."



Cha Phêrô Hồ Việt

Cha Phêrô Hồ Việt được thụ phong linh mục cho Giáo Phận Orange vào năm 2000. Ngài hoàn tất chương trình giáo luật tại Giáo Hoàng Học Viện Gregoriana tại Roma vào năm 2008. Cha đã từng phục vụ cho các giáo xứ đa dạng văn hóa. Hiện tại cha là Phụ Tá Tư Pháp và Giám đốc Tòa An Hôn Phối cho Giáo Phận Orange.

Rev. Peter Viet Ho

Fr. Viet Peter Ho was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange, California, in 2000. He completed canon law studies at the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome in 2008. Since then, he has served in several multicultural parishes and is currently Adjutant Judicial Vicar and Director for the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Orange.





**5-01 SONGS OF MERCY ARENA**

Come and celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy, convoked by Pope Francis, with GIA artists Tony Alonso, Jeanne Cotter, Chris de Silva, David Haas, Marty Haugen, Fr. Michael Joncas, Liam Lawton, Donna Peña and friends, as they present beautiful songs on compassion, forgiveness and care, intertwined with moments of reflection, readings from Scripture and prayer. During this session, we will embody the Pope's call for us to be merciful, and inspire those assembled to put their faith into action.

**Tony Alonso**

Tony Alonso, among the prominent voices in contemporary liturgical music, has recently released "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. He is currently a doctoral student at Emory University in Atlanta.

**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 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."

**Chris de Silva**

Chris de Silva is a composer, arranger and recording artist with GIA Publications and has appeared at national conferences and diocesan and parish retreats around the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. De Silva has served several parishes in the Los Angeles Archdiocese and is presently Associate Director of Music and Liturgy at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

**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!" Haas has been a concert performer and recording artist for over 30 years, and has spoken internationally and authored over 20 books and composed over 50 original recordings with GIA.

**Marty Haugen**

For more than 35 years, composer Marty Haugen has presented workshops, concerts and presentations across North and Central America, Europe, Australia and the Pacific Rim. Haugen has over 35 recordings and 400 published editions; his works appear in hymnals for United States, Canadian and Australian Catholics, Evangelical Lutherans and other Protestant denominations.

**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. Fr. Joncas is author of six books and over 200 articles and reviews in journals including *Worship and Ecclesia Orans*. He is also composer and arranger of over 300 pieces of liturgical music.

**Liam Lawton**

Liam Lawton is a priest of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, Ireland, where he serves as Director of Music. He has recorded 16 collections of music and has written two books. Fr. Lawton has recorded a number of TV specials including two on PBS. He has presented at conferences in Europe and across the United States, and is one of the most frequent L.A. Congress presenters.

**Donna Peña**

Donna Peña is a musician, composer, playwright and visual artist, whose work is wrapped in her Mexican and Cherokee Indian heritage. Peña is a conference presenter and performance artist who has published with GIA, OCP and WLP. Formerly musician/manager for *Mariachi Flor y Canto*, she currently performs with her family as *La Familia Torres-Peña Music Group*.

**5-02 MOLEHILL TO MOUNTAINTOP: TRANSFORMING EVERYDAY PRAYER INTO PROFOUND MOMENTS OF GRACE AS A YOUNG ADULT**

Clarissa Valbuena Aljentera (bio 3-02)

There are dull and difficult moments in our week that make us blind to God's mercy and grace. As young adults, we may find that our spiritual gas tank is always on empty. We will examine ways in our busy and over-connected lives that can draw us closer to God no matter how small or insignificant they seem. The guides for our conversation will be the lives of saints, Sacred Scripture and Scripture-based rap.

**5-03 REVERSE THINKING: THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL REVEALS THAT EVERYTHING IS UNDER REVIEW**

This workshop will offer liturgical and pastoral strategies through the lens of mercy. By first identifying what

the result of worship is, we are able to develop strategies that will create worship and catechesis relevant to the people of God in their everyday lives. John Angotti brings his experience in parish and school life, his expertise in pastoral studies, and years of traveling as a music missionary to share what thinking in reverse can do for your school or parish programs.

**John Angotti**

Based in Memphis, Tenn., John Angotti is a full-time music missionary providing concerts, workshops, retreats and worship. He is a frequent presenter at parish missions as well as regional and diocesan conferences across the United States and abroad. Angotti is an accomplished composer, with numerous publications under the World Library Publications label. In 2013, John Angotti Music Mission (JAMM) debuted his original musical, "Job: The NOW Testament."

## 5-04 BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP

As people who lead or serve in our parish, we know how important it is to help others grow in faith and embrace living as good stewards, as people who recognize that all they are and have are gifts from God, and to return these gifts with gratitude. Explore how each of us, and our parishes, may build bridges to those around us, making a difference in the lives of family members, friends and fellow parishioners, and building a stronger parish as we do so.



**Leisa Anslinger**

*Leisa Anslinger is Co-Director of Catholic Life and Faith, a pastoral resource center for stewardship leaders. She is co-author of the Bridges Leadership Series, including "Building Bridges to the Heart of Discipleship" and "Turning Hearts to Christ." Anslinger is a founding team member of the Catholic Strengths and Engagement Community. She is a presenter at national, regional and diocesan conferences and in-service days, and speaks and writes on catechesis, stewardship, parish engagement and strengths development.*

## 5-05 REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS: A MISSION OF MERCY

In this session, we will look at the "world" in which our youth live and how we can best reach them with the Gospel message so they can share it with their peers. We will look at the best ways to share faith with young people and how to empower them to do the same with those around them.



**Dr. Ansel Augustine**

*Dr. Ansel Augustine has worked for over 15 years in his hometown of New Orleans, and is presently Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries for the New Orleans Archdiocese. He also serves on the faculty at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana and is on the Board for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Dr. Augustine has presented workshops at youth rallies and national conferences around the country and has written several publications related to ministry.*

## IN 2003

**Adrian Whitaker** retires after Congress 2003, with 18 years of service as Congress Coordinator. That year, RECongress brings together 21,261 registrants, 171 speakers, 362 volunteers, and 220 exhibitors, and 14,349 in attendance for Youth Day.



That same year, **Mary Lou McGee** is appointed as interim Congress Coordinator. Mary Lou had previously served as Adult Education Consultant for the Office of Religious Education and as Coordinator for their Pathways program.

## 5-06 FORMATION OF UNBAPTIZED CHILDREN AND TEENS IN THE RCIA

**Mary Birmingham (bio 5-06)**

This session will address challenges and strategies regarding the formation of unbaptized children and teens within the framework of the four periods of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We will explore what the RCIA intends: that there is only one catechumenate rite – not a separate rite for children and one for teens – adapted in an age-appropriate manner for each specific age group. We will consider the vision of the rite in tandem with the practical, living reality of family life in most parishes.

## 5-07 SONGS OF MERCY AND CELEBRATION: ECHOING THE MESSAGE OF JUBILEE

**John Burland (bio 2-07)**

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we have been called to be "merciful like the Father" and to share the Good News that God loves us. John Burland will share a variety of engaging songs that celebrate and affirm God's mercy and love in our world. These songs are suitable for children at the elementary level and incorporate gesture, traditional prayer and communal song. Come join us as we echo in song the message of Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

## 5-08 "REACHING THE MULTITUDES" – EFFECTIVE CONTENT AND VIRAL CONCEPTS

**Dallas Carter Jr. (bio 3-05)**

Many catechetical leaders have started using social media as a great way to engage the New Evangelization. However, questions remain on how to reach the multitudes. In this session, we will discuss the most effective "traction" and "retention" techniques to build your online presence.

## 5-09 LIFE CHANGES: SWIM OR STRUGGLE?

Changes and transitions, whether chosen or imposed, are an inevitable part of life. However, we can often confuse the two and experience unnecessary suffering and anxiety. In this workshop, we will look at the states of transition and develop a spirituality that will help us negotiate smoothly and happily the many changes we face as we progress through our lives.



**Rev. James Clarke, PhD**

*Fr. Jim Clarke is Director of Spiritual Formation and Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. With an extensive academic background in the fields of spirituality, adult education and counseling, Fr. Clarke also serves as Chair of the Spirituality Commission for the Los Angeles Archdiocese and as Associate Spiritual Director at the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests in Los Angeles. He is fluent in English and Spanish and his work has taken him around the globe.*




**IN 1956**

, Msgr. Leland Boyer joined CCD Director Msgr. John Clarke as Assistant Director and helped in organizing the first CCD Institute, held at Mount Carmel High School on Hoover Street in Los Angeles. Some 500 teachers and catechists were in attendance at the two-day conference, listening to speakers and gaining experience from other teachers.

### 5-10 SPIRITUALITY FOR BLENDED FAMILIES: A STEPMOM'S STORY OF FINDING FAITH, FOLLOWING LOVE AND FEEDING A FAMILY 🎧

With over 23 million blended families in the United States today, one in three people is a member of a stepfamily. After marrying a widower with three young children, Robin Davis learned firsthand the unique challenges for communication, parenting and sharing faith in a blended family. She will share her experiences of how she used food to connect with her new family and how her new family restored her faith.



**Robin Davis**

*Robin Davis is Editorial Director at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where she works as Editor of their award-winning alumni magazine. Before joining the staff at Kenyon, she was Food Editor for the Columbus Dispatch. Born and raised in Ohio, Davis spent 13 years on the West Coast as a restaurant critic and food writer for the San Francisco Chronicle and as Assistant Editor at Bon Appétit magazine in Los Angeles. Her latest book, "Recipe For Joy," was published in spring 2013.*

### 5-11 MERCY IN THE STREET AND IN THE HOME 🎧

God's *boundless mercy* is the core of the Gospel we proclaim. How do we get this urgent message through the church doors and onto the streets? Come share how *your* rebuilt, amazing parish broadcasts the mercy message. We will share best practices.



**Msgr. Raymond G. East**

*The grandson of Baptist missionaries to South Africa, Ray East was born in Newark, N.J., and raised in San Diego, Calif. Now a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., he served in six local parishes before being named Pastor at St. Teresa of Avila Church. Msgr. East formerly served as Director for the Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The popular RECongress speaker continues to present workshops, facilitations and keynote addresses at major national events.*

### 5-12 TRANSGENDER IN THE CHURCH: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY 🎧

Gender identity and expression – even the word “transgender” – have found their way into secular and ecclesial discourse. Dr. Arthur Fitzmaurice will speak from a decade of experience ministering with transgender and other marginalized Catholics as he moderates a panel with Fr. Bryan Massingale and two transgender Catholics. Fr. Massingale will consider theological and pastoral perspectives, and the transgender Catholics will offer narratives of their spiritual journeys. All will suggest ways we can respond to those who are transgender or discerning their gender identity. Insights from Church history, theology and bioethics will help explore the beauty of gender diversity within our faith communities.



**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. 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.*

## 5-13 THE SACRAMENT OF BOUNDLESS MERCY: PONDERING THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE EUCHARIST

Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni (bio 1-05)

The Eucharist is the third and climatic moment of Initiation into the Body of Christ. It is the sacrament of God's inestimable mercy, offered to the Church by Christ in the Holy Spirit. Examine the depth of this mercy and learn the seven gifts that are offered to us and to all creation as we "proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again!" Consider this conference session, and walk in wisdom with this sacrament of *boundless mercy!*

## 5-14 WHY YOU ALWAYS MARRY THE WRONG PERSON: TOWARD A PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY OF MARRIAGE

Dr. Richard Gaillardetz (bio 4-10)

One of the greatest challenges facing contemporary marriage is our culture's obsession with romance and passion and a belief that God has chosen one perfect person to be our life partner. This workshop will challenge the issue with a more bracing and practical spirituality of marriage aimed at sustaining the marriage commitment for a lifetime.

## 5-15 THE POWER OF BEAUTY

What is "beautiful" and why is it what it is? What is it about music, poetry or a sunrise that so uplifts and delights the human spirit? Why does beauty captivate and evoke joy, awe and wonder? What secret power does it possess that enables it to touch and transform us? Beauty is the glow of the true and the good radiating from every ordered state of being. God reveals the true, the good and the beautiful through the wonders of nature, the universe, humankind, Jesus and the power of Love.



**Darrell Hall**

*Darrell Hall is the former Principal at St. Thomas More Collegiate in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. He has taught religious education for 35 years and has spoken at national conferences across Canada, including the Catholic Educator's Conference, Catholic Christian Outreach's "Rise Up" conferences, and Reverence for Life conferences, in addition to various parishes, senior high schools and retreats. Hall has published a book on Christian apologetics entitled, "I Am Convinced: God, the Truth and You."*

## 5-16 OUR VOCATION IS LOVE: CALLED TO BE A CATHOLIC ARTIST

Twenty years ago, Heather King traded lawyering for the precarious life of a creative writer. Since then, she's published several memoirs and now writes the arts-and-culture column for the Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. Her watchwords: obedience, fidelity, integrity. Her material: the tragicomedy of daily life. Her "marketing strategy": Christ. Join Heather as she discusses mining families, friends and complete strangers for stories; how

to pay rent while earning slave wages; and the bountiful rewards of freedom, joy and wild-card opportunities that come with following your heart's true desire. As Thérèse of Lisieux observed, "Our vocation is love!"



**Heather King**

*Heather King is a sober alcoholic, a former attorney and author of several memoirs. Her column, "Credible Witnesses," appears monthly in Magnificat magazine and she writes weekly for The Tidings, the Los Angeles Archdiocese newspaper. King blogs and is author, most recently, of "Stumble: Virtue, Vice and the Space Between." She has been a keynote speaker at a variety of parishes, universities and conferences, including the 2014 Catholic Media Association Conference. She also leads recovery and Catholic retreats nationwide.*

## 5-17 FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Cunning, baffling and powerful, addiction affects us all, directly or indirectly. This presentation will be of interest to those wanting to recover from any addiction, those struggling to journey with them, and anyone seeking to learn more about the addictive process and the 12-Step program. We will address being fully human, dealing with emotions, the nature of addiction, the importance of fellowship, forgiveness, mercy, grieving and the healing power of the 12 Steps. We will also explore the unique way first nations, Judeo-Christian and 12-Step spirituality come together to form a spirituality of recovery.



**Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI**

*Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, has spent over 30 years ministering among the aboriginal peoples of north and central Saskatchewan, Canada. In 2006, he was appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Keewatin-The Pas, Manitoba, Canada, and retired as Archbishop Emeritus. Archbishop Sylvain's new role is as Chaplain and Spiritual Director at the North Retreat Center in St. Albert, Alberta. The accomplished author's latest book is titled, "Walk A New Path" about addictions awareness.*

## 5-18 REACHING THE MARGINALIZED

Wake up now, because there's *nothing* easy in this session. Jesse Manibusan will share "the three easy steps" to reach the marginalized: Honesty, humility, and a courageous compassion are the way of the missionary disciple. Let us bring our faith, hope and joy, along with our oft-hidden skepticism, arrogance and assumptions. Be surprised, invigorated, informed and inspired. And bring friends!



**Jesse Manibusan**

*Evangelizer, energizer and encourager, Jesse Manibusan has over 30 years in ministry as a liturgical minister, youth worker, parish associate, catechist, parish mission and retreat director. Founder of Over the Fence ministries, Manibusan has presented at conferences worldwide, including national youth and pastoral musician conferences and international World Youth Days in Denver, Toronto, Rome, Cologne, Sydney, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro. He has a number of CDs published with Oregon Catholic Press.*



**5-19 RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH: SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR LAUDATO SI'** 

Fr. J. Patrick Mullen (bio 1-16)

Pope Francis made rich use of the Scriptures to support his critically important teaching on the relationship between humanity and the rest of creation. This workshop will examine this treatment and then expand beyond it to equip catechists and preachers with the tools necessary to use the Scriptures as effectively as possible. The goal is to build a deeper consciousness of the value of the created world and our relationship with it.

**5-20 MAKING CORE VALUES INTO CORE MEMORIES: THE "INSIDE OUT" OF VALUES AND VIRTUES IN MEDIA** 

As cinema continues to tell us who we are and ought to be, this interactive presentation will consider the place of character education in basic human formation within the context of popular culture and film specifically. Participants will be led in an exercise to articulate and teach values and examine how these can bridge life and faith, integrating catechesis and spirituality in everyday life. A resource booklet will be provided.

**Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP**

*Sr. Rose Pacatte, a Daughter of St. Paul, is a media literacy education specialist, author, noted print and online film and television critic, and an online facilitator for the University of Dayton's catechetical Virtual Learning Community.*

*Most recently she taught a communication and media literacy course in Nairobi, Kenya, and served on the Catholic jury at the Venice Film Festival in 2015. Sr. Pacatte is Director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, Calif. Her latest book is "Martin Sheen: Pilgrim on the Way."*

**5-21 DEAD MAN WALKING: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ...** 

Sr. Helen Prejean is a storyteller from the South. During this session, she will relate how she became involved with the Ministry Against the Death Penalty and stories about the many special people she has met along the way. Having witnessed and accompanied six men to their execution, she is passionate about the mission of abolishing the death penalty. She sees no dignity or justice in this punishment.

**Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ**

*Sr. Helen Prejean, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, is author of "Dead Man Walking." The human rights activist speaker has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions.*

*Based in New Orleans, Sr. Prejean travels the world speaking about her ministry. She is presently at work on another book, "River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey."*

**5-22 SYNOD ON THE FAMILY: WHAT HAPPENED, WHY IT MATTERS**

Thomas J. Reese, SJ (bio 2-24)

What happened at October's Synod on the Family, and why does it matter? Topics will include the process, divorce and Communion, annulments, church treatment of gays, and how it can support families in crisis.

**5-23 THE SPIRITUALITY OF ADMINISTRATION: PATHWAYS FOR INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

"Me, an administrator?! How did that happen?" We might not want to think of ourselves as administrators but there is a reason the word "administration" has the word "ministry" imbedded within it. Combining humor with practical insight, coupled with her experience as a parish and diocesan leader, Julianne Stanz will outline creative and practical pathways for leadership and administration with a deep focus on cultivating the spiritual values necessary for inspirational leadership.

**Julianne Stanz**

*Originally from Ireland, Julianne Stanz is a nationally known speaker, retreat leader and storyteller with workshop and presentation experience both locally and nationally. She is Director of New Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., where she was Adult Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry Director. Stanz also serves as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catechesis and Evangelization, and is co-author, with Joe Paprocki, of the book, "The Catechist's Backpack."*

*Bay, Wis., where she was Adult Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry Director. Stanz also serves as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Catechesis and Evangelization, and is co-author, with Joe Paprocki, of the book, "The Catechist's Backpack."*

**5-24 THE LOST ART OF SACRED SYMBOLS** 

For centuries, we have surrounded ourselves with Christian symbols. We place them in our churches, our homes, our towns and even around our necks. Sad to say, many people have lost the art of interpreting these symbols and thus have lost access to these daily reminders of our faith. In this workshop, we will look at the origin and role of some of the most important Christian symbols. We will discuss ways in which to return these symbols to their due place of importance in our liturgy, in our catechesis and in our lives.

**Johan M. J. van Parys, PhD**

*Since 1995, Dr. Johan van Parys has served as Director of Liturgy and the Sacred Arts at The Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. He is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Theology at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and a national consultant and speaker for RCL Benzinger. Dr. van Parys is a liturgical and art consultant for numerous dioceses, cathedrals and parishes. He is author of two books and several magazine pieces, a monthly contributor to Liguorian magazine and writes a weekly blog.*

## 5-25 SPIRITUAL CARE FOR YOUR CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTERS

An active spiritual life that is linked to music helps us be authentic and inspiring music ministers. Come and explore this journey from personal prayer through music rehearsal to Sunday worship.



**Christopher Walker**

*Christopher Walker is an internationally known church composer, speaker on liturgical music, and choral conductor. 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.*

## 5-26 MOVING WITH GOD'S INEXHAUSTIBLE MERCY WITHIN US

The Gospel often calls us to be like little children with their boundless energy and loving spirits. It invites us to dance with their spirit and that of the angels, the promise of heaven just before us. Come enjoy this sacred recreation and the joy of God with us, Emmanuel. This interactive workshop will be led by John West, Artistic Director of the Valyermo Dancers. All levels of experience are welcome.



**John West, Oblate OSB, MEd, MA**

*John West, an oblate of St. Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, Calif., is President of Nardin Academy in Buffalo, N.Y. His experience with the Religious Education Congress began in 1970, and since 1991, he has served on the Congress Liturgy Committee. West is a national and international workshop leader and lecturer in the field of medieval, sacred and liturgical dance at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the University of Nations in Kona, Hawaii, and Bathurst College in Australia.*

## IN 1967

the first Southern California Confraternity Congress is held at the LAX-area International Hotel (the property located at Sepulveda and Century boulevards), with a registration fee of \$5. An estimated 3,000 teachers are expected, but more than 7,000 attend, causing major problems with services and programming.

Then-Tidings writer Al Antczak (later Editor) recalled waiting 10 minutes to get on a very crowded elevator.



## 5-70 Lãnh Đạo Trẻ trong Giáo Hội: Cuộc Hành Trình nên Thánh

Các lãnh đạo và giáo lý viên sẽ trở thành những người đào luyện đức tin nên chứng tá cho người trẻ để giúp họ trở thành người Kitô hữu tốt và công dân chân thật.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH: AN EVERYDAY JOURNEY OF HOLINESS

Empower youth leaders and catechists with the means to become protagonists of their faith formation, showing youth with their example how to become leaders by being good Christians and honest citizens.



**Sơ Đỗ Vương, FMA**

*Năm 1979 Sơ Đỗ Vương và gia đình rời Việt Nam bằng thuyền đến Thái Lan và đã lưu lại Thái Lan 5 tháng. Sau đó chính phủ Hoa Kỳ cho phép gia đình Sơ vào định cư tại Hoa Kỳ. Sơ lớn lên tại Nam California và sinh hoạt với giới trẻ đoàn Thiếu Nhi Thánh Thể. Sau 6 năm làm việc với nghề trị liệu. Sơ theo tiếng gọi của Chúa và đã gia nhập Dòng Daughters of Mary Help of Christians năm 2003 và khấn lần cuối 2013. Hiện tại Sơ Đỗ Vương là Giáo sư Toán lớp Tiểu học và cũng là Bê trên nhà ở Laredo, Texas.*

## Sr. Vuong Do, FMA

*In 1979, Sr. Vuong Do and her family escaped Vietnam by boat to Thailand. She lived with her family in Thailand for five months before her family could emigrate to America. She grew up in Southern California and worked with the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth for nearly two decades. After six years as an occupational therapist, she joined the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in 2003 and taught religion at the elementary and junior high levels and helped prepare young adults in missionary work. Sr. Do made her final vows in 2013. She is currently a junior high math teacher and Superior for her community in Laredo, Texas.*





**6-01 ALL LIVES MATTER: RECOGNIZING THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF ALL** 🗣️ **ARENA**

Why do we have to say, “Black lives matter”? Why do we have to preach, “Who am I to judge?” Why do we have to “March for Life”? Shouldn’t the human race already understand that everyone has been created in the image and likeness of God? Unfortunately, we still live in an era where folks are judged “not by the content of their character” but rather by their race, creed, religion, sex and even sexual orientation. This interactive workshop will focus on the human dignity and equality of all and how we can promote and defend that equality in churches, schools and homes. In the eyes of God, “All lives matter!”

**Fr. R. Tony Ricard, MTh, MDiv**

*Fr. Tony Ricard, a priest of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, currently teaches theology at St. Augustine High School in his native New Orleans. He is also an instructor at Xavier University's Institute for Black Catholic Studies and Director of Knight Time Ministries. Fr. Tony Ricard, a former pastor and public schoolteacher, has authored many books and has given keynote addresses, retreats, revivals and youth talks across the nation and has preached in 22 countries.*

**6-02 ALL THINGS CATHOLIC: WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT IN THE GLOBAL CHURCH** 🗣️**John L. Allen Jr. (bio 7-01)**

Veteran Vatican writer John Allen takes a 360-degree look at the highlights and lowlights of Catholic news of the past 12 months, drawing out a few big-picture conclusions about what it all means, and then outlining some important stories to follow in the year to come. This session is for Catholics who want a keen sense of what's happening to their Church, not just in the United States, but in Rome and around the world.

**6-03 THE COMMUNITY OF EARTH** 🗣️**Dianne Bergant, CSA (bio 4-03)**

Contemporary cosmology reminds us of the interconnectedness of all material creation. This reality is frequently referred to as “community of Earth.” Several biblical passages from both the Old and the New Testaments will be examined to demonstrate this.

**6-04 CROSSING THE GREAT DIVIDE – CREATING EVENTS FOR WHOLE PARISH COMMUNITIES** 🗣️

There's a lasting impact on parish families when we minister effectively to the *whole* family. Nothing replaces experiencing things together. Increase your effectiveness as a faith-sharer, religious educator, community builder and youth minister. Learn to facilitate programs that children, teens, parents and grandparents will all remember! Walk away with a greater understanding of why and how we build strong communities. Plus, laugh a lot, maybe cry a little ... and be renewed in your own commitment to the craziness of parish ministry!

**Steve Angrisano**

*Steve Angrisano is a musician, inspirational speaker and workshop presenter based in Texas. He has been featured at countless diocesan events and numerous major conferences, including the L.A. Religious Education Congress and Youth Day, the National Catholic Youth Conference, the National Pastoral Musicians Conference, and seven World Youth Days. His latest offerings are “Leading Us Home: Music for Prayer and Worship,” “A New Day: Music for Prayer and Liturgy” and a book, “Essential Songs for Youth Ministry.”*

**6-05 TRUE STORIES OF SURVIVAL ON THE STREETS** 🗣️

There has been a market for our children that exploits them and is often hidden from public scrutiny. In this session, women survivors will speak about their personal experience of trafficking on our streets and will share their wisdom to help us understand how we can protect the most vulnerable. Young people are often lured by job possibilities that turn out to be forms of human trafficking. Learn about the ways youth are recruited into sex trafficking. How does your merciful heart respond to the plight of young people enslaved behind closed doors? Allow the stories to awaken mercy within and move us into action.

**Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC**

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

**6-06 AT TABLE WITH JESUS: “DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME”** 🗣️**Fr. William L. Burton, OFM (bio 3-04)**

Jesus' early followers – Paul and the author of Luke/Acts in particular – understand and advance Jesus' ministry in terms of his “table fellowship.” What does he eat? With whom does he eat? Where does he eat? And what is Jesus teaching us by these scenes dealing with food and dining? What do these New Testament scenes tell us about the Eucharist? Ultimately, the question to be answered is this: Why did Jesus ask that we remember him by means of the Eucharistic meal? When seen in the context of first-century Judaism and Hellenism, this question is not as difficult to answer as we might think!

**IN 2005**

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



## 6-07 GOD'S GIFT OF INTIMACY: A CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

In this workshop, we will reflect on Catholic teaching concerning human sexuality. The capacity for intimacy is a gift from God, intended to be lived out in different contexts depending on one's vocation and gifts. All are called to exercise the virtues of friendship, chastity and modesty, while some are called to the sacrament of matrimony or to consecrated celibacy. In addition to these varied ways of living out our sexuality, we will also discuss the "Theology of the Body," the practice of Natural Family Planning, and the significance of the recent Synod on the Family.



**Fr. Luke Dysinger, OSB, MD, PhD**

Born in Fullerton and raised in Huntington Beach, Calif., Fr. Luke Dysinger is a Board Certified doctor. In 1980 he joined St. Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, Calif. For the past 16 years, the Benedictine monk and priest has been Professor of Moral Theology and Church History at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif. Fr. Dysinger continues to lecture in bioethics to medical staff, give annual seminars at the International Conference on Patristics at Oxford University, and present workshops and retreats at St. Andrew's Abbey.

## 6-08 PREPARING YOUTH FOR CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

The sacrament of confirmation strengthens an adolescent's bond to the Church in preparation for mission and witness. What if we used the life of the parish to form youth and prepare them for active discipleship? This workshop will explore practical ways to connect youth to mentors and open up the ministries of the faith community as a way to prepare youth for confirmation and renew family faith.



**Tom East**

Tom East is Director of the Center for Ministry Development, based in Gig Harbor, Wash. Previously, he was Director of Youth Ministry and Associate Director of Religious Education for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. East is a popular speaker at major youth ministry, religious education and catechetical conferences across the country, as well as those sponsored by the Center for Ministry Development. He is editor and author of numerous books, including "Leadership for Catholic Youth Ministry."

## 6-09 SCIENCE, FAITH AND ATHEISM

In this session, we will first become familiar with the major talking points from the "New Atheists" and through an examination of the most recent, cutting-edge research we will see the impact it is having on Catholic youth and young adults. Second, we will become familiar with the Catholic Church's approach to science. Finally, we will present a spirituality that is relevant to today's cultural circumstance, which incorporates doubt, science and relationship with a loving God.



**Robert Feduccia Jr.**

Robert Feduccia was formerly General Manager at Spirit & Song and is now Executive Director and Producer for Mission Eighty5 at Saint Mary's Press. He is founding Director of the national Youth Liturgical Leadership Program and an instructor for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana as well as for the formation Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn. Feduccia has been keynote speaker and retreat leader at liturgical conferences, diocesan youth conferences and college events.

## 6-10 EUCHARIST AND THE REAL PRESENCE: THE MODERN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONVERSATION

Over the past several centuries, seismic changes have occurred in the frameworks employed in the West for understanding and explaining the nature of reality. These changes in disciplines, such as philosophy and the emerging social sciences, had enormous impact on Eucharistic theology as 20th-century theologians searched for new ways to explain the mystery of Christ's Presence in the Eucharist. This session will consider how contemporary theologians and even the digital age shed new light on this ancient mystery.



**Edward Foley, OFM Cap**

Capuchin priest Fr. Edward Foley is the Duns Scotus Professor of Spirituality, and Professor of Liturgy and Music at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he was founding Director of the Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Program. He is also past President of the North American Academy of Liturgy. Fr. Foley has lectured in over 60 dioceses and has written over 300 book chapters, articles and reviews. The award-winning author has 23 books in print, most recently "Theological Reflection Across Faith Traditions."

## 6-11 THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: THE DRAMA OF IT ALL!

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



**Anne Frawley-Mangan**

An experienced educator, presenter, writer and artist, Anne Frawley-Mangan specializes in using the Arts (particularly drama) to enhance religious education and liturgy. She lives in Brisbane, Australia, and presents workshops and keynotes nationally and internationally as well as World Youth Days in the diocese. Currently, she is Creative Director for Litmus Productions and teaches at Holy Spirit Seminary in Queensland and Australian Catholic University in Sydney.



**6-12 LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE: HOW CATHOLIC PARISHES AND SCHOOLS CAN CHANGE OUR WORLD** 🔊

Dan Friedt (bio 1-06)

Catechists and teachers are being challenged by Pope Francis' call to our youth to change the world by living the Gospel. Whether you are teaching in a Catholic school or are a catechist in a parish religious faith-formation program, leadership with a social justice attitude can be learned and lived by every single child in that school or parish setting. In this dynamic, practical presentation, Dan Friedt demonstrates how children from kindergarten to grade 12 can use the power of "The Five Stages of Social Justice" and "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" to become leaders for a lifetime.

**6-13 CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS: STRATEGIES FOR WORKING THROUGH MINISTERIAL CONFLICTS**

Do you find yourself stuck in the same disagreements over and over again? Are you avoiding a situation in the hope that it will just go away? Come and learn a framework for analyzing the conflicts that pop up in any ministry and gain a set of skills to help engage the difficult conversations that must ensue.

**Ann M. Garrido**

Ann Garrido, is Associate Professor of Homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo., and a Consultant/Mediator with Triad Consulting Group, a conflict mediation and communications team based in Cambridge, Mass. Her teaching and research has focused on Christian conflict management and administration. Garrido is a recognized formation leader for the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She is author of "Redeeming Conflict" and "Preaching to the Choir."

**6-14 VIDEO & FILM FOR EVANGELIZATION, CATECHESIS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING** 🔊

Religious education and family ministry have never been more challenging. How do we engage people in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them? Film, television and video engage on the level of story, potentially drawing people to a deeper faith. This workshop will present best practices and new ideas for using media for classrooms, family enrichment and parish formation events. Included will be ideas and templates for classroom movie discussions, family movie nights and parish movie events. We will present ideas for incorporating media links in existing parish communication to promote ongoing evangelization and faith development.

**Fr. David L. Guffey, CSC**

Fr. David Guffey, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, serves as National Director for Family Theater Productions, based in Hollywood, Calif. He has taught in religious formation programs at Moreau Seminary in Notre Dame, Ind., and at Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo. Fr. Guffey has presented over 80 retreats and workshops on social justice,

art and culture, spirituality and faith over the past 20 years to parish, religious, school and diocesan groups in the United States, East Africa, Rome, Bangladesh and France.

**6-15 MERE SPIRITUALITY: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE ACCORDING TO HENRI NOUWEN**

As a prolific writer, Henri Nouwen addressed a multitude of wide-ranging topics, but only insofar as they bore directly upon his main thrust: our life in the Spirit. Never did he stray from this sole emphasis! To the most basic question – "What constitutes the very essence of our spiritual life?" – Nouwen's conceptual trilogy (solitude, community, ministry) provides the most solid answer as it represents a balanced conception of what authentic spirituality is about. It is spirituality pure and simple, without the unwanted trappings: mere spirituality indeed! This workshop focuses on Nouwen's own articulation of the substance of our spiritual life.

**Wil Hernandez, PhD, Obl OSB**

Dr. Wil Hernandez, an Oblate of Saint Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, Calif., is an international retreat leader, trained counselor, spiritual director and founder and Executive Director of Center-Quest. He is author of a trilogy on Henri Nouwen; his most recent book is "Mere Spirituality: The Spiritual Life According to Henri Nouwen." Hernandez has presented at Spiritual Directors International conferences and over the past 10 years has led seminars and courses on Nouwen across the United States, Canada and abroad.

**6-16 WALKING WITH YOUNG ADULTS: TRANSITION AND PILGRIMAGE** 🔊

Paul Jarzembowski (bio 1-12)

In a global world, people in their 20s and 30s are always on the move; their adult experiences are rapidly changing with each passing year. Ministry with these men and women can be challenging because of this seemingly chaotic reality. We will explore ways in which church leaders can accompany young adults through transitional moments and walk with them toward Christ through the ministry of pilgrimage and merciful accompaniment.

**6-17 GRATITUDE AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: OPENING TO BOUNDLESS MERCY** 🔊

Douglas Leal (bio 2-16)

Looking for boundless mercy? Try endless gratitude! Gratitude can open us up to recognize and receive the mercy of God, allow us to be merciful to ourselves, and give us the "mellow heart" we need to extend mercy and forgiveness to others. Plus, there's good evidence that practicing gratitude makes us happier! We'll explore the place of gratitude in the spiritual life, and examine some very practical ways to increase gratitude in ourselves and teach others to do the same.

## 6-18 MARGINS, MISSION, MERCY: FOLLOWING JESUS THE GALILEAN REJECT

Pope Francis has called us to the margins, to missionary discipleship, and to act with mercy. He has also reminded us that these callings stem from a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the Son of God who became human as a rejected Galilean and invites us to follow him in the Galilees and Jerusalems of our time. This workshop will examine Jesus' Galilean origins, its significance for understanding the mystery of what God has revealed in Christ, and its implications for our life of discipleship today.



**Dr. Timothy Matovina**

*Dr. Timothy Matovina is Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he also serves as Co-Director of the Institute for Latino Studies. He is author of "Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church." Matovina has offered presentations and workshops on U.S. Catholicism and various theological topics for dioceses, pastoral institutes and ministry formation programs throughout the United States and is a frequent and popular speaker at the Religious Education Congress.*

## 6-19 EXAMINING THE CATHOLIC MYTHS AND THE LEGAL IMPACT ON THE FAMILY AFTER A CIVIL DIVORCE AND CHURCH ANNULMENT: A NECESSARY DIALOGUE

Divorce is not a myth but a reality in many unfulfilled marriages. The social and spiritual impact has a permanent effect on the family. The focus of this workshop is an attempt to understand the process of civil divorce and Church annulment especially in light of Pope Francis' recent reform of the marriage nullity process. Both presenters will examine actual marriage cases to assist families seeking healing through God's mercy and rebuilding the family's relationships after a civil divorce and a declaration of nullity by the Church.



**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 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.*



**Hon. Richard Montes (ret.)**

*Retired Judge Richard Montes served on the Municipal Court for Alhambra, Calif., and the L.A. County Superior Court. With posts as Deputy District Attorney and hearing officer for the National Labor Relations Board, the attorney was also Mayor for the city of San Gabriel, Calif. Judge Montes has been an active member of several Catholic parishes and several parish councils, and has served on the Peace and Justice Commission for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He is a frequent lecturer to various groups of lawyers and judges.*

## 6-20 ADORING FOOD: PASTORAL THEOLOGICAL PRESENTATION ON THE EUCHARIST

**Rev. Leo Patalinghug (bio 1-18)**

Based on the popular book, "Epic Food Fight: A Bite-Sized History of Salvation," this expansive topic touches on ecclesial salvation history, bite-sizing deep moral and sacramental theology, while incarnating a dynamic Catholic orthodoxy in the modern world. Delving into the mystery of the Mass, as a priest, theologian and chef, Fr. Leo Patalinghug draws out a rich pastoral theology of the Eucharist.

## 6-21 THE SECOND STEP IN SPIRITUALITY: THE DEEPER SECRETS INSIDE THE GOSPELS

Spirituality has stages. Initially the struggle is to get our lives together, to be essentially good people and good Christians. But where do we go from there? What lies beyond the essentials, the basics? How do we move from struggling to get our lives together to trying to give our lives away? How do we move from being a good person to being an exceptional one? This session will examine a number of invitations from the Gospels that invite us to a deeper, more mature discipleship.



**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.*

## 6-22 SCIENCE AT THE DOORWAY TO GOD: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIVERSE, NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES, AND THE SHROUD OF TURIN

New satellite data and contemporary theorems give more probative evidence of a creation of physical reality than ever before. The Southampton University Study of Near-Death Experiences (2014) adds to the large body of medical evidence supporting the strong likelihood of human consciousness surviving bodily death. Three new dating tests in 2012 show the strong likelihood that the Shroud of Turin originated at the time of Jesus, and new physical evidence shows the probability of the body emitting a brief intense burst of vacuum ultraviolet radiation tantamount to several billion watts. Fr. Robert Spitzer will discuss these developments and their significance for faith in a culture of growing unbelief.



**Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, PhD**

*Jesuit priest Fr. Robert Spitzer is President of the Magis Center at Christ Cathedral in Orange County, Calif., and of the Spitzer Center for Ethical Leadership, based in Michigan. He served as President of Gonzaga University from 1998 to 2009 and has published eight books and many scholarly articles. Fr. Spitzer gives over 90 public presentations each year and appears on radio and television, including "Larry King Live" (debating Stephen Hawking), the "Today" show, the History Channel and PBS, among others.*

### 6-23 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ACCOMPANY FAMILIES IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEY?

**Michael Theisen (bio 1-25)**

It's amazing what happens when we walk with parents and families along their journey of faith instead of waiting for them to hurry up and arrive at the place we expect them to be. What might we come to know more deeply about parents and family life, the process of faith transmission and the presence of God if we dare accept the ministerial pace of accompaniment in our faith formation efforts? Let's find out ... together!

### 6-24 FIVE STEPS TO TELLING A GREAT STORY: HOW TO TEACH LIKE JESUS

Do you struggle with sharing your faith story? Would you like to become more confident in telling your story? Are you looking for examples for connecting real life to Gospel teaching? Do you know the right balance between storytelling and doctrinal instruction? Do you want to learn how to connect the seeker's story with Jesus' story?

**Nick Wagner**

*Based in San Jose, Calif., Nick Wagner is co-founder and Director of TeamRCIA.com, an online resource for Catholic parishes. He has more than 25 years' experience as a leader and trainer in liturgical and catechetical ministries, serving as a diocesan director of worship and a parish liturgist, and is a regular faculty member in the San Jose Institute for Leadership in Ministry. A writer and editor, Wagner is author of many publications, including his latest entitled, "The Heart of Faith: A Field Guide for Catechumens and Candidates."*

### 6-25 GUT CHECK: THE THREAD OF LOVE

**Matthew O'Donnell Weber (bio 2-27)**

Matt Weber had it all. A new book, new home, new wife, new dog, new job – and then it all came crashing down. Reflecting on a near-death experience at age 29 with several hurdles to follow, Weber examines the profound thread of love in his attempts at a physical, marital and spiritual comeback and looks back on how the fruits of spiritual wisdom at a young age are often the welcomed byproducts of life's many curveballs.

### 6-26 "THE PERFECT FAMILY DOESN'T EXIST": ENCOURAGING BOUNDLESS MERCY IN THE HOME

**David Wells (bio 3-24)**

Pope Francis warns us how ideal and unreal images of perfect family life can make us feel inadequate, dissatisfied and unable to live the family life we desire. In this session, we will look at what Pope Francis encourages us to teach families so that Boundless Mercy might be first experienced at home. We will first summarize what he says about families, and then we will consider how best to communicate it meaningfully. This practical and challenging session is for anyone who works with or ministers to children, young people or adults whose family life can sometimes seem to be struggling and at odds with the deeper aspirations of the Church.

### 6-70 Lãnh Đạo Gia Đình và Cộng Đoàn VN tại Mỹ: Bài học từ Các Thánh Tử Đạo VN

**Rev. Giuse Nguyễn Việt Hưng, ICM & Prof. Lê Xuân Hy, PhD (1-70)**

Gia đình và cộng đoàn ngày nay phải đương đầu với văn hoá sự chết. Chúng ta có thể học cách lãnh đạo gia đình và cộng đoàn từ các Thánh Tử Đạo VN. Các ngài theo Tin Mừng, xây dựng các tình thân vừa truyền giáo vừa mang sức sống cho cả mình lẫn người khác. Các ngài vừa đáp ứng, vừa thánh hoá văn hoá.

### VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES LEARNING FROM THE VIETNAMESE MARTYRS

**Rev. Joseph Hung Viet Nguyen, ICM & Prof. Hy Xuan Le, PhD (bio 1-70)**

Families and communities today face tremendous cultural challenges. Leaders can learn to navigate these troubled waters from the Vietnamese Martyrs, who used the Good News as their guiding stars in building pastoral relationships that nurtured themselves and others. They adapt and simultaneously transcend the culture.

