

PERIOD 7 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

- 7-01 **The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines (*)**
- **John Allen Jr.**
- 7-02 **The Racial Divide in the United States (*)**
- **Bishop Edward Braxton**
- 7-03 **From the Front Lines of Crises: Humanitarian Emergencies Through the Lens of Women**
- **Caroline Brennan**
- 7-04 **Moving in the Direction of Mercy (*)**
- **Sr. Kathleen Bryant**
- 7-05 **Building a Strong Children's Choir**
- **Jaime Cortez**
- 7-06 **Identity with Integrity: Journeys of LGBT Catholics** - **Arthur Fitzmaurice**
- 7-07 **Empowering Young Adult Leadership and Receiving Them in Parish Life (*)** - **Fr. Dave Dwyer & Rosie Chinae Shawver**
- 7-08 **Bringing Sacrament Preparation to Life! (*)** - **Steven Ellair**
- 7-09 **Live Fully While You Live – Pass On a Legacy When You Die (*)** - **Amy Florian**
- 7-10 **Paul's Teaching and Eucharistic Living**
- **Fr. Edward Foley**
- 7-11 **The Catechumenate as the Inspiration for All Catechesis: Why and How? (*)**
- **Dr. Jerry Galipeau**
- 7-12 **Leading in Grace: Serving God**
- **Greer Gordon**
- 7-13 **Can Man Live Without God? (*)**
- **Darrell Hall**
- 7-14 **What Does the Bible Really Say About "Mercy"? (*)** - **Fr. Felix Just**
- 7-15 **Emerging Trends in Youth Ministry: The Pain and the Promise (*)**
- **Robert McCarty**
- 7-16 **Meeting Jesus (*)** - **Fr. James Martin**
- 7-17 **From Access to Belonging (*)**
- **Mary O'Meara**
- 7-18 **Small Christian Communities: Evangelization from the Inside Out (*)**
- **Sr. Theresa Rickard**
- 7-19 **Shared Parishes and Intercultural Life (*)**
- **Pedro Rubalcava**
- 7-20 **Physician-Assisted Suicide: Responding to a New Problem of Cultural Decline (*)**
- **Fr. Robert Spitzer**
- 7-21 **Forming Adults as Missionary Disciples: Five Creative Strategies (*)**
- **Julianne Stanz**
- 7-22 **Building a Culture of Encounter: Humanizing the Social Networks (*)**
- **Msgr. Paul Tighe**
- 7-23 **Augustine of Hippo: A Person of Faith in a Time of Crisis and Confusion (*)**
- **Fr. Thomas Weston**
- 7-24 **The Heart and Soul of Unity for Couples (*)** - **Dr. John Yzaguirre**
- 7-70 **Vietnamese Workshop (A Society in Need of Mercy) (*)**
- **Bishop Joseph Thien Van Vu**

PERIOD 8 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

- 8-01 **A Restless Humanity in Search of Meaning (*)** - **Sr. Maureen Sullivan**
- 8-02 **How to Coach Parents to Form Their Own Children in Faith (*)** - **Paul Canavese**
- 8-03 **Effective Contemporary Music Ministry: Color Inside the Lines, But Use Bright Colors! (*)** - **Craig Colson**
- 8-04 **A Deeper Appreciation of Some of Our Favorite Gospel Stories (*)** - **Fr. John Cusick**
- 8-05 **Food as a Language for Family (*)**
- **Robin Davis**
- 8-06 **Encounter and Mission: The Adolescent Disciple's Journey (*)** - **Tom East**
- 8-07 **Freedom and Forgiveness: A Fresh Look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation (*)**
- **Fr. Paul Farren**
- 8-08 **Will Wonders Never Cease! (*)**
- **Anne Frawley-Mangan**
- 8-09 **Jesus and "The X Factor" (*)**
- **Fr. Rob Galea**
- 8-10 **Mentoring in Ministry (*)**
- **Ann Garrido**
- 8-11 **Deep Change: Meeting God During Time of Transition and Failure (*)**
- **Richard Groves**
- 8-12 **Catholic Video-maker's Forum (*)**
- **Fr. David Guffey**
- 8-13 **Laudato Si': Singing and Praying the Canticle of Creation with Francis**
- **Marty Haugen**
- 8-14 **Keys to Proclaiming the Word: The Task of Catechesis (*)**
- **Dr. Sandra Kennedy**
- 8-15 **The Celtic Heart of Mercy**
- **Liam Lawton**
- 8-16 **What Are We Hoping? Stories of Mercy for Lent and Easter**
- **Fr. Richard Leonard**
- 8-17 **The Spiritual Bridge: Moses to Jesus (*)**
- **Rabbi Michael Meyersohn**
- 8-18 **Light in the Darkness (*)**
- **Fr. Jonathan Morris**
- 8-19 **Genesis, Evolution and the Image of God (*)** - **Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher**
- 8-20 **Liturgical Celebrations as "Source and Summit" of Christian Hope (*)**
- **Johan van Parys**
- 8-21 **How to Evangelize Like a Rock Star – In a Subtle, Catholic Kind of Way (*)**
- **Nick Wagner**
- 8-22 **Using Boundless Energy to Form Boundless Faith! (*)** - **James Wahl**
- 8-70 **Vietnamese Workshop (Youth Leadership: A Witness to Love) (*)**
- **Sr. Vuong Do**

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



The ORE Booth at the center of Exhibit Hall A.

7-01 THE GLOBAL WAR ON CHRISTIANS: DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES ARENA

Eighty percent of all acts of religious persecution in the world today are directed against Christians, but in the West it is often difficult to conceive of Christianity as a persecuted minority. Yet, every day in the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Christians pay in blood for their faith in a rising tide of legal oppression, social harassment and direct physical violence. Christians today form the most persecuted religious body on the planet, and too often, its new martyrs suffer in silence. This session will sketch the global war against Christians and highlight what we can do about it.



John L. Allen Jr.

John Allen is Associate Editor of The Boston Globe and Crux, the Globe's Web site covering Catholicism. He serves as Senior Vatican Analyst for CNN and was a prize-winning Senior Correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter for 16 years. Author of 10 best-selling books, Allen writes frequently on the Church for major national and international publications and pens a weekly Internet column, "All Things Catholic." He is also a popular speaker in the United States and internationally.

the gulf exists between the way black people and white people view these events is wider than many people had thought. That gulf has been termed a racial divide.



Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, PhD, STD

Bishop Edward Braxton, a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese, served the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Lake Charles, La., until his installation in 2005 as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill. He has taught at The Catholic University of America, the University of Notre Dame, Harvard University Divinity School, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Bishop Braxton's 2015 pastoral letter, "The Racial Divide in the United States," is used as a resource in the United States and abroad.

7-03 FROM THE FRONT LINES OF CRISES: HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES THROUGH THE LENS OF WOMEN

Caroline Brennan (bio 4-04)

The images from the world's global crises rarely feature those at the heart of them: Women. Join Caroline Brennan as she shines a spotlight on the issues facing women in today's most pressing humanitarian crises, and the unique needs and the impact of the Church's work on behalf of women and girls.

7-02 THE RACIAL DIVIDE IN THE UNITED STATES

The racial divide in the United States was drawn from the dramatic events in cities around the country. It was intended to open minds and hearts as we try to deal with such tragedies that include deaths of young men of color during confrontations with local white police officers or neighborhood watch persons; unprecedented unrest (including not only peaceful demonstrations, but also violence and senseless destruction of property); and published surveys/media commentaries suggesting

7-04 MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF MERCY

Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC (bio 6-05)

A God of *boundless mercy* always invites us to life! How do you go about discovering which paths will lead you to more life? Our Catholic tradition provides us with a discernment process and tools that help us align our lives with God's will. Explore some ideas for yourself (or others) to experience God's incredible mercy as your life unfolds.



IN 2008

the Office of Religious Education hosts a dinner in honor of Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC, and her 20 years of leading the Religious Education Congress. Among the 500 in attendance are (left to right) Congress Event Coordinators Paulette Smith (2007-present) and Congress Program Coordinator Jan Pedroza (2003-present), former Director Sr. Edith, and former Congress Coordinators Vikki Shepp (2005-06), Mary Lou McGee (2004), and Adrian Whitaker (1985-2003).

7-05 BUILDING A STRONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Discover ideas of how to turn your children's choir into the next generation of pastoral musicians in our Church. There will also be ideas of good repertoire for children and how to encourage some voices to become leaders of song in the Mass.



Jaime Cortez

Jaime Cortez has been a full-time pastoral musician in the Phoenix Diocese for 29 years. He is a teacher and clinician, a recording and concert artist and a songwriter of liturgical pieces. Cortez, published by OCP Publications, is one of the prominent writers of bilingual music; his music appears in all the major hymnals of the Catholic Church. He has presented at national conferences, including the Southwest Liturgical Conference, the East Coast Conference, and the Hispanic Pastoral Musician Conference.

7-06 IDENTITY WITH INTEGRITY: JOURNEYS OF LGBT CATHOLICS

How can someone be Catholic and lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)? Many of us try to repress our sexuality in order to be perfect Catholics. When that doesn't work, we seek community outside the Church. We tend either to choose one and reject the other or to compartmentalize these parts of our lives. This does not work! We cannot truly be ourselves until we begin the journey to integrate faith and sexuality. In this workshop, a diverse panel of Catholics, educators, minorities and LGBT persons will share how we seek to live authentically as we journey to claim our whole identity with integrity.



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 of 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.

7-07 BRINGING SACRAMENT PREPARATION TO LIFE!

Steven Ellair (bio 3-06)

If it's time for new life and new ideas for effective sacrament preparation in your parish or school, don't miss this energizing workshop! Focus will be on key strategies and engaging activities that will bring sacrament preparation to the next level with children!

7-08 EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP & RECEIVING THEM IN PARISH LIFE

According to a 2015 study, when asked about religion affiliation, 36 percent of young adults age 18-24 claim "none," giving rise to the nickname "the nones." More than 90 percent of Catholic high school seniors attend

IN 2013

, on December 2, Paulette Smith, Congress Event Coordinator, is named an Associate Director for the Office of Religious Education (ORE), as announced by then-ORE Director Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC. Paulette has served the Office of Religious Education for many years. In 2006, she was appointed (along with Jan Pedroza) as Co-coordinator of the Religious Education Congress.



non-Catholic colleges, which means that even non-Catholic schools play a pivotal role in the future vitality of the Church in America. How do we empower high school students to seek their faith in college? How does college campus ministry develop Church leadership? Once out of college, how can a young adult integrate into parish life? These questions will be explored in a panel discussion led by Fr. Dave Dwyer and Rosie Shawver.



Fr. Dave Dwyer, CSP

Paulist priest Fr. Dave Dwyer is Executive Director of Busted Halo Ministries and Publisher of BustedHalo.com. He hosts the weekday Sirius-XM Radio "The Busted Halo Show" and co-hosts "Conversation with Cardinal Dolan" on EWTN.

Fr. Dwyer has appeared on CNN, Fox News, The History Channel, NBC News, The Today Show, The New York Times and The Daily Show. Fr. Dwyer formerly worked in Campus Ministry at the universities of Colorado and of Texas and developed ministry programs for the Military Archdiocese.



Rosie Chinae Shawver, MDiv

Rosie Shawver, a native of Southern California, began her work experience volunteering at Annunciation House, a home for immigrants in El Paso, Texas. She then moved to Albuquerque, N.M., to become Director of Campus Ministry at the University of New Mexico and then worked at Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., as the Parish and Faith Community Outreach Liaison. Today, she is Director of Campus Ministry at the University of Southern California's Caruso Catholic Center in Los Angeles.

7-09 LIVE FULLY WHILE YOU LIVE – PASS ON A LEGACY WHEN YOU DIE

Amy Florian (bio 3-10)

Facts: 1) In 70 percent of deaths, decisions must be made for treatment/non-treatment; 2) if you want to donate your organs, it isn't enough to sign your driver's license; and 3) most people would rather pass on a legacy of life lessons rather than possessions. So what documents must be in place for you to remain in control of decisions that affect your end-of-life treatment? What's a binding way to indicate you want to donate organs? How can you pass on your wisdom to kids and grandkids? This is not about ethics of end-of-life decisions; instead, explore the most effective ways to ensure that your medical, financial and legacy wishes are known and honored.

Workshops

IN 1976

Pope Paul VI establishes the Diocese of Orange, which had been part of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles until March 24, 1976. Los Angeles Auxiliary **Bishop William Johnson** is appointed as the first Bishop of Orange, and the existing Holy Family Church in Orange is designated as the cathedral for the new diocese in California.



7-10 PAUL'S TEACHING AND EUCHARISTIC LIVING

Edward Foley, OFM Cap (bio 6-10)

"Irascible" Paul was also "integrated" Paul. At the birth of Christianity, St. Paul understood that following Jesus could not be reduced to engaging in the Jesus rituals; rather, it required living the Jesus life in communion. This exploration of the Corinthian challenges that Paul faced allows us to consider how this same "challenge" confronts contemporary worshipping communities.

7-11 THE CATECHUMENATE AS THE INSPIRATION FOR ALL CATECHESIS: WHY AND HOW?

Dr. Jerry Galipeau (bio 4-11)

Both the General Directory and the National Directory for Catechesis reflect the Church's directive and vision that the Catechumenate (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) inspires all of the Church's catechetical activity. This is a powerful and potentially revolutionary vision when put into practice. Discover the theory behind the principle and what it means to put the vision into practical parish application for the RCIA and for all catechesis.

7-12 LEADING IN GRACE: SERVING GOD

Dr. Greer G. Gordon (bio 1-07)

In the community of believers, leaders are expected to have two fundamental objectives: obedience to the Will of God, and service to the People of God. Because of these fundamentals, the models of leadership in the Church appear to be restrictive and demanding. After a brief review of her 2015 session on servant leadership, Dr. Greer Gordon will present a concrete discussion of the inherent tensions between types of leadership and the structure of the Church, and ways to develop, enhance and maintain lay leadership. Additionally, this session will address the formation of a leadership stance that is directive, yet collaborative; bold, yet rooted in tradition; and spiritual, yet functional in a secular society.

7-13 CAN MAN LIVE WITHOUT GOD?

Darrell Hall (bio 5-15)

Can man live without God? Yes, in a physical sense, but is it reasonable? No, because you cannot build a coherent ethical foundation without first establishing the purpose and destiny of human life. If life is meaningless and absurd, why should ethics serve any purpose except my own? Why should I subject myself to anyone else's moral convictions? In our search for morality and happiness outside of God, we have effectively lost all three – God, morality and happiness.

7-14 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT "MERCY"?

We so often pray, "Kyrie eleison" or "Lord, have mercy." But what does the Bible really say about the mercy of God? How does Jesus show God's mercy, through his life, his teachings and his actions? And how do the Sacred Scriptures challenge us to put mercy into practice concretely today? This workshop will explore the biblical themes of mercy, compassion, pity, forgiveness and kindness. It will help us better know what we are asking for when we pray for God's mercy, and how God also expects us to act mercifully toward others.



Fr. Felix Just, SJ, PhD

Fr. Felix Just is Executive Director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, Calif. He has taught at all three Jesuit universities in California – the University of San Francisco, Santa Clara and Loyola Marymount. Fr. Just conducts many adult faith formation programs for parishes and dioceses, leads biblically based days of prayer, parish missions and weekend or week-long retreats. He has seven audio-lecture programs with Now You Know Media and maintains a large, internationally recognized website of "Catholic resources."

7-15 EMERGING TRENDS IN YOUTH MINISTRY: THE PAIN AND THE PROMISE

What's new in youth ministry? Its leaders must be future-oriented because pastoral ministry to, with, for and by young people is changing – rapidly. This workshop will describe the shifting societal and Church landscape, identify ministerial trends and provide a blueprint for our ministry. We need to assess the territory and develop new ministry maps if we are to build foundations under our dreams for the young Church.



Robert J. McCarty, DMin

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

7-16 MEETING JESUS 🔊**James Martin, SJ (bio 4-01)**

Come and see! Come and encounter the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith, as Fr. James Martin invites you into the Gospel narratives to learn more about the person at the center of our lives. Fr. Martin, author of “Jesus: A Pilgrimage,” will use historical details, spiritual insights and biblical exegesis to deepen your appreciation of the fully human, fully divine Son of God.

7-17 FROM ACCESS TO BELONGING 🔊**Mary O’Meara (bio 2-22)**

In this workshop, we will explore the notion of persons with special needs moving past being simply “recipients” of the faith, toward being *agents* of the Gospel message. Ways for including persons with disabilities and special needs in the life of the parish, across that person’s life span, will also be discussed. As the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities states, “We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities.”

7-18 SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: EVANGELIZATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT 🔊**Sr. Theresa Rickard, OP (bio 1-22)**

Whether personal or communal, the encounter with Christ and others touches our hearts and moves us to share the Good News. Such encounters provide insight and help us to integrate faith-knowledge with faith-action. Small parish communities provide the optimum environment, motivating members to become missionary disciples and evangelizers. This session provides practical ways to launch and grow parish small groups with a focus on mission.

THE BEGINNINGS

of the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress spring from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, popularly known as CCD, a ministry that actually began in Los Angeles in 1922 under Bishop John Cantwell to teach refugees of the Mexican Revolution. Bishop Cantwell had appointed Fr. Leroy Callahan, pastor of San Antonio de Padua in East Los Angeles, to work in this ministry. The first CCD program was established at Immaculate Conception Church on 9th Street in Los Angeles in 1922, followed by parish units established throughout the Archdiocese, with then-Fr. (later Archbishop) **Robert E. Lucey** as the first Director of the new program.



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7-19 SHARED PARISHES AND INTERCULTURAL LIFE 🔊

An ever-growing number of our parishes celebrate liturgy and provide ministries in two or more languages or cultural contexts, but not without challenges. Jesus prayed that we “may all be one,” and our pastoral efforts continue to reflect that prayer. We will dialogue about what it takes to develop a plan for achieving communion from diversity. We’ll take a look at our community’s life of prayer and formation of a multicultural spirituality; we’ll sing songs, look at documents, resources and dialogue about best practices.

**Pedro Rubalcava**

Pedro Rubalcava is a bilingual/bicultural composer, clinician, performing artist, cantor and pastoral minister. He currently serves as Director of Hispanic Ministries at Oregon Catholic Press in Portland, Ore. Rubalcava has taught at the Tepeyac Institute in El Paso, Texas, the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., and the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College. Since 1985, he has been a frequent speaker at liturgy and other ministry conferences on the national, diocesan and parish levels.

7-20 PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE: RESPONDING TO A NEW PROBLEM OF CULTURAL DECLINE 🔊**Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, PhD (bio 6-22)**

A new wave of assisted-suicide legislation and initiatives has been sweeping the country. California is the latest state to have approved such legislation. Many Catholics have asked why the Church is taking an active position in a question of seemingly private choice in civil society. Fr. Robert Spitzer will discuss why assisted suicide is a fundamental justice issue – giving freedoms to one group that impose onerous burdens to die on other groups: the vulnerable, the disabled and the economically and socially marginalized. He will also explain the cultural effects of assisted suicide in the Netherlands. Catholics have an important part to play in this social issue.

7-21 FORMING ADULTS AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: FIVE CREATIVE STRATEGIES 🔊**Julianne Stanz (bio 5-23)**

Pope Francis asks us to form and send out “missionary disciples” from our ministries. What does this mean? In our parishes, we often meet adults at the most joyful and hope-filled moments of their life – when they get engaged, are married, at baptism and when they seek out faith formation for their children. We also encounter parishioners at moments of intense struggle and pain – through death, brokenness and moments of questioning. This workshop will give participants five practical and effective ways to encounter, form and send out missionary disciples to change the world.



IN 1970 the annual Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine Congress was moved to the Anaheim Convention Center. Prior to the move, building officials worried that the Anaheim Room (pictured) and other venues would be empty.



Dr. John Yzaguirre

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

7-22 BUILDING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER: HUMANIZING THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

Msgr. Paul Tighe (bio 1-26)

In this workshop, we will focus on identifying the possibility of the social networks, realizing their potential to be places of dialogue and authentic human growth. In particular, Msgr. Paul Tighe will seek to clarify how Christian believers, together with others of goodwill, can work to ensure that the social networks promote a greater sense of unity within the human family.

7-23 AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO: A PERSON OF FAITH IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND CONFUSION

Rev. Thomas C. Weston, SJ (bio 4-25)

Augustine is the most influential writer/thinker in the Latin Church, after St. Paul and before Thomas Aquinas. For 900 years he was the voice of orthodoxy and reason. He lived in a time of chaos, conflict, rebellion and barbarian invasions. Manichaeism, Pelagianism and Donatism were heresies that were destroying the Christian community. In this session, Fr. Thomas Weston will present the conflicts and the accomplishments of Augustine as he comes to an understanding of the Gospel and human society in the late-fourth and early-fifth centuries. He is brilliant, creative and passionate, and he gives us the good example of doing the same in the 21st century.

7-24 THE HEART AND SOUL OF UNITY FOR COUPLES

Our experience of authentic happiness in married life corresponds to the level of unity that we live as spouses. Unity is a gift from God that requires our daily commitment to a Trinitarian lifestyle. In this presentation, Dr. John Yzaguirre integrates psychological and spiritual approaches necessary for a Trinitarian lifestyle, where we welcome each other with compassionate acceptance, practice unconditional self-giving and prioritize a life of communion and mutuality. When we are united as Jesus wants, we experience the fullness of joy for which we are searching.

7-70 Một xã hội đang cần lòng thương xót

Đức Cha Giuse Vũ Văn Thiên (2-70)

Trong xã hội, khi con người đứng đưng với Thượng Đế, thì họ cũng đứng đưng với nhau, ngay cả trong hững mối liên hệ thân thiết. Tình trạng xã hội bất ổn do chiến tranh, bạo lực, đói khát, tệ nạn xã hội là nguyên nhân của việc loại trừ Thiên Chúa khỏi cuộc sống hằng ngày. Mỗi tín hữu hãy là những người quảng diễn lòng thương xót của Chúa qua việc sống có trách nhiệm, quan tâm đến nhau và tôn trọng người khác.

A SOCIETY IN NEED OF MERCY

Bishop Joseph Thien Van Vu (bio 2-70)

In our society, when people are indifferent to God, they are also indifferent to each other, even in intimate relationships. The unstable status of society – due to war, violence, hunger and other social evils – are the cause of the exclusion of God from daily life. Every faithful person needs to become someone whose life shares God's mercy through responsible living, with care and respect for one another.



8-01 A RESTLESS HUMANITY IN SEARCH OF MEANING 🎧 **ARENA**

During this Year of Mercy, we focus not only on God, the source of Boundless Mercy, but also on the recipients of that mercy. We are aware of our failings and wounded natures – and our need for the One who created us. This need is expressed in prayer, in literature, in music. One song in particular will be the focus of this presentation, “Need You Now,” by Plumb. The song claims: “Everybody’s got a wound to be healed ... I want to believe there’s meaning here ... trying to hear that still small voice above the noise.” Pope Francis responds: “God invites us to a conversation. God waits for us. God does not tire of forgiving.” This session will examine the conversation to which we are called.

**Sr. Maureen Sullivan, OP, PhD**

Sr. Maureen Sullivan is a Dominican Sister of Hope from New York. After 26 years of teaching theology, she is now Professor Emerita at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire. She also serves as a religion consultant for the William H. Sadlier Publishing Company. A popular speaker at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, Sr. Sullivan has written two books on Vatican II: “101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II” and “The Road to Vatican II: Key Changes in Theology.”

8-02 HOW TO COACH PARENTS TO FORM THEIR OWN CHILDREN IN FAITH 🎧**Paul Canavese (bio 4-05)**

Catechists cannot substitute for parents. For faith formation to last a lifetime, parents must be involved in the process. Parents want this, but often feel intimidated and don’t know where to start. This challenge is the very heart of evangelization and precisely the point at which we can show them the mercy of the church as we welcome and assist them. This workshop will present: 1) the role of parents, as taught by the Church; 2) practical ways parishes can engage, coach and empower parents; and 3) suggested resources to support parish leaders in this ministry. Special attention will be placed on sacramental preparation.

8-03 EFFECTIVE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC MINISTRY: COLOR INSIDE THE LINES, BUT USE BRIGHT COLORS! 🎧

Starting and leading a weekly parish youth liturgy is challenging, but fun. This workshop explores effective ways to make liturgies more engaging to young people, led by young people. You don’t have to sacrifice rubrics or richness!

**Craig Colson**

Craig Colson is a published composer with World Library Publications. He has directed music since 1993 in the Phoenix area and is currently Music and Liturgy Director at St. Francis Xavier Church. Skilled in piano, guitar, voice,

percussion and drums, Colson has spoken at Life Teen music conventions and conferences in the areas of liturgy and music. He also provides music suggestions and writes articles for the Life Teen liturgy planning guides.

8-04 A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITE GOSPEL STORIES 🎧**Rev. John C. Cusick (bio 2-11)**

We all have a list of our favorites, from books and movies, athletic events, places we have visited, songs, and historical and political heroes. We can say the same about our favorite Gospel stories. Let’s revisit some of them (the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Adulterous Woman, the Nativity, Jesus and Peter, the Death of Christ, and a few more if time permits). If we deepen our understanding of their images, symbols and culture, each story can become an even more important part of our spiritual lives.

8-05 FOOD AS A LANGUAGE FOR FAMILY 🎧**Robin Davis (bio 5-10)**

Sharing a meal with someone is one of the most personal and universal experiences of life. When Robin Davis, author of “Recipe For Joy,” married a widower with three young children, she felt wholly unequipped to take on full-time motherhood. But she did know how to cook (she had made a career out of it). Robin will share her story of how she used the dinner table as a way to bond with her new family with food as a language they could all understand.

IN 1974

the Youth Day Mass that is held in the Anaheim Convention Center Arena numbers 9,000. Cardinal Timothy Manning concelebrates the Mass with 80 priests who especially work with young people.



8-06 ENCOUNTER AND MISSION: THE ADOLESCENT DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

Tom East (bio 6-08)

Youth and college-age young adults are making big decisions about their lives, their priorities and their relationships. This is the moment to help them choose Christ as the center of their commitments. The disciples' journey moves from encounter to relationships, through formation to mission. This workshop will explore ways to accompany, support and form youth and college-age young adults as active young disciples. We will explore practical, effective ways to help youth live and love their Catholic faith, and grow in their friendship with Christ.

8-07 FREEDOM AND FORGIVENESS: A FRESH LOOK AT THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. Paul Farren (bio 2-12)

This workshop explores the sacrament of reconciliation as a powerful gift given by God – a gift that has the power to renew the Church. This renewal comes when we focus on the two people who confess – God and the penitent – within the context of the praying community. God is the primary confessor, when he declares his forgiveness for and trust in the one who is celebrating the sacrament. How the friendship between God and the penitent is renewed is explored using the Rite of Penance and St. Peter in the Gospel.

8-08 WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE!

Anne Frawley-Mangan (bio 6-11)

Children are filled with wonder. They intuitively use their imaginations to see and engage with the world – and our awesome God. The challenge is to keep this wonder alive as they get older. In this fun and interactive workshop, you will learn skills and techniques that will help you discover creative ways that drama encourages wonder-filled experiences.

8-09 JESUS AND “THE X FACTOR”

Fr. Rob Galea (bio 3-11)

After much thought, prayer and discernment, Fr. Rob Galea recently appeared on the 2015 TV series, “The X Factor Australia.” In this workshop, he will be talking (and singing) about connecting today’s pop culture and pop music with our Catholic Christian faith.

IN 2000

the focus of Congress is on the catechist – referred to as “CCD worker or teacher” – and his or her skills in the classroom. Workshop topics include themes relevant to what is going on in society, like “The Theology of Ecology” and “The ‘Switched-On’ Generation: God, Love and Rock and Roll,” and the latest in audio and visual media tools are showcased in workshops like “Super 8 Movies and the CCD Student.”

8-10 MENTORING IN MINISTRY

Ann M. Garrido (bio 6-13)

Excellence in ministry requires not only knowledge of Scripture and church teaching, but the ability to use that knowledge pastorally on behalf of God’s people – an art that involves skill, reflection and time. This workshop offers mentorship tools and processes for those entrusted with the pastoral development of the next generation of ministers in the Church.

8-11 DEEP CHANGE: MEETING GOD DURING TIME OF TRANSITION AND FAILURE

Richard F. Groves (bio 4-13)

Change in life is inevitable. Authentic spirituality teaches how to deal with the suffering that can be associated with stressful times. While we often find periods of “unchange” consoling, mystics of the great spiritual traditions all agree that God is especially accessible to us when life seems to be dissolving through the “sacrament of failure.” This workshop explores “the mystery of deep change,” as author Susan Plummer describes it, and how one can live hopefully through times of unknowing. The secret is learning how to trust that, while life’s biggest changes at first can be unsettling, a whole new world of spiritual possibility is often being revealed.

8-12 CATHOLIC VIDEO-MAKER'S FORUM

Fr. David L. Guffey, CSC (bio 6-14)

With cheaper cameras and access to Internet platforms, there has been an explosion of Catholic video content. Amid all the options, how do audiences find that content? Holy Cross Family Ministries recently commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct a study of the faith life and media use of U.S. Catholic families. Fr. David Guffey will show how this research can help. This workshop will bring together video-makers of all levels of skill and sophistication to share ideas about producing impactful videos and engaging target audiences for education, inspiration and evangelization.

8-13 LAUDATO SI': SINGING AND PRAYING THE CANTICLE OF CREATION WITH FRANCIS

Marty Haugen (bio 5-01)

The first words of Francis of Assisi’s beautiful canticle of creation – “Praise be to you, my Lord” – open Pope Francis’ powerful encyclical on the environment. Echoing Pope Paul VI, Pope Francis calls all people on Earth to a “radical change in conduct.” How can our liturgies, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist, reflect and participate in the spirit of this encyclical? How are we bound up through the Paschal Mystery in the life of all creation?

TODAY the Religious Education Congress supports the diverse needs of parish leaders by offering workshops in evangelization, liturgy, theology, Scripture, spirituality, morality, parish leadership, detention ministry, peace and justice, as well as adult, elementary and early childhood catechesis and youth ministry.

8-14 KEYS TO PROCLAIMING THE WORD: THE TASK OF CATECHESIS

Dr. Saundra Kennedy (bio 1-13)

Our key objective as catechists, who echo the person of Jesus, is to proclaim God's Word to those to whom we minister. Thus, we embrace Jesus' mission to "Go ... make disciples of all nations." As catechists, how do we go about doing this? What might we do to ensure that the disciples of Jesus today come to know and understand God's Word and their own mission? This workshop will discuss the goal of catechesis – proclaiming the Word and making new disciples – in light of "The Six Tasks of Catechesis" outlined in the General and National Directories for Catechesis.

8-15 THE CELTIC HEART OF MERCY

Liam Lawton examines the meaning of mercy in Celtic spirituality. "Advancing in holiness" meant having an awareness of God in all things and all people. The creative energy going out from God is ever-present, ever-changing, and thus challenges us to reflect in our daily lives the mercy and compassion in Jesus Christ. In the Celtic world, all human relations must be characterized by mercy and not just self-interest – a real challenge for living today! Through word and song, Liam Lawton explores this theme.



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's music has been performed for many state occasions in Ireland and elsewhere. He has recorded a number of TV specials including two on PBS and one BBC special for the United Kingdom. He has presented at conferences in Europe and across the United States, and is one of the most frequent presenters at the Los Angeles RECongress.

8-16 WHAT ARE WE HOP-ING? STORIES OF MERCY FOR LENT AND EASTER

Rev. Richard Leonard, SJ (bio 4-17)

Though you could be forgiven for not knowing it, the Church actually describes Lent as a "joyful season." How can we rediscover stories and images of God's *boundless mercy* that are meant to fill us with joy as we are set free in Christ.

8-17 THE SPIRITUAL BRIDGE: MOSES TO JESUS

Jews and Christians tend to see a disconnect between Moses and Jesus – one a man of law, the other of faith. In this workshop, we will explore the deep spiritual connections between these two men of God. Our focus will be on how they both brought their people to faith in and obedience to God.



Rabbi Michael Mayersohn

Based in Southern California, Rabbi Michael Mayersohn is a Reform Rabbi who teaches the Bible, both Hebrew and New Testament, offering Jewish insights into Sacred Scriptures. Since 2003, he has spoken at over 20 churches in Orange County and San Diego in California and in Arizona, teaching Christians the Jewish roots of Christianity and context of the life and ministry of Jesus. Rabbi Mayersohn has been a presenter at the Religious Education Congress since 2010 and is author of "Are We Sinners?"

8-18 LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Fr. Jonathan Morris (bio 3-19)

Join Fr. Jonathan Morris as he suggests practical approaches to making our homes and parishes bright with the light of Christ!

8-19 GENESIS, EVOLUTION & THE IMAGE OF GOD

Prof. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher (bio 1-23)

Christianity has always been fascinated with key texts in Genesis, such as the *Imago Dei*, the "image" of God. In this session, we will take up Genesis 1-3 once again, but suggest how Genesis opens a dialogue with aspects of evolutionary thought: dialogue rather than rejection!

8-20 LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS AS "SOURCE AND SUMMIT" OF CHRISTIAN HOPE

Johan M. J. van Parys, PhD (bio 5-24)

Though we celebrate our faith and nourish our hope on a weekly basis, this does not prevent occasional bouts with disbelief and despair. In such difficult times, it is especially important to participate in the liturgy to affirm our faith and strengthen our hope. This workshop will look at the liturgy as the "source and summit" of our Christian life. We will be reaffirmed in our understanding of the liturgy as the "source and summit" of Christian hope while learning methods by which to strengthen this knowledge and experience among parishioners.

IN 2006

RECongress, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education, marks its 50th annual event (beginning with the first CCD "institute" in 1956). That year, Congress has for its theme "Step into Freedom"/"Paso a la Libertad."



IN 2015

Following nearly three decades of service, **Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC**, retires as Director of the archdiocesan Office of Religious Education, effective June 30.



She is succeeded by **Fr. Christopher Bazouros**, who has served at several different churches in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Prior to his appointment as Director, he served as Consultant for Adult Faith Formation in the Office of Religious Education.

8-70 Lãnh Đạo Trẻ: Nhân Chứng cho Tình Yêu

Sơ Đỗ Vương, FMA (5-70)

“Nếu chúng ta không cho họ Chúa Giêsu, thì chúng ta chưa cho đủ” – Đức Giáo Hoàng Benedict XVI Emeritus. Giúp giới trẻ càng thêm thấm nhuần trong tình yêu với Chúa Giêsu, Người là ánh sáng soi dẫn trên con đường lãnh đạo.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP: A WITNESS TO LOVE

Sr. Vuong Do, FMA (bio 5-70)

“If we don’t give them Jesus, we don’t give enough,” said Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. This session will help young people deepen their relationship with Jesus, who is a beacon of leadership.

8-21 HOW TO EVANGELIZE LIKE A ROCK STAR – IN A SUBTLE, CATHOLIC KIND OF WAY

Nick Wagner (bio 6-24)

Pope Francis said, “The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you.” How do you do that in a normal, everyday way that doesn’t involve standing on a street corner with a large sign? In this workshop, we will explore how Catholic evangelization happens and how we can be more effective evangelists. You will learn: why evangelization is crucial to conversion; what evangelization looks like for Catholics; and how to strike up spiritual conversations – without seeming weird. This workshop will change the way you think about, and do, evangelization.

8-22 USING BOUNDLESS ENERGY TO FORM BOUNDLESS FAITH!

Pope Francis urges us to work “tirelessly” for the Gospel – quite a challenge when your work is with young children! Come and join WLP artist James Wahl, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in North Carolina, as he shares music and strategies that enable those working with young children to channel that energy toward an encounter with Jesus. Explore how, in a culture where children are surrounded by media from their earliest days, it is vital that our message of faith be tailored with quality and fun. This workshop is geared to anyone working with children ages 3 to 8.



James Wahl

Composer James Wahl has been performing children’s music for over 15 years and has presented at various diocesan youth events over past 10 years for both the dioceses of Phoenix and Raleigh, N.C. Currently Director of Music at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, Wahl 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 1984

the recession at the Closing Liturgy in the Anaheim Convention Center Arena brought to a close Congress 1984, held March 22-25 with the theme, “The Lord is With Us” / “El Señor está con Nosotros.”

