

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

PERIOD 7 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

- 7-01 **What Happens When You Pray? (*)**
- **Rev. James Martin**
- 7-02 Casting the Net Far and Wide: Implementing the New Pastoral Response for Asian-Pacific Islander Communities (*) - **Bishop Oscar Solis, Bishop Alex Aclan, Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy & Fr. Ricky Manalo**
- 7-03 A Culture of Grace (*) - **Steve Angrisano**
- 7-04 What's Hot and What's Not in the Global Church: A 360-Degree Review of the Catholic Landscape (*) - **John Allen Jr.**
- 7-05 Dancing Our Way to Holiness: The Soul's Slow Ripening (*)
- **Betsey Beckman & Laura Ash**
- 7-06 The Three S's of Holiness: Surrender, Sacrifice, Single-heartedness (*)
- **Sr. Kathleen Bryant**
- 7-07 Seeking Healing Through Forgiveness (*) - **Rev. John Burns & Sr. Miriam Heidland**
- 7-08 Do Not Be Afraid, I Am With You: How Sung Prayer Nurtures Courage, Hope and New Beginnings - **David Haas**
- 7-09 What Would Jesus Post? (*)
- **Sherry Hayes-Peirce**
- 7-10 Making Happiness a Habit: Four Steps to a More Joyful Marriage (*) - **Dr. Jim Healy**
- 7-11 "What Now, God?" Listening for God's Call and Finding Our Path (*) - **Douglas Leal**
- 7-12 Called to Participate: How We Learn the True Christian Spirit (*)
- **Diana Macalintal**
- 7-13 Engaging and Accompanying Young People: The Challenge and the Blessing! (*) - **Robert McCarty**
- 7-14 Be Merciful as Our God Is Mercy Incarnate (*) - **Megan McKenna**
- 7-15 Christian Activism as a Practice of Holiness (*) - **Dr. Hosffman Ospino**
- 7-16 The Time Is Now! Early Investment in Faith Formation Lasts a Lifetime (*)
- **Pamela Perrino**
- 7-17 River of Fire: An Account of the Spiritual Awakening That Led to Death Row (*)
- **Sr. Helen Prejean**
- 7-18 Knock, Knock! Who's There? (It's Me, Jesus!) (*) - **Fr. R. Tony Ricard**
- 7-19 The Scrutinies are Coming ... the Scrutinies are Coming! (*) - **Michael Ruzicki**
- 7-20 The Problem of Justice in the "Twelve Prophets": Critical Views of Ourselves? (*) - **Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher**
- 7-21 Beloved: Marriage Formation in a Post-Marriage Culture (*) - **Dr. Edward Sri**
- 7-22 Becoming the Face of Mercy (*)
- **Sr. Maureen Sullivan**
- 7-23 Finding Christ on the Road (*)
- **Trevor Thomson**
- 7-70 Vietnamese Workshop (The Church and Sexual Morality – How to Care for the LGBTQ Community) (*)
- **Rev. Hy Nguyen**

PERIOD 8 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

- 8-01 **The Song of Women: Raising Their Voices in Our Church (*)** - **Sarah Hart**
- 8-02 God Here and Now (*) - **John Angotti**
- 8-03 Digital Discipleship: Like, Follow and Subscribe - **Steve Botsford**
- 8-04 We Are God's Hands: Songs to Celebrate and Teach Mercy to Children (*)
- **Andrew Chinn**
- 8-05 Affective Maturity and Discernment: Keys for the Formation of Ministers Today (*)
- **Rev. Allan Figueroa Deck**
- 8-06 Sacramental Preparation for Lifelong Encounters with Christ (*) - **Jared Dees**
- 8-07 Introduction to Islam: Tips for Catholic Educators and Journalists (*)
- **Jordan Denari Duffner**
- 8-08 Accompanying Young Adults in Discernment and Discipleship (*) - **Tom East**
- 8-09 Everyday Holiness (*) - **Robert Ellsberg**
- 8-10 Truth in the Heart - **Dr. Greer Gordon**
- 8-11 The Present Moment: A Sacrament and Ambassador (*) - **Fr. Albert Haase**
- 8-12 Music's Role in the "Field Hospital" Church - **Marty Haugen**
- 8-13 Loving the Dust We Are: Renewing Our Understanding of the Human Person (*)
- **Rev. Daniel Horan**
- 8-14 In Times Like These: A Time for Faith, A Time for Hope (*) - **ValLimar Jansen**
- 8-15 Catholic Leaders Today: Envision the Future or Be Eclipsed by It (*)
- **Fr. Michael Martin**
- 8-16 Saints and Prophets for a Church and World in Crisis (*)
- **Bro. Michael O'Neil McGrath**
- 8-17 It's Too Late to Put My Hand Down: Practical Help with Scriptural Interpretation for Ministry - **Suzanne Nawrocki**
- 8-18 The Mundane Mercy of Catholic Family Life (*) - **Timothy O'Malley**
- 8-19 Unleashing the Power of Scripture: Ministry Powered by the Word of God (*)
- **Joe Paprocki**
- 8-20 A Church with Open Doors: A Monastic Approach to Youth Ministry (*)
- **Abbot Richard Purcell**
- 8-21 Planning and Implementing Effective Retreats (*) - **Cooper Ray**
- 8-22 Forming Missionary Disciples (*)
- **Dr. Edward Sri**
- 8-23 *Christus Vivit*: Implications for Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers (*)
- **Dr. Joseph White**
- 8-70 Vietnamese Workshop ("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Hosts...") (Is 6:3) – The Bible and Liturgy) (*) - **Rev. Think Pham**

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



A group shot with Archbishop Gomez

7-01 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PRAY? ARENA

One of the most confusing questions in the spiritual life is: What happens when you pray? Many people are baffled by what is supposed to happen, or can happen, when you close your eyes. We will explore how emotions, desires, memories, insights, words, images and feelings are ways that God has of communicating with us personally. Fr. James Martin will be drawing from his upcoming book, “Learning to Pray.”



Rev. James Martin, SJ

Jesuit priest Fr. James Martin is Editor at Large of the Catholic magazine America. He is author of several award-winning books as well as his most recent, “Building a Bridge,” and his upcoming “Learning to Pray.” A popular speaker, Fr. Martin has given presentations at the Religious Education Congress each year for the past several years and is a frequent speaker at national conferences, retreats and parish groups. He has also appeared on several CNN documentaries.

7-03 A CULTURE OF GRACE

In the sacraments, we experience a true foretaste of heaven. You have likely experienced it firsthand. Perhaps you’ve even thought, “If everyone knew what I knew, they would *all* be here!” Well ... they don’t know what they don’t know. In a culture steeped in consumerism, we have made even the reception of the sacraments a transaction. How do we bring greater richness to both our sacramental preparation and sacramental experiences so that our parish gathers not as consumers of sacraments but as a community steeped in a culture of God’s grace?



Steve Angrisano

Musician, composer and youth minister, Steve Angrisano has made countless appearances from diocesan gatherings to major events around the world. He has been featured at numerous conferences, including seven World Youth Days. Angrisano has presented at several National Catholic Youth Conferences, the National Pastoral Musicians Conference, and the L.A. Congress & Youth Day. His works include the CD “Leading Us Home” and the book, “Essential Songs for Youth Ministry.”

Asian-Pacific Islanders are now the fastest growing minority population in the United States. The recently approved U.S. bishops’ pastoral, “Encountering Christ in Harmony,” helps guide our Church in addressing the pastoral needs of these communities. These two workshops (Sessions 3-02 & 7-02) and our Saturday liturgy are intended to encourage collaborative reflection and action, offer a model of how to better minister toward and alongside our Asian and Pacific sisters and brothers, and provide skill-building opportunities for parish leaders, with a goal of building faith-filled communities.

7-02 CASTING THE NET FAR AND WIDE: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PASTORAL RESPONSE FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

The new U.S. bishops’ pastoral response, “Encountering Christ in Harmony,” offers us a model of how to better minister toward and alongside of our Asian and Pacific sisters and brothers. Join us for a dynamic panel discussion among key Asian-Pacific Islander leaders on how this may be implemented in your diocesan, parish and classroom settings.



Most Rev. Oscar Solis

When Philippine-born Bishop Oscar Solis was ordained an auxiliary for the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 2004, he became the first Filipino-American bishop, and served as Episcopal Vicar of San Pedro Pastoral Region. In 2017, he was named to become the 10th bishop of Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah. Bishop Solis is a member of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church and Chair of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs.



Most Rev. Alejandro Aclan

Born in Pasay City, Philippines, Bishop Alex Aclan was ordained a priest for the Los Angeles Archdiocese at St. Vibiana Cathedral in 1993. In addition to administrative roles at three parishes, he also served on the Council of Priests, the Vocations Office and was Vicar for Clergy. He was elevated to Monsignor in 2017 and ordained a bishop on May 16, 2019. Bishop Aclan serves as the Episcopal Vicar for the San Fernando Pastoral Region and is a member of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.



Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy

Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy is Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Honolulu, Hawaii. She serves as Vice-President of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership and is an advisory committee member to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. Ragasa-Mondoy is co-producer of the award-winning “One ‘Ohana” video series, has published numerous diocesan catechetical resources and articles, and is author of “Cultivating Your Catechists.”



Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, PhD

In addition to his liturgical compositions, Fr. Ricky Manalo has written numerous articles and books. He is a Paulist priest currently teaching in California at Santa Clara University and at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. Fr. Manalo is also Director of the Cultural Orientation Program for International Ministers/Priests at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and serves as an advisor to the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Secretariat on Divine Worship.

7-04 WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT IN THE GLOBAL CHURCH: A 360-DEGREE REVIEW OF THE CATHOLIC LANDSCAPE 🗣️

John L. Allen Jr. (see bio 5-01)

John Allen, a veteran observer of the Vatican and the global Catholic scene, will trace the major news headlines of the last year and tease out what they mean in terms of which personalities, movements and ideas in Catholicism seem to be gaining traction, and which seem to be falling by the wayside as the tides of history sweep on. He'll pay special attention to the Vatican and Pope Francis, but will also bring other key venues and major players into sharp focus.

7-05 DANCING OUR WAY TO HOLINESS: THE SOUL'S SLOW RIPENING 🗣️

How can we allow the temple of our bodies to be a dwelling place for the God of mercy? The path of Celtic Christianity teaches us many simple practices such as surrender, blessing each moment, holy pilgrimage and living closely to the earth. Come learn six simple movement prayers based on Celtic spirituality that can open your heart to mercy, deepen your call to holiness and become resources for your home community.



Betsey Beckman, MM

Betsey Beckman is a dancer, teacher, spiritual director, author and founder of The Dancing Word: Embodying the Sacred in Liturgy and Life. Her ministry includes liturgical movement, online prayer resources created with Abbey of the Arts, embodied arts retreats, and storytelling pilgrimages to sacred lands. The freelance choreographer presents internationally. Beckman is also Director of Movement Ministry at her home parish of St. Patrick Church in Seattle.



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. Laura and her husband, David, have composed and published three collections of liturgical music, have created music for many dance offerings with Betsey Beckman, and have composed the music for the musical "Grace on the Margins," which debuted in April 2013.

RECONGRESS TRIVIA:

Prior to 1998, the Religious Education Congress still had nine periods, with three sessions each day. However, beginning that year, the "ninth period" workshop on Sunday was removed and replaced by two Sunday morning keynote talks. The Closing Liturgy was also scheduled to begin earlier, at 3:30 p.m. Though the procedure was being tried on an "experimental basis," stated then-Director Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC, it has continued as the standard RECongress model.



7-06 THE THREE S's OF HOLINESS: SURRENDER, SACRIFICE, SINGLE-HEARTEDNESS 🗣️

Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC (see bio 2-01)

As we surrender to the Great Love and sacrifice our own agendas, we sense the wholeness, the holiness of God's holding it all together. God's invitation to jump-start each day is not easy! But they are the doorway into freedom, transformation and wholeness. Feeling pulled in too many directions? Come and hear a fresh invitation to holiness and mercy that is warm and welcoming.

7-07 SEEKING HEALING THROUGH FORGIVENESS 🗣️

Have you ever wanted to live a vibrant and abundant life, yet feel "stuck" with certain memories or experiences that you would rather forget? Have you wanted to be free of anger or resentment? At the very heart of our Catholic faith is the call to receive God's forgiveness and to share it. Being wounded by the injustice of another is part of human life, and only through the graced experience of forgiveness do we let go of the anger and resentment that accumulate around our wounds. In this workshop, we will delve into what forgiveness really is, how it sets us free, and how it brings Christ's powerful, healing love into our hearts and into the world.



Rev. John Burns

Rev. John Burns, a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, is a promoter of vocations and of women's religious and consecrated life. He speaks at national men's and women's conferences, preaches missions and directs retreats throughout the country and has appeared on Relevant Radio's The Inner Life. Fr. Burns is author of "Lift Up Your Heart: A 10-Day Personal Retreat with St. Francis de Sales." He works extensively with the Sisters of Life and the Missionaries of Charity, giving retreats and conferences for them.



Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

Sr. Miriam Heidland is a former Division I athlete who joined the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) in 1998. Her story has been featured on EWTN's "The Journey Home," and at the SEEK Conference, Relevant Radio and other outlets. She currently is Assistant to the SOLT Sisters' General Superior and speaks regularly on the topics of conversion, authentic love, forgiveness, healing ... and sports! Sr. Heidland is author of the book, "Loved As I Am," and her podcast, Abiding Together, can be found on iTunes.

7-08 DO NOT BE AFRAID, I AM WITH YOU: HOW SUNG PRAYER NURTURES COURAGE, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

David Haas (see bio 4-13)

Our sung prayer has the power to touch the human heart in times of pain and crisis, more than most medicines that are prescribed. Come together with your sisters and brothers to pray and sing "through, with, and in" Christ – to discover healing, peace, courage, strength and wisdom that we can access and call upon when we travel through the dark times.

7-09 WHAT WOULD JESUS POST? 🗣️

This experiential session will explore how digital communications can be a beacon and messaging tool for the faithful, fallen away and future generations of our Catholic family. Using interactive activities and examples from Scripture, we will explore how and why Jesus would use digital communications today and the seven themes he would center his posts around. Examples will be shared during the session to help attendees visualize how they can implement digital communication for catechesis and connecting the parish community.



Sherry Hayes-Peirce

Sherry Hayes-Peirce is a social media consultant, lector and welcome center volunteer at her parish, American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach, Calif. She is a contributing writer for Catholicmom.com, the Hawaii Catholic Herald and the "Living Catholic in the 808" series for the Honolulu Diocese. She has presented at national and local Catholic conferences held in Sacramento, Las Vegas and Dallas as well as custom presentations for the dioceses of Honolulu and San Diego.

7-10 MAKING HAPPINESS A HABIT: FOUR STEPS TO A MORE JOYFUL MARRIAGE 🗣️

Dr. Jim Healy (see bio 5-11)

Happiness in marriage comes, not so much from the "once in a lifetime" events (wonderful as they are), but by the things we do over and over again. What are these "habits of the heart" that lead to joy and fulfillment? They are firmly grounded in our Catholic faith, but social science research has also suggested their importance for human happiness.

7-11 "WHAT NOW, GOD?" LISTENING FOR GOD'S CALL AND FINDING OUR PATH 🗣️

What does it mean to have a calling or vocation in today's economy? These days, no one is expected to work at the same job for 40 years and retire with a gold watch. Even Jesus had two careers! Is God's call a once-in-a-lifetime event, or do we experience God's call in different ways throughout our adult lives? How do we know what God really wants us to do? We'll explore what Scripture and tradition have to say about work, career and vocation. We'll also review some practical discernment tools that can help answer these questions and help us minister to other adults and young adults wondering where God may be calling them next.



Douglas Leal

Douglas Leal is Vice President of Mission Integration with Providence St. Joseph Health in Orange County, Calif., and previously led the Division of Adult Faith Formation for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He has also worked as a management consultant and a professional actor and director. Leal is author of the skill-building book for lectors, "Stop Reading and Start Proclaiming!" and co-authored the 2017 and 2018 editions of LTP's "Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Proclaimers."

7-12 CALLED TO PARTICIPATE: HOW WE LEARN THE TRUE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT 🗣️

We all know that liturgical participation is important. But it takes more than just showing up and doing a liturgical ministry to genuinely embody the true Christian spirit. It takes openness, discernment and conversion. To put it bluntly, we need to ask ourselves what good is it if the bread and wine change, but we don't? Together we will explore three levels of liturgical participation that will help us enter more deeply into the life-changing encounter with Christ who invites us at every liturgy to be formed by the Spirit to give glory to the Father by our lives.



Diana Macalintal

Diana Macalintal is a speaker and author on liturgy and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; her latest publications include "Your Parish Is the Curriculum: RCIA in the Midst of the Community" and the liturgical year resource, "Living Liturgy." She is co-founder and Co-Director of the online resource, TeamRCIA. She has been keynote at several national gatherings, including the National Association of Lay Ministry, the Mid-Atlantic Congress and the Los Angeles RECongress in addition to her appearances there as prayer leader.

7-13 ENGAGING AND ACCOMPANYING YOUNG PEOPLE: THE CHALLENGE AND THE BLESSING! 🗣️

Robert J. McCarty, DMin (see bio 5-16)

The research by Saint Mary's Press published in "Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics" focuses on young people who have left the Church. Now we need to identify the practical pastoral strategies that enhance affiliation and engagement with the faith community and examine implications for parish/school life, vocational discernment, liturgy and pastoral ministry. We will explore how young people are crafting a religious identity in a secular age and consider Catholicism as a comprehensive way of living. As ministry leaders and as caring individuals, we will explore what it means to accompany young people on their spiritual journeys.

7-14 BE MERCIFUL AS OUR GOD IS MERCY INCARNATE 🗣️

Mercy is the virtue of martyrs and mystics, prophets and poets and mature disciples of Jesus, the living breathing mercy of our God in flesh. Mercy looks like a stranger, "the other," the least and poorest, all awaiting our hospitality and friendship. Mercy is born of justice and embracing human dignity in our relationships with everyone and the earth itself. Someone once described it as "mercy singing in the night," God lying in wait for us, ready to leap out at us. Mercy breathes quietly, deeply in hidden corners. It is where our God hides, seeking us, breathing on us, as the Risen Lord breathed on his friends. Come, learn to feel his breath on you.



Megan McKenna

A New York native now living in Albuquerque, N.M., Megan McKenna travels internationally working with base communities, parishes, dioceses, religious orders and organizations. She is author of 49 books, including “The Book of the Poor”; her previous publication, “This Will Be Remembered of Her,” won a Catholic Press Association award. McKenna is an Ambassador of Peace for Pax Christi USA. She teaches at many universities, colleges and pastoral institutes around the world and presently works training elders in First Nations communities and dioceses in Canada and the United States.

7-15 CHRISTIAN ACTIVISM AS A PRACTICE OF HOLINESS

We live in a historical moment in which many Catholics in the United States are reconnecting with the practice of “speaking out in the name of the Gospel.” Whether we advocate about life, human dignity, peace, care of the created order, just treatment of immigrants, global solidarity, etc., there is a conviction that we have something to say because we believe in Jesus Christ. This workshop is an invitation to reflect on the relationship among holiness, contemplation and advocacy as part of Christian activism. We will look at some examples and explore their implications.



Hosffman Ospino, PhD

Dr. Hosffman Ospino is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Religious Education at Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry, where he is also Director of Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry. He is author and editor of several books on Hispanic ministry, religious education and Catholic parish life. Dr. Ospino served as a principal investigator for the National Study of Catholic Parishes with Hispanic Ministry (2014) and for the National Survey of Catholic Schools Serving Hispanic Families (2016). He presently advances a National Study on Hispanic Vocations.



RECONGRESS TRIVIA:

In 1969, the “Southern California Confraternity Congress” was held at the International Hotel, near LAX. It was obvious that the event was outgrowing the facility – hotel rooms were used for workshop sessions; beds and TV sets were removed and chairs and projection screens brought in. Note the lamp in the corner and mirror on the wall behind the portable chalkboard.

7-16 THE TIME IS NOW! EARLY INVESTMENT IN FAITH FORMATION LASTS A LIFETIME

Pamela M. Perrino (see bio 1-18)

Participants will explore and investigate the guiding principles of a developmentally appropriate practice for children preschool through third grade. They will evaluate their faith formation instruction and approaches to develop strategies that are better aligned to the unique learning needs of our youngest catechists. The new strategies will create connections and mastery for young children.

7-17 RIVER OF FIRE: AN ACCOUNT OF THE SPIRITUAL AWAKENING THAT LED TO DEATH ROW

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ (see bio 5-18)

“River of Fire” is the prequel book to “Dead Man Walking” and tells of Sr. Helen Prejean’s “slow” quickening to faith that does justice. For her, for a long time, faith in Jesus meant being charitable to those around and praying for God to comfort people suffering from injustice. In “River of Fire,” she tells of God’s gentle, relentless grace that woke her up to serve impoverished African Americans, who quickly became her teachers, introducing her to the “other America,” and, in turn, led her to Death Row.

7-18 KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO’S THERE? (IT’S ME, JESUS!)

Rev. R. Tony Ricard, MTh, MDiv (see bio 1-20)

Some of the funniest jokes are knock-knock jokes. They are funny because after “knock, knock” we have no idea “who’s there”! And, of course, we never expect the answer to be so ridiculous. Well, God tells us that there will come a time when we will hear a “knock” and we shouldn’t be surprised with who is at our door. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Rv 3:20). This interactive workshop will explore the times that Jesus knocks at our doors. From the homeless man knocking on our churches to the immigrant knocking on our borders, Jesus is trying to enter our world. The big question is: Are you willing to open the door?

7-19 THE SCRUTINIES ARE COMING ... THE SCRUTINIES ARE COMING!

Michael Ruzicki (see bio 3-19)

There’s no need to fear the Scrutinies ... they are a chance to celebrate God’s love and mercy. Each year in Lent, the Church celebrates the three Scrutinies for the elect who are approaching the waters of baptism. What should we be doing before and after these liturgies to make them more impactful? This workshop will creatively examine the structure of the Scrutiny and allow those present to reflect on water, light and life through song, Scripture and reflection.

Workshops

7-20 THE PROBLEM OF JUSTICE IN THE “TWELVE PROPHETS”: CRITICAL VIEWS OF OURSELVES? 🔊

Prof. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher (see bio 3-20)

Can “justice” be a problem in prophetic books? Recent work on the so-called “minor” prophets (meaning “shorter,” not less important) has tended to read these 12 short books as finally *one* work intentionally edited together. But this raises some interesting problems with regard to a biblical theology of justice! In this session, Daniel Smith-Christopher will outline some of the latest work on “The Twelve Prophets,” and then focus on why this way of reading “one book” raises all kinds of possibilities – and a few thorny problems! As we know, what looks (at first) like a biblical “problem” can often become a significant insight for growth and learning.

7-21 BELOVED: MARRIAGE FORMATION IN A POST-MARRIAGE CULTURE 🔊

Does marriage matter anymore? That’s a question many ask today. But the sacrament of matrimony not only corresponds to our heart’s deepest desires, it leads to better lives and better societies. It is also at the very heart of God’s plan for human happiness. Discover how marriage is a “school of self-giving” in which men and women grow in Christ’s love, and how the key aspects of Christian marriage are at the service of the true love and happiness we desire in our married lives. Also, learn how the grace of the sacrament is available to couples so that they might participate more in Christ’s love and serve as a more profound sign of God’s love in the world.



Dr. Edward Sri

Theologian and author Dr. Edward Sri is an internationally known Catholic speaker who has spoken to hundreds of thousands of audiences – laity, catechists, clergy and religious. He is the host of the video series, “Symbolon,” and a founding leader of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), where he serves as Vice President of Formation. Dr. Sri is also adjunct professor at the Augustine Institute in Denver. He lives with his wife and children in Colorado.

7-22 BECOMING THE FACE OF MERCY 🔊

Sr. Maureen Sullivan, OP, PhD (see bio 3-21)

The prophets used symbolic language to make God present to the people: a burning bush; a mother who cannot forget her child. But, in Jesus, we encounter the human face of God, and through Jesus we come to know the unconditional love and mercy of God. Pope Francis has called on us to become agents of this mercy. We have a mission to proclaim the mystery of God to others. But only when we come to know this God personally can others enter into God’s mystery through us. If we truly are the “face of God” to others ... when they see us, they will also see God.

7-23 FINDING CHRIST ON THE ROAD 🔊

Just like the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, Jesus comes into our lives in mysterious, everyday ways, empowering us to become the people that God has made us to be. Through song, story and prayer, let’s discover, welcome and embrace the Christ in our midst.



Trevor Thomson

Trevor Thomson is Director of Music at Holy Name of Mary Parish in San Dimas, Calif. The full-time minister of music and liturgy has served as a recording artist and evangelist for 30 years. He is a published song writer and workshop presenter for Oregon Catholic Press and World Library Publications. Thomson has visited most of the United States as well as Canada and Italy through concerts, workshops, liturgies and prayer services. He has seven recordings, most recently the album, “In Shadow and In Light.”

7-70 GIÁO HỘI VỚI NHÓM LGBTQ VÀ THẮC MẮC VỀ TÍNH DỤC 🔊

Linh Mục Nguyễn Khắc Hy, PSS (tiểu sử 4-70)

Lời giảng dạy của Giáo Hội về đời sống tính dục đã bị hiểu lầm, bóp méo và xuyên tạc đến độ nhiều bạn trẻ không chấp nhận vì tính vô lý của nó. Nhưng nếu nghiên cứu sâu xa và kỹ lưỡng, chúng ta hiểu được tại sao Giáo Hội có những lời dạy cần thiết này, đặc biệt là với cộng đồng LGBTQ.

THE CHURCH AND SEXUAL MORALITY – HOW TO CARE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY 🔊

Rev. Matthew Hy K. Nguyen, PSS (see bio 4-70)

The moral teachings of the Church have been misunderstood, twisted and misinterpreted so much that many Catholics do not accept the Church’s teachings on sexual morality and view these teachings as illogical. However, when one explores the magnitude of the moral issues with all their possible dimensions, one understands why the Church teaches what she is teaching, especially with the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) community.



8-01 THE SONG OF WOMEN: RAISING THEIR VOICES IN OUR CHURCH 🎧 ARENA

The place of women in the history of the Church is varied and well documented. Yet, oftentimes in Christianity we have seen the voices and ministry of women ignored, overlooked or discounted. In this workshop, we will dig deeper into why the voices of women are so crucial to the ministry of Christ and to our Catholic faith and identity. Through storytelling, song and prayer, Sarah Hart will guide us through an understanding of this essential demographic in our past history and current times, and explore ways in which we can raise up the voices of women in our own communities of faith. Come prepared to dig deep, laugh, cry and sing loudly!

**Sarah Hart**

Based in Nashville, Tenn., Sarah Hart has been a singer, songwriter, retreat author and keynote speaker for over 20 years. Her itinerant ministry has taken her all over the United States and abroad, performing for countless conventions and events, and even for Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square. A Grammy-nominated songwriter, her songs have been recorded by numerous recording artists and have appeared in TV, film and commercials. Her writing is found in hymnals across the globe.

8-02 GOD HERE AND NOW 🎧**John Angotti (see bio 6-02)**

How can we wake up and see God in everyday experiences? How can we use what we see to respond through the liturgy and allow the liturgy to help us respond to our baptismal call each day? Come explore fresh ideas about what it means to be a disciple at any age, in any ministry role.

8-03 DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP: LIKE, FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE**Steve Botsford (see bio 3-03)**

Who and what is a “digital disciple”? This session explores the use of the new standards for technology in ministry, called the Technology Competency Standards for Digital Discipleship. Come and learn creative ways ministers can use online technologies and social media to promote Gospel values. This session is for anyone involved with ministry: technologist, director, coordinator or catechist.

8-04 WE ARE GOD'S HANDS: SONGS TO CELEBRATE AND TEACH MERCY TO CHILDREN 🎧

Here is a workshop for early childhood and elementary teachers. Pope Francis says that we need to think of mercy as a verb – it is something that we do. Come and join Australian Andrew Chinn as he shares songs, stories and strategies for children that will inspire them to bring mercy to life now, into their future and the future of our Church and world.

**Andrew Chinn**

Andrew Chinn worked as a classroom 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 visited numerous Catholic elementary schools, performing in more than 2,000 concerts across Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Chinn has released several CDs, DVDs and, in 2013, joined WLP who publishes and distributes his music in North America.

8-05 AFFECTIVE MATURITY & DISCERNMENT: KEYS FOR THE FORMATION OF MINISTERS TODAY 🎧

Many of the documents of Pope Francis' magisterium include sections devoted to the spiritual principles of the themes in his documents. His public talks often treat themes related to the need to cultivate spirituality, especially affective maturity and discernment. What is the source of the critical importance of these spiritual qualities in the formation of adult ministers (priests, deacons, missionary disciples) today? How does one learn and cultivate these qualities? Why does the Holy Father insist so much on spirituality as fundamental to the reform of the Church sought by the Second Vatican Council and promoted by him with such urgency and effort?

**Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, SJ**

Jesuit priest Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck has served in both teaching, research and administrative positions at the California universities of Santa Clara and Loyola Marymount. The nationally known speaker has authored or edited nine volumes and more than 60 articles or chapters in books. Fr. Deck has served as founder and first Executive Director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange and served as first Director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

8-06 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR LIFELONG ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST 🎧

Parish sacramental preparation programs should be an experience of and a preparation for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Drawing on his years of experience as a creator of catechetical resources and as a parish catechist preparing kids for first Communion, first reconciliation and confirmation, Jared Dees will share the most effective ways to ensure that faith formation leads to a heartfelt encounter with Christ and a long-lasting love for him in the sacraments.

**Jared Dees**

Jared Dees is creator of the website *TheReligion-Teacher.com*, which provides resources to religious educators. Formerly Content Marketing Manager at Ave Maria Press, he has presented more than 75 workshops and keynote speeches at dozens of dioceses and parishes throughout North America. Dees is author of many books, including “31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator,” “To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach,” “Christ in the Classroom” and “Beatitales: 80 Fables About the Beatitudes for Children.”

RECONGRESS TRIVIA:

In 1973, Msgr. John Barry began what became his 10-year term as Director of CCD. That year, the CCD office was renamed the Office of Religious Education and the Congress event became the "Religious Education Congress," which was held March 1-4 with the theme, "Who Do You Say I Am?" Workshops in Spanish were offered for the first time that year.

8-07 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: TIPS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATORS AND JOURNALISTS 🗨

Jordan Denari Duffner (see bio 4-05)

Do Christians and Muslims believe in the same God? How are Catholicism and Islam similar, and how are they different? Author and scholar Jordan Denari Duffner will introduce attendees to Islam, give a window into the lives and experiences of Muslims, and offer concrete tips for teaching about Islam to Catholic learners of all ages. This session will also be useful for journalists, and will also touch on Catholic teaching on other religions.

8-08 ACCOMPANYING YOUNG ADULTS IN DISCERNMENT AND DISCIPLESHIP 🗨

Tom East (see bio 5-07)

We are directed to walk with young people and provide accompaniment for them in their faith journey. This workshop will explore the journey of faith for young adults and the implications of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, for parents and ministry leaders working with young adults. Together, we will share some of the starting points for walking with young adults as they discern their role as missionary disciples.

8-09 EVERYDAY HOLINESS 🗨

Robert Ellsberg (see bio 4-07)

The veneration of saints makes us think that holiness is only for prodigies of the spiritual life founders, mystics and martyrs. Relatively few canonized saints are drawn from "ordinary life" – the realm of work and family where most Christians live. In this session, Robert Ellsberg will draw on figures like St. Therese, Dorothy Day and the teachings of Pope Francis to recognize the pathways of "everyday holiness."

8-10 TRUTH IN THE HEART

Dr. Greer G. Gordon (see bio 6-10)

The Psalmist tells us that "God loves truth in the heart." In an electronic age of fictitious stories and intentional propaganda, truth appears to be hard to find. Yet, those who follow the path of Christ Jesus know that truth is neither elusive nor an illusion. For, God is Truth. This session will explore our contemporary age and the theology of God.

8-11 THE PRESENT MOMENT: A SACRAMENT AND AMBASSADOR 🗨

Fr. Albert Haase, OFM (see bio 1-10)

In the 19th century, "Abandonment to Divine Providence," a work ascribed to the 18th-century Jesuit priest Jean-Pierre de Caussade, became an instant best-seller and one of the great works of spirituality. In our contemporary age, where "living in the present moment" is a current fad, this 19th-century text offers a Christian and mystical approach to the here and now. This workshop explores the mysticism of the present moment and offers both a technique for living in the present as well as a discussion of its practical effects.

8-12 MUSIC'S ROLE IN A "FIELD HOSPITAL" CHURCH

Pope Francis likens the mission of the Church to a "field hospital" that cleans and heals wounds. "This is the mission of the Church: to heal the wounds of the heart, to open doors, to free people, to say that God is good, [that] God forgives all," he states. In these times of crises, both for the Church and for the life of the world, how do faith communities live as a "field hospital" Church? All the baptized are called to a vocation as evangelists, healers and prophets. Music plays a critical role (as it has throughout the life of the Church). But how do we – together with God's Spirit – translate our songs and prayers into faithful living?



Marty Haugen

For nearly 40 years, composer Marty Haugen has presented concerts, workshops and presentations across North and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. His music appears in hymnals for United States, Canadian and Australian Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and other Protestant denominations. His latest works are "Choose to Hope" and "The Liturgical Ensemble." Marty and his wife, Linda, live in Minnesota.

8-13 LOVING THE DUST WE ARE: RENEWING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN PERSON 🗨

Rev. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, PhD (see bio 5-12)

This workshop explores the latest developments in the spirituality and theology of human personhood. We begin with developing a greater appreciation for our place within the broader family of creation precisely as part of that same creation. We then examine how we might respond to the contemporary sociological, scientific and philosophical shifts in understanding identity and relationship. Finally, another aim of this workshop includes renewing our sense of sin and grace so that we might develop a mature faith and spirituality to live the Gospel life in the modern world.

8-14 IN TIMES LIKE THESE: A TIME FOR FAITH, A TIME FOR HOPE 🗨️

ValLimar Jansen (see bio 5-13)

ValLimar Jansen will present a model to re-create at your parish or diocese. In times like these, we need parish and civic events that promote faith, hope and unity. ValLimar will use music to foreground and provide reflection and meditation for numerous, two-minute stories that inspire compassion, service and love. Throughout the session, she will weave a tapestry of beautiful sacred music, visuals and two-minute stories from Scripture, the lives of holy men/women, as well as her personal experiences. Ritual and prayer create the framework for this session. Come and experience it, then go home and create your own event like this one!

8-15 CATHOLIC LEADERS TODAY: ENVISION THE FUTURE OR BE ECLIPSED BY IT 🗨️

Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv (see bio 3-14)

Who is setting the example of mission in our Church today? Too often we look to someone else when people are looking to us. As Church ministers, we can have a unique optic on the local church as well as a powerful role to play in building the Kingdom of God. However, we need to be engaged disciples who envision the future and empower its growth. Let's talk honestly about what that may mean personally and professionally.

8-16 SAINTS AND PROPHETS FOR A CHURCH AND WORLD IN CRISIS 🗨️

Saints and prophets have appeared throughout Church history as forward-looking voices of confidence, hope and healing. Using his own art and stories, Bro. Mickey McGrath will look at some modern prophets who offer us hope and healing in these challenging days of crisis in the Church. The sex abuse crisis is not THE problem, it is merely a symptom of much deeper problems of a Church in desperate need of healing and reform. The "heavenly BFFs" we will explore are women and men who were creative spirits and visionaries and, each in their unique way, inspire us to become spiritually mature, let go of fear, and move forward in faith and hope.

**Bro. Mickey O'Neill McGrath, OSFS**

Bro. Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is an artist, author, speaker and keynote presenter currently living and working in Camden, N.J. He is illustrator and author of 21 award-winning books, including "Be Who You Are," "Our Common Home" and his latest, "A Holy Mosaic." In addition, Bro. Mickey paints commissions for churches and schools throughout the United States. He is also a popular retreat leader and presenter in a variety of venues on the national Catholic circuit.

8-17 IT'S TOO LATE TO PUT MY HAND DOWN: PRACTICAL HELP WITH SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION FOR MINISTRY

Suzanne Nawrocki, DMin (see bio 4-18)

Now that you have committed to a ministry involving the Bible, delve into the methodology of Catholic Scripture study as presented in "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" by the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Methods and approaches for interpretation of texts will be detailed, advancing their possibilities and noting their limitations. This workshop will make God's Word more accessible to you and to those your ministry reaches.

8-18 THE MUNDANE MERCY OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE 🗨️

Timothy P. O'Malley, PhD (see bio 6-18)

Modern advertising is driven by the possibility of excitement – novelty wins! Family life is often nearly absent from such advertising, since it's far too mundane to cultivate consumer desire. In this session, we'll see how Catholic family life can function as a medicine against consumer desire insofar as we cultivate the disposition to see God acting within the context of the mundane. Participants in this workshop will walk away with five ideas for doing catechesis on the Christian family that avoids the kind of idealism that often sneaks in when teaching about the family in the Church.

8-19 UNLEASHING THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE: MINISTRY POWERED BY THE WORD OF GOD 🗨️

There is a revolution taking place among Catholics when it comes to the Bible. For too long, Catholics kept the Bible at arms-length, thinking that it was a "Protestant thing." Today, however, more and more Catholics are eager to ensure that their ministry is "powered by" God's Word in Scripture. In this engaging session, Joe Paprocki will explain what it means for your ministry to be "biblically animated" or powered by Scripture and will breakdown obstacles that continue to prevent Catholics from embracing the Bible as part and parcel of their ministry and spirituality.

**Joe Paprocki, DMin**

Based just outside of Chicago, Joe Paprocki is the National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press. He has nearly four decades of experience in pastoral ministry and has presented in over 150 dioceses in North America. Paprocki is author of numerous books on pastoral ministry and catechesis, including his most recent, "Living the Sacraments: Finding God at the Intersection of Heaven and Earth." He blogs about the catechetical ministry at www.catechistsjourney.com.



RECONGRESS TRIVIA:
The Exhibit area in Hall A at RECongress 1999 (held February 11-14) offered 168 exhibitors in 272 booths. At the center of the hall was the rest area with the featured “Clock Tower.” Attendance that year drew 37,000 people.

8-20 A CHURCH WITH OPEN DOORS: A MONASTIC APPROACH TO YOUTH MINISTRY 🎧

Abbot Richard Purcell, OCSO (see bio 2-18)

In his 2019 Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis explains that our youth ministry needs to be inclusive and “show that we are a Church with open doors.” Young people are fascinated by monks and often captivated by a visit to a monastery, but how do monastic communities approach youth ministry? In this workshop, Fr. Richard Purcell will share his own experience of youth ministry from a monastic perspective and will explore what it is about monastic life that interests young people, and what the Rule of St. Benedict and the monastic tradition have to offer them on their faith journey.

8-21 PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE RETREATS 🎧

Cooper Ray (see bio 5-19)

Retreats can be a pivotal experience on a young person’s faith journey. We want to develop retreats that are engaging and spiritually uplifting, but where do we even begin? This workshop will provide the basic framework for planning a retreat as well as provide some basic understanding to the dynamic and flow of an effective retreat that engages young people.

8-22 FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES 🎧

Dr. Edward Sri (see bio 7-21)

This presentation helps people from all walks of life – diocesan leaders, parish staff, volunteers, laity – live out the call to be “missionary disciples.” Discover the true meaning of discipleship in ways that will transform our parishes, ministries, families and communities. The more we live as “missionary disciples,” the more we will be the Lord’s instruments in evangelization. (This session is based on Dr. Edward Sri’s newest book on discipleship, “Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ.”)

8-23 CHRISTUS VIVIT: IMPLICATIONS FOR CATECHETICAL LEADERS AND YOUTH MINISTERS 🎧

Joseph D. White, PhD (see bio 6-23)

Pope Francis has a message for young people: “Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive!” In *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis reflects on the work of the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, The Faith, and Vocational Discernment and offers recommendations for those who minister to youth. In this session, we will walk through the document, discussing practical ways to implement Pope Francis’ message and vision.

8-70 “THÁNH! THÁNH! THÁNH! CHÚA LÀ THIÊN CHÚA CÁC ĐẠO BÌNH” (IS 6:3) – THÁNH KINH VÀ PHỤNG VỤ 🎧

Linh Mục Phạm Đức Thịnh (tiểu sử 5-70)

Buổi hội thảo sẽ tìm hiểu về mối liên quan “tuyệt đối” giữa Thánh Kinh và Phụng vụ. Từ các bản văn Kinh Thánh, các tham dự viên sẽ học hỏi về nguồn gốc của một số lời nguyện, dấu hiệu, biểu tượng và cử chỉ được sử dụng trong các nghi thức Phụng Vụ để họ có thể nắm bắt trọn vẹn các khía cạnh thiêng liêng của Phụng vụ, đặc biệt là trong việc cử hành Thánh lễ.

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF HOSTS...” (IS 6:3) – THE BIBLE AND THE LITURGY 🎧

Rev. Thịnh D. Pham (see bio 5-70)

This workshop will focus on the “indissoluble” connection between the Bible and the Liturgy. From the biblical references, participants will learn the roots and origins of selected prayers, signs, symbols and gestures used in the liturgical celebrations so that they could fully embrace the sacred aspects of the Liturgy, especially in the celebration of the Mass.

