PERIOD 7 – 10:00 - 11:30 AM

7-01 Rejoice and Be Glad: (Y)Ours is the Kingdom of God! - David Haas
7-03 Reflections Through Music and Movement (*) - Monica Luther & Nicole Masero
7-04 The Art of Storytelling (*) - Mary Birmingham
7-05 The Power of Possibility: The Untold Story (*) - Sean Callahan
7-06 Unexpected Occasions of Grace (*) - Dr. Michael Carotta
7-07 Liberating Christian Spirituality (*) - Fr. Richard Lennan
7-08 Quenching Others’ Thirst (*) - Becky Eldredge
7-09 The Voice: How to Proclaim Scripture and Make Chairs Turn! (*) - Anne Frawley-Mangan & Douglas Leal
7-10 Racism: Hating God’s Image in My Neighbor - Dr. Greer Gordon
7-11 Four Spiritual Stages of Mature Adulthood: Living into the Mystery (*) - Richard Groves
7-12 When Every Day Is Hump Day: A Primer for Workplace Restoration (*) - Sarah Hart
7-13 Not Because of Sin: A Renewed Spirituality of the Incarnation (*) - Fr. Daniel Horan
7-14 Women of the Word (*) - ValLimar Jansen
7-15 Upgrading Your Ministry Tool Box: A Community Organizer’s Approach to Youth Ministry (*) - Sergio Lopez
7-16 I’ve Got A Song About That! Integrating Music into a “Friendly Format” (*) - Michael Mangan
7-17 Our Lady of Guadalupe: Theology and Pedagogy for Justice (*) - Sr. Hilda Mateo
7-19 Quenching the Thirst of Jesus (*) - Sr. Norma Pimentel
7-20 What’s Your Story? A Personal Engagement Process for Parish Leadership (*) - Jayne Ragasa-Monday
7-21 The Other Voice: Biblical Prophets Then and Now (*) - Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher
7-22 Science and the Shroud of Turin: New Evidence of Jesus’ Resurrection (*) - Fr. Robert Spitzer
7-23 Walking with Mary: The Model Disciple (*) - Dr. Edward Sri
7-24 Family: The Missing Piece in Religious Education (*) - Dr. Joseph White
7-25 The 12 Steps and the Sacraments: A Catholic Approach to Addiction Recovery (*) - Scott Weeman
7-70 Vietnamese Workshop (Hope in a Culture of Relativism) (*) - Dr. Nhung Vu

PERIOD 8 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM

8-01 Thirsting for Justice: Teaching Virtues as Tools for Change (*) - David Wells
8-02 Is Your Parish Ready to Grow Young? (*) - Leisa Anslinger
8-03 Justice to and from the Peripheries (*) - Dr. Ansel Augustine
8-04 The Care and Feeding of Catechists: Seven Simple Strategies to Honor, Inspire and Motivate Your Catechists! (*) - Nancy Bird
8-05 Wine and Dine with Jesus: The Greatest Invitation of Your Life (*) - Fr. Kathleen Bryant
8-06 Sing for Justice: Songs Proclaiming God’s Love and Mercy (*) - John Burland
8-07 Follow the Leader? The Bible on Who’s Boss (*) - Alice Camille
8-08 Apprentice-Based Formation for Catechesis and Evangelization (*) - Rich Curran
8-09 Miracles: The Intersection of Science and Faith (*) - Prof. Michael Dennin
8-10 Combating Stigma: HIV/AIDS, the Latinx Community and the Catholic Church (*) - Dr. Arthur Fitzmaurice
8-11 Shut Up and Love Me (*) - Fr. Rob Galea
8-12 Redeeming Conflict (*) - Ann Garrido
8-14 Tradition and the Thirst for Change (*) - Fr. Richard Lennan
8-15 I’ve Been at This a Long Time Now (*) - Jesse Manibusan
8-16 Life Is a Mission (*) - Ted Miles
8-17 A Ministry of Presence: Accompanying Those Who’ve Suffered the Death of a Loved One to Homicide (*) - Suzanne Neuhaus
8-18 Technology Evangelizers of the Gospel (*) - Paul Sanfrancesco
8-19 Athirst is My Soul for God: Prayer and Children with Disabilities (*) - Sr. Kathleen Schipani
8-20 Whose Reflection Do You See in the Mirror? (*) - Stacey Sumereau
8-21 Youth and Young Adult Ministry in 2019 and Beyond: What Awaits Us? (*) - Michael Theisen
8-22 Digital Discipleship: Becoming Cultural Mystics (*) - Sr. Nancy Usselmann
8-23 Countering the “Fake News” About RCIA (*) - Nick Wagner
8-24 Transforming the Ordinary into the Extraordinary (*) - Tracy Welliver
8-25 Mary, Our Mother: Spirituality Through a Mother’s Eyes (*) - Kate Williams
8-70 Vietnamese Workshop (Family: The Icon of the Divine Mercy) (*) - Bishop Louis Nguyên Anh Tuan

(*) are recorded sessions. Arena sessions are in color.
7-01 REJOICE AND BE GLAD: (Y)OURS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

**ARENA**

Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, Gaudete et Exsultate (“Rejoice and Be Glad”), presents a “spiritual curriculum” for the people of God. We are being invited to sing, rejoice and be glad in becoming a “Sermon on the Mount” people! Through song, reflection, storytelling and prayer – we are all invited to sign up for and celebrate the “master class” of authentic discipleship – all pointing toward a lifelong journey and practice of asking ourselves: What does this life “in Christ” really look like? Come and join David Haas, along with friends Lori True, Zack Stachowski and other artists, to examine, reflect, sing and celebrate the adventure and the challenge.

David Haas

David Haas is Director of The Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry, as well as Animator for Cretin-Derham Hall Taizé Prayer Community in St. Paul, Minn. He has composed and produced over 50 collections of liturgical music and authored more than 35 books. Haas was founder and Executive Director for 19 years of “Music and Ministry Alive!” Together with Michael Joncas and Marty Haugen, the three were recipients of the 2017 Pax Christi Award from St. John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn.

7-02 SIGN OF THE TIMES: A REVIEW OF THE WORLDWIDE CATHOLIC LANDSCAPE

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

John Allen, veteran observer of the Vatican and the global Catholic scene, takes a 360-degree look at the highlights and lowlights of Catholic news in the past 12 months, tracing the major news headlines of the last year and teasing out what they mean in terms of big-picture conclusions, movements and ideas in Catholicism that seem to be gaining traction as he outlines important stories to watch in the coming year. This session is for Catholics who want a keen sense of what’s happening in their Church, not just in the United States, but in Rome and around the world.

7-03 REFLECTIONS THROUGH MUSIC & MOVEMENT

**Monica Luther & Nicole Masero (see bio 2-14)**

Step away from your busy schedule to indulge in a mini retreat to feed your soul and quench your thirst! Breathe, stretch, create and interact. Kick off your shoes and experience prayer in motion, joyful movement and gestural pieces, including The Woman at the Well, The Beatitudes and Ecclesiastes. Let the Spirit awaken you to a creative and inspiring experience – sparking ideas you might weave into your own retreats.

7-04 THE ART OF STORYTELLING

**Mary Birmingham (bio 2-02)**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ministry is as effective as our willingness to share our own stories of faith, the stories of the saints, stories from our church, stories from literature, stories from Scripture. We all need to be better, more effective storytellers. Jesus was the best storyteller who ever lived. His stories and delivery caught the attention of his listeners. This session will explore what skills are needed to be an effective storyteller and the dynamics of what constitutes a good story. All ministries could benefit from this session.

7-05 POWER OF POSSIBILITY: THE UNTOLD STORY

**Sean L. Callahan (see bio 3-03)**

Despite what you hear from the 24-hour news cycle, the state of our world is not as dire as it sometimes seems. In the last 25 years, we have seen the peoples of the developing world rise up like never before in our human history. At this moment in time, humanity is experiencing signs of an emerging culture of encounter marked by increasing global solidarity. Come and hear the untold story of the global poor, the power of possibility and how the Catholic Church is part of world history in the making.

7-06 UNEXPECTED OCCASIONS OF GRACE

**Dr. Michael Carotta (see bio 1-05)**

We experience certain and unmistakable grace within our sacramental and liturgical celebrations. However, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton urged us to “be prepared to meet your grace in the daily circumstances of life.” This retreat-like session will describe four or five personal encounters of un-expected grace and allow you time to privately recall your own so you can recognize what you have found to be true about the nature and experience of unexpected grace.

7-07 LIBERATING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

**Fr. Gilberto Cavazos-Gonzalez, OFM**

Formerly a parish priest and youth evangelizer, Prof. Gilberto Cavazos-Gonzalez is Professor of Spirituality working in Educational Technology at the Pontifical International Marian Academy at the Antonianum in Rome. He has

We experience certain and unmistakable grace within our sacramental and liturgical celebrations. However, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton urged us to “be prepared to meet your grace in the daily circumstances of life.” This retreat-like session will describe four or five personal encounters of un-expected grace and allow you time to privately recall your own so you can recognize what you have found to be true about the nature and experience of unexpected grace.

If spirituality is to be truly evangelical (Gospel life), it needs to be a just and liberating spirituality, which is why Christian spirituality needs to be liberated from misconceptions that would relegate it to pious devotion, private practice and the so-called “inner world.” This session will present an understanding of Christianity that takes seriously the Reign of God in “reality,” and conversion as the response to God’s reign in daily life. Such a spirituality balances contemplation, the option for the poor, universal fellowship, eucharistic mission and the cross for the works of mercy and justice.
7-08 QUENCHING OTHERS’ THIRST  Becky Eldredge (see bio 2-08)
How do we offer those we encounter in our ministries a drink of the Living Water that quenches their thirst and soothes the growing sense of hopelessness that many people are experiencing today? There is an urgent need to share the Good News with those who are hurting, lost and in need of comfort. We are called to be God’s vessels of Living Water, boldly pouring out the Good News that we are unconditionally loved and that we are not alone. Becky Eldredge will offer concrete ways to walk with those we encounter, to invite them to the deep well of hope, and to teach them to continue to drink deeply of the Living Water long beyond our encounter with them.

7-09 THE VOICE: HOW TO PROCLAIM SCRIPTURE AND MAKE CHAIRS TURN!  Anne Frawley-Mangan
Our voice is a key instrument in evangelizing and educating. Whether you are a lector, catechist or prayer leader (anyone who reads Scripture aloud), come learn how to engage your church, classroom or ministry in faith and Scripture through vibrant proclamation. No more heads buried in books (or phones), as you get people to turn and be captivated by the Word. With lots of practical advice from our two experienced coaches, everyone will learn the skills to bring Scripture to life.

Anne Frawley-Mangan
Based in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Anne Frawley-Mangan teaches at Holy Spirit Seminary and at Australian Catholic University and is Sacramental and Pastoral Coordinator at All Saints Parish in Albany Creek. She is an experienced educator, writer and artist who specializes in using the arts to enhance religious education and liturgy. Frawley-Mangan is also Creative Director of Litmus Productions, which produced “Good News: Dramas from Luke’s Gospel.”

7-10 RACISM: HATING GOD’S IMAGE IN MY NEIGHBOR
Dr. Greer G. Gordon (see bio 4-10)
Scripture teaches that all are created in the “image and likeness of God.” However, the experience of most people in America whose skin color or ethnic features bear no sign of European ancestry is that not all people are treated equally, even in the Church. America’s “original sin” of racism, born-out in the enslavement of African peoples, has boiled over into the mistreatment of indigenous people from around the globe. This session will offer an analysis of the sin of racism and xenophobia (hatred of the stranger), as exemplified in American politics and Church inaction, and ways to reduce prejudice and discrimination in the Church and society.

7-11 FOUR SPIRITUAL STAGES OF MATURE ADULTHOOD: LIVING INTO THE MYSTERY  Richard F. Groves (see bio 6-12)
Ancient wisdom traditions had names and rites of passage for the four distinct stages of adult spiritual development: student, householder, forest dweller and sage. These stages offer a profound map for the spiritual seeker and invite different sets of questions and life tasks. This same wisdom is reflected in both biblical and Judeo-Christian mystical traditions but has been largely ignored by modern culture. This workshop will engage every adult with practical spiritual tools. You will leave with excitement for soulful renewal and the sacred journey of living.

7-12 WHEN EVERY DAY IS HUMP DAY: A PRIMER FOR WORKPLACE RESTORATION  Sarah Hart
“Here’s to another day of outward smiles and inward screams.” If this is your daily mantra, then this workshop is for you! In our working situations, it doesn’t take long to go from that initial excitement and joy to the feeling of just going through the motions. In our various jobs, we are thrust into a family-like atmosphere. Sometimes we feel overworked and underappreciated. So how are we to be as Christ in this environment, and how do we keep our hearts renewed and our wits about us? Come sing, pray, laugh and be prepared to share as we work on how we can be a people of renewal in the workplace. This workshop is especially geared for parish workers.

Sarah Hart
Based in Nashville, Tenn., Sarah Hart is a singer, songwriter, retreat author and keynote speaker. The “itinerant minister” has authored four retreats for parish missions, women’s retreats and adult catechesis, which she presents nationally. Hart has performed for countless conventions and events, and for Pope Francis at St. Peter’s Square. The Grammy-nominated songwriter has songs in TV, film and commercials. Her works are visible in hymnals across the globe.
7-13 NOT BECAUSE OF SIN: A RENEWED SPIRITUALITY OF THE INCARNATION 👉

Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, PhD (see bio 6-15)

Why did God become human? The typical answer: “Because of human sin,” suggesting the Word would not have become flesh if humanity had not sinned. However, a closer look at Scripture, the theological tradition and the insights of key Christian thinkers such as St. Paul, Irenaeus of Lyons, John Duns Scotus, Julian of Norwich, and Francis of Assisi, among others, offer an alternative yet entirely orthodox answer to this question: It was God’s plan from all eternity to become human regardless of human sin. This workshop explores the spirituality and theology of the Incarnation to renew our personal and pastoral understanding of Christology.

7-14 WOMEN OF THE WORD 👉

ValLimar Jansen (see bio 6-16)

Have you ever wondered how to read the Bible? Do you start at the beginning and just read through to Revelations? As women, when reading and studying God’s Word, how can we find ourselves reflected in the Word of God? ValLimar Jansen was raised with Sacred Scripture ever before her. She has put together this walk through the life and mission of Jesus, who came to establish his Kingdom of Justice on Earth. In her usual powerful storytelling style, ValLimar has developed some new stories of divine encounters of Jesus with women.

7-15 UPGRADING YOUR MINISTRY TOOL BOX: A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER’S APPROACH TO YOUTH MINISTRY 👉

We as lay ecclesial ministers come from all walks of life. The lens, knowledge and skills we bring from our professional lives can provide us with fresh ways of approaching the task of evangelization. Join Sergio Lopez, a community organizer and former youth minister, as he shares the most effective tools that community organizing has to offer parish youth ministry. This workshop is for anyone who feels it’s time to upgrade their youth ministry tool box.

Sergio Lopez

Sergio Lopez is a faith-based activist, trainer and former youth minister from the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Since 2014, he has worked for Catholic Relief Services as a Relationship Manager and is based in Simi Valley, Calif. Lopez has presented at the Los Angeles Youth Day, the Religious Education Congress and the Archdiocesan Regional Congresses and has been a keynote at the Fresno Diocesan Encuentro and speaker at the Fresno Diocesan Youth Day and Congress.

7-16 I’VE GOT A SONG ABOUT THAT! INTEGRATING MUSIC INTO A “FRIENDLY FORMAT” 👉

Michael Mangan (see bio 3-15)

There’s nothing like an appropriate song to help a student remember, understand and internalize key faith concepts and Scripture messages. Australian teacher and composer Michael Mangan will share a range of his vibrant, child-friendly songs that will help to actively engage students in religious education classes and liturgical celebrations in schools and parishes. Come, sing, move ... and have lots of fun!

7-17 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: THEOLOGY AND PEDAGOGY FOR JUSTICE 👉

Our Lady of Guadalupe is mostly known by her image, which can be found on home altars, clothing, tattoos, murals, medals, wall hangings, blankets, candles, magnets, books, prayer cards, garden decorations and church buildings. However, it is the less known narrative of the Guadalupan event, originally told in the 16th-century document, the Nican Mopohua, that offers both a theology and pedagogy for justice-oriented, liberating praxis. This session will offer concrete theological insights that Our Lady of Guadalupe establishes with St. Juan Diego that serve us as a model for a three-step pedagogy that seeks transformative and just actions.

Hilda Mateo, MGSpS, DMin

Born of Cuban parents in Miami, Fla., the bilingual, bicultural Sr. Hilda Mateo is Director of Research and Studies of the Priestly-Guadalupan Charism for the U.S. Province of her religious community, the Missionary Guadalupanas of the Holy Spirit. Sr. Mateo worked for nine years in the Diocese of Pueblo, Colo., addressing culture, faith and immigration in the development of an adult faith formation program in Spanish for Hispanic ministers in Southern Colorado. She is a workshop facilitator who currently resides in Los Angeles.

7-18 SILVER SAINTS: GROWING IN AGE, GRACE AND WISDOM

Pope Francis says we only get better with age, like fine wine. Join a 62-years-young Bro. Mickey McGrath as he shares his paintings and stories in celebration of the second half of life, when we evolve into our truer, wiser selves. From Gospel wisdom figures like Anna and Simeon, through saints and artists in modern times – and many others in between – we will look at the more matured saints and heroes who can help us develop a mature relationship with God and simply be ourselves, perfectly well.

Bro. Mickey O’Neill McGrath, OSFS

Bro. Mickey McGrath is an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales currently living and working in Camden, N.J. The artist is an illustrator and author of 18 award-winning books; his latest is entitled “Our Common Home: Art Reflections on Lau-
7-19 QUENCHING THE THIRST OF JESUS

Sr. Norma Pimentel will reflect on the Gospel passage where Jesus encounters the Samaritan Woman at the Well and how both the woman and Jesus were “changed” through this experience. Through her work as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, Sr. Pimentel will share how the local community in Texas is quenching this thirst by welcoming immigrant families and inviting others to do the same.

Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ
Sr. Norma Pimentel, a licensed professional counselor and member of the Missionaries of Jesus, has served the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas for 20 years. As Executive Director for Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley for the past 14 years, she was instrumental in responding to the surge of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States and setting up the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas. Sr. Pimentel has spoken at many conferences about her work along the Rio Grande border and was keynote at the National Conference of the Catholic Volunteer Network.

7-20 WHAT’S YOUR STORY? A PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR PARISH LEADERSHIP

Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy (see bio 4-19)

Everyone tells stories. Jesus certainly did! His stories (parables) connected the content of his message to the lived experience of his disciples in a very personal way. Discover how storytelling can be used as an effective leadership tool to inspire, motivate, reinforce cultural values and strengthen relationships within a team of volunteers.

7-21 THE OTHER VOICE: BIBLICAL PROPHETS THEN AND NOW

Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher (see bio 1-21)

In this Scripture workshop, we begin by struggling with the difficult question: What exactly is a prophet? The biblical witness is wonderfully complex! But we will also consider a fascinating question: Can more recent “prophets” help us to understand something of the biblical prophets? Now there is a question!

7-22 SCIENCE AND THE SHROUD OF TURIN: NEW EVIDENCE OF JESUS’ RESURRECTION

Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, PhD (see bio 1-22)

The last 25 years of scientific research on the Shroud of Turin has revealed that the 1998 carbon dating of the Shroud was very probably incorrect, and six new dating tests accurately place the Shroud in first-century Jerusalem. In addition to new confirmatory evidence from blood stains, several recent scientific replications of the Shroud’s unique image show the likelihood that it was created by a burst of light energy of several billion watts. Fr. Robert Spitzer will explain this evidence and show its credible apologetical value.

7-23 WALKING WITH MARY: THE MODEL DISCIPLE

Dr. Edward Sri (see bio 5-24)

This workshop is for anyone who wants to know Mary better – the real, human Mary of the Bible and the profound interior journey of faith she made throughout her life. We will walk with Mary step-by-step from Nazareth to the cross and consider how she faced moments of joy and thanksgiving, moments of uncertainty and discernment, moments of trial and darkness. And yet at every critical point, she responded with greater trust and surrender in ways that offer many practical insights for our own paths of Christian discipleship today.

7-24 FAMILY: THE MISSING PIECE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dr. Joseph D. White (see bio 1-25)

Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith, but it’s often a challenge to get parents and families involved in parish and school faith formation. In this session presented by a child and family psychologist and former diocesan family life director, we will discuss tested and effective ways to partner with parents and families and evangelize the domestic church.

7-25 THE 12 STEPS AND THE SACRAMENTS: A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO ADDICTION RECOVERY

Scott Weeman offers his own experience with recovery from alcoholism and other addictions while outlining how the Catholic Church can be a vital source of addiction healing through the sacraments and communal recovery that involves prayer, Scripture and honest reflection.

Scott Weeman
Scott Weeman is founder and Executive Director of Catholic in Recovery and is in formation to be a marriage and family therapist. He is also author of “The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments: A Catholic Journey Through Recovery.” Weeman has presented at the Dallas Ministry Conference, the Diocese of Fresno Congress, the University Catholic Conference of California as well as dozens of parish and diocesan events across the country. He coordinates young adult ministry at Saint Brigid Parish in San Diego with his wife, Jacqueline.
PERIOD 7

7-70 SỰ HY VỌNG TRONG CHỦ NGHĨA VĂN HÓA TƯỢNG ĐÔI ⚫

Chị Vũ Nhung (xem tiểu sử 1-70)

Chủ nghĩa tương đối ném chúng ta trở lại theo chủ thể riêng của mình, một sự tự Lucy của bạn, tôi có chân lý của tôi. Trong buổi thuyết trình này, chúng ta cùng nhìn vào Giáo Lý Giáo hội Công giáo để tìm kiếm sự tự do đích thực và khám phá ý định của Thiên Chúa cho cuộc sống của chúng ta, qua đó mở gợi chúng ta hãy đem nền văn hóa của mình trở lại với chân lý của mình, Đức Giêsu là con Đờng, sự Thật và sự Sống” (Ga 14:6).

PERIOD 8

8-01 THRISTING FOR JUSTICE: TEACHING VIRTUES AS TOOLS FOR CHANGE ⚫ ARENA

Pope Francis is drawing the attention of the Church to the great virtues. Among others, to be grateful, to be merciful is not only satisfying but is also a means to effect change in those around us. In this session, David Wells uses Scripture, stories and illustrations to rediscover the great virtues and how we might best teach them in our parishes and schools. Without these virtues, the Church teaches that the world won’t believe us. Let us explore how our virtue can speak for us and ultimately help us to bring about a more just society.

David Wells

David Wells began his career as a teacher, before becoming a research assistant for the Bishops’ Conference in England and Wales, and now serves as Religious Education Consultant and Advisor to the Diocese of Salford, England. His work as a consultant involves assisting dioceses, parishes and schools to rethink their approach to missionary discipleship. Wells has also contributed numerous articles for magazines and compilations. He is author of two books, “The Reluctant Disciple” and “The Grateful Disciple,” and the recently produced a DVD series, “Beloved Disciples.”

8-02 IS YOUR PARISH READY TO GROW YOUNG? ⚫

Leisa Anslinger (see bio 3-02)

What do parishes that intentionally engage their young people have in common? What can we learn from their experiences? Explore six core commitments you and your parish can make to engage your young people, positively evangelizing them – and transforming your parish in the process. Learn to help your parish “grow young.”

8-03 JUSTICE TO AND FROM THE PERIPHERIES ⚫

In this workshop, we will look at how to evangelize those on the margins. We will also look at how and why Christ calls us, as church, to transform – and be transformed – by ministry with those on the margins.

8-04 THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CATECHISTS: 7 SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO HONOR, INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE YOUR CATECHISTS! ⚫

The General Directory states that nothing is as important as the person who is a catechist. Even Pope Francis supports the vocation of catechists when he says, “More than ever we need you and your catechetical ministry, so that with your creative gestures, you may, as David did, bring music and joy on your journey with God’s tired people.” Join us as we share strategies to affirm the courageous call to this vocation and inspire catechists on their formative journey.

Nancy Bird

Nancy Bird has been involved in religious education as a catechist, parish catechetical leader and youth minister. She has been a featured speaker, workshop presenter and retreat facilitator across the United States and Canada, with appearances at the National Catholic Educational Association and the RECongress, among others. Presently, she serves as Director of Training and Professional Development for RCL Benziger Religion Publishing Company, resides in Tallmadge, Ohio, and continues to be a volunteer catechist.

8-05 WINE AND DINE WITH JESUS: THE GREATEST INVITATION OF YOUR LIFE ⚫

Jesus is the ultimate host and invites us to the table desiring to wait on us. Jesus modeled for us hospitality of the heart. We cannot sit at the table to relax and enjoy
each other without recognizing how we are all part of the entire human family. How do we wait on each other? We are called by Jesus to widen the space of our hearts. Hospitality of the heart expands our horizons beyond our present biases and prejudices. How do we thirst for our hearts to be expanded into the heart of Christ where each person is welcome?

Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC

Sr. Kathy Bryant, a Religious Sister of Charity, is a former teacher and missionary who now ministers as a retreat facilitator, spiritual director and workshop presenter. She has authored numerous articles and books and has 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.

8-06 SING FOR JUSTICE: SONGS PROCLAIMING GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY  

John Burland (see bio 2-03)

We are disciples called to manifest God’s Kingdom of justice, peace and mercy. Yet, the world our children see and experience is often the complete opposite. In this workshop, internationally renowned composer and educator John Burland will proclaim the Good News of God’s mercy and justice through song and movement for elementary students. Learn how song, gesture and joy increase learning and understanding in the hearts of young disciples. Come ready to raise your voice and be renewed!

8-07 FOLLOW THE LEADER? THE BIBLE ON WHO’S BOSS  

Alice Camille, MDiv (see bio 4-05)

Leadership styles come and go. From patriarchs, priests and kings to modern-day rulers and celebrities, we follow the leaders we invent and choose. Is there a better way to decide who gets the sceptor, the microphone and the say-so? A quick swing through Scripture offers both choices and challenges.

8-08 APPRENTICE-BASED FORMATION FOR CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION

Rich Curran (see bio 1-06)

The Catechetical documents of the Catholic Church have been asking us since 1978 – and re-emphasized in the National Directory of Catechesis – to shift our focus toward application-based learning, viewing all formation through the lens of formation as an apprenticeship not “depositories of facts.” This workshop will focus on the step-by-step process of what an apprenticeship-based approach looks like throughout the parish, how to organize a new approach, how to implement the shift in mindset, and where to begin.

8-09 MIRACLES: THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE & FAITH  

Prof. Michael Dennin (see bio 4-07)

In this presentation, learn how an understanding of science can lead to a deeper relationship with God. Starting with evolution and creation, this presentation will tackle head on the apparent contradiction between science and miracles. The talk will focus on miracles as God’s direct actions in the world and the transformational elements of deep experiences of God. This will provide a context for understanding miracles within a modern scientific worldview and for exploring the social justice call inherent in Jesus’ miracles. Come prepared to discuss your favorite miracles!


Arthur Fitzmaurice, PhD

Dr. Arthur Fitzmaurice is a freelance speaker who currently lives in Tanzania, in east Africa. He has served 13 years in ministry with LGBTQ Catholics as Chair of the Los Angeles Archdiocese Catholic Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons and has received the Archdiocese’s Lumen Christi Award. Dr. Fitzmaurice has spoken at various professional and religious conferences and for the Gay Christian Network. He also appears on several YouTube episodes produced by the Ignatian News Network.

8-11 SHUT UP AND LOVE ME

St. Augustine said, “Love God and do whatever you want.” The hard part is the first half: to love God! In this workshop, we will talk about what it means to fall in love with God, and the freedom that will follow. Fr. Rob will use music and story to create a workshop to remember.

Fr. Rob Galea

Fr. Rob Galea is a parish priest and university chaplain in the Diocese of Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia. He is also founder and Director of FRG Ministry and, in 2008 (with the late Australian Bishop Joseph Grech), founded the Stronger Youth Program “By God’s Grace.” Fr. Galea speaks and sings at schools, churches and conferences across Australia and around the globe. The singer/songwriter has seven CD releases and has written a number of songs for various conferences. His latest book is entitled “Breakthrough.”
8-12 REDEEMING CONFLICT

Ann M. Garrido (see bio 3-10)

Tension is a part of every normal church community. How we choose to manage the tension, however, will either fragment our communities or mature them, enabling our parishes and schools to more fully live their mission. Speaking out of her own experience as an educational administrator and conflict mediator, Ann Garrido will share a framework for understanding the conflicts present in church life today and concrete practices to constructively engage the tough conversations that need to be had.

8-13 THIRST AND HUNGER IN LUKE: WHAT CAN THE THIRD GOSPEL TEACH US ABOUT JESUS’ VISION FOR JUSTICE?

Fr. Felix Just, SJ (see bio 2-10)

The Gospel according to Luke devotes much more attention to themes of justice than any of the other Gospels, often using the imagery of food and drink, of meals and parties. Since Luke’s Gospel is read on most Sundays of 2019 (Lectionary Year C), this workshop will explore how Luke presents the teachings of Jesus related to hunger and thirst, wealth and poverty, war and peace, racial and gender equality, and other themes of justice still highly relevant today.

8-14 TRADITION AND THE THIRST FOR CHANGE

Richard Lennan (see bio 5-16)

The reference to “tradition” in the context of the Church is often heard as code for why things cannot change. “Tradition” seems to mandate the need to continue doing what we’ve “always” done, and to do it in the way we’ve always done it. Despite such attitudes, is it possible to think of tradition as a stimulus for change? This workshop explores the ways to consider tradition as the work of the Holy Spirit leading us into the future, a future that will not be simply a repetition of the past or present.

8-15 I’VE BEEN AT THIS A LONG TIME NOW

Jesse Manibusan (see bio 2-15)

Many of us have been ministers for many years ... many, many years! The needs of ministers who have had long careers of ministry in the Church are very different than those who are newer. Come experience a touch of inspiration, of healing, of invigoration and of hope.

8-16 LIFE IS A MISSION

Pope Francis recently reminded that “every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth” (message from World Mission Day 2018). Embracing this idea requires a profound shift in the principles and practices that help us bear witness to love in a world that cries out for love. Sponsored by Maryknoll Lay Missioners, an organization of lay women and men serving around the globe for over 40 years, this interactive workshop explores ideas for “mission laboratories” in which we and our companions can see our lives as mission.

Ted Miles

From his formative years as a Jesuit Volunteer in Belize to his current role as Executive Director for Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Ted Miles has spent nearly 30 years exploring the social mission of the Church. Prior to arriving at Maryknoll, he served for 12 years at Catholic Relief Services, coordinating their youth and religious education outreach. Miles has presented in numerous diocesan, regional and international parish/school settings and in addition to published articles he has developed educational, prayer and retreat materials.

8-17 A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE: ACCOMPANYING THOSE WHO’VE SUFFERED THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE TO HOMICIDE

Suzanne Elaine Neuhaus

Suzanne Neuhaus, a retired parole agent and Victim Services Specialist, now lives in Yorba Linda, Calif., and serves as a consultant in restorative justice. Having been employed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for over 20 years, she served as a trainer for the Department of Corrections, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the California Catholic Conference on Restorative Justice. Neuhaus focuses on bereavement ministry and remains actively involved in youth and adult ministries in her church.

8-18 TECHNOLOGY EVANGELIZERS OF THE GOSPEL

Paul Sanfrancesco (see bio 3-22)

Like the original evangelists, today’s four technology evangelizers offer ways to present the Gospel message for different purposes to varied audiences. This session introduces the four technology evangelizers making them your means for proclaiming Jesus Christ: YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

8-19 A THIRST IS MY SOUL FOR GOD: PRAYER AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM, MEd (see bio 2-22)

Created in God’s image, all children have a capacity to encounter God in deep and meaningful ways through prayer. This workshop will explore teaching prayers and
praying with children with learning disabilities and other intellectual disabilities. Participants will discover ways to awaken an intuitive awareness of God that leads to prayer as well as adapt materials and strategies to enhance teaching both formal and informal prayer.

8-20 WHOSE REFLECTION DO YOU SEE IN THE MIRROR? 🌼
Stacey Sumereau (see bio 6-24)
Self-image issues rob many of us of the joy God intends for us. In our beauty-obsessed culture it’s difficult to know our true worth. Despite finding success as a Broadway performer, Stacey Sumereau struggled with self-image issues that led to an eating disorder. Through spiritual healing, she came to true understanding of her God-given worth that enabled healthy relationships and lasting joy. She learned to stop fearing the judgment of the world and to embrace her true identity as a daughter of God. Her accessible and encouraging journey will provide the link you need to see yourself as God sees you.

8-21 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY IN 2019 AND BEYOND: WHAT AWAITS US? 🌺
Michael Theisen (see bio 2-23)
In 2018, the Church in the United States experienced a tremendous focus on examining both the needs of young people as well as our collective ministry to and with youth and young adults. Much thought and input have been gleaned from the Fifth Encuentro, the National Dialogue on Youth and Young Adults and the recent Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. What have we heard through these collective efforts and, more importantly, what does it mean for how we accompany young people in faith? Let’s consider the possibilities as we explore this future together.

8-22 DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP: BECOMING CULTURAL MYSTICS 🌺
How can we integrate our faith within a media culture? By becoming mystics! Through theological reflection and critical inquiry through a media mindfulness method, we can discover the needs of humanity present in the art of pop culture. To become inculturated evangelizers today, we are called to take a sacred look at what is expressed in the culture about humanity’s longing for something more, for the supernatural, for God. Only then can we be and propose the true joy of the Gospel.

Sr. Nancy Usselmann, FSP
Sr. Nancy Usselmann, a Daughter of St. Paul, is Director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Los Angeles. She is a national speaker, theologian and retreat presenter who leads faith formation workshops/catechesis days in dioceses across the state. Sr. Usselmann annually teaches an advanced course in media literacy education. She is a film reviewer and blogger for BeMediaMindful.org and author of the book “A Sacred Look: Becoming Cultural Mystics.”

8-23 COUNTERING THE “FAKE NEWS” ABOUT RCIA 🌺
Nick Wagner (see bio 3-25)
Let’s get our facts straight. Neophytes do not disappear after Easter. Newly made Catholics are better at practicing their faith than cradle Catholics. The Catholic Church in the United States is not dying. And Catholics are actually pretty good at evangelizing. Come discover why the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church’s best model for all catechesis.

8-24 TRANSFORMING THE ORDINARY INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY 🌺
Tracy Earl Welliver (see bio 6-25)
Stewardship as a way of life is about taking the ordinary gifts of an ordinary day and creating something extraordinary. It is about transformation and reclaiming our baptism. These are characteristics that need cultivating in our lives to help us on this journey of transformation. We will discuss those characteristics and identify a pathway toward mature discipleship and an overwhelming life of generosity.

8-25 MARY, OUR MOTHER: SPIRITUALITY THROUGH A MOTHER’S EYES 🌺
Kate Williams (see bio 5-25)
Motherhood takes many forms: child-bearer, teacher, guide, a welcome space for God to live. Walk with the women of Scripture to unfold the nourishing gifts of motherhood. How might we pray with Mary to be co-creators with God of God’s Kingdom here on Earth?

8-70 GIA ĐÌNH LÀ LINH ẢNH CỦA LÒNG THƯƠNG XÔT 🌺
Giám Mục Louis Nguyên Anh Tuấn (xem tiểu sử 2-70)

BISHOP LVOIS NGUYEN ANH TUAN (see bio 2-70)
This session will focus on the spirituality of the family – the icon of Divine Merciful Love. The holiness of the family (the domestic church) reflects the Divine Mercy of God, the source of all families in heaven and on Earth. This journey to holiness takes place through the everyday activities in family life: family meals, family prayer, work, recreation, service and charity.

FAMILY: THE ICON OF THE DIVINE MERCY 🌺
Bishop Louis Nguyên Anh Tuan (see bio 2-70)