

# CULTURES *of* FORMATION:

*Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*

**DIGITAL CONFERENCE RESOURCES**



Videos,  
Summaries,  
Study Guides  
and More!

# CULTURES *of* FORMATION:

*Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*

## DIGITAL CONFERENCE RESOURCES

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Cultures of Formation was held at the University of Notre Dame in March 2018 to prepare for the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Church leaders can use the resources in this booklet to continue thoughtful discussion on the topic. Video recordings of lectures from the conference are followed by questions for individual reflection or group discussion.

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# LOOKING FOR THE “NONES”



WATCH NOW



## *Bishop Robert Barron*

Founder of **Word on Fire** and Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles

*Bishop Robert Barron elaborates on findings from a report by Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith on young adults who were formerly Catholic but no longer identify themselves as members of the Church. According to Bishop Barron, the situation of young former Catholics is an indictment of the Church's educational and catechetical strategies as well as an opportune moment for evangelization. Bishop Barron makes a call for an “army of Elis,” or strong mentors who can model the faith and help young people hear and discern God's call.*

1. Pope Francis' metaphor of the Church as a field hospital places the Church's healing ministry on a battlefield where deep wounds afflict believers, former believers, and unbelievers alike. What are young people fighting in today's world? What is wounding or killing their spiritual life?
2. How have ministerial and catechetical practices reinforced a superficial conception of God that Barron calls juvenile and self-absorbed? How can we form young people to cultivate a true understanding of God and a living faith in the God of Jesus Christ?
3. How have young people been formed to treat conflict and disagreement on any topic? On religion? What can be done to equip young people with the confidence to discuss religion openly and compassionately?
4. One of the top reasons people cite for leaving organized religion is the perceived conflict between religion and science. As recommended by Bishop Barron, it is crucial to be able to make a reasonable case for belief in God. How would you make such a case? Consider speaking about this with a friend so you are ready to ...“to give an account of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).
5. How can we re-introduce the depth of the Catholic tradition to young people, granting them access to the great works of people like Augustine, Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, and Teresa of Avila? How can we help them understand religion as worthy of critical and serious thought?

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[Understanding Former Young Catholics](#), a report by Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith

# OUR SMARTPHONES, OURSELVES

Note: To view the video recording, follow the link and login using username **NCarr** and password **synod2018**. The username and password are case sensitive. The recording will not be available for viewing after June 30, 2018.



WATCH NOW



*Nicholas Carr*

Author on Technology and Culture; 2011 Pulitzer Prize Nominee

*Technology creates new environments in which we consume more of our thoughts and time using automated devices and softwares designed to remove challenges in our path. In sacrificing the ability to learn and master skills, we are also sacrificing the satisfaction and happiness that come from the sense of being challenged and accomplishing great feats.*

1. When was the last time you were presented with a challenge and had to find a way to conquer the challenge without using technology?
2. How has your attention span changed in the last year? The last 5 years? How does this change affect your ability to be prayerful or contemplative?
3. What role does technology play in your home? From a broad view, what is the effect of the experience of technology for young people in the home? At school? In social settings?
4. What practices can we adopt in homes, churches and schools to create spaces that are a refuge from a world otherwise saturated with technology?

## SUGGESTED READINGS

[The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brain](#)

[The Glass Cage: How Our Computers Are Changing Us](#)

[Is Google Making Us Stupid?](#)

[Rough Type blog](#)

# THE HEART OF THE MATTER: ADDRESSING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE



WATCH NOW



*Katherine Angulo*

Associate Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Atlanta

*Young people are leaving the Church at an alarming rate, and they don't seem to be coming back. Recognizing that young people often struggle to communicate what they are seeking, we must offer spaces of openness that help provide the words and language needed while making the Church present for both young people's milestone moments and at all times. This presentation includes practical suggestions for responding with urgency to Church disaffiliation.*

1. Identify a young person who has disaffiliated from the Catholic Church. What factors, experiences or events may have contributed to their leaving the Church?
2. Research shows that the average age when young people stop self-identifying as Catholic is 13. How does this resonate with your experience? What factors contribute to disaffiliation at this age? How might this research shift the way we think about forming parents?
3. How can bishops, clergy, lay ministers and other church leaders be authentically present to young people to help forge connection?
4. How do we invest in ministry supporting the young church? How does our allocation of resources reflect our priorities?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics](#), a report by Saint Mary's Press Catholic Research Group

[Understanding Former Young Catholics](#), a report by Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith

[A Report on American Catholic Religious Parenting](#), a report by Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith

# REVEALING THE HIDDEN TALENTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FAITH AND ON FILM



WATCH NOW



*Joe Campo*

CEO of Grassroots Films, Inc.

*Conversation, shared meals and communal worship within the walls and routines of St. Francis House in Brooklyn, New York help empower residents to invest in their own talent. Joe Campo, director of the St. Francis House, has helped young, often fatherless, men restore trust in themselves and discover the beauty of the Catholic faith. His radical and straightforward goal is to help guide these young people to heaven.*

1. How do our works of mercy form young people to care for their neighbors and act on the love of Christ for each person?
2. Do we provide young people with mentors in the Faith, drawn from more mature disciples in the parish or community?
3. In addition to parents, how often are other adults regularly present in one's home who offer or could offer a valuable mentoring presence to young people?
4. How do we care for young people who come from broken homes, whose own home is not a place of love? How much are we willing to give for the sake of these young people?

# MARY OF NAZARETH: HEARING THE WORD AND ACTING ON IT



WATCH NOW



Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Ph.D.

*The Blessed Mother Mary provides a model for discernment, or a “Marian Pattern” that captures her ability to hear, ponder and respond to the Word of God. By looking at Mary’s image of discernment and discipleship, we recognize that a person’s vocational discernment largely hinges upon the culture in which that person is shaped. With that said, how do we create cultures in which it is easier for young people to hear and respond to God’s call?*

1. Mary’s discernment was rooted in silence. She listened with a willingness to understand. How is silence disallowed in our modern setting, and how do we re-create conditions in which young people in particular can learn how to “ponder?”
2. Mary’s memory was filled with the images and narrative of Scripture. Knowledge of God’s past deeds opened up what Mary heard, how she heard, and whom she heard. How do we help young people to develop Scriptural imaginations where they know the words and deeds of God?
3. Mary heeded the divine way, or the way of mercy. How do we teach young people to practice mercy as a way of life? How can the Works of Mercy become a regular way of life?
4. Mary’s “yes” was a lifelong act of trust, and she bore the cost of love in sacrifice. How do we empower young people to assume the responsibility to love boldly, to make and fulfill commitments, and to bring good news to the world?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Mary of Nazareth presentation slideshow](#)

[What Matters Most: Empowering Young People for Life’s Big Decisions](#), by Leonard J. DeLorenzo

# CULTIVATING MEMORY AND NARRATIVITY



WATCH NOW



Brett T. Robinson, Ph.D.



Rev. Paddy Gilger, S.J.

*The anxiety and restlessness young people experience today are not new phenomena. Drawing on history and social theory, Fr. Paddy and Brett describe what forms us as autonomous individuals and propose counter-cultural practices such as deep reading, bodily disciplines and communal rituals that will instead form us in community. Such practices will help young people understand their life narrative and integrate their past, present and future.*

1. How can we help young people reclaim leisure? What good would come of this?
2. Discuss or reflect upon the following line from St. Augustine, addressed to God: "You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (Confessions Book 1, chapter 1).
3. Take a moment to study the icon of St. Augustine [here](#). He has just heard pivotal words: "Tolle, lege," or "take up and read," which led to his conversion. Pay attention to the details in this scene. What do you notice? How does it speak to your experience? Does anything surface in your mind, imagination or heart as you view it?
4. What does it mean to be part of a community? How do our communities teach us what is truly important in life? Why is it important to care about our common past, present and future?
5. How well do our schools enable students to cultivate attentiveness in their studies? Are our students at peace or stressed out? Who or what sets the priorities and standards for our schools, and do they need to be re-thought?



# CULTIVATING MERCY AND PRESENCE



WATCH NOW



**Colleen Moore, M.Div.**



**Jessica Keating, M.Div.**

*The disembodiment found in contemporary attitudes toward death and pornography diminishes human capacities for presence and mercy. Deepening our capacity to know and be comfortable with our own humanity restores our ability to be authentically present and merciful. We need to cultivate practices such as paying attention to our bodies, engaging in the art of conversation, modeling healthy engagement with conflict and creating spaces hospitable to mercy and presence.*

1. What challenges face young people today as they seek mercy and presence?
2. How do practices of mercy and presence help young people deepen their relationship with God? With the Church?
3. Where can we integrate the practices suggested in the presentation (paying attention to the body; the art of conversation; healthy engagement of conflict; creating spaces hospitable to mercy and presence) into ministry with young people?
4. How can we encourage young people to engage in authentic relationships with one another?
5. How can we help families be merciful and fully present to each other?

# CULTIVATING FREEDOM AND LOVE



WATCH NOW



Timothy P. O'Malley, Ph.D.



Abigail Favale, Ph.D.

*"What is sex for exactly?" In an attempt to combat our modern culture's consumeristic view of sexuality, many Christians advocate strictly for purity. And yet, this conversation can prove insufficient. Often devoid of theology, this approach can emphasize the "rule" of celibacy over or without the "why." Indeed, there is a need for a renewed conversation; a theologically and teleologically informed conversation which recalls the unitive, procreative aspects of sexuality that also invites us into a deeper participation of the Christian life.*

1. Dr. Favale argues that according to the "purity paradigm" of sex, a person begins in a state of purity and moves into impurity through sexual action. Yet in the Christian life, as she observes, we actually move the other way from a state of sin through conversion. With this in mind, what role does divine mercy play in our understanding of human sexuality?
2. What role does sex play in the context of an ongoing journey towards conversion and sanctification?
3. What are some of the ways that the love between a husband and wife transforms and sanctifies the world? The family and children? The spouses? How might spousal love in a Christian marriage create a culture of formation?
4. How do Church-sponsored programs or ministries teaching sexuality and procreation reinforce or counter the "purity paradigm?"
5. How does our liturgical life form young people in a way of viewing the world according to God's love and the mission of the Church?

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 1 - MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 1:30 P.M.

### SESSION A - McKenna Auditorium



WATCH NOW

#### **Evanglizing through Land-Based Experiences and Dialogue with Science**

**Sister Damien Marie Savino, F.S.E.**  
Dean of Science and Sustainability, Aquinas College

*Young people today are growing up in a technology-saturated culture which increasingly separates itself from face-to-face communication and see-touch realities. Is this contributing to the marginalization of the Catholic Church in today's culture and the waning interest of youth in institutional religion? This paper considers catechetical approaches using science and elemental land experiences as one strategy for the new evangelization and for building a culture conducive to faithful vocational discernment for young people.*

*Sister Damien Marie Savino is a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist and the Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. She holds degrees in science and theology, with a Doctorate in Civil (Environmental) Engineering and a Master's degree in Theology from the Catholic University of America, a Master's degree in Soil Science from University of Connecticut, and a B.S. degree in Biogeography from McGill University. Sister Damien Marie has published in the areas of science and theology, ecology and theology, ecological restoration, and environmental science.*



WATCH NOW

#### **Cultivating the Interior Garden: Augmented Reality and Cognitive Self-Responsibility**

**Luis G. Vera**  
Assistant Professor, Mount Saint Mary's University

*Christians seeking to confront modern technology's formative power have achieved much by emphasizing our need to be drawn out and disciplined by realities outside of us. But 'augmented reality' media (AR) are themselves designed to pull us toward the outside world. Hence, an adequate response to AR must focus on cognitive self-responsibility: the deliberate cultivation of interior resources for prudent technology use. Thomas Aquinas's account of memory training can help us imagine such an approach.*

*Luis Vera, Ph.D., teaches at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. His work explores the links between fundamental moral theology, technology ethics, and Catholic social teaching. He is currently preparing a book about memory as a fruitful focus point for interpreting and evaluating digital media as well as for conversing with the Catholic tradition on the ethics of media use. He also focuses on theologies of revelation, Latino theology, and ethical questions surrounding childhood, parenting, and education.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ROUND 1 - MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 1:30 P.M.



WATCH NOW

#### Thinking Critically about Critical Thinking in the Formation of Young Catholics

**Clare Kilbane**  
Professor of Education, Otterbein University

*Critical thinking initiatives are an increasingly influential emphasis in K-12 schools across the U.S. This presentation raises concerns about how these initiatives may influence the formation of young Catholics and the future of the Catholic Church. It offers recommendations for action.*

*Clare Kilbane is a Professor of Education at Otterbein University in central Ohio. There, she teaches courses that address educational technology, instruction and assessment for both undergraduate students and practicing teachers. She is the author of numerous books on 21st century teaching and learning, has been the lead consultant on several state and federal grants, and is a frequent speaker at professional conferences. Kilbane began her career as a fourth grade teacher and technology coordinator at St. James the Less Elementary School in Columbus, Ohio.*

#### SESSION B - McKenna Rooms 100-104



WATCH NOW

#### Who are these "Young People?" Understanding the Distinctions Between and Transitions Within Youth and Young Adulthood

**Paul Jarzembowski**  
Assistant Director, USCCB for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Lay Ecclesial Ministry

*The Synod defines "young people" as those 16 to 29 years of age, but what does that really mean? Who are they and how are they distinct from older generations and from each other? This session will explore the major distinctions within the age range, in particular the key transition moments that are so critical to the experience of and ministry with "young people."*

*Paul Jarzembowski is the lead staff at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for youth and young adults, which includes work with this year's Synod of Bishops, the Fifth National Encuentro, and World Youth Day. He has consulted with over 250 dioceses, religious communities, and Catholic organizations in the U.S., Europe, and the Caribbean, and has presented twice at the Vatican. Originally from Northwest Indiana, Paul served in parish and diocesan ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago and Diocese of Joliet prior to his work at the USCCB. Paul is also a graduate of and adjunct instructor at Loyola University Chicago's Institute for Pastoral Studies. He and his wife Sarah live in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ROUND 1 - MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 1:30 P.M.



WATCH NOW

#### **A Social Scientific Perspective on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment:” A Constructive Critique of the Synod Preparatory Document Questionnaire**

**Timothy Reilly**

Developmental psychologist and postdoctoral fellow, Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing at the University of Notre Dame

**Linda Kawentel**

Senior Research Scientist, Wellbeing at Work Program at the University of Notre Dame

**Sean Allen**

Director of Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**Aileen Hurd**

Speech-language pathologist

*How does the synod questionnaire understand faith and vocational discernment? We examine how the questionnaire considers faith development, and use findings from our diocesan survey and other surveys of Catholic teens and young adults to explore the relationship between religious practice, faith development, and vocational discernment. We also show how social scientific theories can constructively expand upon and support future inquiry into vocational discernment among Catholic young people.*

*Timothy Reilly is a developmental psychologist and postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing. He studies, purpose, virtue, vocation, especially as they are related to the intentional development of the spiritual and moral self.*

*Linda Kawentel is a Senior Research Scientist at the Wellbeing at Work Program at the University of Notre Dame. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from the University of Notre Dame, in addition to an M.A. in religious studies from John Carroll University. Her primary research interests are in the sociology of religion, particularly American Catholicism.*

*Sean Allen earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the University of Notre Dame and serves as the Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. After working for ten years as an electrical engineer, Sean heard the Lord calling him to a vocation of lay ministry.*

*Aileen Hurd works as a speech-language pathologist at a public elementary school. She is an active leader of the diocesan young adult community in the South Bend area.*



WATCH NOW

#### **Insights on Hispanic Ecclesial Vocations from the V Encuentro**

**Ken Johnson-Mondragón**

Coordinator of Research in the Consultation for the V National Encuentro for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

*The V National Encuentro for Hispanic/Latino Ministry is an ongoing process of consultation, mission, and community building for Hispanic ministry. This presentation will include some preliminary findings and outline continuing efforts to strengthen leadership for ecclesial ministry among Latino Catholics.*

*Ken Johnson-Mondragón has almost 20 years of experience doing applied socio-cultural research for Hispanic Ministry in the Catholic Church at the national level. He currently serves as the Coordinator of Research in the Consultation for the V National Encuentro for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. His passion is for creating tools and empowering people for the evangelization of Latino Catholics—in families, schools, parishes, and apostolic movements.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 2 - MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 3:15 P.M.

### SESSION C - McKenna Auditorium



WATCH NOW

#### The History (and Future?) of Catholic Ministry to Youth in the United States

**Bob Rice**

Associate Professor of Catechetics, Franciscan University of Steubenville

*The history of the Catholic response to youth and youth culture (or, more accurately, cultures) in the US is a story of successes and failures, of innovation and obstinacy, of despair and hope. Our past can give light to the future, for today's situation is not the first time that the chasm between the Church and the young has seemed too wide to cross.*

*Dr. Bob Rice is an associate professor of catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville and the director of the Master of Arts in Catechetics and Evangelization. He has been involved in youth and young adult ministry for twenty-five years and is passionate about sharing the joy of the Gospel with others.*



WATCH NOW

#### Augustine as a Model for Cultural Engagement

**Elizabeth Klein**

Assistant Professor of Theology, Augustine Institute

*This paper will use Augustine's City of God as a resource for understanding how the Church can effectively engage our culture. We need to demonstrate that the Church is counter-cultural (as opposed to anti-cultural), and show forth the Church as the authentic source of human solidarity.*

*Elizabeth Klein received her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2016 and is now an assistant professor of theology at the Augustine Institute. She is originally from Canada.*



WATCH NOW

#### From an 'Anthropological Crisis' to a 'Culture of Faith:' Trinitarian Anthropology and the Formation of Catholic School Teachers

**Amy Roberts**

Catechetics faculty, Franciscan University of Steubenville

*The Church envisions Catholic schools as authentic cultures of faith and vocational discernment. However, an inadequate anthropology pervades American culture, including many teacher formation programs, creating a crisis rooted in "the loss of the Trinitarian principle at the foundation of human existence" (Marc Cardinal Ouellet). This presentation will suggest that applying a Trinitarian anthropology to the formation of teachers will more effectively bring about the realization of the Church's vision for Catholic schools.*

*Amy Roberts taught high school religion in a Catholic school for 13 years before joining the Catechetics faculty at Franciscan University of Steubenville. While teaching high school, Amy chaired the Religion department and helped lead school efforts to enhance the Catholic identity of the school. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at The University of Notre Dame Australia, focusing on teacher formation in Catholic elementary and secondary schools.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 2 - MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 3:15 P.M.

### SESSION D - McKenna Rooms 100-104



WATCH NOW

#### Kierkegaard and the Question of the Press

**Christopher B. Barnett**

Associate Professor in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Villanova University

*Critics contend that online communication depersonalizes human interaction. This concern, however, is not new. As the popular press advanced in the West, Søren Kierkegaard argued that media anonymity—understood both as the ability to publish without a name and as the impersonality of asynchronous, disinhibited communication—presents grave ethical and social problems. This paper will summarize the Dane's analysis, relate it to our current digital era, and offer a few Kierkegaardian strategies of resistance.*

*Christopher B. Barnett received his Doctor of Philosophy in Theology at the University of Oxford and now is Associate Professor in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at Villanova University. He is currently working on two major projects: *Scorsese as Theologian* (Brill, 2018) and *Kierkegaard and the Question Concerning Technology* (Bloomsbury, 2019).*



WATCH NOW

#### Media Effects at the Neurochemical Level

**Read Mercer Schuchardt**

Associate Professor of Communication, Wheaton College

*Digital media's role in rewiring our brains' relationship to endorphins, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin is newly critical for the Church to understand how its traditional role, and the roles it assigns its parishioners, should be re-articulated in the 21st century.*

*Read Mercer Schuchardt is Associate Professor of Communication at Wheaton College. He is author of the *Student's Guide to Media, Journalism, and Communication*, and co-author of *Understanding Jacques Ellul*. He is editorial chair of *Second Nature Journal* ([secondnaturejournal.com](http://secondnaturejournal.com)). He and his wife Rachel have ten children and two grandchildren.*



WATCH NOW

#### Hope in an Age of Despair: The Need for a Renewed Culture

**Stephen Metzger**

Candidate for the postdoctoral licentiate from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies

*How can the Catholic Church renew a culture in which the faithful grow in their love of God and from which young people are inspired to follow Christ all the way to Calvary? By drawing lessons from the Church's rich past, and especially the meaning of the Feast of All Souls, this presentation will probe both the need for renewal in the Church and a way that it can be accomplished.*

*Steve Metzger received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame's Medieval Institute in 2013 and is a candidate for the postdoctoral licentiate from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto. He specializes in the history of thirteenth-century Scholasticism and fifteenth-century Carthusian monasticism. His first book on the life, works, and thought of the secular theologian Gerard of Abbeville was published last year by E.J. Brill. He is a member of the Scotistic Commission of America, which is editing the Parisian theological works of John Duns Scotus.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 3 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 1:30 P.M.

### SESSION E - McKenna Auditorium



WATCH NOW

#### Creative Strategy for Young Adult Outreach

**Colin Nykaza**  
Director of Young Adult Outreach, Archdiocese of New York

*How might one go about young adult ministry at parish or diocesan level? This presentation will go through some practical and creative suggestions on how to best serve and reach out to the young adults at your parish or diocese. We will also discuss a 4 category system that will help you reach out to young adults effectively at every level.*

*Colin Nykaza has been the Director of Young Adult Outreach for the Archdiocese of New York for over 6 years. Colin was a seminarian for 7 years before discerning that Jesus and Mary were calling him elsewhere. As a seminarian he received a BA in Theology from Sacred Heart University and a Masters of Divinity from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. For many years Colin has been going around the country giving sexual morality, pro-life, and Divine Mercy talks to all ages. He is also a member of the USCCB National Advisory Team on Young Adult Ministry.*



WATCH NOW

#### Catholic Youth/Young Adult Ministry and the Urgent Need for Intercultural Competencies

**Gabriela Karaszewski**  
Director of the Office of Young Adults & Campus Ministry, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

*We Catholics in the United States find ourselves at a decisive moment in our shared history amidst profound demographic shifts as the numbers of Hispanics, Asians, Africans, Caribbean people and many other communities of non-European origin are on the rise. In this presentation, I will share a variety of approaches to better equip pastoral leaders working with youth and young adults across cultural boundaries.*

*Gabriela Karaszewski, M.S., M.A. is currently the Director of the Office of Young Adults & Campus Ministry at the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. She serves as member of the National Advisory Team for Young Adult Ministry for the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth at the USCCB. Holding an M.A. in Pastoral Studies from University of St. Thomas and Master of Science from University of Washington, Gabriela was the Director of Faith Formation for 10 years at a parish in Texas. She is originally from Mexico.*



WATCH NOW

#### Restoring Choice for Youth on the Margins

**Joyce Francois**  
Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator, Central Region of the Archdiocese of Detroit

*This presentation will focus on the contemporary concern that young people on the peripheries of society do not have the freedom to make choices in life. The Church has a responsibility to "go out" to the peripheries of society, to encounter these young people, and to accompany them through their hardships so that we might restore hope and the freedom to choose love and life in God.*

*Joyce Francois is the Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator for the Central Region of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Central Region encompasses all areas within the city of Detroit. She has worked in Youth Ministry for many years and directly with marginalized youth for the past 14.*



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 3 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 1:30 P.M.

### SESSION F - McKenna Rooms 100-104



WATCH NOW

#### Ever Ancient, Ever New: Pope Francis' Plan to Empower Youth

Vincent J. Reilly

Director of Faith Formation at St. Catherine Catholic Church, Diocese of St. Augustine

*Does the Church's ministry equip young people to know about Jesus or to actually know Jesus? Four great saints influence Pope Francis' vision for empowering youth and young adults to become missionary disciples in an entertainment driven consumerist culture. Discover a parish that applies the pope's vision of utilizing the Kerygma and the Church's tradition to accompany youth on the vocational discernment of knowing Christ and living the Gospel authentically.*

*Vincent Reilly is the Director of Faith Formation at St. Catherine Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. He holds a BA in theology from the Catholic University of America and a MA in theology from the University of Notre Dame. His article, "Preaching Kerygma," was published by the Church Life Journal in January 2017. He is implementing Pope Francis's "The Joy of the Gospel" and "The Joy of Love" in his parish through retreats for all ages and family activities that build community. When not discussing theology, Vincent talks about his beagle, Buddy.*



WATCH NOW

#### Service as the Gateway to Millennial Conversion

Sarah Shutrop

Director of Campus Ministry for Immaculate Heart Academy, Archdiocese of Newark

*This presentation will examine the millennial generation's unique interest in social justice and community service and explore the ways in which the Church may benefit from creating service opportunities that engage the gifts and talents of millennials, provide an opportunity to present the Gospel, and invite young people into deeper relationship with Christ.*

*Sarah Shutrop is the Director of Campus Ministry for Immaculate Heart Academy in the Archdiocese of Newark. She coordinates the school's service program, in which over 1,000 students have participated in the last 4 years. More than 200 of Sarah's students have been recognized with the Presidential Service Award for their dedication to community service. She holds an M.A. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ROUND 3 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 1:30 P.M.



WATCH NOW

#### **Morning Prayer & Mimosas: Ideas for Engaging Contemplative Practices for Millennial Discernment**

**Jessie Bazan**  
Outreach Coordinator, Saint John's Abbey Vocations Team

*How might vocational discernment be enhanced if the church created space for young people to "listen with the ear of their hearts" as Saint Benedict writes? This presentation highlights three common needs among millennials: the needs for vocational exemplars, community and rest. We will explore ways the monastic contemplative tradition can address these needs and brainstorm innovative ideas for engaging emerging adults in vocational discernment today.*

*Jessie Bazan is the Outreach Coordinator for the Saint John's Abbey Vocations team. She earned her Masters of Divinity degree from the Saint John's University School of Theology and Seminary and her Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University. In addition, Jessie serves as Youth Formation Minister at Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie, MN, and Program Associate for the Colleegeville Institute. She also writes regularly for U.S. Catholic magazine on topics related to Catholic Social Teaching and vocation.*

### SESSION G - McKenna Rooms 210-214



WATCH NOW

#### **That You May Love One Another: Reflections on Community Size and Engagement**

**Adam Kemner**  
Coordinator and cantor, Byzantine Catholic Outreach in Iowa

*This presentation argues that the best environment to foster vocations and continued commitment among youth is in small parishes. This is primarily due to psychological restraints that are effectively hardwired into the brain. Individuals are only capable of maintaining an average of 150 meaningful relationships. Since the Gospel mandate to "love one another" is crucial in living an authentic Christian life, this means that there is a psychological limit to authentic Christian communities.*

*Adam is the coordinator and cantor for the Byzantine Catholic Outreach in Iowa. He facilitates the activities of the community, leading them in prayer, as well as coordinating the community's liturgies and activities with the host parish and with clergy who come to celebrate services. He is a husband and father of nine children. He has a Master's in Pastoral Theology from Saint Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, and is working on his doctorate in Eastern Orthodox Theology at Euclid University, Banjul, The Gambia.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ROUND 3 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 1:30 P.M.



WATCH NOW

#### **The Catholic College's Missionary Option: Newman, Benedict and Catholic Studies at the Non-Catholic College**

**Joshua Brumfield**  
Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Holy Cross

*This paper explores the paradigm of Catholic Studies programs in non-Catholic colleges as a creative missionary option with reference to Newman and Pope Benedict. Since over ninety percent of Catholic college students attend non-Catholic institutions, this paper considers a way for the Church in higher education to offer the intellectual and spiritual formation owed to Catholics at non-Catholic colleges and to provide a space for the community life which helps to foster vocations.*

*Dr. Joshua Brumfield serves as Assistant Professor of Theology and Coordinator of Undergraduate Theology at the University of Holy Cross. He wrote his dissertation at CUA on "Communion and Mission in the Theology of Ratzinger" and has published articles on Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement. Dr. Brumfield lives in New Orleans with his wife and three children.*



WATCH NOW

#### **It Takes a Village: The Catechumenate Process in College**

**John Michael Reyes**  
Director of Sacramental Formation, Santa Clara University's Campus Ministry

*Colleges and universities are given opportunities to celebrate the RCIA in their communities, and for many, it is reduced to another program. The General Directory for Catechesis tells us that the catechumenate is to be "the model for all catechesis" and that formation in the RCIA "should inspire the other forms of catechesis in both their objectives and in their dynamism." What would happen if campus ministers renewed their RCIA process, slowly moving away from a classroom model into one that is dynamic, ongoing and looks to the campus as the content of formation? How can we loosen ourselves of the constraints of an academic calendar and bring out a time of formation that is mystical as we assist others discern their relationship with not just an ecclesial community, but that of the living God?*

*John Michael Reyes has been involved in liturgical ministry, literally, his entire life. He is the Director of Sacramental Formation for Santa Clara University's Campus Ministry. He is a frequent liturgy coordinator and cantor for national conferences and symposiums. He holds a Master of Divinity from the Graduate Theological Union (Jesuit School of Theology and Franciscan School of Theology). A native of San Francisco, CA, he has experience as a retreat director, hospital chaplain and a young adult group leader.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.

### SESSION H - McKenna Auditorium



WATCH NOW

#### Pilgrimage: Living into the Sacramental Life

**John Paul Lichon**  
Founder, Verso Ministries

**Joshua Schaffner**  
President, Verso Ministries

*"Come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21). This invitation from Jesus is also an invitation to become a pilgrim. This presentation will dive in to a theology and practice of pilgrimage as a unique and relevant medium for vocational discernment, evangelization, and formation. A pilgrimage is an encounter with Christ which can teach, captivate, inspire, and motivate pilgrims of all ages to live more fully into a sacramental life of discipleship, prayer, and missionary zeal.*

*John Paul Lichon is the Founder of Verso Ministries, a pilgrimage company dedicated to share with the beauty of the Catholic faith around the world and at home. Before starting Verso, John Paul spent 10 years in parish and college ministry, serving on the campuses of the University of Notre Dame and SMU in Dallas, Texas. He is passionate about the practice of pilgrimage and the ways in which a pilgrim's heart and mind can be transformed by an encounter with God on a pilgrimage. He resides in South Bend, Indiana, with his wife and two children.*

*Joshua Schaffner is the President of Verso Ministries, having spent the previous 10 years in pastoral ministry. He has done everything from youth ministry and directing a choir, to RCIA and adult small groups. Josh received his Masters degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. A native Texan, he now lives in Indianapolis with his wife and two young boys.*



WATCH NOW

#### Practices from L'Arche: Recognizing, Interpreting and Choosing the Vocation to Love

**Beth Barsotti**  
Assistant Director for Faith Formation, University of Portland

**Thomas Murphy**  
Ph.D. student, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

*This presentation highlights the formative elements for the Christian vocation available to young people through L'Arche. Participants will be invited to consider how to utilize insights from L'Arche as they help young people discern their vocation.*

*Thomas N. Murphy is a PhD student at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. His scholarly interests lie at the intersection of disabilities studies, theology, and religious education. His research is driven by gratitude to his friends from L'Arche, with whom he had the privilege to live and work alongside for many years in the L'Arche Boston North community.*

*Beth Barsotti is the Assistant Director for Faith Formation at the University of Portland. She creates opportunities for reflection and integration of classroom learning, lived experience, and faith. Prior to earning her MDiv from the University of Notre Dame, Beth shared life in L'Arche Greater Washington, DC living and working in mutuality with people with and without intellectual disabilities. She was also on the L'Arche Portland Board of Directors for five years.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.



WATCH NOW

#### Learning to Speak the Language of Vocation: Forming Catechists Who are Storytellers

**Colleen Campbell**  
Ph.D. student in Catechetics, Catholic University of America

*The catechist has a vital role to play in creating and fostering a culture of vocation in faith formation and catechesis. To create the capacity for this culture, catechists must be formed to speak fluently the language of vocation: story. This presentation will focus on forming catechists who are able to recognize, articulate, and tell the story of their own catechetical vocation.*

*Colleen Campbell is a PhD student in Catechetics at the Catholic University of America. She holds a BA in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Dallas, and an MA in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. She is an alumna of the McGrath Institute for Church Life's Echo program, in which she served as an apprentice catechetical leader in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. At Catholic University, her research pursuits and interests include the role of catechesis in formation of Catholic identity, the sociocultural analysis of catechetical models and programs, and the relationship between female Catholic identity expression and catechetics.*

### SESSION I - McKenna Rooms 100-104



WATCH NOW

#### Falling Into the Heart of Mystery

**Father Martin Nocchi**  
Archdiocese of Baltimore

*Settling for "all or nothing" thinking in today's world and Church has become all too familiar, sacrificing purpose, meaning, and above all, mystery, for the sake of certainty and a faith limited to learned knowledge rather than coupled with experience and imagination. The mystical journey, however, invites us into that tension of creative knowing, discerning, and forming that teaches us to deconstruct while transcending and including, recognizing all as gift and enveloped in Mystery.*

*Father Marty Nocchi has been a priest for the Archdiocese of Baltimore for nearly 14 years now. He has served in varying capacities, including several years in youth ministry as director of a local retreat house, and currently serves as pastor of two neighboring parishes. Last Fall he completed his tenth year teaching and forming high school juniors in the Pinkard Scholars Program of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He credits that experience, more than anything, in leading him to discover this mystical path of faith that teaches us to hold the tension of who we are and what we believe. He remains a student as well, currently working towards a License in Sacred Theology at St. Mary's.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.



WATCH NOW

### **Anchoring Young Professionals: Trinitarian Practices in Response to a Secular World**

**Kathryn Thompson**  
Medical student, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

*Faith formation is crucial for young Catholics in professions that aren't explicitly theological. This talk especially attends to the formation of medical professionals. Upon entering the secular professional world, Catholic desires are prone to unravel if they are not grounded in a cultivated and active faith. Through the regular practices of Scripture, prayer, and Eucharist, young professionals can come to know God's creative Trinitarian presence in their day-to-day work.*

*Kathryn Thompson is a medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She graduated from Notre Dame in 2017 with a BS in pre-professional science and theology. Kathryn co-teaches the RCIA program at the University of Chicago. Her current research interests, through the Department of Religion and Medicine, address trends in physician formation: particularly, attitudes towards patient prayer and barriers in discussing death. Kathryn is the youngest of a family of 6 and a native of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS.*



WATCH NOW

### **Beauty's Surround: The Grammar of Beauty in Daily Catholic Life**

**Kristen Drahos**  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Western Heritage Program, Carthage College

*This presentation explores why beauty has gone missing from daily Catholic life and argues for its reclamation as a means of supporting a robust prayer life, upholding those who suffer, and cultivating the habit of wonder.*

*Kristen Drahos is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Western Heritage Program at Carthage College. Her research engages the intersection of contemporary Catholic thought and continental philosophy with particular interests in theological aesthetics, apocalyptic theology, the role of doubt in the life of faith, and kenotic cruciformity.*

The conference is cosponsored by the USCCB Committee on Doctrine. Generous support has been provided by Timothy and Mary Sullivan, members of the ICL-CSC Advisory Council.

The McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame partners with Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools to address pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor. By connecting the Catholic intellectual life at Notre Dame to the life of the Church, we form faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and the world.



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