

He Thirsts for You

2019 National Conference on Evangelization and Catechesis

Workshop Descriptions for Friday, April 5th, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1. *Gaudete et Exsultate* - Rejoice and Be Glad: Joy and Holiness in the Everyday

Presenter: Dr. Michel G. MacDonald, PhD, STD, Executive Director, Catholic Organization for Life and Family

It has been said that “joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” The theme of joy has been a constant in the pontificate of Pope Francis. All three of his Apostolic Exhortations speak about joy: *The Joy of the Gospel*, *The Joy of Love*, and finally *Rejoice and be Glad*. To what type of joy does Pope Francis refer and how is it related to evangelization and catechesis? We shall look at joy and see how it is caused by love and is, as St. Paul says, a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Joy is an essential element of the Christian life. As a sign of God’s presence, joy in the Christian can be an indication of holiness and wholeness. Joy filled believers are part of the *via pulchritudinis*, the “way of beauty” that enables them to encounter the world and attract others to Christ and his Church.

2. Same Water, Different Well: Christianity in Pop Culture

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Wilson, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Mount Allison University

This workshop examines the way the Christian tradition continues to operate within the (sometimes turbulent) currents of contemporary popular culture. While easily dismissed as superficial or ephemeral, what is popular can also indicate a number of significant things about contemporary Christianity. For one, it can demonstrate points of authentic connectedness. For another, it can indicate a significant locus for contemporary identity. Who are we in the 21st century? What do we hold in common? What do we thirst for? Examining key examples from popular culture provides surprising perspective on how we understand ourselves to be Catholic Christians in our time and place. Ultimately, dipping into pop culture can help us appreciate how the Spirit overlaps its traditional sacred bounds, flowing freely within our shared cultural experiences, often in ways that exceed the sacred/secular divide.

3. Christian Meditation with Children and Youth

Presenters: Paul Tratnyek, International Coordinator for Christian Meditation with Children with the World Community for Christian Meditation and School Liaison for the Canadian Christian Meditation Communion
Mary Theresa Coene, Vice-Principal at St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School in Brantford, Ontario

Children are born contemplative and love meditating. This workshop will introduce the ancient prayer of meditation in the Christian tradition as rediscovered and taught by Fr. John Main OSB. The presenters will share their experience of Christian meditation with children and youth in Catholic schools and the impact it is having on children, families and communities. The history of meditation within our Christian tradition will be shared along with its benefits and fruits, its distinctiveness from mindfulness, and how current research is providing empirical evidence of what the early Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 3rd and 4th centuries intuited and taught about this ancient prayer. Resources along with access to the information of this session provided through PowerPoint will be available to participants to bring back to for use in your parish and or school ministry.

Workshop Descriptions for Friday, April 5th, 2019

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

1. **Moving from Exchange to Encounter in Sacramental Preparation**

Presenter: Dr. Anne Jamieson, Diocese of Hamilton

So often our parish sacramental preparation gets caught up in registration forms, copies of baptismal certificates and lists of important dates. While these are all important tasks, they are not the essential purpose of sacramental preparation. How do we engage busy parents? How do we address logistics as well as catechesis? What is most essential in these sessions? What would a focus on 'encounter' look like? Join us as we consider the movement towards encounter in sacramental preparation.

2. **Practices for Transformative Leadership in an Adult Learning Context**

Presenters: Miriam K Martin, pbvm and Lorraine Ste-Marie (Saint Paul University)

As a global community, human beings are facing tensions and dilemmas created by what we call the three great divides: the Spiritual, Social and the Ecological. These divides affect all aspects of life. How do we nurture a mature faith in the midst of the tensions we are living? Authentic human development and spiritual development come together in the mature person of faith. Do we have the tools to engage the challenges of our life experience and hold them in creative tension so as to learn from them and continue to develop spiritual and human maturity? How do we encourage the celebration of a deep faith and commitment to the good of all?

In this workshop we will explore concepts and tools from transformative leadership and Theory U for promoting transformative learning in faith development experience.

3. **It's a Way of Life, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Stories/Un mode de vie, histoires des premières nations, métis et inuit**

Presenter: Marian Lawson-MacDonald, Curriculum Consultant, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario

Involved, knowledgeable and talented are a few of the words used to describe the First Nations, Métis and Inuit participants in this multimedia resource developed by the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Corporation (EOCCC). It features Aboriginal youth and adults who are sharing their way and are an inspiration to all.

As we learn together about Canada's First Peoples we see how spirituality is interwoven through their everyday experience. Similarly, as Catholic educators we are called to make our faith an integral part of our teaching and learning and to walk hand-in-hand with our children, parent community and parish. For this reason, you will notice that as we learn about Indigenous cultures, we also connect with our Catholic traditions and teachings. Throughout this resource there are connections with Catholic themes, anchor concepts and the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Workshop Descriptions for Friday, April 5th, 2019

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

1. La catéchèse au service du questionnement

Presenter: Denise Durocher a œuvré dans le domaine de l'éducation de la foi au niveau des jeunes en tant qu'enseignante dans le système des écoles catholiques de langue française de l'Ontario

Dans les Actes des Apôtres, nous faisons avec Saint-Paul la rencontre d'un Éthiopien qui lisait les textes sacrés. Le disciple demande à l'homme s'il comprend ce qu'il lit. L'Éthiopien s'exclame: "*Comment puis-je comprendre ce que je lis si je n'ai personne pour me guider?*" Ac 8, 30-31

Aujourd'hui, les jeunes et les adultes de tout âge viennent à nous avec leurs propres expériences de foi et les leçons qui leur ont été enseignées ou qu'ils ont apprises d'eux-mêmes en cours de route. Ils nous arrivent avec un répertoire personnel de messages, de leçons et d'enseignements au sujet de la foi. Parfois, cette information accumulée pendant des années mérite un nouveau regard et nous sommes invités à les aider à en discerner l'essentiel. Nous sommes « *la personne qui guide* » de la question de l'Éthiopien.

Dans cet atelier, nous explorerons l'importance de l'accueil du questionnement adulte. Nous reconnaissons que l'éducation à la foi doit embrasser la pensée critique, encourager la réflexion et la recherche, permettre le questionnement et le débat.

Nous découvrirons que dans notre rôle de catéchiste, nous sommes les guides et nous cherchons à créer un espace convivial où les questions sont encouragées et où des réponses peuvent être trouvées en groupe, alors que nous marchons ensemble sur les chemins de la foi.

2. The Plan in Black: What Johnny Cash Can Teach Us About the New Evangelization

Presenter: Blake Sittler, Director of Pastoral Services, Catholic Pastoral Centre, Saskatoon

One of the greatest evangelists of all time was Johnny Cash. Cash spoke to all people and had a heart for the underdog. He played on reserves and in prisons; in churches and bars. He sang about life and death, war and peace; he sang about murder, forgiveness, faith and redemption. No matter your political or religious affiliation, Johnny Cash could penetrate the culture through song and story because he was above no one—he was the saint who sinned every sin!—he wanted his music to connect with people so he could connect everyone to Jesus. What are the lessons that we can learn from Johnny Cash about our efforts to share the message of Jesus Christ? Christians cannot point up to the Kingdom Come if they cannot serve God's People here on earth.

3. The Principles of Prison Ministry: How Restorative Justice Speaks to Other Ministries

Presenter: Mary-Jo Mackinnon-Simms, Coordinator, Archdiocese of Kingston

The Prison Ministry Training Program works with those interested in answering the call to ministry for those who are incarcerated. It is a six-week program that works in Restorative Justice Principles to help train volunteers who are interested in this ministry. Some of the topics that are covered in those six weeks are: The call to ministry, restorative justice, boundaries and communication skills and self-care. This workshop would be helpful to anyone who would like to know more about prison ministry and start to explore how the themes of prison ministry training can be implemented in a parish or diocese.

Workshop Descriptions for Saturday, April 6, 2019

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

1. Christian Life: A WAY

Presenter: Fr Bartłomiej Palczewski, Itinerant Catechist for the Neo-catechumenal Way in Canada.

In today's modern, secularized society, we see that the Holy Spirit is always at work, inspiring new realities in the Church to deal with the many challenges that it faces. One of these realities is an ongoing formation of faith, lived as a journey of faith in small communities, where the other is well known and loved. These communities, under the guidance of the catechists, become a vivid sign of God's presence in the world as they are nourished by the weekly Word of God and the Eucharistic celebrations. Thus, the Good News brings forth fruits as those who belong and those who are on the outside become evangelized: the lost are found, the wounded are healed, the mute speak and the deaf hear. This workshop will present the experience of 50 years of the Neo-catechumenal way, an initiation into an adult Christian faith.

2. Senior Ministry: Formed in Faith

Presenter: David Dayler, Diocese of Hamilton

Although the church cannot ignore its great responsibility in helping meet the needs of the frail or at-risk elderly, neither can we ignore the involvement of healthy older adults in ministry. Older members of our congregations have many gifts to offer. Healthy seniors and Grandparents are an untapped resource in our catechetical programming. This workshop will explore the importance of ministry by, with and for older adults with specific reference to how they can pass on the faith to the younger generations. Come and explore the great gift our seniors can be to our parishes.

3. Sacramental Preparation with Children: What Are We Preparing Them For?

Presenter: Christine G. Taylor, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert

In this participatory workshop, after a short presentation about the current methodology and the cultural context in which children's sacramental preparation occurs, participants will have an opportunity to consider possible adaptive changes to their own sacramental preparation processes. Paragraph #59 from the General Directory for Catechesis, which states that "catechumenal formation should inspire the other forms of catechesis in both their objectives and in their dynamism," will be the foundation from which the second half of the workshop will unfold.

