



September 27, 2025

San Fernando Regional Congress

Congreso Regional de San Fernando

27 de septiembre del 2025

REJOICE! GOD IS WITH US!

**¡ALÉGRENSE! ¡DIOS ESTÁ
CON NOSOTROS!**

Registration Book Libro de Inscripción

Bishop Alemany High School | 11111 N. Alemany Drive | Mission Hills, CA | 91345



OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VISION STATEMENT

Empowered by a living experience of Jesus Christ, we accompany and develop leaders to form Missionary Disciples transforming the diverse church and world.

DECLARACIÓN DE PRINCIPIOS DE LA OFICINA DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Habilitados por una experiencia viva de Jesucristo, acompañamos y desarrollamos líderes que formen Discípulos Misioneros transformando la iglesia y el mundo diversos.

In the multiplicity of ministries and services with which the Church realizes her mission of evangelization, "the ministry of catechesis" occupies a significant place, indispensable for the growth of the faith." (DC 110)

En la multiplicidad de ministerios y servicios con que la Iglesia realiza su misión de evangelización, el "ministerio de la catequesis" ocupa un lugar significativo, indispensable para el crecimiento de la fe". (DC 110)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! God is with us!

With great joy, I welcome each of you to this year's San Fernando Regional Congress. It is a true blessing to gather together and faithfully work as Disciples of Christ. I welcome all catechists, teachers, ministers, parents, etc., as we unite in our mission to proclaim the Good News and form others in the love of Jesus Christ.

This year's theme, "**Rejoice! God is with us!**", reminds us of the truth at the heart of our faith: we are never alone. In every classroom, parish, family, and moment of challenge or hope, God remains faithfully present with His people. Our call to religious formation is not simply about teaching doctrine—it is about sharing the living presence of God who walks with us, encourages us, and sustains us.

I am deeply grateful to all who made this day possible—the organizers, presenters, volunteers, and especially you, the participants, who have taken time to grow in your ministry. May today enlighten your minds, renew your spirits, and deepen your commitment to serve God's people as His missionaries of Hope.

Rest assured of my prayers for each of you as we walk together in faith and continue the mission entrusted to us. May this congress be a source of grace and hope for all.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Albert Bahhuth
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles
San Fernando Pastoral Region



Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo,

Con gran alegría, les doy la bienvenida a cada uno de ustedes al Congreso Regional de San Fernando de este año. Es una verdadera bendición reunirnos y trabajar fielmente como Discípulos de Cristo. Doy la bienvenida a todo catequista, maestros y maestras, ministros pastorales, padres y madres de familia, etc., mientras nos unimos en nuestra misión de proclamar la Buena Nueva y formar a otros en el amor de Jesucristo.

El tema de este año, "**¡Alégrense! ¡Dios Está Con Nosotros!**", nos recuerda la verdad que está en el corazón de nuestra fe: nunca estamos solos. En cada salón de clases, parroquia, familia y momento de desafío o esperanza, Dios permanece fielmente presente con su pueblo. Nuestro llamado a la formación religiosa no se trata simplemente de enseñar doctrina, se trata de compartir la presencia viva de Dios que camina con nosotros, nos anima y nos sostiene.

Estoy profundamente agradecido a toda persona que hizo posible este día: organizadores, presentadores, voluntarios y especialmente a ustedes, queridos participantes, que toman el tiempo para crecer en su ministerio. Que lo que vivan hoy ilumine su mente, renueve su espíritu y les ayude a profundizar su compromiso de servir al pueblo de Dios como sus misioneros de la esperanza.

Llevo a todos ustedes en mis oraciones mientras caminamos juntos en la fe y continuamos la misión que se nos ha confiado. Que este congreso sea fuente de gracia y esperanza para todos.

Attentamente en Cristo,

Reverendísimo Albert Bahhuth
Obispo Auxiliar de Los Angeles
Región Pastoral de San Fernando

Dear Participants,

It is with deep joy that I welcome you to the 2025 San Fernando Regional Congress!

This year's theme, "**Rejoice! God Is With Us!**" is a powerful reminder of the heart of our faith: that we are never alone. In a world marked by uncertainty, division, and hardship, this simple yet profound truth calls us to live with joy, courage, and trust. God walks with us through every challenge, in every act of love, and in every moment of our ministry.

As catechists, educators, and pastoral leaders, we are called not only to believe in God's presence but to proclaim it with our lives. This Congress is a moment to rejoice together in community, to be renewed in spirit, and to recognize God at work in our Church, in our families, and within ourselves.

May this gathering fill us with hope and send us forth as joyful witnesses that God is with us!
Welcome!

Sr. Rosalia Meza, VDMF
Senior Director
Office of Religious Education
Archdiocese of Los Angeles



Queridos participantes:

¡Con profunda alegría les doy la bienvenida al Congreso Regional de San Fernando 2025!

El tema de este año, "**¡Alégrense! ¡Dios está con nosotros!**", es un recordatorio poderoso del corazón de nuestra fe: que nunca estamos solos. En un mundo marcado por la incertidumbre, la división y las dificultades, esta verdad sencilla pero profunda nos llama a vivir con gozo, valentía y confianza. Dios camina con nosotros en cada desafío, en cada acto de amor y en cada momento de nuestro ministerio.

Como catequistas, educadores y líderes pastorales, estamos llamados no solo a creer en la presencia de Dios, sino a proclamarla con nuestra vida. Este Congreso es un momento para alegrarnos juntos en comunidad, renovarnos en el espíritu y reconocer a Dios actuando en nuestra Iglesia, en nuestras familias y dentro de nosotros mismos.

¡Que este encuentro nos llene de esperanza y nos envíe como testigos gozosos de que Dios con nosotros. ¡Bienvenidos y bienvenidas!

Hna. Rosalia Meza, VDMF
Directora
Oficina de Educación Religiosa
Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your presence and participation in the 2025 San Fernando Regional Congress. We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to gather, pray, learn, and reflect on the theme of **"Rejoice! God Is With Us!"**, together with catechists and pastoral leaders.

As the 2020 Directory for Catechesis reminds us, "The whole Christian community is responsible for the ministry of catechesis, but each one according to his particular condition in the Church... The catechist belongs to a Christian community and is an expression of it." (DC 111) We are grateful to be counted among the Christian community that gathers for this event and are thrilled to have the opportunity to establish a collaborative partnership with the Office of Religious Education (ORE) to offer a "Catholic Schools Track" for those Catholic school teachers who serve as catechists in our Catholic Schools.

In collaboration with the San Fernando Regional Office and the Sophia Institute for Teachers, we are pleased to be able to offer a series of 3 workshops entitled **"PRAYER: A CONVERSATION WITH GOD"** exploring the various forms of prayer and how you can lead your students to enter into a more intimate relationship with Our Lord. On behalf of the entire team at the Department of Catholic Schools, I thank God for your service and ministry to the Church, families, and students you serve through the ministry of Catholic education and applaud the pursuit of your personal and professional development by your participation in the Regional Congress.

In Mission,

Paul M. Escala
Senior Director and Superintendent of Schools



Prayer: A Conversation with God

Catholic Schools Track | Sponsored by The Sophia Institute

This workshop will be presented in 3 Parts.
Please select all 3 options during registration : #1-10, #2-10 & #3-10.

Please see the SophiaTeachers.Org flyer for special coupon code pricing to register for this Regional Congress workshop. A special coupon code is required during this registration process. Pre-paid lunch is included with your registration, make sure to select your food option during registration.

For speaker information and workshop description, click here: [page 34.](#)

English only. Parish Catechists are welcome to attend 1 or all 3 workshops.

Catechists, teachers, and pastoral leaders of the San Fernando Region!

Welcome to the 2025 San Fernando Regional Congress! It is with great hope and joy that we invite you to gather for a day of growth and celebration of the beauty of our catholic faith. I'm your new San Fernando Regional Coordinator, and it is an honor to host you at our annual gathering.

This year's theme, "**Rejoice! God is With Us!**" is an invitation to acknowledge the loving and merciful presence of God in our lives, even when the world around us seems to indicate the contrary, and to draw joy from his promise to be with us always. Amid fearful and conflicting times, God is present for each of us and calls all disciples to make that presence known in the world they live in.

Come and join your fellow catechists, educators, and pastoral ministers for a day of prayer, growing in faith, community building, and networking with other disciples. Hear from more than 40 amazing speakers and deepen your understanding of the ministry entrusted to you, while gaining new insights and perspectives to effectively reach the hearts of those you accompany in the journey of faith.

May God continue to care for us.

Dn. Douglas E. Zuniga
San Fernando Regional Coordinator
Office of Religious Education



¡Catequistas, maestros y maestras, y líderes pastorales de la Región de San Fernando!

Reciban una cordial bienvenida al Congreso Regional de San Fernando 2025. Con mucha alegría y esperanza les invito a reunarnos en un día de crecimiento y celebración de la belleza de nuestra fe católica. Soy su nuevo Coordinador Regional de San Fernando y es un gran honor recibirles en nuestro congreso anual.

El tema de este año, "**¡Alégrense! ¡Dios Está Con Nosotros!**" nos invita a reconocer la amorosa presencia de Dios en nuestra vida, aún cuando el mundo a nuestro alrededor parece indicar lo contrario, y a fundar nuestra alegría en la promesa de que siempre estará con nosotros. En medio de tiempos de miedo y conflicto, Dios está presente en cada uno de nosotros y llama a cada discípulo y discípula a darla a conocer en el mundo en el cual vivimos.

Únase a compañeros/as catequistas, formadores y ministros pastorales de nuestra región para vivir un día de oración, crecimiento en la fe, fortalecimiento de los lazos comunitarios y construcción de nuevas vías de colaboración con otros discípulos y discípulas. Venga a escuchar a mas de 40 presentadores extraordinarios y profundice su comprensión del ministerio que le ha sido confiado mientras adquiere nuevas perspectivas y destrezas para tocar los corazones de quienes usted acompaña en su jornada de fe.

En la paz de Cristo Jesús,

Dcn. Douglas E. Zuniga
Coordinador Regional de San Fernando
Oficina de Educación Religiosa

SCHEDULE | HORARIO

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Pre-registration Check-in Recoger gafetes de inscripción On-Site Registrations Inscripciones de última hora
8:15 AM - 9:45 AM	Opening Liturgy Liturgia de apertura
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 1 Workshops Sesión de Talleres #1
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Lunch & Exhibits Almuerzo y Exhibiciones
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Session 2 Workshops Sesión de Talleres #2
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Session 3 Workshops Sesión de Talleres #3

HOSPITALITY | HOSPITALIDAD

- Coffee and sweet bread | Café y pan dulce

LUNCH | ALMUERZO

- Pre-order lunch with your online registration for \$15 (discounted price). There will be limited lunches available for on-site purchase during the day, at \$18. You may bring your own lunch.
- Ordene su almuerzo por anticipado al inscribirse en línea por \$15 (precio especial). Habrà compra limitada por \$18 el día del congreso. Usted puede traer su propio almuerzo.

EXHIBITS | EXHIBIDORES

- All exhibitors welcome you to their booths. Books, videos, religious articles, etc., will be available for your viewing or purchase. **Exhibition hours will be from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.**
- Todos nuestros expositores les dará gusto recibirlos en sus puestos. Podrán encontrar libros, videos, recuerdos y artículos religiosos para ver o comprar. **Las horas de exhibición serán de las 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.**

FINGERPRINTING AVAILABLE! | SERVICIO DE TOMA DE HUELLAS DACTILARES

- All ministers (catechists, teachers, pastoral leaders) have the opportunity to have their fingerprints taken to comply with Safeguard the Children and Virtus requirements. Government issued photo ID is required. **Booth open from 8am - 2pm.**
- Todo ministro (catequistas, maestros y maestras, líderes pastorales) tendrán la oportunidad de sacar sus huellas para cumplir con los requisitos de Salvaguarda de los Niños/as, y Virtus. Se requiere identificación del gobierno con foto, o matrícula consular. **Horario de 8am - 2pm.**

CATECHIST RE-CERTIFICATION | RE-CERTIFICACION DE CATEQUISTAS

- All workshops qualify for catechist recertification.
- Todos de los talleres del congreso son válidos para la re-certificación de catequistas.

TEACHER'S TRACK | SESIONES PARA MAESTROS DE ESCUELAS CATOLICAS

- See page 33 for more information. **Catechist are welcome to join any or all of the teacher's track workshops.** (Vea la página 33 para más información. Talleres solamente en inglés.)

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ENGLISH

1-01 How Should Catholics Understand the Bible?



When a lawyer asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus asked him "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" Jesus' questions point to the fact that the Bible does not interpret itself. There are different ways to interpret it. In this presentation, we will review some of the main points from Pope Benedict XVI's *Verbum Domini*, exploring the rules of how to read the Bible well. We will discuss the four levels of meaning of Scripture, the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament, and the "dark passages" of human sin—among many others.

Dr. Stuart Squires is the Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program at St. John's Seminary. He has a Ph.D. in historical theology with a focus on St. Augustine from the Catholic University of America, a M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and a B.A. from DePaul University. He recently published his second book, *You Will Be Changed Into Me: The Fruits of the Eucharist*.

1-02 Why Do We Focus on Our Sins? Helping Children Understand and Move Beyond Guilt



Adaptation Theme: Explore how children experience guilt and how Catholic educators can help them understand God's mercy. Use age-appropriate examples (e.g., classroom behavior, peer conflicts). • Include strategies for teaching confession and God's forgiveness with compassion. • Offer guidance for helping students talk about mistakes without shame.

Paul Brogan is a Marriage and Family Therapist in Encino. He teaches in the Psychology Department at Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles. His teaching includes Loss and Grief, Trauma, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Bullying and Truancy, Internet Addiction, Spousal Abuse, and Child Development. Originally from Ireland, he has completed graduate studies in theology, psychology, and holistic development. His website is StrongerDayByDay.com.

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ENGLISH

1-03 Equipping Catechists for Liturgical Catechesis



Liturgical catechesis is a vital form of faith formation that draws believers into the mystery of Christ “of all things visible and invisible” dimensions of the liturgy. It teaches that liturgy is not simply something to be seen or heard, but rather, lived and experienced. Through the use of symbols, gestures, Scripture, and sacramental actions, liturgical catechesis helps the faithful move beyond simply observing (or watching) the liturgy to actively participating in it. This workshop equips catechists with creative strategies for teaching liturgical symbols, proclaiming the Word of God, and guiding others toward a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Mass.

Adrian Aralar is the Coordinator of Liturgical Minister Training in the Office for Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and also the Director of Faith Formation at St. Catherine of Siena in the San Fernando Pastoral Region. He brings over two decades of experience in Catechesis, Evangelization, and Liturgy. His extensive service to the Church has spanned various parishes and ministries, particularly in Faith Formation and Liturgy, throughout the dioceses of Southern California: Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego. Adrian graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a B.A. in Sociology (2008) and a B.A. in Psychology (2009). He furthered his education at John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido, CA, with a Certificate in Philosophy (2017) and an M.A. in Biblical Theology (2018). Adrian's commitment to the ministry of catechesis and evangelization, especially working with the youth and young adults, is reflected in his membership in the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), and the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Subcommittee in the USCCB, as well as his certification as a Catechist since 2013. Adding to his extensive experience, Adrian has also embarked on a new academic journey as a student at the Catholic University of America, pursuing a Doctorate in Ministry with a specialization in Liturgical Catechesis. With the busyness of life, he continues to serve at his home parishes of St. Ann and Holy Trinity.

1-04 Providing Hope for our LGBTQ+ Brothers and Sisters



Many LGBTQ+ individuals are feeling pain, fear, and a lack of self-worth, which can lead to depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Jesus taught us that each and every one of us is fashioned in the image of our loving Creator God, and we all share equally in His love and welcome. Join us as we discuss the many positive statements from Pope Francis, and other Church leaders, in order to bring hope, welcome, and light to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters, and help them to know that they are a part of God's Kingdom, and His Church!

Bill Chapman serves as the co-chair for the Catholic ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons, and has been with the Ministry for 14 years. Believing that Baptism empowers all persons to live a full, Catholic life in union with all members of the Church, the CMLGP provides a safe and welcoming environment for all LGBTQ Catholics, their family, and friends; through liturgy, outreach, education, and fellowship. As part of our evangelizing mission, we offer programs and talks to assist Catholics in discerning how the Church is called to accompany all of God's children on their faith journeys.

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ENGLISH

1-05 Rejoice in Encountering God through the Gospels



Using the resource, *Faith at Home*, published in the LACatholics.org website, this workshop will demonstrate how to create retreat experiences, parent meetings, and catechetical family sessions using this valuable resource. This workshop is a hands-on experience. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and be creative. In the workshop we will explore new ways of engaging and connecting the families you serve in ministry to connect more deeply to the Sunday Gospels and liturgy. You will leave this workshop with a bag full of new ideas, crafts, and useful resources that can be used for faith formation, confirmation, and OCIA sessions or experiences.

Terri Palmer is the San Pedro Regional Coordinator of Religious Education. Terri has been involved in catechetical ministry since she was a senior in high school. She has grown in her faith through lifelong formation, continually seeking to have a deeper relationship with Jesus. She has been married to her husband, Deacon Scott, for 43 years, and they have four young adult children. Her children are all married, and she is blessed with four beautiful grandchildren. Deacon Scott celebrates 25 years of ordination this year. After ordination, Terri began officially working for the church. Terri was a Faith Formation Director in two different parishes for over 20 years before taking her current position with the Archdiocese. She has served as a catechist, retreat facilitator, and team member on One Mission One Faith Cohorts, and has also assisted with the Office of Divine Worship's RCIA formation. Terri is a certified Initiation Director (LMU), Master Catechist for the Archdiocese, and VIRTUS facilitator. In her spare time, Terri enjoys date nights with her husband, beach walks with her dog, Auggie, and spending time with her family.

1-06 Leading into the Mystery: Mystagogical Catechesis as a Path of Transformation



This workshop explores the Church's renewed call to place mystagogy at the heart of catechesis. Drawing from the *Directory for Catechesis* (2020), the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and other magisterial documents, this session invites participants to rediscover catechesis not as information but as formation through encounter, especially in the liturgy and sacraments. Participants will learn the foundations of mystagogical catechesis, engage in guided reflection on sacramental experience, and explore practical ways to integrate mystagogy into parish life, OCIA, and ongoing formation. Through this journey, we are invited to see catechesis as a lifelong unfolding of the mystery of Christ.

Flor de María Luna is the Coordinator for Catechist Formation, for both Basic and Advanced Level in the English Program of the ADLA Office of Religious Education. A Master Catechist of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Her catechetical experience includes being a director of religious education for almost twenty years. She holds a Professorship in Theology from Francisco Marroquín University in Guatemala, a Certificate of Hispanic Ministry from Mount Saint Mary's University in LA and a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Saint John Seminary in Camarillo, CA.

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ENGLISH

1-07 Engaging Adults in Faith Formation



In today's Church we are witnessing a growing need to accompany adults on their faith journey with renewed energy, creativity, and compassion. Many adults hunger for deeper meaning, for belonging, and for a faith that speaks to the realities of their everyday lives. This session invites us to explore how we can invite, inspire, and walk with adults in our parishes, small groups, and ministries. As Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, the joy of the Gospel is for all people—"no one is excluded"—and we are all called to be missionary disciples who bring that joy to others. We will reflect on:

- What makes adult faith formation different from other kinds of catechesis.
- How to build relationships rooted in trust, relevance, and spiritual growth
- Practical ways to foster meaningful participation, dialogue, and transformation

Kay Harter serves as a Master Catechist in the LA Archdiocese and currently collaborates as part of the formation team presenting One Mission One Faith and Vision and Skills for Faith Formation, Phases 1 and 2 of Catechist Certification. She is a graduate of the Catholic Bible Institute and has served as a facilitator for the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Program.

1-08 How to Minister People with Special Needs



Ministering to persons with special needs is an opportunity to love and see the face of Christ in them. People with disabilities deserve and have the same right and access to God as anyone else. This workshop will review some of our most common disabilities that are seen. We will review some techniques to use while ministering.

Jennifer Ayon-Hart ha servido como Catequista de Educación Religiosa por mas de 20 años primero con niños, después como instructora de Confirmación, y ahora con adultos. Jennifer también a trabajado como educadora bilingüe en el campo de la Justicia Social Católica. Jennifer recibió una Maestría de Ciencias en Consejería y un Bachillerato de Ciencias en Servicios de Rehabilitación; su énfasis es en ayudar a personas con discapacidades a lograr sus metas personales, sociales y vocacionales. Ella tiene más de 15 años de experiencia trabajando con familias, niños, jóvenes como trabajadora social, manejadora de casos y consejera. Actualmente ella tiene la certificación de Maestra Catequista para la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles y es una consejera para personas con discapacidades para el Estado de California.

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ENGLISH

1-09 From Transactional to Transformational

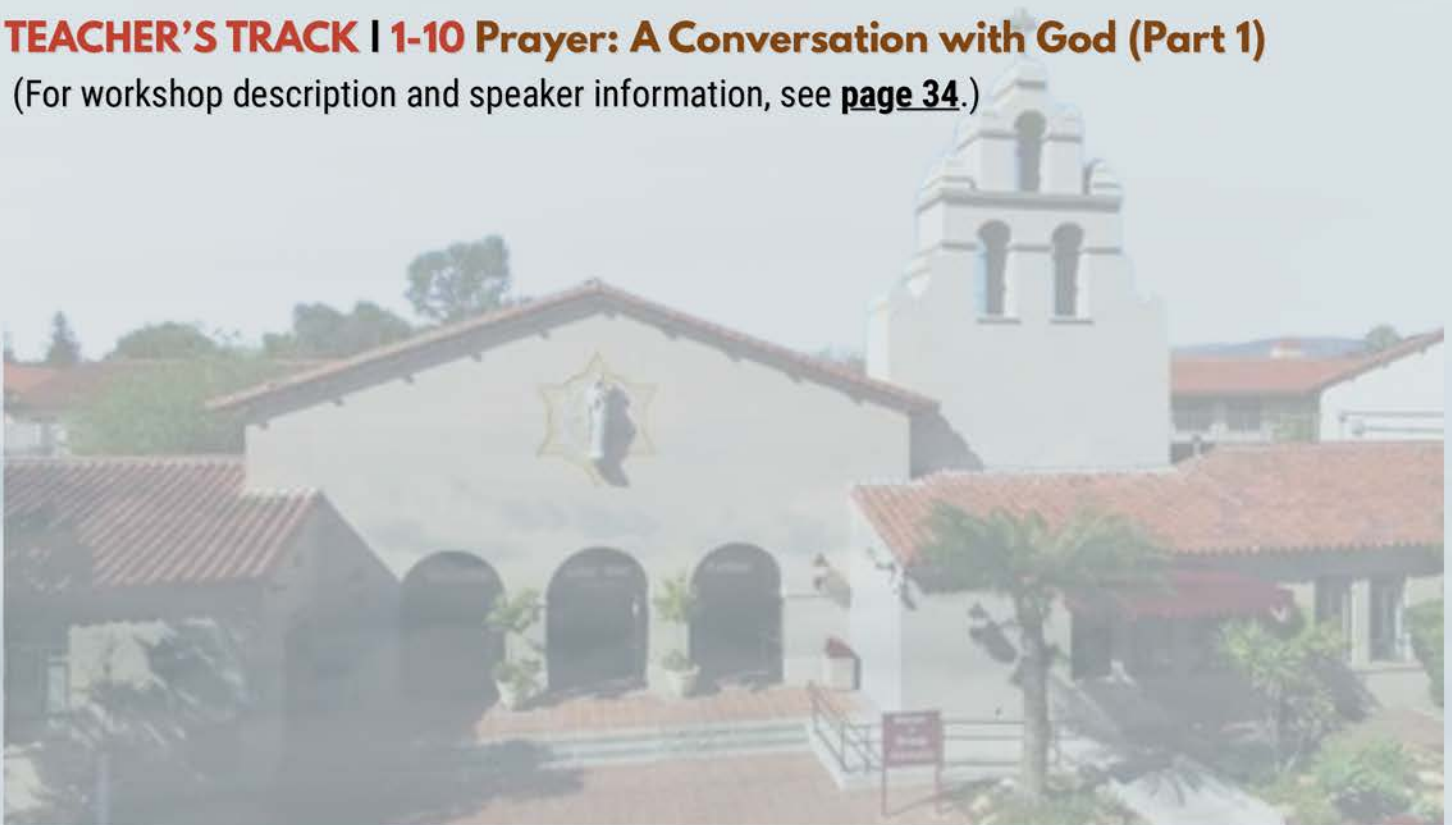


Too often, ministry with young people becomes a series of events, checklists, and programs. We meet young people through these transactions that fall short of the deep encounter with Christ that transforms their lives. This workshop invites you to step beyond the routine and reimagine your ministry through four dynamic lenses. This session will inspire you with a vision for what ministry can become and challenge you to examine your current ministry practices through a Gospel-centered lens. Whether you're a seasoned minister or just starting out, come ready to be stretched, encouraged, and equipped to lead young people into deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church.

Dayrin Perez is the Lead Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Office of Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She has served in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for over 15 years as a Director of Youth Ministry, Confirmation Coordinator, and Director of Family Ministry. Her love for spreading the gospel has been her inspiration for serving as a speaker and retreat leader for parishes and national organizations such as NFCYM. Dayrin has been married to her husband Gabriel for almost 17 years, has 3 energetic kids, loves coffee, anything Disney, and going on adventures with her family.

TEACHER'S TRACK | 1-10 Prayer: A Conversation with God (Part 1)

(For workshop description and speaker information, see [page 34](#).)



Sesión 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ESPAÑOL

1-51 La Catequesis Litúrgica



La catequesis litúrgica forma al cristiano en la fe a través de la liturgia, mostrándole que no solo es algo que se "ve" o se "oye", sino algo que se vive y transforma. Es una herramienta clave para profundizar en el misterio cristiano y para que las celebraciones sean más comprensibles y vividas con mayor devoción. En este taller nos enfocaremos en que los catequistas desarrollen su creatividad en como dar la catequesis sobre todo cuando enseñamos los símbolos litúrgicos, la Palabra de Dios y la Misa.

Leticia S. Perez es la coordinadora arquidiocesana de Iniciación Cristiana para la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles. Su trabajo es proveer recursos, entrenamientos, retiros, materiales, crear eventos arquidiocesanos, contestar dudas y apoyar a los coordinadores de las diferentes parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles. Ella también es presentadora de diferentes ministerios litúrgicos de su arquidiócesis. Mas de 17 años de experiencia en Iniciación Cristiana. Tiene varios certificados de LMU, participo en FORUM y es Máster Catequesis por la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles. Presentadora en diferentes Congresos de la Arquidiócesis y de LTP.

1-52 Acompañar Desde la Realidad: El Método Ver – Juzgar/Illuminar – Actuar en la Catequesis



En un mundo marcado por crisis, dolor y búsqueda de sentido, la catequesis no puede ser solo repetición de contenidos. Está llamada a ser camino de discernimiento, de escucha profunda y de esperanza activa. Este taller propone el uso del método Ver – Juzgar/Illuminar – Actuar como una herramienta catequética fundamental para acompañar procesos de fe desde la realidad concreta de nuestras comunidades. Reflexionaremos desde nuestras propias vivencias, iluminadas por la Palabra de Dios y por la tradición viva de la Iglesia, para reconocer cómo la acción catequética se convierte en acción transformadora.

Yolanda Chávez es teóloga, catequista y acompañante espiritual con años de experiencia en formación de la fe. Actualmente cursa el Doctorado en Ministerio en Fuller Theological Seminary, donde investiga la espiritualidad transformadora de mujeres migrantes que ejercen su servicio catequético en contextos de desarraigo. Ha colaborado con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles como maestra de catequistas. Su trabajo integra la teología pastoral, la memoria migrante, la espiritualidad cotidiana y la pedagogía catequética contextual. Yolanda es fundadora del Ministerio de Espiritualidad Femenina, y ha acompañado retiros, talleres y procesos comunitarios. Su voz se nutre de la experiencia, la escucha, la ternura y una convicción profunda: la fe verdadera siempre nace desde la vida concreta

Sesión 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ESPAÑOL

1-53 Voces que Abren Camino: Liderazgo Femenino en la Historia y en la Iglesia



A lo largo de la historia, las mujeres han sostenido, transformado y guiado comunidades enteras, incluso cuando sus nombres fueron borrados de los libros o silenciados por estructuras patriarcales. Este taller es un espacio para escuchar esas voces —las conocidas y las invisibilizadas—, y para reconocer que el liderazgo femenino no comienza con permisos, sino con el coraje cotidiano de sostener la vida, dar palabra, sanar heridas y abrir caminos nuevos. Exploraremos cómo las mujeres han ejercido formas de liderazgo profundamente encarnadas, espirituales y colectivas en diferentes épocas y realidades. Nos acercaremos también a las tensiones que han vivido dentro de la Iglesia, al mismo tiempo que la han nutrido con creatividad, resistencia y fe viva. Este no es solo un taller para mirar el pasado: es una invitación a seguir abriendo camino hoy, desde nuestros propios contextos, dones y desafíos.

María Luna, MDiv., es una ferviente defensora de la justicia social y el bienestar humano, comprometida profundamente con la causa de Jesús y la promoción de la equidad. Se identifica con movimientos que buscan asegurar la representación y los derechos de las mujeres tanto en los espacios públicos como privados. Como colaboradora esencial en la labor evangelizadora del programa UMUF (Una Misión Una Fe) de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles, juega un papel crucial en el alcance y la eficacia del programa. Posee una Maestría en Divinidades por el Seminario Teológico de Fuller en Pasadena, California. Su educación y experiencia la han preparado para abordar de manera efectiva los desafíos contemporáneos en el ministerio y la evangelización, combinando una sólida base teológica con una profunda pasión por la justicia y la inclusión.



Sesión 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ESPAÑOL

1-54 Una Espiritualidad para la Sanación, Compasión y la Transformación: ¿Pecado Original o Bendición Original? ¡Alégrense! ¡Dios Está Con Nosotros!



En el capítulo 10 del Evangelio de Juan, Jesús declara a sus seguidores: "¡He venido para que tengan vida en abundancia!". Y San Ireneo afirma en el siglo II: "¡La gloria de Dios como la persona humana plenamente viva!". Entonces, ¿por qué hay tanta depresión, ansiedad y violencia en nuestra sociedad actual? ¿Qué nos impide vivir la vida plenamente? Dado que hoy abundan los traumas individuales, generacionales y de desarrollo, la sanación interior y relacional son los puntos de partida. Este taller nos invita a redescubrir nuestro renacimiento como Hijos e Hijas Amados de un Dios Amoroso. Debido a los traumas heredados de nuestras culturas, entornos y familias de origen, y agravados por los traumas de desarrollo del nacimiento y los entornos dolorosos en nuestros primeros y últimos años, muchos de nosotros perdemos nuestro sentido de pertenencia original y nos centramos en el "pecado original". Tendemos a actuar inconscientemente a partir de recuerdos oscuros y reprimidos. Aquí esperamos explorar cómo afrontar nuestro duelo y la angustia de nuestros pequeños, creando espacios seguros y sagrados en nuestras relaciones familiares y comunitarias para la sanación y la transformación. Jesús quiere transformarnos en "sanadores de heridas" al estar empoderados para declarar con María: "¡Todo mi ser proclama la grandeza del Señor! ¡Mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi salvador!"

El **Padre Stan Bosch, S.T., Psy. D., LMFT** lleva más de 35 años trabajando con jóvenes y adultos de Los Ángeles implicados en pandillas. Su trabajo con los jóvenes del centro de la ciudad apareció en el documental de National Geographic «Inside LA Gang Wars», así como en el Los Angeles Times de agosto de 2009: «Hablemos de ello» <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-southla-therapy16-2006aug16,0,522160.story>; y en The LA Archdiocesan Tidings: «Creating Communities of Care» www.the-tidings.com/2008/101708/gangs.htm. El P. Stan tiene un doctorado en psicología con énfasis en Terapia Matrimonial y Familiar de la Escuela de Psicología Profesional de Chicago. Es psicoterapeuta, Director de Salud Mental, Desarrollo de Personal y Supervisor Clínico para la intervención en pandillas con Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) y el Proyecto de Reducción de Pandillas y Desarrollo Juvenil de la Ciudad de Los Ángeles (GRYD). También mantiene una consulta privada de psicoterapia en el sur de Los Ángeles especializada en psicoterapia psicodinámica de grupo e individual para el tratamiento de traumas/abusos tempranos, depresión, adicciones y problemas relacionados con las bandas. Es párroco de la Iglesia Católica de San Rafael en el sur de Los Ángeles. Es bilingüe en inglés y español.

Sesión 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | ESPAÑOL

1-55 El Ritual de la Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos: Un Camino, No Un Destino.



En la revisión del Ritual de la Iniciación Cristiana, la Iglesia nos está invitando a entender la iniciación como parte de un camino para ser discípulos de Jesús. Esta sesión presentará los fundamentos de la iniciación, del énfasis que la renovación hace en la jornada de fe, y algunos asuntos pragmáticos a tomar en cuenta cuando el nuevo ritual se poner en práctica en la parroquia. ¡Les esperamos!

El sacerdote **Chris Bazyouros** pertenece a la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles. Por más de 20 años ha servido en varias parroquias y también fue Director de la Oficina de Educación Religiosa desde 2015-2019. En la actualidad, P. Chris es párroco de la Parroquia St. Marcellinus en la Ciudad de Commerce y es miembro del Comité para la Iniciación de la Oficina del Culto Divino.

¡ALÉGRENSE! ¡DÍOS ESTÁ CON NOSOTROS!

1-56 Nuestra Fe y el Futuro de la Catequesis en el Mundo Digital



“No teman” (Mt. 14, 27) a la era digital. En esta sesión, exploraremos programas digitales (software) que les ayudarán a involucrar a sus jóvenes discípulos en el proceso de crecer y madurar su fe. Aprenderemos a usar los celulares como una herramienta en lugar de una distracción en la sesión de catequesis. Finalmente, exploraremos el maravilloso mundo de la Inteligencia Artificial y aprenderemos a trabajar con ella como herramienta útil en tu catequesis.

Emanuel Sánchez ha trabajado para la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles durante 11 años. Antes de unirse a la Arquidiócesis, fue seminarista en la Diócesis de Orange. También trabajó en la parroquia St. Edward the Confessor y en su propia parroquia, St. Phillip Benizi, en la Diócesis de Orange. Allí sirvió como catequista por más de 14 años, en el proceso Catequesis del Buen Pastor, en el programa de primera comunión (1er y 2do año), de confirmación (1er y 2do año) y RICA Adaptado para Niños. Emanuel obtuvo una Certificación en Liturgia Pastoral (en español) de la Universidad Loyola Marymount, extensión de Los Angeles.

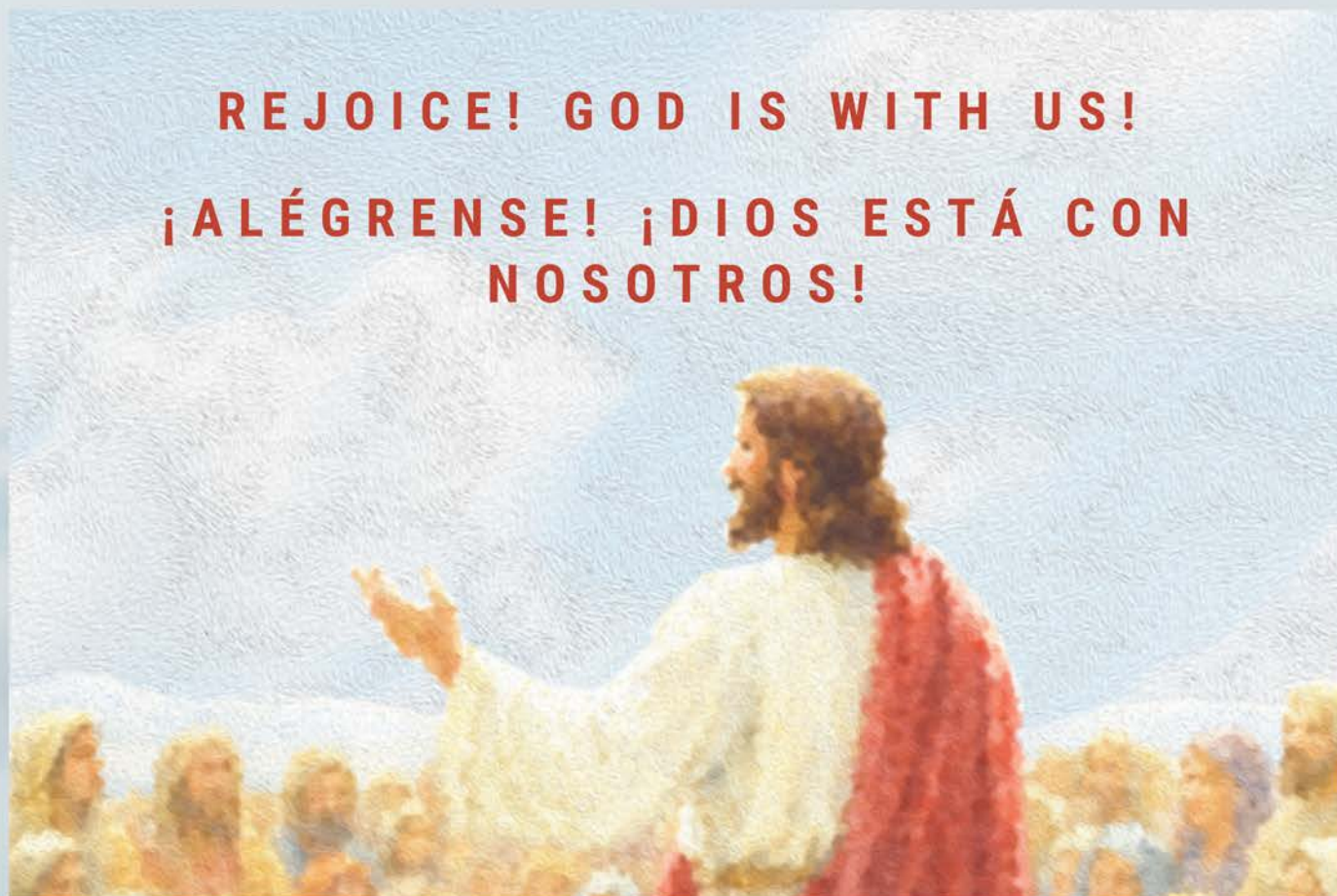
Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-01 How Does the Catholic Church Think about Other Christians and Other Religions?



Can non-Catholics be saved? What about non-Christians? Are they automatically doomed to Hell for not worshiping Jesus? Is it just that God might condemn those who have never even heard of Jesus? Vatican II reframed the way Catholics think about non-Catholic Christians as well as non-Christians. In this conversation, we will explore several documents from Vatican II that explore these important questions.

Dr. Stuart Squires is the Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program at St. John's Seminary. He has a Ph.D. in historical theology with a focus on St. Augustine from the Catholic University of America, a M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and a B.A. from DePaul University. He is the Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program at St. John's Seminary. He has a Ph.D. in historical theology with a focus on St. Augustine from the Catholic University of America, a M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and a B.A. from DePaul University. He recently published his second book, *You Will Be Changed Into Me: The Fruits of the Eucharist*



Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-02 Move with Joy and Rejoice!



Step into liturgical movement and discover how the body can become a living prayer! In this joyful and spirit-led workshop, “Move with Joy and Rejoice!”, participants will explore the power of liturgical dance as a form of worship, reflection, and celebration rooted in our shared faith.

This workshop invites individuals of all ages and experience levels to engage in movement that expresses the joy and hope found in God’s presence. Through scripture-based choreography, guided reflection, and group collaboration, we will learn how to lead and support liturgical movement that uplifts communities and deepens spiritual connection. Whether you’re new to movement ministry or a longtime participant, come ready to rejoice—body, mind, and spirit!

Nicole Masero has been providing movement and choreographing liturgical movement since 1995. She has provided education about the gift of movement in ministry through workshops and retreats at various parishes in Southern California and beyond. Her passion and understanding of dance and liturgy has enabled her to be at the forefront of this emerging ministry as a speaker and featured artist at the Los Angeles RE Congress.

Monica Luther, Ed.D., is a long-serving liturgical dancer, movement artist, and speaker with a remarkable career spanning over 25 years. From the vibrant landscapes of California to the bustling streets of New York, Monica has graced assemblies with her reverent and intentional gifts of movement, leaving an indelible mark on parishes nationwide. Notably, her presence at the Religious Education Congress in Southern California has garnered notice, where the ministry of liturgical movement has touched the hearts of countless attendees. Monica is an experienced speaker and educator, committed to nurturing the ministry of liturgical dance within the Catholic Church. With her wealth of experience and dedication, she continues to inspire and empower others to explore the sacred union of faith and movement, fostering a deeper spiritual connection through her work. When not educating and sharing her gifts of movement, Monica is a school principal, wife to the best man on earth and mom to two tweens.

¡ALÉGRENSE! ¡DÍOS ESTÁ CON NOSOTROS!

Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-03 Pope Leo XIV: the Augustinian Pope



This workshop explores the charism and spirituality of the Augustinians, and how the first months of Pope Leo's papacy reflect continuity with both his Augustinian life and with the Papal ministries of St John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

In over two decades of work in education, diocesan ministry, and collaboration with national and international ministry leaders, **Jason Coito** has developed his "Augnatian" lens, blending the wisdom of Augustine and Ignatius, as a way of approaching education and ministry. Jason is also a husband and father, and is an Augustinian Secular (third order) of the Order of St Augustine.

2-04 The Art of the Question in Adult Formation



Jesus was a master teacher whose most powerful lessons often came not through lecture, but through the artful use of questions. In this interactive workshop, we will explore how the practice of asking good questions can transform the way we teach, facilitate, and accompany others in faith. Drawing on Scripture, Church tradition, and practical pedagogy, participants will examine how Jesus used questions to invite reflection, stir the heart, challenge assumptions, and deepen discipleship. Together we will:

1. Reflect on key Gospel passages where Jesus uses questions as a method of teaching and transformation.
2. Discover principles of crafting meaningful, open-ended questions that invite participation and personal connection.
3. Practice forming questions for different settings—faith sharing, catechesis, mentoring, and small group facilitation.
4. Explore how well-formed questions can foster spiritual growth and accompany others on their faith journey.
5. Whether you are a catechist, mentor, small group facilitator this workshop will deepen your understanding of how powerful well-placed questions can be.

Kay Harter serves as a Master Catechist in the LA Archdiocese and currently collaborates as part of the formation team presenting One Mission One Faith & Vision and Skills for Faith Formation, Phases 1 and 2 of Catechist Certification. She is a graduate of the Catholic Bible Institute and has served as a facilitator for the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Program.

Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-05 Mystagogy for the Masses



Mystagogy isn't just for neophytes; it's for all who are baptized! We know Mystagogy is a formal period in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, but it is also a spiritual practice that leads a person more deeply into the mysteries of the Christian faith. This practice can be instrumental in drawing people in your parish community into a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ which will transform their lives. Let's explore how!

Katie Zeigler serves the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a Coordinator in the Office of New Evangelization and Parish Life. During her 25+ years in ministry, she has served in adult faith formation, RCIA, youth ministry, young adult ministry, and various liturgical ministries. Katie has presented workshops at national and local conferences, has directed retreats in various settings, and holds an M.A. in Pastoral Theology from Loyola Marymount University.



2-06 Engaging Families with Joy!



We know parents are the primary educators of their children. But how do we engage parents in our elementary faith formation? This interactive workshop will include ideas and resources to engage children and their parents in the joy of following Jesus. Join us in making family ministry a joyful life-giving experience that brings families closer to each other and to Christ!

Jill Moore has worked in catechesis and evangelization ministries for 20 years. Jill started as a catechist in her home parish as a college student and then went on to minister as a youth minister, DRE, RCIA director, and Director of Evangelization in various parishes in Illinois and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She is currently the Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation at St. Bernardine of Siena in Woodland Hills. Jill has led several workshops in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for Elementary Faith Formation and Alpha USA. She is married to Philip, and they are blessed with four children. Jill has a heart for making faith meaningful amid real family life.

Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-07 A Spirituality for Healing, Compassion, and Transformation: Original Sin or Blessing? Rejoice! God is with us!



In chapter 10 in the Gospel of John, Jesus declares to His followers that: "I have come, that you may have life in abundance!" And St. Irenaeus states in the 2nd century that "The glory of God as the human person fully alive!" So why is there so much depression, anxiety and violence in our society today? What inhibits us from living life fully? Given that individual, generational and developmental traumas abound today, inner healing and relational healing are the starting points. This workshop invites us to rediscover our re-birth as Beloved Sons and Daughters of a Loving God. Due to the inherited traumas from our cultures, environments, and families of origin, and compounded by developmental traumas of birth and painful environments in our early and later years, many of us lose our sense of original belonging and focus on 'original sin. We tend to unconsciously act out of dark, repressed memories. Here we hope to explore how to deal with our grief and the heartache of our little ones while creating safe and sacred spaces in our family and community relationships for healing, and transformation. Jesus wants to transform us into 'wounded healers' as we are empowered to declare with Mary that, "My whole being proclaims the greatness of the Lord! My Spirit rejoices in God my savior!"

Father Stan Bosch, S.T., Psy. D., LMFT, has worked with Los Angeles's gang-involved youth and adults for more than 35 years. His work with inner city youth was featured in the National Geographic documentary "Inside LA Gang Wars", as well as in the Los Angeles Times, August 2009: "Let's Talk About It!" <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-southla-therapy16-2006aug16,0,522160.story>; and The LA Archdiocesan Tidings: "Creating Communities of Care!" www.the-tidings.com/2008/101708/gangs.htm. Fr. Stan holds a doctoral degree in psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He is a psychotherapist, Director of Mental Health, Personnel Development, and Clinical Supervisor for gang intervention with Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) and the City of Los Angeles' Gang Reduction and Youth Development Project (GRYD). He also maintains a private practice in psychotherapy in South Los Angeles, specializing in psychodynamic group and individual psychotherapy, treating early trauma/abuse, depression, addictions, and gang-related issues. He is the pastor of St. Raphael's Catholic Church in South LA. He is bilingual in English and Spanish



Insert picture here

Session 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ENGLISH

2-08 The Whale, the Ark and the Lion's Den



The stories we are told as children live within us, inform our moral and faith compass and as we grow older, they come to hold deeper meaning in our lives. Identifying with the life and struggles of a character in a literary story, a biblical figure, or a saint instills a sense of belonging and community in the faith life of a child which brings their own personal faith to life. This workshop will show you how to bring your classroom alive with the power of scripture, the lives of the saints, and storytelling.

Michelle Youssef is a Catechetical Formation Consultant in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, helping parishes with intergenerational whole family catechesis and sacrament preparation. She earned a BA in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and a Masters in Pastoral Theology From Loyola Marymount University. She is a Pastoral Associate. Michelle worked as a Theology teacher and Director of Campus Ministry at Marymount High School before joining the Office of Religious Education as the Elementary Consultant. Later on, Michelle became the first Director of Faith Formation at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angeles for eight years.

2-09 Faith Living in These Difficult Times (Immigration, Peacemaking, Diversity & Justice)



We are certainly living in difficult times and more than ever, the disciples of Jesus are called to be the “salt of the earth and the light of the world”. In this workshop, we will reflect on the words of Jesus found in Matthew 25 to discern how we can live his powerful words when there is much bullying and hate in the news, social media, among family and friends, etc. We will try to answer the pivotal question: “How can we live and teach our children, youth and adults to live the command of Love and the Compassion of Jesus, Pope Leo and Pope Francis?”

Fr. Chris Ponnet was born in Temple City, CA, to a family of 8 siblings. Raised at St. Luke's Parish, he entered the seminary at OLQA High School. Fr. Chris completed a BA in Philosophy/Religious Studies at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, and a M.Div and MA Theology at St. John's graduate school. He was ordained a priest in 1983 and has been pastor/Chaplain at St. Camillus since 1995. Fr Ponnet is board board-certified since 2000 with the Interfaith Association of Professional Chaplains. He was hired as Director of the Department of Pastoral Interfaith chaplains at LA General Medical Center and the Urban Interfaith CPE training school of chaplains. Fr. Chris is an active board member of Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, Death Penalty Focus, Pace e Bene and Angel Interfaith Network.

TEACHER'S TRACK | 2-10 Prayer: A Conversation with God (Part 2)

(For workshop description and speaker information, see [page 34](#).)

Sesión 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ESPAÑOL

2-51 Guiando al Misterio: la Catequesis Mistagógica como Camino de Transformación



Este taller explora la renovada llamada de la Iglesia a situar la mistagogía en el centro de la catequesis. A partir del Directorio para la Catequesis (2020), el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica y otros documentos magisteriales, esta sesión invita a los participantes a redescubrir la catequesis no como información, sino como formación a través del encuentro, especialmente en la liturgia y los sacramentos. Los participantes aprenderán los fundamentos de la catequesis mistagógica, participarán en una reflexión guiada sobre la experiencia sacramental y explorarán formas prácticas de integrar la mistagogía en la vida parroquial, el RICA y la formación continua. A través de este camino, se nos invita a ver la catequesis como un despliegue permanente del misterio de Cristo.

Flor de María Luna es la Coordinadora de Formación de Catequistas, tanto para el Nivel Básico como Avanzado en el Programa de Inglés de la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de ADLA. Es Maestra Catequista de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles. Su experiencia catequética incluye haber sido directora de educación religiosa por casi veinte años. Tiene una Cátedra de Teología de la Universidad Francisco Marroquín en Guatemala, un Certificado de Ministerio Hispano de la Universidad Mount Saint Mary's en LA y una maestría en Estudios Pastorales del Seminario Saint John en Camarillo, CA.

2-52 Los Enigmas en la Imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe



Este taller presentará los enigmas más significativos que envuelve la imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe y nos ayudará a discernir su origen a manera de edificar nuestra fe y afirmar el poderoso mensaje de amor e inclusión de su manifestación: Un nuevo Pentecostés.

Actualmente, **Ernesto Vega** es el Coordinador del Ministerio de Formación en la Fe para Adultos y del Ministerio con Jóvenes de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles en la Oficina de Educación Religiosa. Tiene una licenciatura con doble concentración, filosofía y literatura española del Seminario Mayor de San Juan, en Camarillo, California. Además, obtuvo dos maestrías de la Universidad de Loyola Marymount en Los Angeles California, una en psicoterapia familiar y la otra en teología pastoral con concentración en dirección espiritual.

Ernesto cuenta con estudios en el evento guadalupano, la espiritualidad ignaciana, la espiritualidad tolteca y el arte, además tiene capacitaciones en programación neurolingüística, hipnoterapia y otras modalidades de sanación psicológica. Ha sido conferencista en las Jornadas Mundiales de la Juventud - Panamá 2019 y Portugal 2023, y también en el Congreso de Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles, y en otros congresos diocesanos de California y Nevada. Ernesto ha sido conductor del programa Hacia Cristo con María en el Sembrador Nueva Evangelización (ESNE) y continúa siendo el MC para las mañanitas en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora Reina de Los Ángeles.

Sesión 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ESPAÑOL

2-53 Catequesis con Pies Descalzos: Formar la Fe en Contextos Heridos



¿Cómo anunciar la alegría del Evangelio cuando nuestras comunidades caminan con cansancio, migración, rupturas o silencios? Este taller ofrece claves para una catequesis compasiva y contextual, que nace de los pasos concretos del pueblo que servimos. Inspirándonos en el gesto de Jesús que se detiene, escucha y acompaña, reflexionaremos sobre cómo formar la fe desde el dolor, la esperanza y la vida cotidiana. Propondremos herramientas sencillas y profundas para acompañar procesos catequéticos con ternura, dignidad y creatividad pastoral.

Yolanda Chávez es teóloga, catequista y acompañante espiritual con años de experiencia en formación de la fe. Actualmente cursa el Doctorado en Ministerio en Fuller Theological Seminary, donde investiga la espiritualidad transformadora de mujeres migrantes que ejercen su servicio catequético en contextos de desarraigo. Ha colaborado con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles como maestra de catequistas. Su trabajo integra la teología pastoral, la memoria migrante, la espiritualidad cotidiana y la pedagogía catequética contextual. Yolanda es fundadora del Ministerio de Espiritualidad Femenina, y ha acompañado retiros, talleres y procesos comunitarios. Su voz se nutre de la experiencia, la escucha, la ternura y una convicción profunda: la fe verdadera siempre nace desde la vida concreta.

2-54 Llamados a Ser Misioneros de Esperanza



En su Mensaje para la Jornada Mundial de las Misiones, el Papa Francisco invitó a todos a convertirse en Misioneros de la Esperanza. Declaró: «Que todos los bautizados, como discípulos misioneros de Cristo, hagan brillar su esperanza en cada rincón de la tierra». Guiados por el Espíritu Santo, la Iglesia está llamada a vivir con esperanza. Como catequistas, tenemos la oportunidad de animar y empoderar a las familias para que se conviertan en faros de esperanza en el mundo. Únase a nosotros en charlas y actividades prácticas centradas en el Papa Francisco que podrá compartir con los niños y sus familias.

Magdalena Arellano es Directora Asociada de la Oficina de Misiones de la Archidiócesis de Los Ángeles y Coordinadora del Programa de la Asociación de Infancia Misionera. En su papel, promueve, coordina actividades y desarrolla materiales educativos destinados a fomentar el espíritu misionero entre los estudiantes de primaria y secundaria bajo los auspicios de las Obras Misionales Pontificias. Como Maestra Catequista de la Archidiócesis de Los Ángeles, participa en centros de formación y talleres diseñados para ofrecer a los catequistas oportunidades de mejorar sus ministerios de evangelización.

Sesión 2 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm | ESPAÑOL

2-55 Respondiendo al Llamado de Dios para Catequizar Niños y Niñas con Discapacidades



Este taller te dará las herramientas necesarias que necesitas para sembrar el amor de Dios en niños con discapacidades.

Jennifer Ayon-Hart ha servido como Catequista de Educación Religiosa por mas de 20 años primero con niños, después como instructora de Confirmación, y ahora con adultos. Jennifer también a trabajado como educadora bilingüe en el campo de la Justicia Social Católica. Jennifer recibió una Maestría de Ciencias en Consejería y un Bachillerato de Ciencias en Servicios de Rehabilitación; su énfasis es en ayudar a personas con discapacidades a lograr sus metas personales, sociales y vocacionales. Ella tiene más de 15 años de experiencia trabajando con familias, niños, jóvenes como trabajadora social, manejadora de casos y consejera. Actualmente ella tiene la certificación de Maestra Catequista para la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles y es una consejera para personas con discapacidades para el Estado de California.

2-56 Como Acompañar a los Niños y Niñas en la Catequesis a través del Calendario Litúrgico.



En este taller aprenderemos como la catequesis fortalece y enriquece el crecimiento en la fe al integrar los contenidos y celebraciones del año litúrgico, ya que, de esa manera, ayudamos que los niños y niñas vivan su fe de manera encarnada y experiencial. Ofreceremos actividades concretas para los diferentes tiempos litúrgicos que fomenten la participación activa de nuestros discípulos más pequeños/as.

María de la Luz Zinzun es mexicana, laica comprometida. Su pasión y entrega por la formación solida de la fe la mantiene activa en la formación continua. Tiene 15 años de experiencia como maestra de catequistas, de diferentes ministerios para adultos y de catequesis primaria para la Arquidiócesis de los Ángeles. Tiene un certificado de Cuidado Pastoral Hispano de la Universidad Loyola Marymount y completó un certificado de Espiritualidad Cristiana en la Universidad de Loyola Marymount. Recibió certificados de Maestra de Catequistas y del Instituto de Pastoral y Evangelización para adultos. Es miembro activo en tres diferentes equipos de formación de la Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de los Ángeles, impartiendo talleres de formación continua para catequistas en los programas Una Misión Una Fe, Instituto de Pastoral y Evangelización, y talleres para la catequesis primaria.

Session 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ENGLISH

3-01 How to Read and Pray the Bible for Best Results



In 1893, Pope Leo XIII stated that the Bible should be made “safely and abundantly accessible to the flock of Jesus Christ.” At the time, this approach was a surprising pivot by the Church with respect to the Bible and the relationship of faithful Catholics to it. In this presentation, we will explore some practical suggestions on how to make the Bible “abundantly accessible” to Catholic parishioners. We will also investigate teachings of the Church that address Leo’s concern for approaching the Bible “safely.”

Stephen Picard holds an MA in Theology from Loyola Marymount University, and Certification from the Catholic Bible Institute. His primary theological interest is the implementation of successful strategies to increase Bible literacy in Catholic parishes. As an instructor for the Los Angeles Catholic Bible Institute, Steve trained Bible study facilitators for Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for seven years. Steve is a parishioner of St. Jerome Parish where he has coordinated their Bible study program for three decades



3-02 “Not Peace But A Sword.”



Does the New Testament encourage violence or have certain sayings of Jesus been misinterpreted to justify the use of force? In the session, we will examine that question in light of the biblical evidence.

Timothy Crehan holds a master's degree in theology and teaches full-time at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles. Before he began his teaching career, Timothy worked as a lay (non-ordained) hospital chaplain in Knoxville, Tennessee and then, after returning to Los Angeles, was hired as religious consultant in documentary television for shows that have aired on various cable networks, including HISTORY.

Session 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ENGLISH

3-03 Called to be Missionaries of Hope



In his World Mission Sunday Message, Pope Francis extended an invitation to all to become Missionaries of Hope. He stated, "May all the baptized, as missionary disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth." Guided by the Holy Spirit we the Church are called to live with hope. As catechists, we have the opportunity to encourage and empower families to become beacons of hope in the world. Join us for discussions and hands-on activities centered around Pope Francis' you can share with children and their families.

Magdalena Arellano serves as the Associate Director of the Mission Office for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Program Coordinator for the Missionary Childhood Association. In her role, she promotes, coordinates activities, and develops educational materials aimed at fostering a missionary spirit among elementary and middle school students under the auspices of the Pontifical Mission Societies. As a Master Catechist within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, she participates in formation centers and workshops designed to provide catechists with opportunities to enhance their evangelization ministries.

REJOICE! GOD IS WITH US!

3-04 Strengthen Bonds, Share Stories, Encounter Jesus in Family Ministry



Family life can feel overwhelming. This workshop will show how Family Ministry can blend genuine family experiences with the narrative of Jesus. Together, we will explore how families can recognize significant moments of grace within their own stories. Using engaging and meaningful activities for families that demonstrate the link between daily experiences and sacred stories families will cultivate a sense of belonging and empowerment within their parish community.

Jill Moore has worked in catechesis and evangelization ministries for 20 years. Jill started as a catechist in her home parish as a college student and then went on to minister as a youth minister, DRE, RCIA director, and Director of Evangelization in various parishes in Illinois and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She is currently the Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation at St. Bernardine of Siena in Woodland Hills. Jill has led several workshops in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for Elementary Faith Formation and Alpha USA. She is married to Philip, and they are blessed with four children. Jill has a heart for making faith meaningful amid real family life.

Session 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ENGLISH

3-05 Proclaiming the Good News in Faith Formation



As a faith formation leader, Jesus sends you to proclaim the Good News! When you are intentional about sharing the Gospel message, it can transform the lives of those you serve. This workshop will help you gain clarity about the message you are called to proclaim and keep it at the center of your planning.

Katie Zeigler serves the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a Coordinator in the Office of New Evangelization and Parish Life. During her 25+ years in ministry, she has served in adult faith formation, RCIA, youth ministry, young adult ministry, and various liturgical ministries. Katie has presented workshops at national and local conferences, has directed retreats in various settings, and holds an M.A. in Pastoral Theology from Loyola Marymount University.



3-06 “Faith & the Future: Catechesis in the Digital World”



“Be not afraid” (Mt 14:27) of the digital age. In this session, we will explore software that will help engage your young disciples as they learn about their faith. We will learn how to use cell phones as a tool instead of a distraction in the catechetical session. Lastly, we will explore the wonderful world of Artificial Intelligence and learn to work with it so that it works for you.

Emanuel Sanchez has worked for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for 11 years. Before his employment with the archdiocese, he was a seminarian for the Diocese of Orange. He also worked at St. Edward the Confessor and his home parish, St. Philip Benizi, in Orange. There, he served as a catechist for over 14 years in the process of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and serving in the first communion program (year 1 and 2), in the confirmation program (years 1 and 2), and in the RCIA Adapted for Children program. Emmanuel has a Certification from Loyola Marymount University Extension in Pastoral Liturgy (in Spanish).

Session 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ENGLISH

3-07 Being Church in the Dawn of A.I.: Challenges and Opportunities



Since the pandemic we have experienced a number of advances in technology, including the long anticipated arrival of “artificial intelligence” or A.I. Although A.I. today differs from how it’s imagined in popular books and movies, it will nonetheless change our way of life, so much so that Pope Leo XIV has committed the first years of his pontificate to understanding its implications. In this session, we will explore these important questions:

- What actually exactly is A.I.?
- What is its origin and purpose?
- And, what are challenges and opportunities that this new invention poses for ministry, catechesis and education, and life in the Church?

Join us for this timely conversation!

Michael McNaught is a media arts professional, teacher and administrator at Loyola Marymount University. As assistant director of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice, coordinates a number of justice projects, including work in integral ecology, the role of media, and the ethics of emerging technologies like A.I.

3-08 The Delights of Biblical Hebrew



Here is your chance to get a glimpse into the original language of the Old Testament as Rabbi Lotker reveals some of the wonderful insights that studying sacred scripture in Hebrew - just as Jesus did – uncovers. The discussion will range from the grammatical to the mystical and address many of the unique characteristics of Biblical Hebrew. The various historical translations of the Hebrew Bible, into Aramaic, Greek, Latin and English will also be discussed.

Rabbi Lotker comes to us with a wealth of experience. A Phi Beta Kappa/Magna Cum Laude physicist, he spent the bulk of his first career in the alternative energy business, working in windpower, solar and geothermal energy. About 500 of the windmills that are spinning in Palm Springs, California were financed and installed by a company that Rabbi Lotker was President of. In 2003, he was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where he also received his Master of Hebrew Letters degree. He presently the Community Rabbi for the Jewish Federation of Ventura County, CA, Scholar in Residence at Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, and was recently invited to be a Guest Chaplain at the US House of Representatives. In addition to his studies, Rabbi Lotker has published a book for the Paulist Press entitled “A Christian's Guide to Judaism.”

Session 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ENGLISH

3-09 Latina/o Discipleship as Hope: Memory, Scripture, and Social Justice



What does it mean to be a missionary disciple from our lived experience as Latine Catholics in the U.S.? This workshop invites participants to rediscover prophetic hope through historical memory, biblical reflection, and social justice practices rooted in our community traditions. Drawing from the wisdom of our abuelas/abuelos (grandparents), popular religiosity, and the urgency of reading the signs of the times, we will explore how to enrich catechetical sessions with youth and adults alike. Participants will gain practical and theological tools to expand beyond homogenized models of discipleship and embrace the richness of our cultural and spiritual identity in the mission of evangelization.

Mayra Torres is a theologian, educator, and pastoral leader committed to building bridges between faith, culture, and social engagement. With experience in religious education, bilingual media, and Latino/a ministry, Mayra integrates U.S. Latino/a theology, storytelling, and digital tools to reimagine catechesis as a communal and embodied practice. She holds a Master's in Theology from Loyola Marymount University and currently serves as the Regional Coordinator for the Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

TEACHER'S TRACK | 3-10 Prayer: A Conversation with God (Part 3)

(For workshop description and speaker information, see [page 34](#).)



Sesión 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ESPAÑOL

3-51 ¡Alégrense! Dios se Encuentra en Todas las Cosas



San Ignacio de Loyola nos enseña que podemos encontrar a Dios en todas las cosas. Esta sesión experiencial e introductoria presenta los principios fundamentales de la espiritualidad Ignaciana y te invita a profundizar tu habilidad de encontrar a Dios en todas las cosas.

María Elena Cardeña-López (Elena) cuenta con más de 25 años de experiencia ministerial en la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles y ahora es directora de programa para el Instituto Loyola para la Espiritualidad en Orange, CA. Obtuvo su maestría en Estudios Religiosos en Mt. St. Mary's College y su doctorado en Liderazgo Organizacional en la Universidad de La Verne. Tiene un corazón de artista y vive en Ontario, CA con su esposo donde cocina, pinta y admira las montañas.

3-52 La Inteligencia Emocional en la Vida y el Ministerio



Este taller presenta el contexto social y la influencia virtual que deteriora las emociones de conexión en la persona y la humanidad así como también ofrece consejos prácticos para el desarrollo personal, familiar, y ministerial activando la inteligencia emocional conscientemente desde la Luz de Cristo para nuestro bien y el bien de los demás, especialmente en el servicio ministerial.

Actualmente, **Ernesto Vega** es el Coordinador del Ministerio de Formación en la Fe para Adultos y del Ministerio con Jóvenes de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles en la Oficina de Educación Religiosa. Tiene una licenciatura con doble concentración, filosofía y literatura española del Seminario Mayor de San Juan, en Camarillo, California. Además, obtuvo dos maestrías de la Universidad de Loyola Marymount en Los Angeles California, una en psicoterapia familiar y la otra en teología pastoral con concentración en dirección espiritual.

Ernesto cuenta con estudios en el evento guadalupano, la espiritualidad ignaciana, la espiritualidad tolteca y el arte, además tiene capacitaciones en programación neurolingüística, hipnoterapia y otras modalidades de sanación psicológica. Ha sido conferencista en las Jornadas Mundiales de la Juventud - Panamá 2019 y Portugal 2023, y también en el Congreso de Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles, y en otros congresos diocesanos de California y Nevada.

Ernesto ha sido conductor del programa Hacia Cristo con María en el Sembrador Nueva Evangelización (ESNE) y continúa siendo el MC para las mañanitas en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora Reina de Los Ángeles.

Sesión 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ESPAÑOL

3-53 Inmigración, Católicos LGBTQ y el Papa León XIV



¡Habemus Papam! ¿Quién es el Papa León XIV y qué podemos esperar de él en temas relacionados con inmigrantes y personas LGBTQ? El Papa Francisco abogó constantemente por la inclusión plena y la dignidad de ambos grupos, reconociendo que están en el corazón del Evangelio. Aunque algunos creyeron erróneamente que iba en contra de la doctrina de la Iglesia, sus acciones estaban, de hecho, profundamente arraigadas en ella. Exploraremos cómo el enfoque del Papa Francisco reflejaba la enseñanza de la Iglesia y luego reflexionaremos sobre lo que podemos esperar del Papa León XIV.

Yunuen Trujillo es una ministra laica católica, organizadora comunitaria basada en la fe y abogada de inmigración. Como organizadora comunitaria, ha trabajado con L.A. Voice PICO para crear una sociedad que refleje la dignidad de todas las personas. Yunuen fué Coordinadora de Formación Religiosa (español) del Ministerio Católico para Personas Lesbianas y Gays de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles y es autora del libro "Católicos LGBTQ: una guía para pastoral inclusiva, publicado por Paulist Press.

REJOICE! GOD IS WITH US!

3-54 Cómo Dar Vida a las Sesiones de Educación Religiosa



Estrategias para involucrar a tus alumnos y crear un ambiente divertido donde puedan cultivar una relación con Jesús.

Susie López es la Coordinadora de Educación Religiosa y VBS en la parroquia St. Phillip the Apostle, en Pasadena. Ella es una Maestra de Catequistas para la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles y disfruta compartiendo la fe con las familias.

Sesión 3 | 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | ESPAÑOL

3-55 YouTube para Principiantes



Aprenderemos a: Que es YouTube y su historia, cómo crear una cuenta, cómo manejar una cuenta, cómo crear contenido, como navegar en la página, cómo estar más seguro en su búsqueda de contenido, cómo presentar contenido, cómo agregar sus páginas sociales y más.

Jose Velazquez fue Director de Arte y Producción de 1995-2014. Fue responsable del desarrollo de producción y supervisión para los periódicos arquidiocesanos (The Tidings y Vida Nueva). Esvuvo a cargo del Directorio Católico de Mercadeo Electrónico y desarrollo de la web y actualizaciones para la Diócesis de Orange, así también como para la oficina del Arzobispo de Los Angeles. En la actualidad es Especilista del Equipo C3 (Resource Specialist) y ayuda a proporcionar dirección estratégica, soporte e infraestructura para evaluar tecnologías emergentes para las parroquias y escuelas católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles.

3-56 Catequesis Creativa y Adaptada a Distintas Edades.



La catequesis creativa no solo implica el uso de manualidades sino también la capacidad de despertar el asombro, el sentido de lo sagrado y la relación personal con Jesus en cada etapa de la vida. La catequesis creativa ofrece experiencias concretas simbólicas y participativas que permiten interiorizar el mensaje del evangelio desde la vivencia personal y comunitaria. Este taller te ayudará a hacer que tu catequesis sea una experiencia viva, cercana y transformadora para los niños y niñas de tu grupo. Vamos a ofrecer ideas y recursos que faciliten la inclusión de personas con diferentes estilos de aprendizajes, habilidades o necesidades especiales, y herramientas para renovar nuestros encuentros por medio de actividades, dinámicas, juegos, arte, etc.

María de la Luz Zinzun es mexicana, laica comprometida. Su pasión y entrega por la formación solida de la fe la mantiene activa en la formación continua. Tiene 15 años de experiencia como maestra de catequistas, de diferentes ministerios para adultos y de catequesis primaria para la Arquidiócesis de los Ángeles. Tiene un certificado de Cuidado Pastoral Hispano de la Universidad Loyola Marymount y completó un certificado de Espiritualidad Cristiana en la Universidad de Loyola Marymount. Recibió certificados de Maestra de Catequistas y del Instituto de Pastoral y Evangelización para adultos. Es miembro activo en tres diferentes equipos de formación de la Educación Religiosa de la Arquidiócesis de los Ángeles, impartiendo talleres de formación continua para catequistas en los programas Una Misión Una Fe, Instituto de Pastoral y Evangelización, y talleres para la catequesis primaria.

Prayer: A Conversation with God

Catholic Schools Track | Workshop Presented in 3 Parts
(Please select workshops #1-10, #2-10 & #3-10)
English only. Parish Catechists are welcome!

Explore the various forms of prayer and how you can lead your students to enter into a more intimate relationship with Our Lord. You'll also explore the importance of silence and a variety of ways to pray, including Lectio Divina. These sessions will blend scholar presentations with interactive pedagogical sessions, giving you a chance to explore content with a respected scholar, as well as explore and simulate practical teaching strategies with ready-to-use classroom materials.



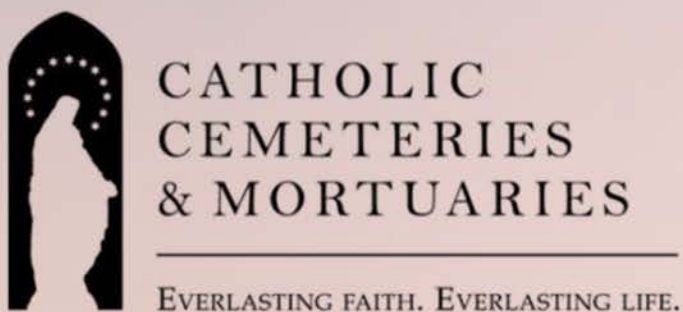
Joan Watson is a Catholic speaker and writer who loves to make Scripture, theology, liturgy, and history accessible and applicable. She currently works as Pilgrim Formation Manager for Verso Ministries, a Catholic company who aims to facilitate encounters with Jesus Christ through pilgrimage. With a bachelor degree in history from Christendom College and a masters in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, she has worked for the Church and various religious apostolates for almost 20 years. She is the founder of Living 1 John 1, an online community dedicated to helping Catholics pray and love the Scriptures better. She is a frequent contributor to the work of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, teaching online courses and as one of the six weekly presenters on their podcast Letters from Home. Her writing can be found in publications like The Catechetical Review and online at Integrated Catholic Life, where she writes weekly as their associate editor. Her new book, *Opening the Holy Door: Hope-Filled Scripture Reflections from St. Peter's Basilica*, will be available in December from Ave Maria Press.



Jose Gonzalez joined the team at Sophia Teachers in 2014 after more than 10 years as a Catholic high school teacher. In addition to teaching, Jose has experience working in parish and diocesan ministry. Jose has been leading Workshops in over 70 dioceses for 11 years, and contributes regularly to our teacher's guides and digital instructional resources. He has a BA in theology with a concentration in religious education from Franciscan University of Steubenville, and an MA in evangelization and catechesis from the Augustine Institute. Jose and his wife, Mary Beth, have five children.

Catholic School Teachers: Please see the **SophiaTeachers.Org** flyer for special coupon code pricing to register for this Regional Congress workshop. **That special coupon code is required during this registration process.** Pre-paid lunch is included with your registration, make sure to select your food option during registration.

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