



# VIRTUAL CATECHETICAL SPEAKER SERIES



Wednesdays *each* Month | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**KICKOFF EVENT: OCTOBER 28**

The Office for the Mission of Catholic Education is offering a Virtual Speaker Series to assist in your ongoing formation as a catechetical leader in parishes and schools. These free, monthly events will be offered via Zoom Webinar with a presentation on the specific topic followed by a time for questions with the speaker.

Please sign up for these free events at the following link: **REGISTER**

Questions? Contact Eric Pederson, Associate Director for Catholic Education: [pedersone@archspm.org](mailto:pedersone@archspm.org)



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
SAINT PAUL &  
MINNEAPOLIS

Session 1  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# JESUS: THE CHRISTO-CENTRICITY OF CATECHESIS

*Dr. Petroc Willey*

The Church insists that catechesis that truly evangelizes hearts, and that meets souls in the place of greatest need, must be unshakably centered upon Him who is our beginning and our end – Jesus Christ. We teach Jesus, and everything we teach, we teach in reference to Him, thus teaching Christo-centrally. Come explore how to unfold the life-giving truths of our faith with Jesus placed clearly at the center of all things: our teaching content, our teaching methods, and our own personal witness to others whom God has called us to love.

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*Dr. Petroc Willey is the Director of the Catechetical Institute and of the Office of Catechetics at Franciscan University, Steubenville. He studied theology at King's College, London and philosophy at Liverpool University, where he received his doctorate. He later received his S.T.L. from the Pontifical University, Maynooth and an ecclesiastical doctorate from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. Dr. Willey is a world-renowned expert in evangelization, catechesis, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church and serves as a Consultor for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization at the Vatican. He has hosted the EWTN catechetical series, *Handing on the Faith*, and is the author of numerous texts in philosophy, theology, and catechetics.*

Session 2  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CATECHETICAL LEADER

*Ann Lankford*

In order to pass on the truths of Faith in season and out, the catechetical leader must be securely grounded in Christ. We will consider the richness of the Catholic spiritual life as it pertains specifically to the life of the catechetical leader. Prayer is not the “last ditch effort” of defense for us as catechetical leaders, but our first line of defense - the wings on which every effort should soar. Our society often has trouble recognizing that the invisible spiritual realities are in fact “more real,” and certainly more lasting, than the physical realities we touch, see, hear, and experience daily. A review of the spiritual tools of the trade is thus appropriate to help create an environment for catechesis that is permeated by prayer.

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*Ann Lankford has served as the Director of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin since 2002. Prior to her time in La Crosse, Ann served as the DRE for two parishes in Nebraska. She received a Bachelor of Arts in French and Education from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri and an MA in Theology and Christian Ministry with a specialization in Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1998.*

Session 3  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# FAMILY: THE MISSING PIECE IN CATECHESIS

*Dr. Joseph White*

Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith, but it's often a challenge to get parents and families involved and engaged in parish and school faith formation. How can we help parents appreciate their unique role in the formation of children and teens and equip them to share their faith as a family? This session, presented by a child and family psychologist and former diocesan family life director, will discuss tested and effective ways to partner with parents and families and evangelize the domestic church.

**REGISTER HERE**



*Dr. Joseph White is a child and family psychologist and Director of Catechetical Resources for Our Sunday Visitor Publishing and Curriculum. He received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and later studied Catholic theology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He has worked as a parish catechetical leader and spent seven years as Director of Family Counseling and Family Life in the Diocese of Austin, TX. A frequent guest on Catholic television and radio, Dr. White is the author of 12 books and numerous articles on catechesis and ministry and co-authored the Allelu and Alive in Christ catechetical series.*

Session 4  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# RECRUITING AND TRAINING CATECHISTS FOR MISSION

*Ken Ogorek*

Catechetical leaders sometimes think of recruiting volunteer catechists as “that thing I have to do if one of my catechists leaves.” Often this puts us in scramble mode—struggling to fill a position before the program year begins. You might have noticed that much of what catechists are asked to do are the sorts of habits and activities that are helpful for adult Catholics in general—especially those who have a personal, intentional relationship with Jesus. With that in mind, let’s consider how to proactively recruit and onboard catechists, as well as encourage these mission-critical people to engage in lifelong formation.

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*Ken Ogorek currently serves as Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and has been acknowledged by his peers who elected him to a term as President of NCCL (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership). He has been blessed to learn from several bishops and additional mentors during his 20+ years of Church-related work in Pennsylvania and Indiana. In addition to being catechetical director in Indianapolis and assistant director for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Ken has worked in development as well as sales.*

Session 5  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# TEACHING FOR CONVERSION: THE ECCLESIAL METHOD

*Mary Ann Wiesinger*

“The content of catechesis cannot be indifferently subjected to any method.” - General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) 149. Every good catechist seeks in some organized fashion to give growth to the seed of faith, to nourish hope, and to develop a deeper desire to love God and neighbor. We will explore a method that is highly suited to the goals of catechesis, and flows from a study of how the Church’s many catechetical saints sought to pass on the beauty, truth, and goodness of Christ’s saving revelation.

**REGISTER HERE**



*Mary Ann Wiesinger has worked at the diocesan level for over twelve years in a wide range of capacities, most recently as the Director of Evangelization and Parish Life for the Archdiocese of Miami. Prior to her current position, she was the Associate Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Oakland and has served as a Director of Religious Education, worked with the RCIA, helped develop and sustain Catechist Certification programs, and directed schools of formation.*

Session 6  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

*Gloria Zapiain*

Catechetical texts and other materials play an undeniably important role in the Church's mandate to foster a faith that is "living, conscious, and active" (see the General Catechetical Directory (GCD) 17). But how do we select appropriate texts and materials? We will look at how to develop criteria for text selection while examining various materials and models currently in use for parish programs. Ways to include the parents or caregivers, who are the "primary educators" (see General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) 226–227) of children, will also be explored.

**REGISTER HERE**



*Gloria ("Gigi") Zapiain has been involved in catechetics on the parish and diocesan levels for more than 25 years, having served as a parish DRE and catechetical consultant for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. She holds an MA in Religious Studies and a pontifical catechetical diploma from the Notre Dame Institute of Arlington, Virginia. She is currently Director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, a board member for the Association for Catechumenal Ministry, and an adjunct professor of catechetics at the University of Dallas.*

Session 7  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

# NATIONAL TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES IN CATECHESIS

*Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens*

Our very own Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar for Catholic Education, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, will begin a three-year term as the Chair of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis in November 2020. From that perspective, Bishop Cozzens will share his observations on catechesis and evangelization efforts around the country.

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*A native of Denver, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens is the youngest of three children. He graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. During a period of discernment after college, Bishop Cozzens served as a travelling missionary with Twin Cities-based NET Ministries. He then joined the Companions of Christ in Saint Paul and worked for Saint Paul's Outreach. After his year of discernment he was accepted into the Saint Paul Seminary. In 1997, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He served as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Paul and then Faribault Catholic Community (now Divine Mercy) before being sent to Rome for doctoral studies. Upon his return to Minnesota, Bishop Cozzens began service as an instructor at the Saint Paul Seminary. On October 11, 2013, Pope Francis appointed him as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Bishop Cozzens' ordination to the Episcopacy took place December 9, 2013.*