

“God Gives Joy to My Youth”

Course Descriptions for Ministries Day 2018

Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment." It will be held in Rome in October 2018. Pope Francis noted: "The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society."

Except from USCCB Website

Two Hour Workshops:

The Three Great Monotheistic Religions: Commonality and Differences (2 hour Morning Session)

Summary: We will explore basic tenets of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, what they have in common and where they differ. This will hopefully clear up some of the myths we hear about each.

Presenter: Msgr. Al Humbrecht, pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Soddy Daisy and the Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Knoxville.

Catechist Orientation: (2 hour Afternoon Session)

Summary: The *Catechist Orientation* serves as an introduction to the ministry of catechesis. Topics include: a brief historical perspective of catechesis in the Church, spirituality of the catechist, the catechetical process, and ecclesial methodology. This session is open to all adults and is a requirement for catechetical certification.

Presenter: Jason Gale is the Director of the Catechist Formation Program at Aquinas College. He is married with 5 children and lives in Dickson, TN. He has earned degrees in Theology and Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville as well as a Master's Degree in Theology and earned an Ecclesial License in Catechetics from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, UK.

One Hour Workshops:

Alpha Program

Summary: Alpha is an eight week program built around a meal, an inspiring talk followed by a table discussion led by a table facilitator. The course originally designed as a tool of evangelization has proven to be so much more. If theology is defined as faith seeking understanding then Alpha can best be described as opening the heart of those who attend Alpha to burn with understanding. Once faith is moved from the head to the heart a significant transformation takes place as manifested in a deepening desire to pray, read scripture, offer service and a deepening love of the Church as well as a profound sense of knowing the depth of God's love. Youth Ministers - Alpha for youth has had a tremendous impact on the young nationwide. It answers many of their issues with the Church, the challenges of faith and energizing their faith so they remain rooted in their faith.

Presenter: Deacon Dave Pecot – St. Thomas the Apostle Lenoir City. Deacon Dave has been presenting Alpha Courses since 1999. Over the 19 years of his service to the Church he has presented 50 Alpha Courses in various parishes in North East Ohio as well as here in the Diocese of Knoxville. Deacon Dave has been a sought after conference speaker while he was in North East Ohio as well as a guest presenter at days of renewal and retreats. He is the author of a homiletic blog and he conducts a monthly inspirational talk at his parish of St. Thomas titled 2nd Tuesdays with Deacon Dave.

Apologetics

Summary: Apologetics is the art of sharing our Catholic faith in ways that can be appreciated and understood by both the curious and serious enquirer. These include individuals with religious backgrounds of some sort, but more frequently today the enquirer may have no understanding of Christianity whatever. Consequently, we will begin with explaining the meaning and purpose of life. This will include the importance of the faith and the role of the Church. For enquirers with Protestant backgrounds, we will consider the deepest truths of the faith which establishes a radical difference between Catholic Christianity and non-Catholic Christianity. With this understanding, we will consider some of the most frequently asked questions concerning the faith. Emphasis will be placed on answers that are easily understood and remembered.

Presenter: Father Michael Sweeney, pastor of Blessed Sacrament in Harriman, St. Ann Church in Lansing, and St. Christopher Church in Jamestown and Chaplain: State Prison Complex - Wartburg, Tennessee

Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers

Summary: A few years back, the USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church came out with a document called *Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers*. This document is very fitting for our time and can be applied to a range of ministries serving all different ages. In this session, we will explore some of the key points of this document such as understanding culture, developing intercultural competence, and exploring ecclesial integration and inclusion. Be prepared to

hear specific examples in each of these categories of personal experiences working with the Latino/Hispanic community and to celebrate the beauty and JOY that different cultures bring to our Church.

Presenter: Brittany García, Coordinator of Pastoral Juvenil Hispana in the Diocese of Knoxville

Challenge and Conquest Youth Ministry Introduction

Summary: Challenge and Conquest have proven to be a successful youth ministry option for the past 15 years in the US and Canada. This is small group mentoring and peer ministry for K-12 grades where everything is done in teams especially the meeting activities and apostolic service projects. The youth minister and Adult mentors work with the teen leaders training them and helping them to prepare to lead each meeting. In this way the youth group could be large in number but no one feels lost in the crowd because they are part of a team with a team leader looking out for them. Peer mentoring is not only a life changing experience for the teen leaders, it truly makes an impact on the younger participants when they learn about their faith and see positive role models in their team leaders who are only a few years older than they are. In this way we are trying to fulfill the call of Pope Francis when he stated, “Much more than the promotion of a series of activities for young people, this ministry consists in walking with them, accompanying them personally in the complex and at times difficult contexts in which they are immersed.”

Presenter: Margaret Merrill has nine years of youth ministry in the diocese. 7 years running a Challenge and Conquest program and for the last year helping other parishes throughout the diocese implement this program.

Connections: Knowing the Faith, Teaching Your Kids, Changing the Culture

Summary: Secular research has confirmed what common sense has already taught us – the more integrated a child’s education is, the more effective it will be. If a child learns something at school that is reinforced at home, and at Church, and in the community, etc. it will be a lesson that forms the child for years to come. Soon to be canonized Blessed Pope Paul VI said it best in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” To teach our modern children the faith, we must first know it ourselves, and more importantly, live it in our homes and in public. If we can help our children make connections to their faith in their daily experience and provide opportunities to constantly reinforce those lessons, we will be helping to form disciples for our Lord and we might even influence our culture.

Presenter: Andy Zengel, Principal of Saint Joseph School

CREED, Family Catechesis

Summary: The purpose of Family Catechesis is to bring the entire Catholic Family, both parents and children and even grandparents, in one place to experience a facet of the Catholic Faith such as the importance of Mary during the month of May and the making of home May Altars for Mary. With Family Catechesis we give Catholic parents some tools to teach the faith to their children within the family home as well as giving some fun experience, craft, or learning experience to the children during the same session. During this session we will explain our trial and error lessons in finding the best approach for our parish as well as activities for younger children.

Presenters: Jill St. Yves, Director of Religious Education at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Lenoir City and Judy Buscetta an experienced catechist.

Discussion Tips for Youth and Adult Leaders

Summary: Are you looking for ways to get a good discussion going? Arlene Webb will show you tried and true methods to help your learners feel more comfortable in sharing their thoughts and experiences. You will have a chance to practice a few as well.

Presenter: Mrs. Arlene Webb has served as a religious educator for 44 years. She worked as a Director of Religious Education for the US Army for 33 years, both in Germany and the US. Her final assignments were at the US Military Academy, West Point, NY and Ft. Campbell, KY. Arlene has also worked as a religious educator in North Carolina at the parish and diocesan level. She retired from full time work in 2015, but still enjoys being a guest speaker and workshop presenter. Arlene is a graduate of Duke University and earned her master’s in religious education from Boston College. She is a parishioner at St. Stephen’s Parish in Chattanooga.

Exploring the Vocation of Marriage through the Lens of our Family of Origin

Summary: Our family of origin, the family in which we were raised, has a profound influence on us that lasts throughout our lifetime. This is where your image of how life should be is shaped, and how you and others should behave and react. Your attitudes toward marriage are also strongly affected by how you experienced life and relationships in your family of origin. This session will explore the concept of marriage preparation, which begins in early childhood and can influence a person in positive and negative ways for married life.

Presenter: Marian Christiana, Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment Director, Diocese of Knoxville

Fostering Vocations

Summary: We will break part of this session into how to discern your vocation and the other part into how parishes/ youth ministry/ faith formation/ schools can promote vocations in their parishes, schools, ministries and programs.

Presenter: Beth Parsons, manager of the Diocesan Office of Vocations and Smokey Mountain Deanery Coordinator for Youth Ministry and Fr. Michael Hendershott, associate pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville and Associate Vocation Director for the Diocese of Knoxville.

Forming Missionary Disciples

Summary: In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis writes, “The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice (24).” This session will have a discussion on how to form missionary disciples who are prepared to “take the first step” in bringing global solidarity to life in their parishes and schools.

Presenter: Kathy Montag has been serving as the Catholic Relief Services Capacity Building Specialist for the Archdiocese of Atlanta as well as in other cities throughout the southeast for four years, working tirelessly sharing the Gospel of Christ through Catholic Social Teaching, Global Solidarity as well as Advocacy (just to mention of few). Her work with CRS brings a wealth of knowledge including immigration, human trafficking, health and sanitation and during a recent trip to Rwanda – peacebuilding. Kathy is passionate about sharing stories about our poorest brothers and sisters around the world, and how we – as the Catholic Church in the United States – are called to be the global hands and feet of Christ. Kathy is a graduate of the University of Florida and holds a Master Certificate in Youth Ministry from the University of Dayton. She and her husband Jack reside in Kennesaw, GA and have three young adult children. They have been married 26 years and serve at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Marietta, GA.

Hands on Help for Catechists

Summary: Join us for a lively, practical presentation of teaching tips that you can put to use immediately in your classroom. Arlene Webb will demonstrate easy to use techniques that will build your confidence, develop your skills and enable you to lead your students with joy and enthusiasm. This session will benefit both new and experienced catechists, plus those who train them.

Presenter: Mrs. Arlene Webb has served as a religious educator for 44 years. She worked as a Director of Religious Education for the US Army for 33 years, both in Germany and the US. Her final assignments were at the US Military Academy, West Point, NY and Ft. Campbell, KY. Arlene has also worked as a religious educator in North Carolina at the parish and diocesan level. She retired from full time work in 2015, but still enjoys being a guest speaker and workshop presenter. Arlene is a graduate of Duke University and earned her master’s in religious education from Boston College. She is a parishioner at St. Stephen’s Parish in Chattanooga.

How the Domestic Church Can Help Keep Your Kids Catholic

Summary: The domestic church is the people of God gathered together as family within the four walls of their own home. This presentation will offer practical steps Catholic parents can take in their own homes and in the life of their family to pass on the faith to their children in a way that will stick, increasing the likelihood that children who are Catholic will grow up to become adults who are Catholic. “The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children” (*Lumen Gentium*, #11).

Presenter: Bob Hunt is a Registered Nurse who has been teaching the Catholic faith for over thirty-five years, as a CCD teacher, Adult Faith Formation instructor, Catholic school teacher, and homeschooling father. He is author of *Thy Word: An Introduction to the Bible for People in the Pews* and blogs at “thoughtsandwordsforthefaithful.wordpress.com/blog/”. Bob lives in Knoxville with his wife and daughters.

Intercultural Competence for Ministry

Summary: Introduction to a transformative process that seeks to increase the participant’s level of awareness and proficiency in working, relating and communicating across cultural boundaries. Participants will be introduced to the basic elements of intercultural competence that will help them to increase their capacity to welcome, receive, and encourage all emerging cultural groups in the ministry setting.

Presenter: Lizett Farias, Assistant Director of the Congar Institute. She was born and raised in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico and migrated to the United States in her teenage years. She is bilingual (English/Spanish), bi-cultural (Mexican-American), wife, and mother of two teenagers. Lizett has a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology from Cloverdale Ecumenical College, a Certificate in Religious Studies from the University of the Incarnate Word and a Master’s of Art in Pastoral Ministry from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. Lizett has more than 18 years of pastoral ministry experience both in Mexico and the United States. She has been a part of the Congar Institute team since January 2012 and now serves as Assistant Director.

Joy: The Mark of the Christian

Summary: Uniquely among Christian traditions, our Catholic faith not only teaches joy as a virtue but provides us with an understanding of human nature that makes true joy indispensable. It is the hallmark of the Catholic life well-lived. In this

session we will consider the nature of true joy and why it is essential in Catholic life. We will take a look at how we might build our own lives around joy. We will identify the obstacles modern life presents and ways to deal with them. Finally, we will outline ways to help us be sustained in joy despite the challenges and uncertainties of life.

Presenter: Father Michael Sweeney, pastor of Blessed Sacrament in Harriman, St. Ann Church in Lansing, and St. Christopher Church in Jamestown and Chaplain: State Prison Complex - Wartburg, Tennessee

Learn to Teach as Jesus Taught

Summary: Jesus taught using a multi-sensory, multiple intelligence model and you can too! Come see how to teach as Jesus taught.

Presenter: Barb Robless is an experienced catechetical leader and workshop presenter. She is a Secular Franciscan and has a Master's Degree in Christian spirituality from Loyola Institute for Ministry. Her achievements include: creating an experiential based Franciscan Vacation Bible school program, presenting motivational presentations and enrichment workshops on catechetical best practices, the Person and Mission of Jesus, the Sacraments, the New Evangelization and Franciscan Spirituality, the Spirituality of Your Family, and Fashioning a Eucharistic People.

Ministry with and to Young Adults: Challenges and Opportunities

Summary: In October, bishops from around the world will gather in Rome for the *2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. This presentation will examine the unique challenges and opportunities of ministry with and to young adults. We will also discuss the preparatory documents of the synod, as well as strategies for engaging and reaching young adults in our local parishes. This session will be led by Dave Wells, Adult Faith Formation Director at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville. Recently, the Cathedral was chosen to participate in the Young Adult Initiative of St. Meinrad's Seminary and School of Theology.

Presenter: Dave Wells, Adult Faith Formation Director at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Knoxville

Rosary and Icons – Enrichment for our Prayer and Healing of Memory

Summary: Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen stressed that in dealing with vices or harsh memories one should not try to drive them out of their life but to instead “crowd them out” with the “expulsive power” of a new and greater love, with a new and greater memory. How do we cultivate and nurture this greater love, this greater memory? If one takes the suggestion of St. John Paul II, praying the Rosary with the aid of Icons for each of its mysteries is a powerful way. As Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, keeping the memory of Jesus impressed upon her heart (cf. Lk 2:19, 51), so she desires to help us to keep Him impressed upon our hearts and in our memory. Participants will receive a colored booklet entitled, “Icons and the Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary,” depicting sacred images of each of the mysteries prayed in the Rosary. The presentation is an opportunity to reflect more upon the beautiful marriage of the Rosary and Icons so as to help make the memory of God's love and mercy ever greater than any memory of sin or pain.

Presenter: Paul D. Simoneau LtCol USMC (Ret.), Vice Chancellor for Administration, and Director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Knoxville.

Sharing Our Faith with Non-Catholics

Summary: In the Knoxville Diocese, we are only about 2.7% Catholic. So as Catholics, do we simply ignore the 97.3% of non-Catholics in our neighborhoods? Jesus said -- "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). This session will focus on simple, practical, and effective ways to share our Catholic faith with non-Catholics. We will learn about the importance of developing friendships and gaining trust with our non-Catholic brothers and sisters, so that misconceptions of Catholicism can gradually be broken down. Toward the end of this presentation, there will be a question and answer period.

Presenter: Brother Craig Digmann, (Glenmary Home Missioners), "Catholic Presence Outreach Minister" to Hancock County TN.

Strengthening Parents to Keep their Kids Catholic

Summary: In this session, we will look at some of the challenges for today's parents and what can be done at a parish level to support and build up the family and build the trust of the parent/child relationship. Particularly in the adolescent years, the child begins to draw their identity as distinct from their parents. We will look at how parish ministries support parents but never replace them in the raising of holy children and how we can encourage parents to prioritize their activities around Mass and prayer.

Presenter: Jason Gale is the Director of the Catechist Formation Program at Aquinas College. He is married with 5 children and lives in Dickson, TN. He has earned degrees in Theology and Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville as well as a Master's Degree in Theology and earned an Ecclesial License in Catechetics from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, UK.

The Byzantine Catholic Churches

Summary: The *one* Catholic Church is a communion of more than twenty individual churches. Each church within the Catholic communion has its own liturgy, spirituality, discipline, and theological emphasis. While most Christians in the United States are familiar with the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church, this session will introduce participants to some of the *other* Catholic

Churches. Particular emphasis will be placed on exploring the differences and complementarity between the Latin and Byzantine Rites.

Presenter: Fr. Richard Armstrong, Diocesan Assistant Director of Christian Formation, Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Knoxville, Pastoral Administrator of St. Therese Church in Clinton, and St. Joseph Church in Norris.

Using Scripture in a Small Group Setting

Summary: Based on the 5th chapter in the Gospel of Luke, this presentation is on how to bring Scripture into a small group/faith formation group. It will be presented as a practical instruction on how to prepare a passage from Scripture within a youth group setting or adult formation.

Presenter: Sister Anna Marie McGuan, RSM, SSL, Director of the Office of Christian Formation, Diocese of Knoxville. Studied Theology and Sacred Scripture in Rome, finishing her license at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 2016.