

## 2019 Diocesan Catechetical Conference, Saturday, November 16, 2019

Sheraton Reston, Virginia

"Stay With Us" – Workshop descriptions

---

### **VERY REV. WILLIAM P. SAUNDERS, PH.D.**

*For nearly twenty years, Fr. Saunders has served as founding Pastor of Our Lady of Hope in Potomac Falls. Born in Washington DC and raised in Springfield, he was ordained in 1984 and served in various capacities at St. Mary, Marymount University, Queen of Apostles, the Notre Dame Institute for Catechetics, and the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College. He holds a doctorate in Education Administration from The Catholic University of America and has been a long-time columnist for the Arlington Catholic Herald; many of his early columns were published as Straight Answers (1998) and Straight Answers II (2003) and are available on the EWTN website. At the end of next month, TAN Books will publish Fr. Saunders' newest book, Celebrating a Merry Catholic Christmas: A Guide to the Customs and Feast Days of Advent and Christmas. Fr. Saunders is currently the Episcopal Vicar for Faith Formation for the Diocese of Arlington.*

### **Learning from the Early Church: What we believe, we always have; what we have done, we always did.**

People will ask, "Why do you Catholics believe this? Why do you do this?" The answer is simple: "Because we always have." To substantiate the answer, we need the evidence. Learn the evidence provided by the Church during its first 300 years of living the faith revealed by our Savior.

### **REV. ALAN VENTURA**

#### **Información biográfica:**

*Diócesis de pertenencia: Sacerdote de la Diócesis de Zacatecoluca en El Salvador.*

*Grados académicos obtenidos: Licenciatura en Filosofía por la Universidad de la Santa Cruz en Roma. Licenciatura en Sagrada Escritura por el Pontificio Instituto Bíblico en Roma.*

*Cargos desempeñados en El Salvador: Profesor de Sagrada Escritura en diferentes Centros de Formación para futuros sacerdotes, así como también en la Universidad Don Bosco. Vicario parroquial en algunas parroquias de la Diócesis.*

*Cargo actual: Vicario parroquial en San Antonio de Padua.*

### **Título de la presentación: El camino a Emaús. Un enfoque bíblico y litúrgico de la existencia cristiana junto a Jesús.**

Jesús ha querido quedarse junto a nosotros, y lo ha hecho de diferentes maneras. A partir del texto de Lucas 24,13-35 vamos a ilustrar dos modos especiales de esa permanencia de Jesús junto a sus discípulos. En la primera parte veremos la importancia de estar familiarizados con los grandes temas de la Biblia para una mejor comprensión y exposición de la Palabra de Dios. De esta manera, comprenderemos mejor cómo Jesús decidió caminar juntos a nosotros como Maestro que nos instruye con su Palabra. En la segunda parte nos concentraremos en la dimensión litúrgico-celebrativa del significado de la acción de Jesús de "partir el pan". Por medio de esta acción Jesús no solamente nos alimenta con sus enseñanzas, sino que también se hace El mismo alimento para sus discípulos peregrinos. Es así como Jesús es presentado por Lucas como Maestro y Alimento para sus discípulos.

---

## **REV. HENRY RIVERA**

### ***Información biográfica.***

*Sacerdote Diocesano ordenado en El Salvador el 4 de Diciembre de 2010, perteneciente a la Diócesis de Sonsonate. Después de haber completado los estudios de Filosofía y Teología en el Seminario Mayor San José de la Montaña, obtuvo el título de Licenciado en Ciencias Religiosas por la Universidad Católica de El Salvador. Fue vicario parroquial de Catedral Santísima Trinidad, parroquia San Silvestre, Sonsonate, El Salvador.*

### **Título de la presentación: Se apareció a los que El quiso. Act. 10:41.**

El objetivo de esta presentación es hacer conciencia de la presencia real de Cristo Resucitado en medio de la comunidad, tomando en cuenta la experiencia misionera de San Pablo en las primeras comunidades cristianas y así afrontar los retos y desafíos en el tiempo actual en la transmisión de la fe, para que Cristo Resucitado se quede, viva y camine en medio de la comunidad.

---

## **JAMES M. STARKE, PH.D.**

*James is the Director of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Arlington. He received a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Saint Louis University in Missouri. After moving to Washington for his Master of Arts in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology at the Catholic University of America (CUA), he served as Assistant to the Director of Liturgy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. While completing his Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology at CUA, James taught courses in theological foundations, liturgy and sacraments, and theology and science. His primary research interests include liturgical tradition, methodology in liturgical theology, sacramentality, ecclesiology, and ecology. His most recent contributions to scholarship include works on the ecclesiology of liturgical tradition and the history, theology, and practice of the dedication of a church and an altar. He lives with his wife Megan, and their son, Leo, in Arlington, where they are parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes.*

### **Eucharist in the First Five Centuries**

An overview of the celebration of the Eucharist as recorded in Sacred Scripture through the Patristic Fathers.

---

## **ANDREW MONTANARO, PH.D.**

*Andrew Montanaro is a professor of Scripture at Christendom Graduate School of Theology. He received his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He is interested in serving the Church in her mission of evangelization and catechesis primarily by teaching Scripture in accordance with Catholic principles for interpretation.*

### **The Credibility of the Gospels**

The Gospels “have a special preeminence” among all of Scripture, and they “are the principal witness for the life and teachings of the incarnate Word” and “the foundation of faith” (*Dei Verbum* 18). However, in the modern era, questions have been raised about the very reliability of the Gospel accounts. Many want to know if the Gospels are historically true. Having a firm grasp on the abundant evidence supporting the historical reliability and veracity of the Gospels is essential for evangelization and catechesis. This presentation explores this evidence in order to support teachers of the faith in building up the Church.

## **DEACON MARQUES (ROBERT) SILVA**

*Deacon Silva frequently speaks and teaches on topics related to Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body, Christian leadership, and Evangelization. He graduated with a BS from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and completed his diaconal studies through Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College. He has extensive experience in youth and college outreach and evangelization ministry and is currently Director for Child Protection and Safety for the Diocese of Arlington. Deacon Silva is assigned to St. Leo the Great parish in Fairfax. He is father to four great kids and husband to his beautiful wife Christine.*

## **FRANK MONCHER, PH.D.**

*Frank Moncher received his Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1992, following which he spent several years on faculty of the Medical College of Georgia. In 2000 he began to teach at a graduate school of psychology which has a mission of integrating the science of psychology in the context of the Catholic Christian view of the human person. He is licensed as a clinical psychologist in Virginia and Washington, D.C. Over the past 15 years, he has consulted in diocesan marriage tribunals, and with religious orders and dioceses to provide psychological evaluations of candidates for religious life. Since 2010, Dr. Moncher has worked for the Diocese of Arlington and Catholic Charities as a psychologist and consultant, most recently being named as the Victim Assistance Coordinator to assist those who have experienced abuse. Frank has published in journals and contributed to book chapters on topics related to children, families, and religion.*

### **A Challenge to Christian Anthropology: Dialogue on Gender and Sexual Attractio (This workshop will be conducted by both Deacon Silva and Dr. Frank Moncher)**

A review of the implications of Catholic Christian Anthropology for understanding how to discuss and analyze current societal trends in gender and sexual ideology. The emphasis will be on giving catechists the language and rationale to teach the truth of the Catholic understanding when facing common challenges that are raised.

---

## **SAMANTHA WELSH**

*Samantha is the Director of Religious Education (DRE) for All Saints Catholic Church and is a board member of the Catechetical Leaders of the Diocese of Arlington. She holds a BA in history and a M.A. in Theology from Wheeling Jesuit University. She has been the DRE for All Saints since 2009; she previously worked for the Diocese of Wheeling, Charleston as a Vicariate Faith Formation Consultant. For 5 years she taught in Catholic high schools in Virginia and Maryland. She lives in beautiful Front Royal, Virginia with her husband and their two cats.*

### ***Managing and Integrating Spanish and English Religious Education Programs***

This workshop will explore the how to's and best practices for managing and integrating Spanish and religious education programs to create a consistent unified parish program.

**NANCY J. EMANUEL, PH.D.**

*Nancy currently works for the Diocese of Arlington as the Coordinator for Special Needs Ministries. Previously, she taught special education in several public schools and most recently was the Department Supervisor of Special Education in Manassas, VA. Nancy is originally from Massachusetts and holds a B.A. in History/U.S. Government from Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, M.A., an M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. in Special Education and Educational Leadership from George Mason University, Virginia. Nancy also served in the United States Navy for nine years as a Russian Linguist. She and her husband have two adult children, three cats, and a dog. Nancy finds peace working in the soil and is a Master Gardener.*

**Special Religious Development (SPRED) IS Religious Education! Strategies and Methods to Share Our Catholic Faith with People with Disabilities.**

This presentation will explore the design of the SPRED program, how it works to serve those with disabilities and will explore several methods to effectively share our Catholic faith through inclusive and specialized instruction.

---

**COLLEEN ROONEY**

*Colleen Rooney has a M.A. in Theology from St. John's University, Jamaica, NY. While there, she studied under Msgr. Eugene Kevane, Fr. John Hardon, S.J., and Fr. Robert Bradley, S.J. She has taught the faith in schools and parish religious education programs: New York, Virginia, and Vermont. She is the author of Celebrating Advent and Christmas with Children and gives talks on Catholic food traditions and customs to home school groups, RCIA classes and for Mary Washington Campus Ministry. She writes Gospel reflections for Catholic Mom online and is a tour guide at the Basilica National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Colleen and her husband, Bob, are parents of four adult children and nine grandchildren.*

**Jesus as a Boy in First-Century Palestine**

This workshop offers background information via a PowerPoint on the history, geography, and religious life of the first-century Jewish community that Jesus lived in, and provides tangible examples of the food, clothing, housing, games and religious artifacts that would have been a part of his everyday life. Resources are available online for the catechists to print off: coloring pages, patterns for a Jewish boy and girl and their clothing, instructions for a model of a first-century Jewish home for younger students. For older students, activity sheets which compare the food, clothing, games, housing and religious practices of Jesus' times with the students' food, clothing, housing, games, and religious practices of Catholics today.

## **COLETTE LIENHARD**

*Colette Lienhard is the Director of the Catholic Education Center (est. 2006), which offers online classes that can be applied to catechist certification in the Diocese of Arlington. She also serves as the Special Consultant for Catechetics for the Diocese. Colette's Catechetical Ministry experience includes parish ministry as a DRE, school ministry as an Assistant Principal, home-school mom, and as author of religious education materials, including textbooks. She lives in Warrenton with her husband, Jonathan and their three sons.*

### **Policies, Paperwork, and Productivity – Making administration work for you!**

This is the perfect refresher course in all things administration! Come learn what that new Faith Formation Policies require, how to record Sacraments, and methods to efficiently handle necessary paperwork. This class will be a workshop, and Colette will answer questions. Priority will be given to DRE's.

---

## **PETER RYAN**

*Peter Ryan is a Catholic husband, father of four, and retired Navy Captain who currently serves in the Pentagon as a defense contractor. Upon graduation from VA Tech in 1986, Peter was commissioned an officer in the US Navy. He began his career with an assignment to naval flight school in Pensacola Florida and eventually became a Naval Flight Officer in the E-2C Hawkeye. Following flight training, he was assigned to various locations around the country and flew off of various aircraft carriers and in combat missions in Operation Desert Storm. He had a brief break in service in 1998 during which time he worked as a financial analyst at Newport News, Virginia.*

*He rejoined active service in 2000 and transitioned into Navy financial management in the Pentagon where he served until retirement after 28 years of active service. He is a highly experienced DoD Financial Manager who previously held positions as Director of Finance, Senior Financial Manager, Senior Financial Analyst, and Program Manager. During his Navy career, he married his lovely wife of 25 years (Gina), and they are blessed with four children ages (23 – 15). Observing the impacts of excess personal technology consumption on his family during the latter portions of his Navy career, he began to dig more deeply into this topic. As a result, he is in the process of founding a non-profit to address this issue.*

### **EDUCATION**

*MBA, Mason School of Business, College of William and Mary – 2000; MA, Strategic Planning, Naval Postgraduate School – 1993; BA, Chemistry, Virginia Tech - 1986*

### **Personal Technology Addiction**

Peter Ryan is a Catholic husband and father of four who is in the process of founding LookUp4Life, a non-profit organization focused on spreading awareness regarding the negative impact of excess personal technology use (video games, social media, pornography), particularly on the youngest generations. He recently authored "Technology, the New Addiction," which was published in the September 2018 edition of the U.S. Navy Journal "Proceedings." Based on his research, experience, and engagement on this topic with professionals in the community, he'll be offering practical advice for more safely implementing technology use in families and best practices for protecting yourself, your children, and your students from its harmful effects. Ultimately, excess personal technology use pulls people away from Christ.

## **STEVE HEMLER**

*Steven Hemler is President of the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America ([www.cainaweb.org](http://www.cainaweb.org)) and author of *The Reality of God: The Layman's Guide to Scientific Evidence for the Creator and Search No More: The Keys to Truth and Happiness*, both published by TAN Books. Steve has a Master of Pastoral Studies degree from Loyola University of Chicago and is actively involved in adolescent and adult catechesis for over 30 years. This includes developing and teaching online seminars for the Certificate in Apologetics offered by Catholic Distance University. Steve and his wife Linda live in Culpeper and are active at Precious Blood Catholic Church, where Steve serves as the Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation.*

### **Why We Need the Church: Being "Spiritual" Is Not Enough**

A vital part of the New Evangelization today is addressing why it is important to actively participate in the life of the Church. That's because many Catholics today consider themselves to be "spiritual but not religious" and do not see a need to go to Mass. Surveys show that over half of American adults do not regularly attend church and only 20% of Catholics born after 1970 attend Mass. Surprisingly, about two-thirds of those who do not attend church believe that God exists and consider themselves to be Christian. This apologetics presentation will help parents, catechists, teachers, and others respond to this contemporary situation by exploring key reasons why we still need the Church today. By unraveling the importance and theology of the Mass, this multimedia presentation will strengthen the practice of our Faith and provide helpful information for sharing with those who do not fully understand the value of attending Mass.

---

## **IGNATIUS PRESS**

**Presenter: Julie Johnson**

*Julie Johnson has 25 years of experience using Faith and Life either as a catechist, DRE or, as an educational consultant. Julie has been a national speaker for Faith and Life and other topics in religious education. She holds a B.A. in Education and a M.A. in Theology with an emphasis in evangelization and catechesis.*

### **The Faith and Life Series by Ignatius Press**

The Faith and Life Series is a comprehensive catechetical series that presents the faith through the lens of salvation history, where God's plan of love becomes the story of each student. Learn how to effectively implement the Faith and Life Series using the new Parish Catechist Manual. See that new online resources are available plus an interactive online edition of Faith and Life.

## **LOYOLA PRESS**

**Presenter:** *Paul Gallagher*

*Paul Gallagher is the Regional Sales Manager for Loyola Press. He was a longtime Director of Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He holds a doctorate from the Catholic University of America. Paul's parish used Christ Our Life, both in Religious Education and at their school throughout his time as DRE.*

### **Christ Our Life: Fostering Children's love of God and Knowledge of our Catholic Faith**

Christ Our Life, one of the approved Catechetical Programs for the Diocese of Arlington, ensures knowledge of our faith, a firm sense of Catholic identity lived out in daily life, and an enthusiastic response by children in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, and their families. Paul Gallagher will provide an overview of the content and discuss the variety of teaching methods available, along with robust online content.

## **SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS**

**Presenter:** *Mrs. Veronica Burchard*

*Veronica Cruz Burchard is Vice President for Education Programs at Sophia Institute for Teachers, a project of Sophia Institute Press. Veronica oversees the Institute's catechetical programs for Catholic educators and develops resources to help engage teachers and students alike with the Catholic Faith. After raising her sons in Fairfax, VA for fourteen years, the family moved to New Hampshire to join Sophia's headquarters in Nashua. But a piece of her heart will always be in NoVA.*

### **Beholding the Beautiful: Sacred Art and Catechesis**

Learn easy and practical ways to use sacred art as a teaching tool. By asking the right questions and presenting interesting pairings of paintings, you can lead your students to a greater understanding of Scripture and even the most nuanced theological doctrines. Through it all, disposing our students to the true, the good, and the beautiful disposes them to divine, and helps them grow in their love for Christ and His Church.

## **CATHOLIC FAITH TECHNOLOGIES**

**Presenter: Jake Schmitz**

*Jake Schmitz is the Director of Business Development for Catholic Faith Technologies and CD2 Learning. As a former seminarian, he spent eight years studying Humanities and Philosophy in Mexico, Spain, and Italy. After teaching Spanish for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, he ended up at a tech consulting startup where he became a certified CRM Administrator and Developer. Now he aids dioceses across the country helping them implement Catholic Faith Technology's enterprise faith formation platform.*

### **Faith and Life Online: Meeting Kiddos and Their Parents Where They're At**

“Flipping the classroom” has been the latest buzzword in the educational field for a few years now. We can use this new approach to improving parish religious education and engaging our children in the Faith. The flipped classroom inverts traditional teaching methods by delivering instruction online, allowing the student to cover material with their parents in the comfort of their home with engaging, online interactive content. We will go over the five key benefits to this approach and how you can implement it in your religious education program.