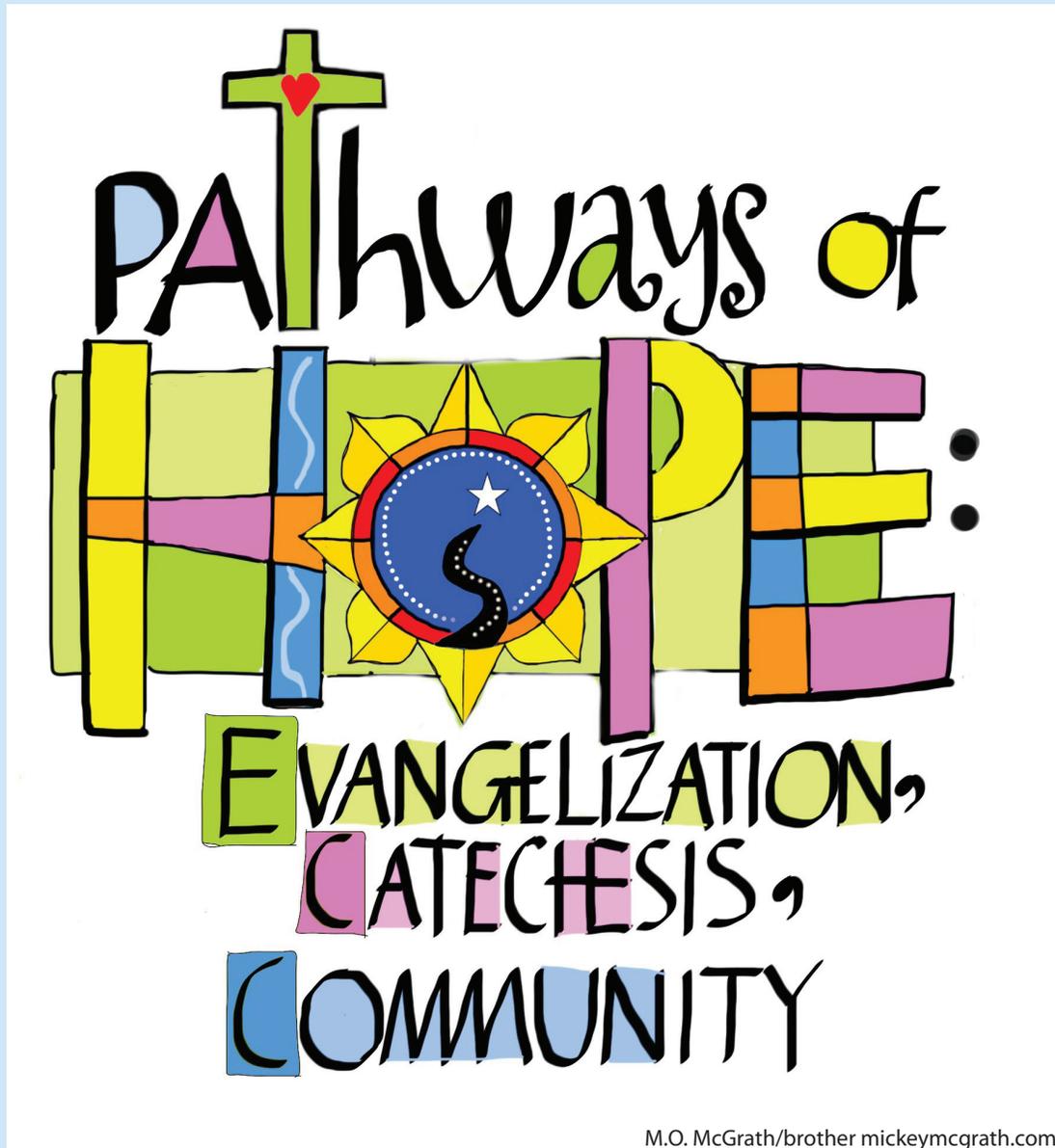


# Convocation 2017

New England Convocation for Catechetical Leadership

REGISTER ONLINE: [necddre.org](http://necddre.org)



M.O. McGrath/brother mickeymcgrath.com

## Senderos de Esperanza: Evangelización, Catequesis, Comunidad

Thursday, August 10 - Saturday, August 12, 2017  
Springfield Marriott Hotel  
2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115



Designed for:  
Parish Catechetical Leaders, Youth  
Ministers, Confirmation Coordinators, RCIA  
Coordinators, Priests and Deacons.

# Conference Agenda

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.<br>11:30 - 12:00 p.m. | <b>PRE CONFERENCE SESSIONS</b><br>Session 1: Flocknote Presentation or Facebook Workshop<br>Session 2: Flocknote Presentation or Facebook Workshop |
| 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.                         | WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER   |
| GENERAL SESSION 1<br>1:30 - 2:30 p.m.    | <b>Families at the Center of Faith Formation</b><br><b>John Roberto</b>  |
| 2:30 - 3:00 p.m.                         | BREAK/VENDORS/PUBLISHER SHOWCASE   |
| 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.                         | <b>WORKSHOPS - ROUND A</b>   |
| 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.<br>5:30 p.m.            | BREAK/VENDORS/PUBLISHER SHOWCASE<br>DINNER   |
| GENERAL SESSION 2<br>7:00 - 8:00 p.m.    | <b>Beyond Ordinary: God's Love for Us is EXTRAORDINARY</b><br><b>John Angotti</b>  |

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 7:45 a.m.                             | BREAKFAST   |
| 8:45 a.m.                             | MUSIC WITH JOHN ANGOTTI<br>FOLLOWED BY OPENING PRAYER   |
| GENERAL SESSION 3<br>9:30 a.m.        | <b>From Evangelization to Community: Challenges in a Digital Age</b><br><b>Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne</b> |
| 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.                    | COFFEE BREAK  |
| 11:00 - 12:30 noon                    | <b>WORKSHOPS - ROUND B</b>  |
| 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.                     | LUNCH   |
| GENERAL SESSION 4<br>2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | <b>The Parish and the RCIA: Catechumens, Candidates, and Community</b><br><b>Rita Thiron</b>                  |
| 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.                      | VENDORS   |
| 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.                      | LITURGY, ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL   |
| 5:45 - 6:30 p.m.                      | RECEPTION   |
| 6:30 p.m.                             | DINNER  |
| 8:00 p.m.                             | <b>CONCERT</b><br><b>John Angotti</b>   |

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2017

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 8:00 a.m.                               | BREAKFAST   |
| 9:15 - 10:45 a.m.                       | <b>WORKSHOPS - ROUND C</b>  |
| GENERAL SESSION 5<br>11:00 - 12:00 noon | <b>Engaging Parents in the Journey:<br/>Rethinking How We Do What We do to "Build Parent Capacity"</b><br><b>John Collins</b> |
| 12:00 p.m.                              | THANK YOU, SENDING FORTH, CLOSING PRAYER  |
| 12:30 p.m.                              | LUNCH   |

# Session & Workshop Details

Thursday, August 10, 2017

## PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

*These topics are offered twice during the pre-conference sessions.*

### **Flocknote: Reaching Your Flock**

Learn how this communication tool can engage and enliven your parish community. A representative from Flocknote will be present for the whole Convocation.

### **Facebook: Social Media and the Good News**

Learn some basics about using Facebook to increase your presence in the digital world and enhance your ministry.

## GENERAL SESSION 1

### **Families at the Center of Faith Formation**

*John Roberto*

*President, LifelongFaith Associates*

This presentation is guided by the conviction that families are at the center of Christian faith formation; that parents and the family are the most powerful influence for virtually every child and youth outcome—personal, academic, social, and spiritual-religious; and that parents are the most important influence on the social and religious lives of children, youth, and emerging adults. Discover the transformations that need to happen to make families the center of faith formation and effectively promote parent and family growth in faith and discipleship. Learn about approaches and practices for faith formation with 21st century families.

## WORKSHOPS – ROUND A

### **(A1) Revitalizing your Parish with SCCs, Part One**

*Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P.*

*Director, Church Leadership Consultation*

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) are not just for Advent or Lent. They are a great way to engage parishioners in deepening faith and participating in parish ministry. SCCs have a great appeal for parents, catechists, and young adults and provide a way to gather them. This workshop will offer insights into the “why” of SCCs as well as how to get started. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences.

### **(A2) Six Steps to Cultivate the Creative Catechist**

*Nancy Bird*

*Director, Training and Development, RCL Benzinger*

Looking for practical ways to motivate and inspire your catechists? You’ll leave this lively workshop with six simple suggestions to cultivate your own creativity and some practical ideas for encouraging and engaging your catechists to fully embrace their catechetical vocation.

### **(A3) Integrating Technology into Faith Formation**

*Sister Caroline Cerveny, SSJ-TOSF, D. Min*

*President, Digital Discipleship Boot Camp*

Rather than lament the loss of a 1950s model where churches were typically the center of social and cultural life in America, how do we adapt to a world where technology is an integral part of everyday life? What role does the ICT Technology Triangle play in today’s faith formation? To be relevant in today’s contemporary culture requires the use of technology in our ministry. What does that mean? How do we utilize Information Technology, Communications Technology, and Educational Technology (the ICT Triangle) in our ministries? Come to learn how to sow the seeds of

the good news in the different types of soil that form the contemporary digital culture.

### **(A4) The RCIA: What it is...what it is not.**

*Rita Thiron*

*Executive Director, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions*

Too often, the RCIA becomes another “program” at the parish -- competing for volunteers, meeting space, and a slot on the Sunday Mass schedule. But what is the Church’s vision for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults? The rite itself, provides the answers.

## GENERAL SESSION 2

### **Beyond Ordinary: God’s Love for Us Is EXTRAORDINARY**

*John Angotti*

*Music Missionary*

How does one develop awareness and a personal relationship with God? Through video, scripture, witness story, and song, this workshop will ignite ways to develop these awareness skills for youth and adults. John will show us how to cultivate our personal relationship with God in all aspects of daily life.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

## GENERAL SESSION 3

### **From Evangelization to Community: Challenges in a Digital Age**

*Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne*

*Bishop, Diocese of Burlington, VT*

In this presentation Bishop Coyne will explore how digital culture is both an object of evangelization - “Digital culture itself needs to be evangelized, needs to be changed by the message of Jesus Christ.” - and a vehicle for evangelization - “Digital culture can in so many dynamic and creative ways be a means of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and evangelizing people.”

## WORKSHOPS – ROUND B

### **(B1) The State of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs**

*Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski*

*Bishop, Diocese of Springfield, MA*

*Canon Karl Paul Donfried*

*Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Smith College*

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation of Martin Luther’s famous gesture of nailing his 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. This provides all Christians with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christ’s one body in a state of historical brokenness. The workshop offers an opportunity to reflect on the separation but also, and more importantly, on the tremendous work of reconciliation that has been and is being done in ecumenical and interreligious affairs.

### **(B2) Integrating Technology into Faith Formation (Repeat)**

*Sister Caroline Cerveny, SSJ-TOSF, D. Min*

*President, Digital Disciple Network*

See (A3) for the description.

### **(B3) Revitalizing your Parish with SCCs, Part Two**

*Sister Donna L. Ciangio, OP*

*Director of Church Leadership Consultation*

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) are not just for Advent or Lent. They are a great way to engage parishioners in deepening faith and participating in parish ministry. SCCs have a great appeal for parents, catechists, and young adults and provide a way to gather them. This workshop will offer insights into the “why” of SCCs as well as how to get started. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences.

### **(B4) Disciple Power: Nurturing Young Disciples to Live Their Faith**

*Nancy Bird*

*Director of Training and Development, RCL Benziger*

Youth today are plugged in and powered up! What can we do to help them develop skills, practice habits and strengthen their faith to live as disciples of Jesus in today's world? Join us for a lively and practical workshop to help your learners grow in their relationship with Jesus, accept the demands of discipleship, and choose each day to live as disciples!

## **GENERAL SESSION 4**

### **The Parish and the RCIA: Catechumens, Candidates, and Community**

*Rita Thiron*

*Executive Director, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions*

“The People of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptized. Therefore, the community must always be fully prepared in the pursuit of its apostolic vocation to give help to those who are searching for Christ. In the various circumstances of daily life... all the followers of Christ have the obligation of spreading the faith according to their abilities. Hence the entire community must help the candidates and catechumens through the process of initiation...”(RCIA 9). How then, is each member of the parish community invited to participate in the catechumenal process? How might the parish -- its members and its mission -- be strengthened in turn?

**Saturday, August 12, 2017**

## **WORKSHOPS – ROUND C**

### **(C1) El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica**

*Aida Hidalgo*

*Hispanic Consultant, Our Sunday Visitor*

“Exploremos la magnitud y lo esencial que el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos esta ofreciendo como líderes parroquiales. El CC. es la mejor herramienta que nos permite desglosar el Credo, los Mandamientos de la Ley de Dios y los Sacramentos.” Les invito a verlo más de cerca.

### **(C2) Catechesis with U.S.-Born Hispanic Children & Youth**

*Miriam Hidalgo*

*Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Hartford*

Hispanic children and youth are a gift to the Church! Currently, more than half of U.S. Hispanic Catholic youth were born in this country. This workshop will explore the different realities among U.S.-born Hispanics and discuss the different ways in which we can motivate and capacitate young Hispanics to use their gifts and become great bilingual and bicultural leaders in the Church.

### **(C3) Echoing the WORD: The Catechism, Transformation, Conversion**

*Sister Maureen Sullivan, OP, PhD.*

*National Consultant, William H. Sadlier Publishing Company*

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the time is right to look back on this moment in evangelization and explore some questions: why did the Bishops feel the need to publish a new Catechism, what do we really know about the Catechism, how do we incorporate this religious education tool into our catechesis, is it realistic to believe that an encounter with the Catechism can truly lead to an encounter with the living Christ? Only an affirmative answer to this final question is acceptable. All of us engaged in catechesis know the parable of the sower from Mark's gospel where, after telling this parable to a large crowd by the sea, Jesus concludes by saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” A catechist is meant to provoke an echo in the minds and hearts of those in their care so that they might experience a transformation, a conversion. Are those we serve in our ministries truly hearing, are they encountering the living Christ? These are the key questions to be discussed in this presentation.

### **(C4) RCIA as the Ministry of Accompaniment**

*Diana Gaillardetz*

*Pastoral Associate for Adults, Families, and Youth*

Pope Francis' uplifting vision for the church has opened up new possibilities for the RCIA process. Francis' emphasis on missionary discipleship and his call for the Church to go out and meet people where they are opens up new pathways for parish RCIA. This workshop will explore concrete ways you can reach out to the seekers, apprentice them in the faith and spice up your current and developing process.

## **GENERAL SESSION – 5**

### **Engaging Parents in the Journey: Rethinking HOW We Do WHAT We Do to “Build Parental Capacity”**

*John Collins*

*National Consultant with Sadlier Publishing Company*

Catechetical leaders continually try to encourage and engage parents in faith formation, some approaches more successful than others. But not all parents have the capacity to talk about, model, and witness their faith with their children. They need faith formation too. We need to focus more on how we build the capacity of parents rather than looking for a program that magically will make it happen. Our choices and decisions in program implementation (HOW we do WHAT we do) can work for or against parent engagement and involvement in the faith formation of their children. This session will help catechetical leaders reflect on “Pathways of Hope” that lead to building parental capacity to be the primary educators in the faith for their children. Participants will leave with ideas to consider for their pathways in their parish.