



NEW ENGLAND  
CONVOCAION  
FOR  
*Catechetical  
Leadership*



# **CATECHESIS, EVANGELIZATION AND TODAY'S CULTURE — THE TAPESTRY OF OUR LIVES —**

**August (10), 11, 12, 13, 2009**

**Springfield Marriott**

**Springfield, MA**

[www.necddre.org/programs](http://www.necddre.org/programs)

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Excellence in Catechesis



## Pre-Convocation

### Monday, August 10

11:00 am	Registration
1:00 pm	Welcome and Opening Prayer
1:15 pm	Session One
2:30 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Session One Continued
4:15 pm	Break
5:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Session Two
8:30 pm	Social

### Tuesday, August 11

8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:10 am	Session Three
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am	Session Three Continued
11:45 am	Closing Prayer
Noon	Lunch

## Scholarship Fund



It is our goal to make the New England Convocation available to all of the catechetical leaders in our dioceses. We understand that for some of our leaders, the cost will be a concern. To make the Convocation available to more people, we are happy to award a limited number of scholarships to those who exhibit a need. Scholarship applications are available from your Diocesan Director.

If you are able to contribute to the scholarship fund, please send a check payable to:

New England Convocation Scholarship Fund  
49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609

No contribution is too small!  
Thank you for your generosity.  
The Convocation Scholarship Committee

## For your Information

### \* Tax Deduction

Tax deductions may be taken for continuing professional education undertaken to maintain and improve professional skills. (IRS Reg. 1.162.5)

### \* Continuing Education

CEU's are available through the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Chicopee MA

### \* Spanish Simultaneous Translation Available



## Convocation

### Tuesday, August 11

11:00 am	Registration
Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Welcome Opening Prayer
1:45 pm	<b>Presentation: Twenty Years of Inspiration: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</b> (Sr. Sandra DeMasi)
2:45 pm	Break
3:00 pm	<b>Presentation (cont'd)</b>
4:00 pm	Break for check-in, displays
5:30 pm	Dinner
7:15 pm	<b>Workshops</b>
	▪ <u>Sr. Sandra DeMasi</u> : Oh No! What do I do with an unbaptized 12 year old?
	▪ <u>Rev. Alvaro Silva</u> (en español): La Belleza del Señor
	▪ <u>ValLimar Jansen, Tom Kendzia and Silvio Cuellar</u> : An Eminent Place - Liturgy and Music as Source and Summit

### Wednesday, August 12

8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am	Prayer
9:45 am	<b>Presentation: Using Images for Prayer</b> (Dr. Wendy Wright)
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	<b>Presentation (cont'd)</b>
Noon	Lunch
1:15 pm	<b>Workshops</b>
	▪ <u>Br. Mickey McGrath</u> : All that is Seen and Unseen
	▪ <u>Bob Cooney</u> : Generation NOW – Embrace the Times
	▪ <u>Carlos Aedo</u> (en español): Estrategias para Formar bien a nuestros Adultos
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	<b>Workshops</b>
	▪ <u>Dr. Wendy Wright</u> : A Spirituality of Family Life
	▪ <u>Bob Cooney</u> : Generation NOW – Embrace the Times
	▪ <u>Sr. Alejandra Keen</u> (español): Evangelizadores Permanentemente Evangelizados
4:00 pm	Break
5:00 pm	Liturgy – St. Francis Chapel
6:30 pm	Social
7:00 pm	Banquet
8:00 pm	<b>Concert</b> : Tom Kendzia and ValLimar Jansen

### Thursday, August 13

7:45 am	Breakfast: Coffee and...
8:15 am	Breakfast Meeting with NPCD
9:00 am	<b>Presentation: We are the Children of Hope and the Amazement of God</b> (Br. Mickey McGrath)
10:30 am	Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer
11:00 am	Brunch Buffet

## Pre-Convocation

### The RCIA: An Introduction

This track is designed for catechists who are new to the RCIA. Discernment, sources of catechesis, the importance of the ritual, calendar and mystagogy are among the topics that will be addressed in interactive sessions.



**REV. STANLEY J. SZCZAPA**, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Vernon, CT was ordained in 1971 and has been a pastor for twenty-five years. He holds a MA in Theology from the University of Detroit and has spent five summers studying liturgy at Santa Clara University in California. He has a wide range of experience and understanding of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, both as pastor and as a team member of both the

North American Forum on the Catechumenate and the Diocese of Norwich Evangelization and Catechumenate Commission.

### Evangelization and RCIA in Rural and Small Settings

This track will address the challenges and blessings of working with small numbers. Topics include: "rural principles" (what everybody needs to know), do's and don'ts, and evangelization in the RCIA.



**MSGR. MICHAEL CLAY, D.MIN.** is a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, NC. Ordained in 1980, he has served his diocese as pastor, director of liturgy, director of vocations and director of the permanent diaconate. He is currently pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church in Clayton, NC. He holds a doctorate from The Catholic University of America in liturgical studies with an emphasis on the RCIA

in rural and small town settings. He has presented workshops in over 50 dioceses in the USA and Canada on the pastoral implementation of the RCIA and is the author of *A Harvest for God: Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small Town Parish*.

## Convocation

### Sr. Sandra DeMasi



Sister Sandra is a Sister of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA. She has a BS in Education from Chestnut Hill College and an MA in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She has taught liturgy and catechesis in the pastoral ministry program at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University School of Theology and in the post baccalaureate certificate program at Felician College. She has taught in parochial schools in the diocese of Trenton, NJ and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA. She also served as a director of religious education in both the Archdioceses of Philadelphia and Newark.

Sister Sandra served for the past 13 years as the director of the Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. She is a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and a consultant for RCLBenziger Publishing Company. She has published articles in *Catechumenate*, *Living Light* and *Ministry & Liturgy*. Presently, she serves as pastoral associate for adult formation at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Jersey City and as pastoral associate for liturgy at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Short Hills.

### Dr. Wendy Wright



Wendy M. Wright holds a PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara and is currently Professor of Theology at Creighton University and holds the John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities. She also teaches regularly in several graduate ministerial programs including Creighton's Christian Spirituality Master's program and the National Methodist Academy for Spiritual Formation. Her expertise falls in the areas of history of spirituality, family spirituality, spiritual direction and women and spirituality. Her academic work has focused on the Salesian spiritual tradition founded by Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal. She is a frequent contributor to *Weavings* and *Family Ministry*. She and her husband, Roger Bergman, are the parents

of three young adults.

### Br. Mickey McGrath



Brother Mickey McGrath is an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who paints pictures, tells stories, and speaks at retreats and conferences around the country. Mickey has been Artist in Residence at the Washington Theological Union and for twenty years has taught art and prayer workshops at the Grunewald Guild, an ecumenical art community in Leavenworth, WA. He also creates art for many of today's leading Catholic publishers, including Crossroads Press, *America*, St. Mary's Press, Harcourt Religion, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Tom Kendzia



Tom Kendzia has been a professional liturgical musician for over 30 years. In 2005, he celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of his first collection, "Light of the World." He has appeared in concert and as a speaker throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Far East, and he is regularly featured at national conferences. Since 2002, Tom has been the music and worship director of the East Coast Conference for Religious Education, and he is also the national music and liturgy consultant for Harcourt Religion Publishers, sponsor of the "Lead Us to the Water" tour with Tom and ValLimar Jansen.

### Vallimar Jansen



Vallimar has a long history of singing sacred music, starting from the age of five. She received most of her training in music and performance from Howard University in Washington, DC. She holds professional degrees in the arts from California State University, San Bernardino, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has sung and toured professionally throughout the United States, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium and Japan. She played the role of Beneatha with the Broadway touring cast in the European premier of *Raisin*. She went on to co-author a one-woman musical about the life of Ethel Waters that received a special commendation from the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

### Silvio Cuellar



Silvio Cuellar is a composer of liturgical music, a guitarist, vocalist, workshop facilitator and journalist. He is the Coordinator of Hispanic Programs for the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Providence, the editor of the diocesan newspaper *El Católico de Rhode Island*, and the Director of Music at St. Patrick Church in Providence, RI. He also founded and directs the group "Voces de los Andes" (Voices of the Andes). For 13 years he has been a member of the Diocesan Committee for Hispanic Liturgy. He is the diocesan representative to the National Institute of Hispanic Liturgy and a founding member of the East Coast Association of Hispanic Pastoral Musicians. Silvio is part of the family of a new generation of composers and is published by Oregon Catholic Press. He and his wife, Becky, are the parents of 6 children.

## Presentations and Workshops

### **Presentation: Twenty Years of Inspiration: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (Sr. Sandra DeMasi).**

For the past twenty years, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has provided the Church with a great source of renewal by inspiring greater outreach and an evangelizing spirit. In this interactive and lively presentation Sister Sandy will address the following: How has the RCIA affected the area of catechesis? How is the RCIA connected to the work of the catechist and catholic school teacher? How is the catechumenal model reflected in our parish sacramental programs? How can we continue to develop and foster the RCIA within our parish setting? This workshop will help participants to look with excitement towards the next twenty years of inspiration which the RCIA offers us!

### **Presentation: Using Images for Prayer (Dr. Wendy Wright)**

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, unlike almost any other place on the globe, is a microcosm of the global Catholic Church. For the past several years Dr. Wright has done a study of Marian devotion in the greater Archdiocese working with a photographer to document the vast variety of Marian imagery and devotional practices found there in all their contemporary and historical diversity. This presentation will reflect creatively on a select number of Marian images and their capacity to expand the imagination and help us live into the possibility of a new creation.

### **Presentation: We Are the Children of Hope and the Amazement of God (Br. Mickey McGrath)**

In this stimulating and fun presentation, Brother Mickey McGrath will use his own paintings and stories to breathe new life into our approach to church symbols and catechesis. From the Popes of Vatican II, through his multi-cultural mysteries of the rosary, to St. Cecilia conducting her heavenly orchestra, Br. Mickey will remind us that we are called to be creative with our faith and the way we teach it to others in an increasingly global church.

### **Workshop: Oh no! What do I do with an unbaptized 12 year old? (Sr. Sandra DeMasi)**

More often than ever parishes are facing the pastoral situation of unbaptized children in late childhood – early adolescence. The direction, the only one which the Church asks us to take, is to look to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults which provides the norm for liturgical as well as catechetical practice for the Christian initiation of children of catechetical age. This rite adapted for unbaptized catechetical age children remains uncharted waters for many pastoral ministers. In fact, the recent study of the implementation of the RCIA in the United States by the Catholic Bishops, *Journey to Fullness of Life*, reported that 41% of parishes in the United States had no children's process at all. This workshop will explore these uncharted waters.

### **Workshop: La Belleza del Señor (Rev. Alvaro Silva)**

La Buena Nueva es Belleza Nueva: Consecuencias para la Catequesis. Alvaro Silva, doctor en teología, sigue de cerca las artes, es autor de *Tomás Moro: un hombre para todas las horas* (Madrid, 2007) y editor de varias obras de Moro en español. Trabaja con la comunidad Latina en la zona de Boston.

### **Workshop: All that is Seen and Unseen (Br. Mickey McGrath)**

From the earliest days of Christianity, creative people of faith have used signs and symbols to express their longing for God. With his own unique use of color and occasional whimsy, Br. Mickey will help us to look at these traditional signs with our twenty-first century eyes. Hopefully, we will see reflections of the gospels and lives of the saints in our own personal stories and these familiar mysteries will all take on new meaning - the heart of catechesis.

### **Workshop: Generation NOW – Embracing the Times (Bob Cooney)**

Instant messaging, instant text-messages, on-demand music and movies, faster download speeds... Traditional methods no longer appeal to today's youth. Interaction is the key. Get the kids involved and make it fun for them. Bob Cooney has his own IT consulting business and is working on technology issues with several parishes in the Diocese of Worcester.

### **Workshop: Estrategias para Formar bien a nuestros Adultos (Carlos Aedo)**

Dada la importancia de los adultos en la formación en la fe de toda la familia, esta presentación intentará poner en común aquellas estrategias que han facilitado una formación adecuada a la realidad de los adultos hispanos en la Arquidiócesis de Hartford. Carlos Aedo es Coordinador para la Catequesis Hispana de la Arquidiócesis de Hartford.

### **Workshop: A Spirituality of Family Life (Dr. Wendy Wright)**

Our tradition contains some assumptions about the mode of living required to cultivate an authentic spiritual life that excludes Christians living the ordinary life. In this time together we can explore the ways that God can be experienced by those in family life: birth, peacemaking, the practice of charity, the meal-table as sacred, caring for elderly family members, etc. We will seek a spiritual perspective on many things families commonly do.

### **Workshop: Evangelizadores Permanentemente Evangelizados (Sr. Alejandra Keen)**

Este taller estará centrado en la importancia de la formación para la misión. El evangelizador que está comprometido en hacer llegar la Buena Nueva del Señor Jesús, requiere ser evangelizado permanentemente. Es así, que cada apóstol está llamado a crecer en la fe de mente, de corazón y de acción, para que desde un corazón convertido se irradie la luz y el calor del amor de Cristo. La Hna. Alejandra es Directora de Servicios Pastorales de la Diócesis de Bridgeport en Connecticut.

### **Workshop: An Eminent Place: Liturgy and Music as Source and Summit (Vallimar Jansen, Tom Kendzia and Silvio Cuellar)**

This workshop will be an experience of the key elements of Sunday liturgy through the lens of sung communal prayer, and will examine its impact on faith formation for the whole community. The normative nature of musical liturgy has the unique ability to catechize when music is experienced as "one with the rites." Practical examples will be offered of how sign, symbol, story and music can put flesh to words, and ultimately form the faith life of the community

# Convocation 2009 Registration Form - August (10), 11, 12, 13



Make checks payable to: **New England Convocation**

Forward with registration form to:



New England Convocation  
Office of Religious Education  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

**Before July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**After July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pre-Convocation only:	\$ 110.00	\$ 130.00
Convocation only:	\$ 230.00	\$ 250.00
Both:	\$ 300.00	\$ 340.00

## FEE INCLUDES ALL PRESENTATIONS AND MEALS

Phone requests will not be accepted. Official confirmation will be mailed directly to you. Participation by pre-registration only. One name per form. Please duplicate if needed. In case of cancellation, a \$50.00 processing fee will be retained.

Title (Ms. Mrs. Sr. Rev. Mr. etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Parish City \_\_\_\_\_ (Arch) Diocese \_\_\_\_\_

This registration is for:  Pre-Convocation ONLY  Convocation ONLY  BOTH

Send information on CEUs.  I need Spanish translation **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_



## Springfield Marriott

2 Boland Way - Springfield, MA 01115

Mail form directly to hotel or call:

Please, mention code CONVOCATION

## Hotel Registration Form

August (10) 11, 12, 13, 2009

(413) 781-7111

(Marriott.com Code: VOCVOCA)

**All rooms \$93/night + applicable taxes and fees (Room rates are per room, not per person)**

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, City, State, Zip)

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Single  Double  Triple  Quad

The Springfield Marriott is a smoke-free facility. Check out time is 12:00 pm. Rooms may not be available for check-in until after 4:00 pm.

Rollaway beds (complimentary). Cut-off date: August 1, 2009. Room rate includes parking for one car.

DEPOSIT POLICY: A deposit equal to the first night's room and tax charges is due by August 1, 2009 in order to hold your reservations. Any room cancellations necessary must be made a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the arrival date for that reservation. Any cancellations occurring within 24 hours will result in loss of deposit.

Check or money order enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_