Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

Please check out the information on the Maryknoll Immersion Program for Catholic Educators featured in this week's newsletter. This program offers an outstanding opportunity for cultural immersion and broadening our understanding of being a universal Church.

On a more local level, the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades has a wonderful retreat opportunity this week with Terry Hershey. Although online registration is closed, you can call (206) 748-7991 for more information.

This week's newsletter contains some very helpful information on Celiac Disease and Holy Communion, several articles from the recent Synod of Bishops and resources to promote this Year of Faith. There are also webinars on faith formation and preparing for Christmas. Please check out the end of these resources for a short video link and a song you might find helpful for your classrooms.

In Christ,

Anne

Anne Frederick, Ed.D. Director of Parish and School Faith Formation

Archdiocesan website for the *Year of Faith*: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/yof

The Maryknoll Immersion Program for Catholic Educators is designed to help teachers, catechists and youth ministers encounter Christ in our brothers and sisters across the globe, and to bring that encounter back to young people at home. The Maryknoll Mission Education team will provide you with the tools to integrate this experience into your curriculum, and help you bring Gospel values of love and friendship with people of all backgrounds and traditions to life for your students.

2013 Program: Bolivia

Date: August 1st-12th

Projected Cost: \$2,500

Cost includes travel and in-country expenses, such as flights, in-country transportation, lodging, and meals

For more information or to apply, contact:
Kevin Foy
Mission Promotion Coordinator
Email. kfoy@maryknoll.org
Phone. 1-888-444-8957 ext. 512

Sites: Cochabamba and La Paz

Program Includes:

- Immersion to Bolivian cultural and socio-political realities
- · Experiences of daily life in typical Bolivian communities
- Encounters with youth and families
- Visits to local schools and programs serving children
- Encounters with Maryknoll programs and partner programs working to address education, economic, and health needs in the local community
- · Visits to tourist and cultural sites
- Professional development from the Maryknoll Mission Education team
- Prayer and reflection in community with fellow educators
- Building relationships with people of different cultures
- Assistance in bringing this experience back to your students

Catholic Celiac Society

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew7:7) http://www.catholicceliacs.org/

"The Lord is Present and Powerful"



Here is the translation of the Holy Father's Intervention at the final day of the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.

Dear brothers and sisters.

Before expressing my gratitude I would like to make an announcement. In the context of the reflections of the Synod of Bishops [on] "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith" and at the conclusion

of a path of reflection on the topics of seminaries and catechesis, I am pleased to tell you that I have decided, after prayer and subsequent reflection, to transfer the oversight of seminaries from the Congregation for Catholic Education to the Congregation for the Clergy and the oversight of catechesis from the Congregation for the Clergy to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization.

The pertinent documents will follow in the form of apostolic letters *motu proprio* to define the areas of oversight and respective faculties. We pray to the Lord that he will accompany the 3 dicasteries of the Roman Curia in their important mission with the assistance of the whole Church.

Already having the floor, I would also like to express my most cordial greetings to the new cardinals. I wished, with this little consistory, to complete the consistory in February, precisely in the context of the new evangelization, with a gesture of the Church's universality, showing that the Church is the Church of all peoples, speaking all languages, she is always the Church of Pentecost; she not the Church of a continent but the universal Church. This was exactly my intention, to express this context, this universality of the Church; it is also the beautiful expression of this Synod. For me it has truly been edifying, consoling and encouraging to see here the mirror of the universal Church with her sufferings, threats, perils and joys, experiences of the Lord's presence even in difficult situations.

We have heard how the Church grows, lives today as well. I think, for example, of what we were told of Cambodia, where the Church, the faith is reborn; or about Norway, and many other places. We see how today too, where it was unexpected, the Lord is present and powerful and the Lord is working even through our labors and our reflections.

Even if the Church feels contrary winds, nevertheless she feels the wind of the Holy Spirit who helps us, who shows us the right road; and so, we are on our way, it seems to me, with new enthusiasm, and we thank the Lord for granting this truly catholic gathering. I thank everyone: the Synod fathers, the auditors, with the often truly moving witness, the experts, the fraternal delegates who helped us; and we know that we all wish to proclaim Christ and his Gospel and to fight, in this difficult time, for the presence of Christ's truth and its proclamation.

I would above all like to thank our presidents who have guided us gently and decisively, the speakers, who worked day and night. I think it is somewhat against the natural law to work even at night, but if they do it freely they can be thanked and we must be grateful; and, naturally, I would like to thank our general secretary, who was indefatigable and rich with ideas.

Now these "propositiones" are a testament, a gift, given to me by us, to develop into a document that comes from life and must generate life. Let us hope for this and for pray for it; in any case, let us go forward with the Lord's help. I thank all of you. I will see many of you again in November at the consistory. Thank you.

For the Final List of the Propositions of the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith, please go to: http://www.zenit.org/article-35831?l=english.

'The New Evangelization is Not a Temporary Moment in the Church'



evangelizers."

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. and Relator General of the Synod, highlighted the significance of the Synod as well as the propositions, saying that one of the most important aspects was the sense of unity among the bishops in "looking forward to the New Evangelization. I think that there is this sense of purpose, of unity in what the Church needs to do and where we're going."

Cardinal Wuerl told members of the media that there is a logic to the document that tries to describe what the New Evangelization is. "We did not try to define it but we tried to describe it," he said. The Relator General of the Synod went on to say that the propositions focus on four major aspects: "how do we go about proclaiming the Gospel, the context of that proclamation, where can the Gospel be proclaimed, and who are the new

"It closes the discussion with a proposition that is very significant. At the very conclusion [the document says] 'You be my witness'; it is a summary on what's involved in passing on the faith. That every believer may enrich or deepen their faith, that they have confidence in faith, and to share that faith," Cardinal Wuerl said.

"The first and most important part of the proposition is to make aware that the New Evangelization is not a temporary moment. The New Evangelization is not a program but a way of seeing the world around us and how to proclaim the Gospel." Another significant aspect of the propositions, Cardinal Wuerl continued, was the recognition that there has to be a great deal of dialogue and communication between the scientific world and the Church. The cardinal went on to say that a number of propositions in the document speak of dialogue with specific areas in the scientific and academic community. "The Church is aware that somehow the beauty of the

Gospel message has to be translated into the world in which so many people find themselves academically, scientifically and technologically," he said.

"It is important not to just say that our Lord is good but that he is also beautiful. The Gospel is beautiful [and that beauty] is deeply rooted in the history of the Church. In Rome, we are surrounded by beauty and I think that was one of the things the Synod was trying to say. We must not lose the ability, not just in art but in music and liturgy as well; we mustn't lose that [in order] to awaken people to the beauty that is God."

Cardinal Wuerl concluded by saying that final propositions serve to bring the excitement in the Good News and proclamation of the Gospel to the world and to the Church. "We have a wonderful story to tell. We have the Risen Lord to introduce. Many of these propositions have to be read in this excitement to tell this story: That Jesus Christ is Lord, that he is Risen and He offers us a way of life," the cardinal said.

Here is the link (http://www.zenit.org/article-35827?l=english) to the full text of the Final Message to the People of God from the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

The Council at 50: Vatican II's Word on the Word of God



Welcome to one of the series of blogs on the Second Vatican Council. Each piece reviews one of the 16 documents produced by the Council Fathers during the extraordinary occasion in Church history. Vatican II, which drew together the world's bishops, opened fifty years ago in St. Peter's Basilica, October 11, 1962. Please go to http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com/2012/10/vatican-iis-word-on-word-of-god.html.

"Faith is a gift of God, but it is also a profoundly free and human act"



Pope Benedict XVI continued his new series of catechesis on faith which began last Wednesday, with the inauguration of the *Year of Faith*, at this week's Wednesday audience. "...today I would like to reflect with you on the basic question: What is faith? Does faith still make sense in a world where science and technology have opened horizons heretofore unimagined? What does it mean to believe today?"

He went on to add "Today, along with so many signs of goodness, a kind of spiritual desert is also widening around us. Sometimes we get the feeling from certain events we hear about each day that the world is not moving towards the building up of a more fraternal and peaceful community. The very ideas of progress and wellbeing also reveal their shadows. Despite the grandeur of scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs, men today do not seem to have become freer and more humane; so many forms of exploitation, manipulation, violence, oppression and injustice still remain."

He expressed his concern that our "culture has taught men to move only along the horizons of *things*, of the practical, and to believe only in what can be seen and touched with one's hands. On the other hand, however, there are an increasing number of people who feel lost and who - in the quest to move beyond a merely horizontal vision of reality - are ready to believe everything as well as its opposite. Within this context several fundamental questions emerge, which are far more concrete than they appear at first sight: What is the meaning of life? Is there a future for man, for us and for the new generations? How shall we direct the choices we freely make toward a successful and happy life? What awaits us beyond the threshold of death?

He expanded on the relationship between faith and love. "Faith is not simply a matter of man's intellectual assent to truths about God; it is an act whereby I freely entrust myself to a God who is a Father and who loves me; it means clinging to a "Thou" who gives me hope and confidence. ... Faith means believing in God's unfailing love, which endures even in the face of man's iniquity, of evil and of death, and which is able to transform every form of slavery by granting the possibility of salvation. To have faith, then, is to encounter this "Thou" - God - who sustains me and offers me the promise of an imperishable love that not only aspires to eternity but also gives it. It means entrusting myself to God with the attitude of a child who knows very well that all of his difficulties and problems are safe in the "thou" of the mother."

He concluded his remarks by reminding us of what we are all called to be and do. "Dear friends, the times in which we live need Christians who have been seized by Christ, who grow in faith through familiarity with the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacraments – persons who are like an open book that tells of the experience of new life in the Spirit and the presence of God who sustains us on the journey and opens the way to endless life. Thank you."

For the translation of the address the Holy Father gave on his continued new series of catechesis on faith, please go to http://www.zenit.org/article-35808?l=english.

<u>USCCB Offers Resources To Help Families Celebrate The Year Of Faith</u>



As the Catholic Church celebrates the Year of Faith, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth is providing resources for families, including tips for keeping Sundays holy and centered on family, prayers and devotionals for the family, and ideas for building the presence of the Church in the home.

The resources are available online at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/year-of-faith-family-resources.cfm and include prayers for special occasions, guides for celebrating the Sacraments as a family, suggestions for praying as a married couple and reflections by Blessed Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston. Additional resources will be added throughout the Year of Faith.

"The Year of Faith is a wonderful opportunity for the entire Church, and especially for families, to be renewed in the joy of what it means to be faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus," said Bishop

Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "Encountering Christ through prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance, is essential for this renewal."

One resource, the Family Prayer for the Year of Faith, is available as a bilingual prayer card at www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/family-prayer-for-the-year-of-faith.cfm.

The Year of Faith began October 11 and will continue to November 24, 2013. The year commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.



THE RISE OF THE RELIGIOUSLY UNAFFILIATED



Religion & Ethics Newsweekly concludes their three-part series on the fast-growing number of American adults who say they have no religious affiliation—the "nones"—with a story about

the religious implications. What effect might this group have on traditional organized religion? You can read or listen to the program at

 $\underline{http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/october-26-2012/none-of-the-above-religious-implications/13588/}$

ONLINE ONLY:

Watch an extended interview with religion scholar <u>Diana Butler Bass</u>, author of *Christianity After Religion*, about the religious implications of the "nones."

Read the results of a <u>new survey</u> released by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life in partnership with R&E about the views of the 46 million Americans who say they are not affiliated with any particular religion.

Take the survey yourself and see how your answers compare to the national results.

A Map of Every War Ever.

In the year 1400 B.C., says the <u>Book of Joshua</u>, a book in the Old Testament, the Israelites attacked and took the region of <u>Canaan</u>. Archaeologists question the specifics of the biblical tale, <u>but evidence of conflict at the time is thought to exist</u>.

Whether the battle played out precisely as told in the Bible or not, the <u>Battle of Jericho</u> ranks as one of the oldest dated skirmishes in human history. On the interactive <u>Conflict History map</u>, the Battle of Jericho <u>serves as the starting point</u>. Go to http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/smartnews/2012/10/this-is-a-map-of-every-war-

ever/#.UIY3c_Xe2XA.email.

FREE Professional Development Webinar - Thursday, November 8



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online

workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar *O Radiant Dawn: Ministering to Families (and Yourself) this Advent Season* is offered on Thursday, November 8 at 3:00 pm EST. You can register at PDW-11.08.2012



(http://tiny.cc/o7h6lw). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

O Radiant Dawn: Ministering to Families (and Yourself) this Advent Season by Lisa Hendey

As clergy, religious, ministry professionals, laity, family members, and parents, we strive to make Advent a season of prayerful preparation for those around us, but we often fall prey to the busyness and demands of the season. Join author Lisa Hendey for a look at how to make this Advent season meaningful for yourself and others, while at the same time seeking peace and a sense of amazement at the splendor of God's love.



'The Altar Gang' Animation Brings Catholic Values To Kids



By his own estimation, a budding acting career was cut off for Brian Shields when he rediscovered his Catholic faith and withdrew from a role in a popular 1990s TV series, "Dawson's Creek." He could have been onscreen with a youthful Kate Holmes, but instead he turned attention to evangelizing through the media.

Now age 40, Shields is the founder of Lumen Entertainment and is finishing an animation project that started out as an idea to entertain his kids. Called the "The Altar Gang," the DVD stars A.J. the Aspergillum and Skiff the Incense Boat, whom Shields calls the "Abbott and Costello" of Catholic cartoons, and tells the story of a parish priest and

his talking sacred vessels who help him with his daily duties. The first DVD deals with life in the womb and sends a strong pro-life message while drawing kids' attention with quality animation, fast-paced action and lighthearted humor.

The Knights of Columbus *Fathers for Good* conducted an interview with the creator Brian Shields. If interested, you can read it at

http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/big_four/catholic_carto on.html. To view a video promo, visit <u>Lumen Entertainment</u> (http://www.lumen.tv/).



FREE Professional Development Webinar - Tuesday, November 13



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online

workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar *A Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Heart of Christmas* is offered on Tuesday, November 13 at 3:00 pm EST. You can register at PDW-11.13.2012 (http://tiny.cc/aoi6lw). For a complete listing



of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariapress.com/webinars.

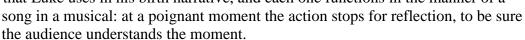
A Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Heart of Christmas by Father Timothy Clayton

Luke the Evangelist was a brilliant storyteller who used two powerful rhetorical tools in his birth narrative: questions and poetry. In the first chapter of his gospel there are four moments where a question is asked by a character in the story, and those questions are designed subtly by Luke to



reach off the pages, transcend the ages, and speak to the very heart of his reader/hearer. The four questions form the steps of a kind of a spiritual pilgrimage to the cradle, and walking those steps allows Advent to lead us to the heart of the Christmas season.

The other rhetorical tool Luke uses adroitly is poetry: there are four poems, or poetic songs called canticles that Luke uses in his birth narrative, and each one functions in the manner of a





Timothy Clayton, author of the new book <u>Exploring Advent with Luke: Four Ouestions for Spiritual Growth</u>, presents a webinar that brings Luke's two rhetorical tools clearly into view. Clayton will guide the participants' interaction with them in order to facilitate a spiritual pilgrimage to the heart of the season of Advent, resolving many of the issues that hinder the joy of Christmas.

The Kite



This new short film, slightly over a minute, from SpiitClips is about a young boy who learns a valuable lesson when his kite gets stuck in a tree. If interested, please go to http://spiritclips.com/films/kite?utm_source=102112free&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kite

"Life is a balance of holding on and letting go." - Keith Urban

I Believe in the Scriptures



Looking at Scripture not as hard infallible text, but as the result of God's breath. God breathed and still breathes, and we can taste his breath. Written and Performed by David Bowden http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZdzjf5uuv4&feature=fvwrel. This is what he wrote as part of his introduction to this piece.

God still breathes! That is the beauty of it. We continue to write holy words everyday, because the same Spirit that Paul, Peter, and James had we have today. And God has not stopped talking.

I'll try to sum all this up with a short poem:

I know it's probably heresy, but there is a holy book written on my heart far more thick than the Bible. Yes, Amos and Corinth are on my aorta, but
God's finger,
the Spirit's tongue,
and the mouths of Saints
fill my ventricles.

For those who might feel he is a fundamentalist, David also wrote "I believe we should understand that if Scripture really is "God-Breathed" then the very breath that turned dirt into humanity turns words into life. Therefore, the Bible is not an end in itself, just as the creation of humanity was not an end. But both received the breath of life to return life to God. If the words in the Bible are not flipping your world upside down, transforming your worldview, turning your dirt into flesh then we are missing the point."

Misreading of Vatican II Dampened Missionary Zeal



Ralph Martin, a theologian who teaches at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit is nothing if not an enthusiast of Vatican II. He most recently served as an official expert at the October 2012 world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization, said the "wonderful things" that came out of Vatican II include an "emphasis on the active role of laypeople, the universal call to holiness, the rediscovery of Christian unity and ecumenism, (and) the desire to affirm whatever we can positively about modern culture."

But in at least one crucial area, Martin said, the council's expectations have been gravely disappointed. Vatican II had as one of its central purposes to "make the church more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to the modern world," he said, yet it ushered in a "remarkable decline in the missionary orders that traditionally have carried out evangelization," along with a "tremendous decline" in observance by Catholics in historically Christian countries.

Martin attributed the loss of Catholic missionary zeal to a widespread misunderstanding of some of Vatican II's most distinctive teachings. As he argues in a new book (<u>Will Many Be Saved?: What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization</u>), many Catholics were confused by the council's laudable emphasis on ecumenism and interreligious dialogue into thinking that "maybe it doesn't matter anymore whether people are Christians or not."

At first glance, Vatican II may seem to have taught something inconsistent with Jesus' words, since the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church ("Lumen Gentium") states that it is possible for people to be saved without hearing the Gospel. Many Catholics have taken this as a license for complacency about evangelization, Martin said: "They make this huge leap from possibility to probability to (presuming) almost everybody" will be saved.

But Martin noted that the council document carefully qualifies its own reassuring message, specifying three conditions for the salvation of non-Christians: "inculpable ignorance, that it's not

their own fault that they haven't heard the Gospel"; that "they are seriously seeking God, they want to know who he is and what his will is"; and that "they are living according to the light of their conscience assisted by grace."

Rectifying misunderstandings in this area is crucial, Martin suggested, not only for reviving efforts to convert non-Catholics, but for the specific goal of the new evangelization: persuading those already baptized and fallen away to take their faith seriously again. "In our own culture, especially now with the collapse of Christendom, the collapse of Christian culture, many people are just being swept away with secular culture," Martin said, "and are drifting toward the disintegration of human relationships and marriage and family life ... and then the possibility of eternal separation from God."

Evangelization is "not just about enriching people's lives, it's not just about making people happier on this earth," he said. "It's really about the difference between heaven and hell." You can order <u>Will Many Be Saved?: What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization</u>.

November: Join Us Online





Fr. Frank's Report on the Synod

Wednesday, November 7, at 3:00 pm ET



Register Now

The First in our Webinar series for the Year of Faith



"American Grace" - A Review of Religious Life in the USA
Thursday, November 15, at 1:00 pm ET

Register Now

In this second webinar in our Year of Faith series, Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, speaks about the way our American culture intersects with people of faith.

View webinar series through November 2013

John Roberto

Evangelization and Faith Formation with 21st Century People
November 5 - December 2, 2012 (4 sessions)
Last day to save 25% with Early Bird Registration
Save 50% with groups of 3 or more

With this four-session course, *Evangelization and Faith Formation with 21st Century People*, John Roberto looks at the changing landscape of this 21st century and how it impacts on the people we are trying to reach. Learn more and/or register here.

February 21 (Youth Day) & 22-24, 2013
Anaheim, California
THE 2013 LOS ANGELES
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

RECongress Email Updates #5

Nov 2012 (REC 2013-5)

RECongress 2013

Feb. 21 (Youth Day) & Feb. 22-24, 2013

2013 Theme

"Enter the Mystery" / "Entra al Misterio"

- What is Congress?
- Dates
- Youth Day
- Prepare to Register
- Speaker Feature
- Hotels
- FREE MP3
- So. Cal-ers Only
- RECongress.org
- Emailing

Online at www.RECongress.org

Email us at congress @la-archdiocese.org

Registration Guidebook in the mail!

The Registration Guidebook for the 2013 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress is now available. But you can see it online first, before it gets mailed! The Guidebook is your key to register for Congress with a listing of all speakers and their workshop descriptions. So start your planning now to attend Congress 2013.

Pass along this emailing or our link — $\underline{www.RECongress.org}$ — to share with friends and encourage them to sign up for our Congress Emailing for updates. If you do not care to receive future updates, you can find removal information at the bottom of this message.

¡Para información en español, clic aquí!

WHAT IS CONGRESS?

The Religious Education Congress, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Religious Education, is the nation's largest annual gathering of Roman Catholics! Our last RECongress, held in March 2012, brought together nearly 40,000 people during the four-day weekend! We had registrants from across the country and as far away as Ireland and Australia.

See 2012 Congress Statistics

DATES

The 2013 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress dates are:

- February 21, 2013 (Youth Day)
- February 22-24, 2013

Location

Congress is held at the Anaheim Convention Center, located at 800 West Katella Ave. in Anaheim, Calif. (just across from Disneyland and Disney California Adventure). See a Google Map

Fee

The registration fee for Congress is \$65 per person. Youth Day has a separate registration and \$25 per person fee.

Registration

The Registration Guidebook contains all workshop and speaker descriptions, entertainment and liturgy options, and all events during Congress. There are two Registration Forms per book. If you attended RECongress 2012, you will automatically be mailed a Registration Guidebook. If you need a Guidebook, please order one online.

Order a Guidebook

YOUTH DAY ARENA SPEAKER

Rev. R. Tony Ricard, MTh, MDiv Youth Day, February 21, 2013 Arena Session (morning and afternoon) "Firm in Faith: I Say Yes, My Lord" God calls each of us to link our lives with Him as we face the

struggles and challenges of our days. Through the waters of baptism and the strength of Eucharist, we are given the necessary tools to stand firm in our faith. "Put on the armor provided by God, so that you are able to stand firm against the power of darkness," says Ephesians 6:7. This fun and interactive workshop will help you to say "Yes, My Lord" to the call to be faithful disciples.

Fr. Tony Ricard, a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese, currently serves as Director of Campus Ministry and Development Director for St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. He is also Director of Knight Time Ministries and Chief Editor for Two Knights Publishing Co. Fr. Ricard is a native of New Orleans and a former public school teacher. He has authored many books and has given keynote addresses, retreats, revivals and youth talks across the nation and has preached in 20 countries.

Go to the 2013 Youth Day Page

PREPARE TO REGISTER

You will need to know your Congress workshop choices before you begin your registration process. You can find online session descriptions here. We recommend that you select a first and a second choice of workshop for each period you plan to attend.

The Guidebook is available online in 3 different formats: PDF: You may choose to download the complete Registration Guidebook or, for those with slower or connections, the Guidebook has been broken up into smaller sections. (You will need Adobe Reader installed on your computer to view PDF documents; make sure you have the latest version.)

iPaper: The Guidebook is also available in iPaper format, which requires NO software to download.

Web Pages: You may also view each workshop period (English and Spanish) as individual Web pages.

Congress registration is \$65 per person (by January 4, 2013).

View the Registration Guidebook

SPEAKER FEATURE: DR. MADONNA WOJTASZEK-HEALY



Dr. Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy is a seasoned catechist and Catholic schoolteacher, who teaches at St. Mary Immaculate Parish School in Plainfield, III. Her own children have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Asperger's syndrome, so she has insight into behavior management and faith formation ... and a wry sense of humor. She has spoken at

national principals and special needs conferences, as well as diocesan gatherings. Her book is titled the "The ABC's of ADD for Catechists."

Friday, February 22, 2013 10:00 - 11:30 am - Session 1-28

"Everyone's Called to God's Table, Even the Ones Who Can't Sit Still in Their Seats"

An understanding of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and the children diagnosed with this condition will help teachers and catechists evangelize them and their families more effectively. Dr. Wojtaszek-Healy will share insights to manage behaviors and enjoy the gifts these children have.

Saturday, February 23, 2013 1:00 - 2:30 pm - Session 5-27

"God Called Me to Dance, Even if I'm Out of Step"

Full inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church benefits us all. Children with autism spectrum disorders can pose behavioral problems in classroom and catechetical settings. Dr. Wojtaszek-Healy will share insights and strategies for evangelizing these children and their families.

See all Congress 2013 Speakers

HOTELS



RECongress has contracted with local hotels to offer special rates for Congress attendees. Check online for our most current listing of hotels, and now we have an interactive viewable map of these hotels. We suggest making hotel reservations as soon as possible. When making reservations, be sure to ask for the

Religious Education Congress rate. You can find information about contracted hotels on our web site.

RECongress Hotels Page

GET YOUR FREE MP3 DOWNLOAD!

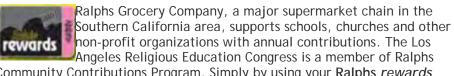


CSC Digital Media is the official recording company for Congress, providing selected sessions on Audio CDs and now, downloadable MP3s. For trying the service, they are offering one FREE MP3 download recording < /font> from the 2012 DIGITAL MEDIA Religious Education Congress audio recordings. Simply visit www.cscrecording.com, select your sessions and redeem your

free download using Coupon Code REC2012 when checking out. (Coupon is good for the download of one session per customer and expires February 28, 2013.)

See the RECongress Recording page

JUST FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS



Community Contributions Program. Simply by using your Ralphs rewards Card a portion of eligible purchases are contributed to the RECongress. (Note: This is an annual program that must be renewed each year. The current term is September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013.)

If you were part of the program last year, we thank you, but everyone needs to re-enroll each year. We encourage all Ralphs shoppers to sign up for the free Ralphs rewards Card and register their card with the Community Contributions Program. It's easy! Every time you shop for groceries and scan your card at Ralphs, RECongress will automatically earn up to 5% of all eligible purchases per enrolled card. Sign up now! It's never been easier to contribute to the RECongress.

Organization Name: Archdiocese of Los Angeles - Religious Education Organization Number: 90658

Find step-by-step instructions and information online.

RECongress Ralphs Program

RECONGRESS.ORG

You can find all Congress information and updates online. Check our site for updates and announcements.

www.RECongress.org

EMAILING

Be sure to Sign-up for this twice-a-month Emailing about Congress updates and events. You may opt out from the Congress Emailing at any time from the link below.

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