

Spring Faith Formation Day - May 15, 2019 - The College of St. Rose, Albany

Session 1 – Prayer & Keynote	Time	Description
Catholic Schools: Education From and For Faith – Dr. Thomas Groome, Professor of Theology & Religious Education, Boston College Location – Gym	9:00 - 11:00 AM Session 1 - Prayer and Keynote	Catholic schools have their grounding in the deep structures of Catholic faith; they are to educate <i>from</i> this spiritual foundation. Following on, this grounding calls Catholic schools to educate students <i>for</i> faith - to have faith in themselves, in others, in God, and to embrace the spiritual wisdom and deep values of Catholic faith. This provides a rich treasury for living life well for themselves and for the common good of all.
Words of Encouragement and Explanation- Revised Catechist Formation Process – Fr. Bob Longobucco, Vicar for Catholic Faith Formation & Education, and a representative from RCL Benziger. Location – Gym	11:00 – 11:15 AM	We have a brand new simpler method to make catechist certification smooth & easy... learn a little bit about the process and be encouraged!
Lunch	11:15 AM – 12:10 PM	Bring your own lunch or purchase it in the Camelot Room at St. Rose.
Session 2 - Workshops		
What Makes Us Catholic? - Dr. Thomas Groome, Professor of Theology & Religious Education, Boston College	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	Jesus promised the Samaritan woman (John 4) and to Christians ever after that his Gospel would always be like fresh water, springing up to eternal life. In every place and era, and perhaps all the more so in our own, we need to answer afresh what it is that makes us Catholic, and then imagine how to embrace this faith to sustain us on our journey home to eternal life.
Making Moral Decisions: The Role of Conscience – Dr. Shannon Lenet, retired theology teacher and hospital chaplain, lifelong learner	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	Conscience is profound, complex, often partial and sometimes even wrong. Nevertheless, it is necessary in our decision-making because it is a sacred space where we encounter God. We will explore the meaning of conscience and how we can form conscience.
The Sacraments of Initiation: A Deeper Look – Joyce Solimini, Associate Director: Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	For those who want to take a deeper dive into the sacraments, we'll focus on Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, gleaning from historical, scriptural, theological and liturgical insights.
The Communion of Saints – Dr. Laetitia Rhatigan, specialist in the area of Mariology, and team member for the cause of sainthood for Fr. Patrick Peyton	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	This workshop will review the Church's Article of Faith, The Communion of Saints in the Apostles Creed. There will include a brief history of the scriptural, traditional and current theology and understanding of the doctrine and how it is experienced in the prayers and liturgies of the Church. Discussion will focus on what/who are a saints and the process in which the Church declares one to be a saint. Finally, the class will explore the participation of each of us as members of the Communion of Saints.

What Makes Christian Spirituality Christian? – Sr. Kitty Hanley, CSJ, spiritual director; Co-director of Holy Ground Program for Spiritual Direction	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	What is spirituality anyway? Which came first, Christianity or spirituality? Might I be spiritual but not Christian? Is spirituality always connected with God? Do I have a spirituality? These are some of the questions of our time which we'll explore in this session.
Creating Creation Care Teams for Your School or Parish —Barbara DiTommaso, retired director of Diocesan Commission on Peace & Justice, parishioner at St. Vincent DePaul, Albany	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	With the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical, <i>Laudato Si</i> —On Care for Our Common Home, there has been a renewed interest in how we as Catholics can help to shape the future of our planet amid the growing environmental challenges we face. Come and learn how your parish or school can respond in practical ways to the Pope's call for dialogue and action by forming Creation Care Teams.
Making Scripture Come Alive through Storytelling and Role Play - Marni Gillard, Storyteller, teacher, author, storytelling coach, Niskayuna, NY	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	We believe that Scripture is the living word of God. When children step into Scripture as STORY, taking on Bible characters, they meet God's Word and speak it with confidence, using their imaginations and actions. In this workshop, we as their teachers, either in partners or small groups, using printed texts, will playfully "try on" the experience of becoming the characters and setting the scenes of key Bible stories in order to help our students do the same.
Making the Most of What You've Got: Making Disciples in a Digital World – Mary DeTurris- Poust, Diocesan Director of Communications and Staff, Jason Husch and Kathryn Costello	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	The digital world is here to stay. Instead of seeing it as obstacle to making disciples, we will explore how it can be – and indeed must be – an opportunity for sharing faith and forming disciples. Communications staff will be available during both sessions to offer hands-on assistance to those who are interested in starting a social media account or need a little help with an existing account.
Introduction to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Andrea Reno, music teacher, Mater Christi School, and Coordinator for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albany	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	Come and see examples of this hands-on method of faith formation that can enrich the faith life of both children and adults. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is designed to meet the developmental needs and religious potential of children ages 3-12.
Helping Families Know They are Holy: Supporting them Where They Are – Mary Fay, Associate Director: Marriage and Family Ministries, Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation	12:15 – 1:30 PM: Session 2 Workshops	Pope Francis says, "The family remains the basic unit of society and the first school in which children learn the human, spiritual and moral values which enable them to be a beacon of goodness, integrity and justice in our communities." Schools and Parishes are important support systems for families, we can only help if they trust us. Come explore ways to support families in their mission, help them when they are struggling and encourage them to share their gifts of love with the world.
Break	1:30 – 1:45 PM	
Session 3 - Workshops		
Continuing the Conversation on What Makes Us Catholic - Dr. Thomas Groome, Professor of Theology & Religious Education, Boston College, & Panel of Parish and School Representatives	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Drawing on the presentation offered in Session 2, Dr. Groome will facilitate a conversation with panelists from parishes and schools – as well as with all participating in this session - on how we can practically infuse and foster the best of what makes us Catholic into our parish faith formation programs and our Catholic Schools. Come, add your voice to the conversation!

The Catholic School Principal as Faith Leader – Fr. Dominic Ingemie, former Catholic school teacher/administrator, and retired pastor, Diocese of Albany	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Drawing on his many years of experience in Catholic education and pastoral ministry, and joined by some current Catholic School principals, Fr. Ingemie will lead a time of reflection and conversation on the call of the Catholic School principal to be a faith leader in the school community.
Ministering in Challenging Times for the Church – Fr. Kenneth Doyle, retired pastor, Diocese of Albany	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	In the midst of these challenging times for the Church, we are still called to serve the people of God. How do live that call with integrity, enthusiasm, and hope? Drawing upon his many years of pastoral experience, Fr. Doyle will share some of his thoughts, and then engage your concerns, questions, and insights in conversation.
Being a Practicing Catholic: Our Social Teaching – Deacon Walter Ayres, Director: Commission on Peace and Justice, Diocese of Albany	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Some say our Catholic Social Teachings have been the “best kept secret”, yet they give us a guide for living our faith in our families, local, national and global communities. Let’s unlock the secret and share its treasures!
Panel Discussion on Forming Disciples - Thomas Cronin, Advisor to the Bishop for Evangelization	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	This workshop will be facilitated a panel discussion with participants being parish catechetical leaders, diocesan school teachers, and principals. Topics will include: Practical Ways to Evangelize; Moments of Mercy; and Support for the Family.
The Sacraments of Healing: A Deeper Look – Joyce Solimini, Associate Director: Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	For those who want to take a deeper dive into the sacraments, we'll focus on The Sacraments of Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick, gleaning from historical, scriptural, theological and liturgical insights.
Islam 101 – Fr. Jim Kane, Director: Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, retired pastor, Diocese of Albany	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Fr. Kane will offer an overview of Islam, the religion of the Muslims, including the Five Pillars of Islam, excerpts from the Qur'an, and examples of prayers. Participants will gain a better knowledge of a faith that is often misunderstood yet prominently featured in the media. Further, the Catholic Church's perspective on Islam will be discussed in light of Pope St. John Paul II's words during a visit to Syria in 2001: "Together we must proclaim to the world that the name of the one God is a name of peace and a summons to peace."
Trinity: The God of Christians – Fr. Anthony Barratt, Director: Office of Prayer and Worship	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	The Holy Trinity is “the central mystery of our faith” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #234). We will discuss how Christians have tried to understand and to articulate this mystery, especially through the words of the Creed, but also to see how this mystery is indeed at the very heart of prayer, liturgy, faith, the Christian life and social outreach.
Introduction to Scripture – Sr. Katie Eiffe, CSJ, Leadership Team of Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet, former diocesan Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Syracuse	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	The Bible can be thought of as “the Word of God...in the words of human beings.” This workshop will explore the Catholic approach to the Scriptures. We will ponder such concepts as revelation, inspiration, inerrancy and the development of the Bible as we know it today, in hopes of coming to a deeper appreciation of God's Word, and a new invitation to pray the Scriptures!
Mental Health and Wellness 101 – Amy Molloy, Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	This session is recommended for all who work with children and youth to increase their knowledge about mental health in general, and to reframe the conversation about mental health to an understanding that we all have mental health; it is not just the presence or absence of an illness. Topics to be covered include a brief overview of prevalence of youth mental health problems, the effects of mental illness on learning and behavior, promotion of coping strategies, and more.

Resources for Catechesis with People with Disabilities – Rosemarie Tobin, diocesan Consultant for People with Disabilities/Deaf Liaison	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Faith and sacramental formation resources for people with disabilities will be reviewed as well as training opportunities for catechists in our schools and parishes. Specific examples of adaptations will be provided. Bring your questions!
Effective Catechetical Techniques with Adolescents – Maureen Billa, Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis, St. Mary's Parish Clinton Heights	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	In his recent Apostolic Exhortation, <i>Christ is Alive!</i> , Pope Francis says of youth: [God] knows how to cherish and nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young. Each young person's heart should thus be considered "holy ground", a bearer of seeds of divine life... Come and learn about creative ways that we can nurture the seeds of goodness and divine life in our young people as we share faith with them in our parish and school programs.
Connecting Faith with the Wider Community – Lisanne Jensen, catechetical leader, St. Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls and St. James, Chatham	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	By virtue of our baptism, we are called to give witness to our Catholic faith and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. This evangelizing mission involves sharing God's love through both word and action, not only in our parishes but also in our larger communities. "Education for Community Life" is one of the Six Tasks of Catechesis. This workshop examines how we, as catechists and catechetical leaders, can encourage young people to see beyond the borders of the classroom and to put their faith into practice.
Praying with Middle School Youth – Ruth Ellen Berninger, catechetical/youth ministry leader, St. John the Baptist Parish, Valatie	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Prayer provides some moments of silence and reflection for middle school youth to disconnect from their devices and connect with God. This workshop will present some creative methods, including <i>lectio divina</i> , for you to use in your parish or school setting.
Students for Life – Kate Maloney, Northeast Regional Coordinator for Students for Life of America	1:45-3:00 PM: Session 3 Workshops	Students for Life of America, also known as simply Students for Life, is a pro-life 501 non-profit organization that seeks to end abortion by educating students on issues, identifying pro-life student leaders and giving them the training, skills, and resources to effectively spread their message. Come and learn how the young people in your school or parish can become involved.
Break (Catholic School Teachers and Administrators may depart.)	3:00– 3:15 PM	
Session 4 - Workshops		
A Church That Really Goes Forth: What Might That Look Like? – Fr. Bob Longobucco, Vicar for Catholic Faith Formation & Education, Pastor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Niskayuna	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>Six years ago in <i>Joy of the Gospel</i>, Pope Francis told us: 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. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, that he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.</p> <p>Today, amid the crises facing the Church, can we still respond to this vision of being a church that goes forth? How can we respond with integrity and humility, while still maintaining our zeal for sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ? What next steps and bold initiatives must we now take?</p>

Sacramental Record Keeping – Fr. Matthew Frisoni, Office of Canonical Services, Diocesan Tribunal	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>Spiritually, we reflect from time to time on the mileposts of where our journey with Christ Jesus has taken us. In the Catholic Church, we record and maintain information in our parishes about a person's sacramental reception. Maintaining accurate data today will be very helpful for someone later on in their life. This presentation will assist pastoral ministers in properly documenting a person's reception of sacraments or the reception of a person into full communion with the Catholic Church. The requirements of universal Church law as well as particular law applicable to the Diocese of Albany will be addressed.</p>
Being a Practicing Catholic: Our Social Teaching - Deacon Walter Ayres, Director: Commission on Peace and Justice, Diocese of Albany	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>Some say our Catholic Social Teachings have been the “best kept secret”, yet they give us a guide for living our faith in our families, local, national and global communities. Let's unlock the secret and share its treasures!</p>
Trinity: The God of Christians – Fr. Anthony Barratt, Director: Office of Prayer and Worship	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>The Holy Trinity is “the central mystery of our faith” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #234). We will discuss how Christians have tried to understand and to articulate this mystery, especially through the words of the Creed, but also to see how this mystery is indeed at the very heart of prayer, liturgy, faith, the Christian life and social outreach.</p>
Making Moral Decisions: The Role of Conscience – Dr. Shannon Lenet, retired theology teacher and hospital chaplain, lifelong learner	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>Conscience is profound, complex, often partial and sometimes even wrong. Nevertheless, it is necessary in our decision-making because it is a sacred space where we encounter God. We will explore the meaning of conscience and how we can form conscience.</p>
The Sacraments: Moments of Encounter, Moments of Grace – Fr. Anthony Ligato, Vicar for Vocations and Pastor of St. Jude's Parish, Wynantskill and St. Michael's Parish, Troy	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>The Sacraments are the privileged moments where we truly meet Jesus on the journey of life, and where Jesus offers us his love, strength, and peace. With the understanding that the celebration of the Eucharist offers us the presence of Jesus in the fullest sense, this workshop will explore how each of the Sacraments offers us the opportunity for encountering him and receiving his grace.</p>
Learning Styles: Honoring that We are all Wonderfully (yet Uniquely) Made – Phyllis Cardona, retired catechetical leader, Diocese of Albany	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>While we are all wonderfully made in God's image and likeness, God also made each one of us unique in so many ways – including how we learn best. This workshop will explore how to incorporate various learning styles into our catechetical sessions so that every person can grow in faith.</p>
Helping Families Know They Are Holy: Supporting Them Where They Are – Mary Fay, Associate Director: Marriage and Family Ministries, Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>Pope Francis says, “The family remains the basic unit of society and the first school in which children learn the human, spiritual and moral values which enable them to be a beacon of goodness, integrity and justice in our communities.” Schools and Parishes are important support systems for families, we can only help if they trust us. Come explore ways to support families in their mission, help them when they are struggling and encourage them to share their gifts of love with the world.</p>
Making the Most of What You've Got: Making Disciples in a Digital World – Mary DeTurris- Poust, Diocesan Director of Communications and Staff, Jason Husch and Kathryn Costello	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	<p>The digital world is here to stay. Instead of seeing it as obstacle to making disciples, we will explore how it can be – and indeed must be – an opportunity for sharing faith and forming disciples. Communications staff will be available during both sessions to offer hands-on assistance to those who are interested in starting a social media account or need a little help with an existing account.</p>

Faith Development Across the Lifespan – Fr. Thomas Konopka, Executive Director, diocesan Consultation Center, pastor Church of St. Mary, Clinton Heights.	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	As we grow and develop as human beings, so does our capacity for living the faith. This workshop will define the stages or styles of faith development and explore their implications for catechesis and other parish ministries.
A Conversation on Youth Ministry – What's Next? - David Stagliano, Associate Director Campus Ministry & Coordinator Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Albany	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	In the past several years Pope Francis and many others have focused on young people in the Church. Let's have a conversation about some of the information gathered and what we might do and where to go next. From <i>Going, Going, Gone</i> , NFCYM's <i>National Dialogue</i> and the most recent papal apostolic exhortation <i>Christus Vivit – Christ is Alive!</i>
Creative Projects for the Liturgical Year – MaryAnn Dignazio-Louison, retired catechetical leader, Amsterdam, NY	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	Designing and creating projects is really about growing in relationship to our God and to each other. Help make the riches of feasts and seasons of the liturgical calendar come alive for children, youth and adults. Let's explore together, as a community, what we have learned and what we are yearning to share!
Integrating College Students into Parish Life – Cathy Reid, Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry & Campus Minister at the University of Albany	3:15– 4:30 PM: Session 4 Workshops	When a parish thinks of "college students," it often thinks of its high school seniors who move away to pursue higher education. Yet, there may be literally hundreds of Catholic college students who study, and perhaps even live, on a campus near your parish. They are your parishioners! We will look at ways that your parish can invite, welcome, and include these students and their gifts into the life of your community!
Break	4:30- 4:45	
Session 5 - Prayer & Keynote		
Words of Encouragement and Explanation- Revised Catechist Formation Process - Fr. Bob Longobucco, Vicar for Catholic Faith Formation & Education, and a representative from RCL Benziger.	4:45– 5:00 PM	We have a brand new simpler method to make catechist certification smooth & easy... learn a little bit about the process and be encouraged!
Sharing the Heart of Our Catholic Faith– as Jesus Did – Dr. Thomas Groome, Professor of Theology & Religious Education, Boston College Location: Gym	5:00– 6:30 PM: Session 5 - Prayer and Keynote	As Catholic catechists we are ever faced with two great questions - what faith to share and how best to share it. This presentation/conversation will make some proposals in response to these foundational questions, pointing especially to Jesus as the key to responding well to both questions.