

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CATECHETICAL CONVOCATION

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Archbishop John Carroll High School

Co-sponsored by the Office for Catechetical Formation
& Archdiocesan Association of Parish Directors, Coordinators and
Administrators of Religious Education

ECHOING CHRIST: FORMING FUTURE SAINTS



Keynote Speakers:

English Track: Dr. Bob Rice

Director of Masters of Arts on Catechetics and Evangelization,
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Spanish Track: Rev. Remigio Morales

Pastor, St. Agatha - St. James Parish
& Penn Drexel Newman Center



Contact Us :

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THE CATECHETICAL CONVOCATION



The Catechetical Convocation is an annual faith formation event cosponsored by the Office for Catechetical Formation and the Archdiocesan Association of Parish Directors, Coordinators, and Administrators of Religious Education (PDCARE). What is the Catechist Convocation? In the early 1980's, a group of Parish Directors of Religious Education created a grass roots venue known as the "Catechist Showcase." Using a parish site, this event provided an annual opportunity for the most experienced and gifted volunteer catechists to share their practical insights and best practices in teaching the faith to children. In 1989, the "Catechist Showcase" was retitled the "Catechetical Forum" as professional presenters and broader topics were added. The Catechetical Forum was later named the Catechist Convocation as participants included both parish catechists and Catholic school teachers. Though the name has changed over the years, the PDCARE Association keeps true to the original mission of its Catechetical Convocation:

The professional and spiritual growth of the parish catechist through a sharing of theological insights, teaching methodologies, and practical applications.

Policy for Catechetical Certification Credit:

One catechetical credit for Archdiocesan Master Catechetical Certification is granted for the entire day.

SCHEDULE

7:30 AM	REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS, AND EXHIBITS
7:45 AM	HOLY ROSARY (OPTIONAL)
8:15 AM	MORNING PRAYER (LECTIO DIVINA / PRAISE & WORSHIP)
8:50 AM	WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF THE DAY
9:00 AM	CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MASS
10:30 AM– 12:00 PM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS DEACON BOB RICE & REV. REMIGIO MORALES
12:00 – 12:15 PM	BREAK
12:15 – 12:55 PM	SESSION 1 / LUNCH
12:55 – 1:00 PM	MOVE TO 2 ND SESSION
1:00 – 1:40 PM	SESSION 2 / LUNCH
1:40 – 1:45 PM	MOVE TO 3 RD SESSION
1:45 – 2:25 PM	SESSION 3 / LUNCH EXHIBITS CLOSED
2:25 – 2:30 PM	MOVE TO AUDITORIUM
2:30 – 3:30 PM	PROCESSION WITH EUCHARIST FROM CHAPEL EXPOSITION, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT REFLECTION: DEACON BOB RICE

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KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

From Information to Transformation: Following the Way of Jesus - *English Track*

Deacon Bob Rice

Catholic Deacon, Speaker, Author, Podcaster

Director of Masters of Arts in Catechetics and Evangelization Professor, Franciscan University of Steubenville

In the 20th century, the field of education took massive leaps forward as new and more effective models of teaching were implemented. Religious education benefited from some of these models, but in some areas lost some of its distinctiveness and effectiveness in passing on the faith to a younger generation. Teaching the “what” of the faith is important, but only if it introduces students to the “who” of the faith, Jesus Christ.

***ECHOING
CHRIST:
FORMING
FUTURE SAINTS***



Haciendo Eco de Cristo: Formando Futuros Santos - *Presentación en español*

Rev. Remigio Morales-Bermúdez

Párroco, St. Agatha St. James Parish

Capellán del Newman Center de la University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University

Como catequistas, maestros y líderes en la educación religiosa católica, estamos llamados a hacer resonar la voz de Cristo en la vida de niños y jóvenes, acompañándolos en un encuentro vivo con Jesús, el centro de toda catequesis. Fomentemos no solo el conocimiento de la fe, sino la oración, los valores cristianos y un camino hacia la santidad cotidiana, mediante nuestro testimonio que transforma corazones y fortalece la misión de la Iglesia. ¡Descubramos juntos cómo formar futuros santos, inspirando fe, esperanza y compromiso!

***HACIENDO ECO
DE CRISTO:
FORMANDO
FUTUROS SANTOS***



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. BOB RICE



Bob Rice loves being Catholic. He is a husband, father of seven, permanent deacon for the diocese of Steubenville, and Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He has a PhD in Theology from Liverpool Hope University where he researched Catholic youth and evangelization. He has authored many books and articles, including the *Discipleship Quad Guidebooks*, and a novel about St. Peter titled, *Between the Savior and the Sea*. He is the co-host of a popular weekly podcast called *They That Hope* with Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. Bob has recorded numerous CDs, and his music can be found on Apple Music, Spotify, and others. You can find out more about him at deaconbobrice.com.

REV. REMIGIO MORALES



Fr. Remigio was born in Lima, the capital city of Peru. His early formation included four years of humanistic studies, which awakened in him a profound search for meaning and the deeper questions of human existence. He completed three years of Philosophy and three years of Theology, followed by a Master's degree in Dogmatic Theology and a Certificate in Theological Anthropology. His ministry has been devoted to youth, families, and the teaching of Theology, always seeking to accompany others in their encounter with Christ.

He currently serves as the Spirituality Director at St. Agatha–St. James Parish in University City, where he continues to share his love for the faith, his contemplative spirit, and his commitment to forming hearts rooted in the Gospel.

SESSION 1: WORKSHOPS

A-1. Echoing Christ: Forming Future Saints

Rev. Jordan Kelly, O.P. - Dominican Friar of the Province of Saint Joseph

The role of catechists, teachers, parents, and coaches is essential in raising up the next generation of faithful and joyful Catholics. Come and discover the Heart of this important vocation.

A-2. Echoing Christ in a Noisy World

Rev. Christopher Walsh - Pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Philadelphia

How can we share the Gospel with young disciples and their parents amid distraction, relativism, and digital noise?

A-3. “It’s Not Difficult to Be a Saint: How Listening to and Proclaiming God’s Word Makes Saints”

Rev. Timothy Tarnacki, OSPPE, DMin. - Director of the Office for Ministry with Young Adults

Holiness often begins not with extraordinary deeds but with the simple act of listening to God’s Word. This presentation highlights how saints were formed through Scripture, preaching, and catechesis—from St. Justin the Martyr, who found in the Gospel the truth he sought as a philosopher; to St. Anthony the Great and St. Augustine of Hippo, whose lives were radically changed by hearing the Word; and through Venerable Jan Tyranowski, whose quiet witness helped shape St. John Paul II. Their stories remind us that sainthood is not complicated: when God’s Word is heard, received, and shared, saints are made.

A-4. From Encounter to Echo: Forming Future Saints in Everyday Life

Stacy Williams - Director, Office for Black Catholics, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

This presentation explores how authentic encounters with Christ lead to lives that echo His love, justice, and mercy forming future saints not only through doctrine but through lived discipleship, community, and courageous witness.

A-5. Forming Future Saints- The Parent Connection

Mary Ann Corcoran - Director of Religious Education, St. John the Baptist Parish, Ottsville

Parents are primary educators and leaders of faith for children, yet seem to need catechesis themselves today. Ideas for creating opportunities to open hearts and minds of parents to allow God to reveal His love to them, will be presented.

A-6. The Wedding Feast at Cana, Jesus and Mary

Sister Carolyn Braun, IHM - Principal, St. Laurence Catholic School, Upper Darby

Throughout Scripture, Jesus uses parables and experiences to teach us. In the Wedding Feast at Cana, Jesus teaches us three things about Mary that I have found very helpful.

Spanish Track—Presentación en español

A-7. Formados ante el Sagrario para ser ecos del Verbo

Hermana Stella Maris, SSVM - Directora de Educación Religiosa, Parroquia San Roque, Avondale

La verdadera formación cristiana nace ante el Sagrario, especialmente cuando está abandonado, porque ahí aprendemos a amar como Cristo: con fidelidad, silencio y entrega. No formamos solo buenos cristianos, sino santos, cuando educamos corazones capaces de acompañar, reparar y permanecer con Jesús Eucaristía.

A-8. Lunch

SESSION 2: WORKSHOPS

B-1. Unworthy? Serve Anyway.

Dan Tarrant - Founder and Director, Personally Catholic

Saint Paul said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Cor 1:11). He knew that leading people to Christ required being like Christ himself. So how do imperfect people like us invite Catholics to be Saints? Discover the answer to this question and learn how grace really works in this session.

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B-3. Voice of the Master: Guiding Children Toward Sainthood

Sister Margaret Rose Adams, IHM - Assistant Superintendent, Office for Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

We are all committed to shaping hearts and minds for holiness. This session will explore practical strategies and spiritual insights to help you echo the voice of Christ in your teaching, guiding children toward a life of virtue and sainthood. Together, we'll deepen our understanding of the catechist's mission and discover how to create a Christ-centered environment that nurtures faith, love, and discipleship.

B-4. Exploring Hands-on Catechesis

Nancy Sánchez - Director of Religious Education, St. Agnes Parish, West Chester

Hands-on catechesis is a method of religious education that uses physical and sensory experiences to teach faith. This approach allows children to explore their relationship with God through activities and materials that make scriptural and liturgical mysteries tangible. It focuses on a child's natural wonder about God and is designed to form lifelong disciples rather than just teaching concepts.

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B-6. Singing the Faith Into Hearts

Micah Sumner - Assistant Superintendent, Office for Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

This workshop invites catechists to reflect on how we can reach the hearts of those who are struggling, questioning, or feeling disconnected from their faith. Through spiritual reflection, light-hearted humor, and the gentle use of song, we'll explore ways to echo Christ's love in authentic and healing ways. Participants will leave encouraged to bring joy, compassion, and creativity into their ministry as they help form future saints.

Additional workshops for Session 2 are listed on the next page.



SESSION 2: WORKSHOPS

B-7. Mission Skill: How to Pray with Someone

Meghan Cokeley - Director, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Come and learn an important skill that every missionary disciple needs: how to pray spontaneously with someone. Instead of saying "I will pray for you," you will be able to say to someone, "Can I pray with you for that right now?" Praying with someone creates an opportunity for the person to encounter Jesus in the very moment of their struggle or need. This session will teach you a structured way to do this and then you will have the opportunity to practice.

B-8. Echoing Christ Through Inclusion: Supporting Learners with ADHD

Natalie Morales - Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

This workshop will provide practical strategies to support children with ADHD in parish programs, helping them fully engage in faith formation. Together, we'll explore ways to remove barriers and create inclusive spaces where every child can encounter Christ and thrive.

B-9. Who Is In Your Saint Squad This Year?

Christine Flack - Director of Religious Education, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Penndel

The Saints are relatable witnesses who put Christ at the center of their lives. They are given to us to guide us on our journey of faith. How can we help those we catechize to develop a Holy heavenly friend group for life? Practical ideas for all ages.

B-10. Lunch

SESSION 3: WORKSHOPS

C-1. Mission Skill: How to Pray with Someone

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C-6. Believe in Miracles: If you build it, HE will come. Saints go the distance.

Sister Barbara Jude Gentry, IHM - Director of Religious Education, SS. Simon & Jude Parish, West Chester

Practical stories and activities will focus on the lives of the Saints and how to incorporate sports fun into teaching about these holy players. Are you ready to step up to the plate? Your students will play in the Field of Dreams (classroom) and hit a Grand slam in a season bound for Heaven. Don't be left sitting on the bench but line up to score and form future saints.

Additional workshops for Session 3 are listed on the next page.



SESSION 3: WORKSHOPS

C-7. Making Christ visible through the echoes of the Gospel

Deacon Chike Egbufoama - Transitional Deacon, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, Philadelphia

This means that the Gospel is no longer only read; it is heard again in a living voice, a breathing body, a surrendered life. Here I am lord, I come to do your will!!! An echo is not an invention of its own sound; it is the faithful return of an original Word. So too the Christian, and even more the priest, is not called to be a new message but a resonating chamber in which the eternal Word continues to vibrate in history. When the Church forms disciples, she is not producing religious professionals but human sacraments whose very existence allows the Incarnate God to pass once more through flesh, time, and culture. In such lives, the Cross becomes intelligible, mercy becomes visible, and resurrection becomes credible. The saint, therefore, is the place where the silence of the world is broken and the Father declares, through a human life, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

Spanish Track– Presentación en español

C-8. Share God's Love.....and sometimes use words.....

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Shields - Retired Priest, St. Josh the Baptist Parish, Philadelphia

What actually is learned from us by our listeners? LIVING the Presence of Christ into the "here and now"!

C-9. Lunch

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration is online. You will need a credit card.

This year we are offering a group rate for a parish/school who are registering **five or more people**.

Individual rate: \$60.00

Group rate: 5 or more people: \$50 / person

In order to get the group rate, please contact Kathy Pfeffer at kpfeffer@archphila.org for the code. You will need to input this code, and it will automatically calculate the registration fee.

If you register more than one person, at the end of the first registration (thank you page) you have the option to add another person. You may add up to eight people without leaving the website. **Sessions are first come first serve.**

Registration deadline is Friday, February 20, 2026 at noon.

The link for registration is : <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=7PGKmN>

A confirmation email will be sent to the payer. Please share the information with the participants.

CÓMO REGISTRARSE?

Las registraciones están en línea. Necesitarán una tarjeta de crédito.

Este año estamos ofreciendo una tarifa grupal para una parroquia/escuela que inscriba **a cuatro o más personas**.

Tarifa individual: \$60.00

Tarifa de grupo: 5 o más personas: \$ 50 / persona

Para obtener la tarifa de grupo, comuníquese con Kathy Pfeffer en kpfeffer@archphila.org para obtener el código. Deberá ingresar este código y calculará automáticamente la tarifa de registro.

Si registra a más de una persona, al final del primer registro (página de agradecimiento) tiene la opción de agregar a otra persona. Puede agregar hasta ocho personas sin salir del sitio web. **Las sesiones son por orden de llegada.**

La fecha límite de inscripción es el 20 de febrero del 2026 al mediodía (12:00 PM).

El enlace para la registración es: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=7PGKmN>

Una confirmación será enviada al correo electrónico de la persona que pague. Por favor comparta la información con los participantes.