



## Diocese of Trenton / Religious Education Catechist Track Grades 7-8

**Saturday, October 23 at 10:30am**

**Virtual Live session**

**Bring Community Service to the next level!**

***Dan Waddington,  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
for the Diocese of Trenton***

### **Youth Ministry:**

#### **Christ is the Center of Confirmation Ministry, Tom East, Center for Ministry Development**

The content of our Catholic faith is a person, Jesus Christ. Preparing youth for the sacrament of Confirmation means helping youth encounter Christ and grow in the practices of discipleship. This workshop is guided by the new Directory for Catechesis and by the vision for accompaniment presented in *Christus Vivit*. Together, we will explore what it means to place the person of Christ as the center for our Confirmation ministry, with catechists, families, sponsors, and adolescents. This workshop will explore ways to recreate your preparation and follow-through for confirmation to provide an encounter with Christ and promote intentional discipleship.

#### **Young People are Struggling to Find Meaning in Life: Here's How Catechists Can Help, Dr Patrick Manning, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Newark, NJ**

The complexity of modern day society is making it increasingly difficult to make sense of life. Growing numbers of young people report that they do not experience the Catholic faith as meaningful or relevant to their lives. This problem has grown particularly acute during the COVID crisis. It has therefore become an urgent task for faith formation to assist people in making meaning of life in an authentically Christian way. In this presentation, we will explore a practical approach to religious education that draws upon both Jesus' model of teaching and modern cognitive science in order to facilitate learners' development of a meaningful, lived faith.

### **Keynote:**

#### **Say the Word: Stories that Heal, Julianne Stanz**

Storytelling was one of Jesus' preferred methods in helping people to understand the Kingdom of God. Guiding people to identify and tell their story of faith is critical to the new evangelization and growing as missionary disciples, yet it is something that many Catholics are afraid of doing. As leaders, it is important that we provide formation in this important art.

### **Theology:**

#### **The Coherence of the Eucharist, Dr. Kenneth Howell, Eucharist Project, sponsored by St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology**

This talk lays out how the Eucharist produces coherence in the individual and in the Church. The Eucharist bears the four marks given by Christ to the Church. The Eucharist unites the disparate parts of a person's life into a unified whole and enfold each member into the whole church body. The Eucharist is holy because it contains Christ, the holy One of God who imparts holiness to the members of the church. The Eucharist is catholic in that it is offered to everyone in communion with the Church and allows each communicant to grow in a universal perspective rooted in the Catholic Tradition. Finally, the Eucharist is apostolic because it is rooted in the apostolic witness in its practice and guidelines. That apostolic tradition is what allows communion in the larger Church. It is also apostolic in that the Eucharist is for the purpose of evangelization.

**Catholic Meditation as the Foundation of Catechesis, Alessandro DiSanto, Hallow**

The median age of disaffiliation from the Catholic faith is 13 years old. Young people are increasingly leaving the Church before they are even fully catechized. In this session, Alessandro will dive into how helping students establish a personal relationship with God in prayer is a critical element in faith formation and the strongest foundation for lifelong engagement in the Church. The talk will also shed light on the sociological data around why young people are leaving the church and how the large mental health challenges facing Gen Z offer a unique opportunity for us to "lead with the peace that only Christ can bring."

**Methodology:****Tell the Word: An Introduction to Biblical Storytelling (Part 1 & 2), Ruth Elsbree, Transfiguration Catholic Church, Marietta, GA**

Everyone loves a story. And we have the best story of all! In this workshop you will learn why and how telling scripture stories from your heart will enrich your teaching and engage learners from ages 3 to 103. In Part 1 of this workshop, find out what Biblical storytelling is and why it is so effective for engaging students, as well as for enriching your personal relationship with Jesus. In Part 2 of this workshop, dive into learning the theme story for this conference from the Gospel of Mark. Through a variety of learning activities, discover tools that will help you keep scripture in your heart so you will be able to tell the Word.

**GodTalk: Praying with Children and Youth, Sr. Nancy Walsh, MSBT, Savannah GA Diocese.**

Prayer can be creative and fun as we provide young people with an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus. Teaching prayer is one of the most important tasks of catechists and parents. In this workshop, we will experience various ways to pray with children and youth that will help them grow in friendship with God. Using creative ways to engage young people in prayer, we'll discover the joy of teaching the young to enjoy praying.

These are suggested workshops to view, many more workshops and live events can be found [here](https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NJLive2021). Register here: <https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NJLive2021>