

## ***Catholic Schools Track***

### **Continuing Education for High School Religion Teachers**

The St. John Bosco Conference is pleased to serve catechists working in Catholic High Schools by offering the Catholic Schools Track. This track is aimed at assisting High School religion teachers in deepening their knowledge of the content of catechesis and broadening their catechetical skills.

It is designed to serve the actual needs of teachers in a two-fold manner: by addressing the practical/methodological issues as well as the intellectual challenges they face in the classroom. The track is designed to address both needs.

**Intellectual:** Consistent with the fact that theology is the handmaid of catechesis, we will present upper-level seminars to foster the teacher's theological understanding of the faith. The high school religion teacher who has a sure grasp of sacred theology will be better equipped to teach the Catholic Faith in all its rigor and vigor (*On Catechesis in Our Time*, 30) amidst the doubts and questions that fill the adolescent mind regarding the teaching of the Church.

**Practical / Methodological:** Actual classroom lesson plans that incorporate different educational/catechetical techniques will be developed and illustrated. The Church teaches that catechetical methodology is at the service of the content of the Deposit of Faith. We will be following a method developed by Msgr. Francis Kelly, who named it the Ecclesial Method. This methodology leads the student to both understanding and conversion (*On Catechesis in Our Time*, 20). These workshops will also introduce the concept of "incarnational dynamism" in classroom teaching. This consists in drawing the student to the Person of Jesus Christ, (the content of all catechesis) through the use of contemporary and ancient sacred art, Christian and secular forms of music, popular as well as classical literature, film, and age-appropriate classroom activities. The aim will be to demonstrate various ways that teach doctrines in an engaging manner that will interest students and foster evangelization.

In addition the track will address two other areas:

**Theoretical:** A seminar will be devoted to studying the mind of the Church regarding teaching religion in a Catholic High School.

**Behavioral:** Classroom discipline is always a concern for High School teachers. To assist them, the participants will be introduced to the Preventive System of St. John Bosco which he based on three facets: reason, religion and kindness.

### **Symposium for Catholic High School Religion Teachers**

#### **Flexible Participation**

This symposium differs from the regular track offerings at the St. John Bosco Conference. Unlike the tracks, there is no certification offered for attendance. If you need credit for continuing education, we can issue you a letter confirming your attendance and the workshops attended. Each summer, there will be new workshops specifically for Catholic School teachers. In addition to these workshops, you are free to choose any workshop from any track. This gives you 72 workshops from which to choose.

#### **Registration and Attendance**

Conference participants who wish to register for the High School Symposium should do so at the Conference Registration tables at the St. Joseph's Center.

#### **Administrative Fee**

In order to cover administrative costs to the Office of Catechetics (supplies, photocopying, etc) all Catholic School Track Attendees will also be charged a \$20.00 fee. This will be paid to the Conference

Office with your regular conference and housing costs. Please inform the Conference staff that you would like to participate in the High School Symposium.

### **Participation**

While no papers or projects are required for this symposium, attendees are asked to bring along anything they would wish to share from their own teaching experience that fits in with current year's topic, (handouts, lesson plans, suggestions for media, etc.)

Questions regarding the track may be directed to the Office of Catechetics at: (740) 284-5317, or by email: [catechetics@franciscan.edu](mailto:catechetics@franciscan.edu).

### **2015 Workshops\***

Making Your School a Top 50 Catholic School

Making Disciples in the Sexualized Teen Culture

Lesson Planning for Conversion

Teaching with the Saints

The Evangelizing Classroom: Proclaiming Christ to the Next Generation

Using Technology in the Classroom

Incorporating Beauty in Catechesis

\*Workshops subject to change without notice

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