

St. John Bosco Conference *High School Teachers 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 High School Symposium. This symposium 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 symposium 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 symposium 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

This *annual* symposium is designed to assist religion teachers in Catholic High Schools in deepening their knowledge of the content of catechesis and broadening their catechetical skills. It will 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 symposium is designed to address both needs.

This symposium differs from the regular track offerings at the St. John Bosco Conference. Unlike the tracks, there is no certification offered for attendance. Each summer's symposium is self-contained. Therefore, participants are not required to attend the symposium for a set number of years. However, the topics of the symposia will run on a five-year cycle, so participants will find it worthwhile to attend every summer.

Registration and Attendance

Conference participants who wish to register for the High School Symposium should do so at the Conference Registration tables at check-in.



Administrative Fee

In order to cover administrative costs to the Office of Catechetics (supplies, photocopying, etc) all High School Symposium Attendees will also be charged a \$25.00 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.)

Symposium Overview

Each summer, there will be four seminars: Catholic High School Religious Education in the Mind of the Church*; St. John Bosco and the Preventive System*; two theological seminars on the current year's topic. There will also be two methodological workshops focused on the current year's topic, in which participants will be guided through an in depth approach to teaching those topics to High School students. There will also be time set aside for the participants to converse with each other and share both materials and experiences gained in teaching religion in a Catholic High School.

*For those participants who attend the High School Symposium for consecutive years, these two seminars can be replaced by any other workshops being offered at the conference.

Questions regarding the track may be directed to the Catechetical Institute at: (740) 283-5317, or by email: catechetics@franciscan.edu.

2017 Workshops*

- ◆ Reason, Religion, and Kindness: The Preventive System of St. John Bosco
- ◆ Making Disciples through Creative Lesson Planning
- ◆ What IS the Natural Law, Anyway?
- ◆ Creating Space for Conversion
- ◆ Teaching with the Saints
- ◆ Making It Matter: Helping Students Deeply Engage and Desire the Truth
- ◆ Stop and Think: The Psychology of Self-Regulation in Children and Teens

*Workshops subject to change without notice

Last Updated Friday, October 14, 2016