



**DUC IN ALTUM**  
SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE

## Duc in Altum Schools Summit Agenda

October 20-22, 2021 Nashville, TN

The Dominican Campus of St. Cecilia Academy

### **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

- 3:30 pm Check in
- 4:00 pm Mass
- 5:00 pm Reception with Exhibitors\*
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 6:45 pm Project presentations by two 2021 DIA Schools Collaborative Fellows
- 7:00 pm **Opening Keynote: Most Reverend Thomas Daly**, Chairman-Elect, USCCB's Committee on Catholic Education

### **Thursday, October 21, 2021**

- 7:15 am Reconciliation
- 7:45 am Mass
- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
- 8:50 am Project presentations from two 2021 DIA Schools Collaborative Fellows
- 9:00 am **Keynote: Dr. Heather Thomas**, "Answering DEI: Identity, Human Dignity, and Social Justice in the Catholic School"

Proponents of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion model claim that it provides opportunities for the positive transformation of organizational culture. This transformation is driven by a strategic focus on dismantling structures that are believed to promote and maintain "systemic racism" and other forms of prejudice and bigotry. The end goal is improved representation of diverse kinds of people, equality of access and outcomes, and the perception – on the part of minoritized or disenfranchised persons – of being fully welcomed, affirmed, and included into any organizational community. In this talk, I discuss key issues that make DEI incompatible with the identity and mission of the Catholic school. I'll propose a highly collaborative, Christ-centered, and human-dignity-focused approach to social responsibility and justice that holds to the fullest understanding of the human person and is unabashedly Catholic in its vision.

- 9:45 am **Panel** - Dr. Heather Thomas, Sr. John Catherine, Fr. Claude Williams on DEI, CRT, CSJ

10:45 am **Concurrent Workshops**

**Leadership** - Sr. John Catherine, "Critical Theory and Christian Hope: Some Observations on a Path Forward"

This breakout session is a basic look at some dangers in the application of critical theory while highlighting some aspects of critical race theory that can be employed to one's benefit in an authentic struggle to combat racial injustice. Sister will draw on ideas from the Christian tradition and particularly Pope Benedict XVI's *Spe Salvi* to demonstrate that Christianity offers a compelling explanation for the reality of human injustice and a path forward in rightly-placed hope.

**Teachers & Campus Ministers** - Fr. Claude Williams, O.Praem., "Catholics Confront Racism in America: Legal, Rhetorical, Sacramental and Evangelical Responses to Racism in the United States"

Besides proposing a working definition of racism, this workshop will approach the phenomenon of racism as it has been experienced, understood, and resisted in the United States. The workshop will give special attention to the history of the descendants of enslaved Africans in the U.S.A. Additionally, the workshop will present a full roster of significant Catholic figures whose circumstances and charisms offer to us guideposts while we navigate current issues related to racial injustice. As Catholic leaders and educators today, we look to many good examples that have preceded us. This workshop will highlight four individual Catholics: Venerable Julia Greely, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Flannery O'Connor and Archbishop Joseph Rummel, whose lives span roughly 130 years from the antebellum period to the cusp of the Civil Rights movement. These four figures will be considered not as 'perfect' role models, but as relatable, accessible and heroic examples of Christian leadership during times of racial and ethnic tensions.

12noon Reconciliation

12noon Lunch Learning Labs with McGrath Institute for Church Life, OSV, Franciscan University, Catholic Virtual, ISBC, ISPD, DENNIS Uniform, CLT Exam. Choose a session for enlightening discussion.

1:30 pm Project presentations from two 2021 DIA Schools Collaborative Fellows

1:45 pm **Keynote: Mark Lippelmann**, "The Greatest Threat to Catholic Schools"

Catholic beliefs—and the schools that teach them—are under attack like never before. The so-called Equality Act, major changes to Title IX, and other legal challenges threaten Catholic schools' ability to teach and practice their faith. But there is reason for hope, and a call for both fidelity and fortitude. Mark Lippelmann will discuss the legal threats facing religious education and what Catholic schools can do to defend their rights.

2:30 pm **Concurrent Workshops**

**Leadership** -

Thomas W. Carroll, "Reclaiming the Future of Our Church through Our Catholic Schools"

Superintendent Carroll will outline a vision for schools to ensure they are fully Catholic, evangelical in spirit, worthy of our Catholic intellectual tradition, and customized to the needs of our children.

He also addresses the threats posed by wokeness and cancel culture and the need to defend the Western canon and fidelity to the Magisterium. Mr Carroll also will discuss a new 6-12 classical Catholic high school the Boston Archdiocese is launching called Lumen Verum Academy, which will open in September 2021 -- the first new school created by the Archdiocese in more than 50 years.

Or

Kate Sell, "The New Parish: Catholic Schools as Centers of Family Formation"

With declining parish numbers and more decentralized parish communities, Catholic schools are in a unique position to provide ongoing formation for families. Parents are naturally engaged where their children are engaged. This offers Catholic schools a remarkable opportunity to reach families and build Catholic community where the Faith can be lived, modeled, and transmitted through relationships and shared milestones. With more than 42 percent of Millennials (today's young parents) identifying as religiously "non-affiliated", Catholic schools have the opportunity to renew the culture by renewing the faith of the family.

### **Teachers -**

Father Thomas Petri, OP, "Sacred Teaching: St. Thomas Aquinas on Faith and Learning"

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, teaching the faith is not merely the repetition of doctrinal statements, but is the highest exercise of learning and knowledge. God Himself is both the beginning and the goal of all theology.

Or

Mike Gutzwiller, "Sacred Art, Pop Culture, and Catechesis"

An ancient saying says, "If a pagan asks you, 'Show me your faith' [...] you will take him to a church and bring him before the sacred icons." This same principle still applies today. The use of sacred art in catechesis not only reveals our faith as Christians, but also puts us into very real connection with God, who is Beauty itself. This workshop will explore ways that sacred art, beauty, and even elements of pop culture can be used as a fruitful catechetical tool that invites students to enter more deeply into the mysteries of our faith and meaningfully encounter God Himself.

### **Campus Ministers -**

Cara Morales, on Same Sex Attraction

Across the nation we are seeing an increase in young people identifying as LGBTQIAP. In this informative session we'll discuss these rising trends, practical ways to engage young people struggling with these issues, and tips to make our relational ministry stronger.

Or

Dr. Amy Roberts and Dr. Rebecca Rook from Franciscan University Steubenville, "Growing a Catholic School Culture Rooted in Collaboration"

Campus ministers can play a pivotal role integrating the Faith throughout the curriculum and cultivating the Gospel witness of all personnel in the school. This workshop will take insights from Christian anthropology and apply them to the faith formation of faculty, staff, and students – in and out of the classroom. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the "why" behind some common faith formation practices, as well as some ideas for innovative applications in future work.

- 3:30 pm Depart for St. Cecilia Motherhouse
- 4:00pm Visit the Museum, Silent Prayer, Reconciliation
- 4:30 pm Adoration
- 5:00 pm Vespers and Rosary with the Sisters in the St. Cecilia Chapel
- 5:30 pm Depart for Dinner off-campus

**Friday, October 22, 2021 \*Feast of JP II\***

- 7:15 am Reconciliation
- 7:45 am Mass
- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
- 9:00 am Project presentations from two 2021 DIA Schools Collaborative Fellows
- 9:10 am **Keynote: Dr. Edward Sri, "Who Am I to Judge? - Talking About Morality in a Relativistic World"**

How do we talk about morality in a culture that no longer believes in moral truth? Even many good Catholics feel afraid to say anything is right or wrong anymore. We don't know what to say, and we're scared others will think we're "judgmental" and "intolerant." With humor and personal examples, Edward Sri gives practical strategies for engaging your secular friends in a compelling and compassionate way. And he helps form us in a Catholic moral worldview. Learn how Catholic morality is all about love, how making a judgment is not judging a person's soul and how in the words of Pope Francis, "relativism wounds people" and is "the spiritual poverty of our times."

**10:15 am Concurrent Workshops**

**Leadership -**

Panel discussion, Recruiting Faith-Focused Faculty

Recruit quality candidates for your team with tools and techniques utilized by these professionals. Everyone's looking for prospects who will execute the mission, infuse the faith, and evangelize

while helping students excel in their subject area. Where do you find them and how can you make sure they're the right fit?

Or

Sr. Mary Thomas, O.P., "Wired for Wisdom or Problem Solving: Thomistic/Dewey Differences in the Classroom"

Modern movements in progressive education find many of their roots in the pragmatic educational philosophies of 20<sup>th</sup> century America, led by John Dewey. St. Thomas Aquinas offers a refreshing approach to the education of students based on a true anthropology which regards a student as one created for union with God. This presentation will explore the philosophical underpinnings of both Thomistic and pragmatic understandings of the goal of education, contrasting the two and applying their principles to show the fruit of both in the classroom setting.

### **Teachers -**

Chris Baglow, PhD, "Faith and Science: Friends or Foes?"

In this presentation, participants will be introduced to the Catholic approach to faith and science through the teaching of St. John Paul II. Specific areas to be addressed will include areas most often involved in misconceptions of conflict between faith and science, including creation and evolution, Sacred Scripture and modern science.

Or

Rhonda Gruenewald, "Create a Classroom that Produces Vocations!"

Did you know that consistently studies find that close to 75% of the newly ordained first considered being a priest between birth and 18 years of age? This statistic emphasizes the absolute necessity to encourage vocations early in life. To inspire more youth to hear God's call, Rhonda Gruenewald, founder of Vocation Ministry, created a fresh and innovative approach to present the joy of holy vocations to our youth in their everyday environment. Based on the proven success of Vocation Ministry's parish-based workshops, Rhonda's new education-based workshops were specifically designed to encourage, inspire, and equip Catholic educators to create a vocation-friendly environment in classrooms and campus ministries. One teacher said, "This is the clear roadmap for encouraging vocations in my classroom." Join me for a workshop designed just for YOU!

### **Campus Ministers -**

Jennie Punswick, "The Heart of the Community: Forming Catholic Educators"

In this session, participants will experience how Holy Family School of Faith helps form the intellectual and interior lives of Catholic school teachers and administrators by contemplating something beautiful, discussing something good, and learning something true. Monthly faculty

formation provides educators essential time for friendship, leisure, and prayer while strengthening the relationships most necessary for schools working to build a strong Catholic identity. Our sessions seek to deepen the interior lives of our teachers, equip them for evangelization, and form them in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Or

Jess Keating, "Teaching Life and Human Dignity: Challenges and Opportunities for Catholic Education"

In this presentation, participants will explore the unique challenges and opportunities for the effective integration of Catholic anthropology and a consistent ethic of life across the subject areas and in student formation.

11:30 am **Lunch and roundtable discussions, "Putting it all together"**

12:45 pm Where faith, imagination and classicism meet you find the new hit show, *The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello*. Hear the story behind the show with film director, Alex Wolaver of Kin Media.

1:00 pm **Closing Keynote: Andreas Widmer, "How St. John Paul II Evangelized Me: Three Lessons for the New Evangelization"**

I was a 20 year old cultural Catholic when I entered the Swiss Guards and left it after 2 years as an intentional, devout Catholic. What happened during those two years is that I met and was deeply influenced by Saint John Paul II. I would like to share with you three lessons that I discerned from how he brought me to seek and find a closer relationship with Jesus and his Church during that time.

1:45 pm Dismissal

\*Exhibitors include: ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge), Benedictine College, BoosterThon/BoosterSpiritWear, Catholic Virtual, CLT Exam, DENNIS Uniform, Franciscan University, Hord Architects, Institute for Catholic School Leadership, ISBC (Independent School Benefit Consortium), ISPD Consulting, Meitler/Ruotolo, Museum of the Bible, OSV (Our Sunday Visitor), Ray Dass, Sock Religious, Sophia Institute for Teachers, Steier Group, Vocation Ministry