

8th Annual DIA Schools Summit October 19-21, 2022

JSerra Catholic High School

San Juan Capistrano, CA

Leadership Workshops

“Transgenderism and Pastoral Aspects” Roundtable Discussion

How do we provide pastoral care for students, faculty, and families when faced with tough questions? Hear from peers who have been in those conversations, others who have researched best practices, and we'll discuss ways to help our constituents understand and move forward.

Moderated by Pat Reidy, DIA Schools Collaborative Board Member and Vice President of Mission and Faith at JSerra Catholic High School.

“Seeing Well” Abriana Chilelli and Jared Staudt

This session will be an overview of the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic School's approach to forming teachers in a Catholic worldview through the Catholic Worldview Seminar. We'll review how we format the seminar, policy to support participation in the seminar, and readings used, but most importantly, we'll share why the formation of our teachers to see reality well is a mission-critical move in the renewal of our Catholic schools.

Abriana Chilelli serves as Associate Superintendent for Academic Renewal for the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools. Her primary work is renewing what is taught in our schools, and how it is taught, to flow from the nature of the human person and to be ordered toward helping students to come to know and love Jesus Christ. She believes deeply that there can be no true education which is not wholly directed to man's last end. Abriana has an undergraduate degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from University of Colorado, and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Notre Dame's Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program. Her husband and her favorite students are their four children, all of whom attend Catholic schools.

Dr. R. Jared Staudt serves as Associate Superintendent for the Archdiocese of Denver and as Visiting Associate Professor at the Augustine Institute. He is author of Restoring Humanity: Essays on the Evangelization of Culture and editor of Renewing Catholic Schools: How to Regain a

Catholic Vision in a Secular Age. He and his wife, Anne, have six children and he is a Benedictine oblate.

“Sports Properly Directed” Chris Ledyard

What does an Athletic Administration need to look like in order for sport programs to become transformational within a Catholic high school? What should the primary purpose be, and how do you keep that purpose alive without compromise? What does it look like to coach your players for growth in mind, body and spirit? How do you consistently and constantly keep the main thing the main thing?

This seminar is philosophically based on the statement from Saint Pope John-Paul II regarding the value of sport. He said, “Sports are not merely the exercise of muscles, but the school of moral values and of training and courage, in perseverance, and in overcoming laziness and carelessness. There’s no doubt that these values are of the greatest interest for the formation of personality, which considers sports not an end in itself, but as a means to total and harmonious physical, moral and social development.”

Chris Ledyard is the Athletics Director at JSerra Catholic High School. He began his tenure there in 2016. He knew that the Trinity League was arguably the greatest high school athletic league in the country. His intent was to promote athletics as a tool for spiritual and personal transformation for the coaches and athletes. A core belief that he has implemented at the school is that sports do not build your character, they reveal it. Sports only build your character if you respond properly.

Prior to joining JSerra in October 2016, he spent more than 20 years at the helm of the athletic program at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. During Ledyard’s tenure there as Director of Athletics, he built their athletic programs from the ground up and led the school through the process of receiving full accreditation in NCAA Division III. Before Franciscan University, Ledyard served as Catholic High School Vice Principal and coach at Madonna High School in West Virginia.

Ledyard has been married to his wife Lisa for 33 years and has six children, and one grandson. He resides in Oceanside, CA.

“Catholic Education and Cultural Challenges” Anthony Lilles

We live in an unprecedented moment in the history of American and Californian freedom where graduates of our Catholic schools run almost all major government institutions. Astonishingly, these very educated Catholic alumnae are increasingly at odds with each other and their bishops over the most basic human goods at a time when our society is drifting into tyrannical forms of anti-religious secularism. In the meantime, our youth despair under the post-traumatic stress wrought by the absence of the sacred in public life. Catholic Education has the opportunity to

confront this social challenge with the Eucharistic gaze of the Risen Lord. If the next generation can discover His look of love, they will find ways to work together for a more meaningful freedom than current leaders have been able to achieve.

From Santa Cruz, California, Dr. Lilles went to Franciscan University and continued his graduate and post-graduate studies at the Angelicum in Rome. An expert in the writings of St. Elisabeth of the Trinity, he is specialized in spiritual theology. Married and the father to three young adults, he is a professor of theology in Menlo Park, California at St. Patrick's Seminary and University. He blogs at www.spiritualdirection.com and podcasts at www.discerninghearts.com and is a co-founder of the Avila Institute as well as the John Paul II Center for Contemplative Culture.

“Teaching about Race and Diversity in Catholic Schools: Catholic Natural Law vs. Critical Theory”

Adam Seagrave

This workshop will address the “why” and the “how” of teaching about race and diversity in Catholic schools, focusing especially on the distinction between the Catholic natural law approach on the one hand, and the Critical Theory approach on the other. Most Catholics aren’t aware of the tremendously rich resources we have in the Catholic Faith—the inspiring examples we have in Catholic Saints, and the profound basis we have in Divine Revelation and Catholic Teaching—for teaching and learning about human diversity, for confronting historic and ongoing injustices, and for building diverse communities through understanding and love. In this workshop, we will attempt to scratch the surface of these resources and inspire participants to confidently embrace teaching these topics in their schools.

Adam Seagrave is Senior Fellow for Education with the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR), focusing on curriculum development and teacher training. He is also co-founder and co-director of the Race and the American Story project. He is a tenured Associate Professor at Arizona State University, and holds a PhD in Political Theory from the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses on the central ideas of the American political tradition, particularly in their intersection with issues of race. His first book, *The Foundations of Natural Morality: On the Compatibility of Natural Rights and the Natural Law*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2014. He has also published *Liberty and Equality: The American Conversation* (University Press of Kansas, 2015) and *The Accessible Federalist* (Hackett Publishing Co., 2017).

He attended Kolbe Academy in Napa, CA for elementary school and received his BA from Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, CA. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife, Rosie, who is a teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, and his two daughters, both of whom attend the same school.