Session 1-A

All One People: Developing a Sense of Liturgical Hospitality

It has been said that hospitality is the heart and soul of good liturgical ministry. One doesn’t learn to be a good host or hostess without practice. We start small and work our way up as we gain confidence. Some of us are better at it than others. Let us explore together what we can do to make our parish community one where all people are welcome.

Presenter: Dan Schutte

Session 1-B

The Christian Initiation of Adults: What Does the Rite Want?

Perhaps more than any other liturgical book of the Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults spells out expectations of the parish community, catechists, sponsors, priests, deacons and other ministers. The rite gives us a robust vision of the close relationship between liturgy and catechesis, one that leads to active faith, personal prayer, and vibrant mission. How are we doing in living up to these rich expectations? How can we do better? We will focus on several of the key components of the vision embodied in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and explore how they can be implemented in your parish. All levels of experience, or no experience are welcome.

Presenter: Rita Ferrone

Session 1-C

Effective Practices for Engaging Young People: It Takes a Whole Parish

“If parishes are to be worthy of the loyalty and active participation of youth, they will need to become “youth-friendly” communities in which youth have a conspicuous presence in parish life. These are parish communities that value young people - welcoming them into their midst; listening to them; responding to their needs; supporting them with prayer, time, facilities, and money.” (USCCB, RTV, P.13) Designed for pastors, pastoral staffs, volunteers and parents, this workshop will help assess parish support for youth and explore practical strategies for engaging young people in the life of the parish.

Presenter: Rob Williams

Session 1-D

Building Bridges: Engaging People in Living Faith

As pastoral leaders, we face enormous challenges and have immense opportunities to touch the lives of people every day. The challenge: engaging those we already know, bringing them closer to Christ and the parish community. The opportunity: reaching out to those we do not already know, evangelizing them through those who are already connected to the community of faith. Explore how we as pastoral leaders, and those with whom and for whom we serve, may become bridge builders, reaching out to the world with the Good News.

Presenter: Leisa Anslinger

Session 1-E

Make Church Matter

The leaders of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, came to three realizations. In their words:

a) Our parish wasn't working.
b) We didn’t know how to fix it.
c) We can learn from other churches that are getting it right.

Drawing on the wisdom gained from thriving megachurches and innovative business leaders, while anchoring their vision in the Eucharistic heart of the Catholic faith, Fr. Michael White and lay associate Tom Corcoran wrote the book Rebuilt to tell the compelling and inspiring story of how they brought their parish back to life. In this workshop, Tom Corcoran will present some of the most important lessons they
learned, along with some practical suggestions for every parish to consider and adapt to your own circumstances.

Presenter: Tom Corcoran

Session 1-F

Weekend Liturgy: Engaging the Assembly in the Paschal Mystery
St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford has gradually invited assembly members to a more conscious celebration of our identity as active participants in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. In this presentation, we will explore the Eucharist as the weekly celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus in our lives. We will consider how we can pray the moments of our week, as we move through the ritual movements of the liturgy. We gather, we converse, we are nurtured and transformed, we are sent forth. During this workshop, we hope to offer participants an opportunity to examine the dynamic movement of the parts of the liturgy. We will use a set of Sunday Scriptures to explore the preparation of questions. We will explore how prayer can arise from personal encounters with the Word which then leads to the transforming power of the Eucharistic prayer.

Presenter: Reverend Paul Mullen and members of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford

Session 1-G

Saint Francis, Pope Francis and a Vision of the 21st Century Parish
The Gospels, the legacy of St. Francis, Vatican II and the messages of Pope Francis speak of a Church that, at its best, gathers and sends. While this fundamental dimension of our faith tradition struggles to see full expression in the local parish, the future of American Catholicism holds some exciting and promising prospects if we are willing to renew the possibilities of parish purpose and structure.

Presenter: Jack Jezreel

Session 1-H

Creating Conversations that Discover Life and Hope – Appreciative Inquiry
Conversation is at the heart of building life and relationships in every setting. This workshop will introduce Appreciative Inquiry as a way of seeing, an approach to developing organizations, and a tool for creating life-giving conversations in parish, work, family and community settings. It also draws upon the latest discoveries regarding emotional intelligence. There will be an introduction to the principles and spirituality of Appreciative Inquiry as well as practical ways it can be used to discover “what gives life” and to envision “what is possible” in creating a more vibrant future.

Presenter: Rick Krivanka

Session 1-I

Family-based Models of Religious Formation
The aim of this workshop is to present an evangelizing program geared toward the entire family with the focus on the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation, but also touches all the other Sacraments instituted by Christ. Topics will include a look at some of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and how to apply it to your life as a family.

Presenters: Jose Luis Mendoza, Dori Hurley and Parish Leaders from Queen of Peace Parish, Hawley and Most Holy Trinity Parish, Mount Pocono

Session 1-J

Blended Families and Merged Parishes
Many parishes in our diocese have undergone closings and merging in recent years. These often result in difficult periods of transition. How does a healthy and united new parish emerge? Parishioners and parish leaders can look to other institutions that have undergone similar transitions, blended families and merged corporations. This workshop will explore the parallels and how some of the wisdom already learned by blended families and merged corporations can help smooth the transition in a merged parish.

Presenter: Bernadette Rudolph
Session 1-K
**Sharing Leadership: Establishing Parish Committees and Commissions**
Beginning with their vision for expanding engagement in the parish mission and pastoral leadership, the presenters will describe how they formed four Parish Pastoral Council commissions in the first year of their own existence as a Pastoral Parish Council. They will share strategies and tools they used to recruit commission members; tell about efforts to help ensure their commissions got a firm foundation; and relate how they support commission members’ growth in spirituality, knowledge, and skills. The team will name challenges and blessings along the way and will invite participant questions and discussion. Those who attend can expect to take away practical ideas and materials to imitate. **Presenter:** Mary Ann Paulukonis and Parish Pastoral Council Members from Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale

Sessions – Session 2
11:40 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Session 2-B
**The Parish Pastoral Council: Visioning for the Mission**
The Parish Pastoral Council is the visioning body for the parish. As an advisory group for the pastor, the council’s role is to help determine the parish’s mission and vision and engage all parishioners in the mission of Christ. They can also be invaluable in assessing the changing needs of parishioners, the ministry and outreach of the parish and work toward a strategic plan. A discussion of practical ideas and examples can help clarify needs and pastoral directions. **Presenter:** Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P.

Session 2-C
**Living the New Evangelization through Small Christian Communities**
What is “new” about the New Evangelization? Do you find it difficult to share your faith, or even to pass it along to your children? Do you feel alone in the effort to live out your faith day-to-day? This session will explore how developing supportive parish small Christian communities is a means for responding to the challenge of the New Evangelization to bring about a more profound relationship with Jesus. This approach helps parishioners to cultivate personal faith stories and the commitment to live and share that faith in a way that calls others to Christ. **Presenter:** Greg Kremer

Session 2-D
**Building Bridges: Engaging People in Living Faith**
As pastoral leaders, we face enormous challenges and have immense opportunities to touch the lives of people every day. The challenge: engaging those we already know, bringing them closer to Christ and the parish community. The opportunity: reaching out to those we do not already know, evangelizing them through those who are already connected to the community of faith. Explore how we as pastoral leaders, and those with whom and for whom we serve, may become bridge builders, reaching out to the world with the Good News. **Presenter:** Leisa Anslinger

Session 2-E
**Liturrgical Ministers: How to Have a Meal Without Killing Each Other**
Growing up in our family of ten kids, sometimes the family meal could be quite contentious and fraught with danger. But even with all the contention much was shared and even more was received. As liturgical musicians, what do we bring to the table, what do we receive, and how can we celebrate even better than yesterday? **Presenter:** Curtis Stephan

Session 2-F
**Weekend Liturgy: Engaging the Assembly in the Paschal Mystery**
St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford has gradually invited assembly members to a more conscious celebration of our identity as active participants in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. In this presentation, we will explore the Eucharist as the weekly celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus in our lives. We will
consider how we can pray the moments of our week, as we move through the ritual movements of the liturgy. We gather, we converse, we are nurtured and transformed, we are sent forth. During this workshop, we hope to offer participants an opportunity to examine the dynamic movement of the parts of the liturgy. We will use a set of Sunday Scriptures to explore the preparation of questions. We will explore how prayer can arise from personal encounters with the Word which then leads to the transforming power of the Eucharistic prayer.

**Presenters:** Reverend Paul Mullen and members of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford

**Session 2-G**

*Mission-Based Catechesis: Integrating Formation with Mission*

Many, perhaps most, catechetical strategies presume a static Church and a flimsy sense of the church’s mission in the world. Meanwhile the North American Church continues to lose members, especially young adults, who seek meaning, purpose, and answers to the world’s crises. What if catechesis was fully integrated with mission (as it is supposed to be)? How might we think about religious education, RCIA, youth ministry, evangelization, and parish through the lively and vital lens of being “Good News” to those who are poor, hungry, homeless, exploited, or abandoned. Come consider a new and compelling model of catechesis that seeks to form passionately compassionate disciples.

**Presenter:** Jack Jezreel

**Session 2-H**

*Creating Conversations that Discover Life and Hope – Appreciative Inquiry*

Conversation is at the heart of building life and relationships in every setting. This workshop will introduce Appreciative Inquiry as a way of seeing, an approach to developing organizations, and a tool for creating life-giving conversations in parish, work, family and community settings. It also draws upon the latest discoveries regarding emotional intelligence. There will be an introduction to the principles and spirituality of Appreciative Inquiry as well as practical ways it can be used to discover “what gives life” and to envision “what is possible” in creating a more vibrant future.

**Presenter:** Rick Krivanka

**Session 2-I**

*Welcoming Community: Baptism and Beyond*

When a family is presenting their loved one for Baptism, this is a vital opportunity to form the relationship with the parish community. Come to learn how one parish has developed an ongoing ministry support to welcome and prepare a family for Baptism, and then to remain in meaningful contact with the family through the early years until they become part of the parish religious education program.

**Presenters:** Members of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish Baptismal Ministry Team, Nanticoke

**Session 2-J**

*Disciples and Parishes Empowered by a Culture of Pentecost*

In developing a culture of Pentecost, disciples experience the depth of God’s personal love, and are called to respond to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit as a living reality in every aspect of parish life. As we daily seek and encounter the Lord, we will be empowered to zealously give of ourselves to increase in the parish the aspects of Word, Worship, Community, and Service.

**Presenter:** Robert Valiante

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**Workshops – Session 3**

1:05 – 2:15 p.m.

**Session 3-B**

*The Christian Initiation of Adults: What Does the Rite Want?*

Perhaps more than any other liturgical book of the church, the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* spells out expectations of the parish community, catechists, sponsors, priests, deacons and other ministers. The rite gives us a robust vision of the close relationship between liturgy and catechesis, one that leads to active faith, personal prayer, and vibrant mission. How are we doing in living up to these rich expectations? How can we do better? We will focus on several of the key components of the vision
embodied in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and explore how they can be implemented in your parish. All levels of experience, or no experience are welcome.

Presenter: Rita Ferrone

Session 3-C
Living the New Evangelization through Small Christian Communities
What is “new” about the New Evangelization? Do you find it difficult to share your faith, or even to pass it along to your children? Do you feel alone in the effort to live out your faith day-to-day? This session will explore how developing supportive parish small Christian communities is a means for responding to the challenge of the New Evangelization to bring about a more profound relationship with Jesus. This approach helps parishioners to cultivate personal faith stories and the commitment to live and share that faith in a way that calls others to Christ.

Presenter: Greg Kremer

Session 3-D
Coach Parents, Form the Family
We all know the importance of parents in the faith development of their children, and we share a concern that many parents are not engaged in their children’s catechesis: many are not engaged in their parish or in a lively and growing faith at all. How can we engage parents in ways that will help to form faith that lasts a lifetime? Explore how everything changes when we coach parents to form their children, partnering with them, and leading the family to living and lasting faith.

Presenter: Leisa Anslinger

Session 3-E
Make Church Matter
The leaders of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, came to three realizations. In their words:

a) Our parish wasn’t working.
b) We didn’t know how to fix it.
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Presenter: Tom Corcoran

Session 3-F
Becoming a Church That Regathers the Scattered
The goal of this workshop is to strengthen the ecclesial identity of the parishes in the Diocese of Scranton according to the vision of Bishop Bambera’s 2011 Pastoral: “How do we become communities that regather the scattered?” Aimed at pastoral ministers, liturgical coordinators, religious educators, and parish council members, this workshop will offer a paradigm for parish life that promotes servant leadership. The presenters propose that the bishop’s vision of renewal summons an exciting reorientation of parish life attuned to the social and spiritual struggles of our time and region. Renewal lies, in large part, in the parish’s ability to convert its immigrant history and ethnic heritage into the theological story of a lively faith community that makes home for today’s scattered, some of whom are sitting next to us in the pew, or are the neighbors down the street who years ago stopped attending church. The role of liturgy and theology will be explored as critical components of developing into a Church that regathers the scattered.

Session 3-G  
*It Takes a Congregation! Tips for Forming the Parish RCIA Team*

The RCIA is clear in its vision that it takes an entire parish community to welcome new members. Real life experience bears testimony to the truth of this conviction. A parish RCIA team is not a luxury, but a necessity. How does a parish with limited resources form a team? How does a parish identify team members? How can a team be formed and given ongoing support? Strategies, tips, and techniques will be given to help support a parish’s efforts in realizing the truth that “shepherds don’t make sheep; sheep make sheep.”

**Presenter:** Reverend Robert Simon

Session 3-H  
*Liturgical Ministers: How to Have a Meal Without Killing Each Other*

Growing up in our family of ten kids, sometimes the family meal could be quite contentious and fraught with danger. But even with all the contention much was shared and even more was received. As liturgical musicians, what do we bring to the table, what do we receive, and how can we celebrate even better than yesterday?

**Presenter:** Curtis Stephan

Session 3-I  
*Listening With the Heart*

*Listening with the Heart* is a spiritual, personal, and pastoral enrichment program for anyone in a parish. By our Baptism we are all called to be present to people in need, both in our families and parishes, especially with the sick, homebound, and elderly. This workshop presents an overview of the training sessions which cover our call to ministry and service, self awareness, listening and communication skills, dealing with the emotional and spiritual aspects of aging, illness and grief, and ministry to the homebound, nursing home and hospitalized.

**Presenters:** Sister Jane O'Donnell, R.S.M. and Carol Salva

Session 3-J  
*Development of a Three Parish Joint Partnership*

We assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the three parishes in order to develop an ongoing process of collaboration within the cluster. We would like to retain a sense of ownership in ministry with the goal of caring for the needs of everyone in our parish communities.

**Presenters:** Vicki Mulligan and Reverend David Cramer

Workshops – Session 4  
2:30 – 3:40 p.m.

Session 4-B  
*Forming Your Parish as a School of Discipleship*

The Year of Faith is a great opportunity to take stock and see what is working well and what could use some new ways of thinking. Every parish has many ministries, organizations, training sessions, parent meetings and more. This workshop offers ways to engage all in faith reflection and deepen their spirituality and faith life as a regular part of their gatherings. The end result? A stronger community of disciples!

**Presenter:** Sister Donna Ciangio, O.P.

Session 4-C  
*Effective Practices for Engaging Young People: It Takes a Whole Parish*

“If parishes are to be worthy of the loyalty and active participation of youth, they will need to become “youth-friendly” communities in which youth have a conspicuous presence in parish life. These are parish communities that value young people -welcoming them into their midst; listening to them; responding to their needs; supporting them with prayer, time, facilities, and money.” (USCCB, RTV. P.13) Designed for pastors, pastoral staffs, volunteers and parents, this workshop will help assess parish support for
youth and explore practical strategies for engaging young people in the life of the parish.

**Presenter:** Rob Williams

**Session 4-D**  
**Coach Parents, Form the Family**  
We all know the importance of parents in the faith development of their children, and we share a concern that many parents are not engaged in their children’s catechesis: many are not engaged in their parish or in a lively and growing faith at all. How can we engage parents in ways that will help to form faith that lasts a lifetime? Explore how everything changes when we coach parents to form their children, partnering with them, and leading the family to living and lasting faith.

**Presenter:** Leisa Anslinger

**Session 4-E**  
**LUKE: Stories on the Road.**  
In his performance on St. Luke’s Gospel, Mr. Runyeon will present the famous parables that Jesus told on the road to Jerusalem “as you’ve never heard them! Filled with humor and punctuated by insightful personal reflections, this will be an entertaining and eye-opening experience that helps us to ‘have ears to hear’ these stories in a new way: as stories addressed to us personally… about our lives, here and now.”

**Presenter:** Frank Runyeon

**Session 4-F**  
**Becoming a Church That Regathers the Scattered**  
The goal of this workshop is to strengthen the ecclesial identity of the parishes in the Diocese of Scranton according to the vision of Bishop Bambera’s 2011 Pastoral: “How do we become communities that regather the scattered?” Aimed at pastoral ministers, liturgical coordinators, religious educators, and parish council members, this workshop will offer a paradigm for parish life that promotes servant leadership. The presenters propose that the bishop’s vision of renewal summons an exciting reorientation of parish life attuned to the social and spiritual struggles of our time and region. Renewal lies, in large part, in the parish’s ability to convert its immigrant history and ethnic heritage into the theological story of a lively faith community that makes home for today’s scattered, some of whom are sitting next to us in the pew, or are the neighbors down the street who years ago stopped attending church. The role of liturgy and theology will be explored as critical components of developing into a Church that regathers the scattered.

**Presenters:** Reverend Daniel J. Issing, C.S.C. and Reverend John M. Lapera

**Session 4-G**  
**It Takes a Congregation! Tips for Forming the Parish RCIA Team**  
The RCIA is clear in its vision that it takes an entire parish community to welcome new members. Real life experience bears testimony to the truth of this conviction. A parish RCIA team is not a luxury, but a necessity. How does a parish with limited resources form a team? How does a parish identify team members? How can a team be formed and given ongoing support? Strategies, tips, techniques will be given to help support a parish’s efforts in realizing the truth that “shepherds don’t make sheep; sheep make sheep.”

**Presenter:** Reverend Robert Simon

**Session 4-H**  
**Young Adults and Relevance of the Church**

- Understanding and Relating to Young Adults in the Church Today
- Building a Church with Relevance and Meaning for Young Adults
- What Brings Relevance, Life and Hope for Young Adults in the Church

**Presenters:** Rick Krivanka and Young Adult Panel

**Session 4-I**  
**Sharing Leadership: Establishing Parish Committees and Commissions**
Beginning with their vision for expanding engagement in the parish mission and pastoral leadership, the presenters will describe how they formed four Parish Pastoral Council commissions in the first year of their own existence as a Pastoral Parish Council. They will share strategies and tools they used to recruit commission members; tell about efforts to help ensure their commissions got a firm foundation; and relate how they support commission members’ growth in spirituality, knowledge, and skills. The team will name challenges and blessings along the way and will invite participant questions and discussion. Those who attend can expect to take away practical ideas and materials to imitate.  

**Presenters:** Mary Ann Paulukonis and Parish Pastoral Council Members from Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale

**Session 4-J**

**How to Hold a Confirmation Retreat in Your Parish: Two Parish Examples**  
Sister Madonna will describe a Retreat Day in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This can be an enactment of how we will live our Catholic Christian lives “until death do us unite” with the Living God and those who have gone before us in Faith. The presentation will include handouts of the day’s schedule and segments of the retreat day activities. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in some of the life-lesson activities as presented by the youth group teens who served as peer catechists and mentors to the Candidates for Confirmation.

Gayle will address the benefits of a retreat tailor-made to fit the particular needs of your current confirmation class. Learn how to choose topics, recruit presenters, involve parents and sponsors, and organize a retreat to accommodate the objectives of your parish Confirmation program.  

**Presenters:** Sister Madonna Figura, SS.C.M. and Gayle Castellani

**Session 4-K**

**Models of Parish Social Concerns Outreach Programs**  
Participants will learn about various models that may be utilized to carry out effective parish social concerns ministry. Representatives from parish Social Concerns Committees will share their success stories, best practices, and the challenges they face as they strive to provide outreach to those in need in their parishes and beyond. Participants will hear first-hand accounts regarding ways of initiating effective programs, facilitating good meetings, and sustaining effective parish outreach ministry.

**Presenters:** David A. Clarke and Social Concerns Committee Members from the parishes of Saint Jude, Mountaintop, Saint John the Evangelist, Pittston, and Saint Nicholas, Wilkes-Barre