

Topic #1

Shall We Dance? An Invitation to Partner with God in the Journey of Life

St. John of Damascus, one of the early church fathers, wrote: “Father, Son and Holy Spirit are like three dancers, holding hands, dancing together in perfect love, perfect freedom, and perfect harmony.” Just when we think we’ve finally “got it together” and have everything under control, someone, something, or some situation helps us realize it is God who has been leading us all along and, it is only God who knows the next step. This presentation will provide an opportunity to reflect on our lives as an on-going dance with God and to consider the question: *What kind of dance pattern have I shared with this God of ours who so loves partnering with us?*

Anne Amati, OSF, is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia who serves as Council Member on her congregation’s leadership team. She has ministered in education on the elementary, secondary, and collegial level. Anne was an itinerant retreat director and workshop presenter for Religious congregations of men and women both nationally and internationally. Anne was a staff member of a Franciscan pilgrimage program traversing the streets of Rome and Assisi leading, facilitating, lecturing, and celebrating with groups of pilgrims as they visited the sacred sites of Saints Francis and Clare. Sister Anne led retreats, workshops, and as a musician and leader of song with various religious congregations, parishes, schools, hospitals, and dioceses in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

Topic #2

We Dare to Hope

The theological virtue of hope is a gift from God himself, given to every human being so that we can achieve salvation. Yet many -- perhaps most -- of the evils plaguing the modern world can be traced back to people, groups, even whole societies who have lost hope and given in to presumption or despair. This talk will employ the life stories and first-hand wisdom of several contemporary “heroes of hope” to show how this virtue can bring healing in the face of pain, strength in moments of temptation, comfort in the midst of sorrow, and clarity in times of doubt.

Father Philip G. Bochanski, C.O., was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1999, and served at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, his first assignment, until 2002. In June 2004, he joined the Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri, a society of apostolic life made up of secular priests who live in community without vows. In addition to parish ministry at St Francis Xavier Church, in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia, Father Philip is the chaplain to the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (the “Pink Sisters”) and to the Philadelphia chapters of the Catholic Medical Association and the Courage Apostolate. He has co-authored and edited several books on church history, and has published three series of Catholic audio lectures with Now You Know Media.

Topic #3
Catholic Social Teaching: The Church's "Best Kept Secret"

Rooted in Scripture and centuries of Catholic thought, Catholic social teachings can help us form our consciences and convictions as we struggle with complex issues today. The doctrines of Trinity, Incarnation and Eucharist, as well as the Prayer that Jesus gave us, also shed light on social teachings. As we try to clarify our positions on budgets, deficits, foreign assistance, collective bargaining, environment and energy, war and weapons, and other issues with competing claims, especially in an election year, Catholic social thought can help to enlighten and guide us in our decisions.

Sister Marie Lucey, OSF, is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia who currently serves as Director of Advocacy and Member Relations for Franciscan Action Network (FAN) based in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she addresses, in particular, issues related to immigration, human trafficking and peacemaking. Sister Marie participates in the Justice for Immigrants Campaign and the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Prior to this ministry, Sister Marie served for eight years as the Associate Director for Social Mission of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) where she coordinated efforts of women religious addressing diverse issues of social justice, peace and the integrity of Creation. From 1996-2002, Sister Marie served as her congregation's Congregational Minister, following many years as Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, Justice and Peace Coordinator and educator. She has participated in delegations to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Mexico and the Middle East (Lebanon and Syria).

Topic #4
"Ministering to the Least, the Lost and the Last"

Because of the stigma of mental illness, many of its victims and their family members do not tell anyone and do not get proper support. Mental illness and depression is not a choice. Faith Communities are natural settings where those with mental illnesses and their families can feel safe and comfortable. How can we support and minister to these brothers and sisters? Come and explore how to make a difference in someone's life.

Deacon Ralph Shirley and his wife, Deb, have been married for 33 years. They have 4 adult children and (so far) 3 grandchildren. Deacon Ralph was ordained in June 2007 and is currently assigned to Our Lady of Ransom Parish in Northeast Philadelphia. Deacon Ralph is a licensed psychologist working for Belmont Behavioral Health, part of the Einstein Healthcare Network.

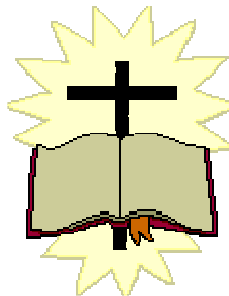
Sports, Spirituality and Character Development Workshop

Two sessions:

“Maintaining Perspective in Sports: Exploring the Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

In the world of sports today, it can be easy to make winning the be-all, end-all. What can get lost with this attitude is the welfare of the young person. Also, there are many good lessons that can be learned in and through sports. These presentations will offer questions and stories that will serve to keep sports in perspective and help us be aware of the good inherent in sports.

Ed Hastings, Ph.D is Director of the, Institute for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development at Neumann University and Asst. Professor of Religious Studies. He has a Ph.D. in spirituality from Duquesne University. He wrote his dissertation on “A Spirituality of Competition.” He played and coached basketball at Villanova University.



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Super Bowl of Catholic Thought
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Name _____

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Please check sessions you will attend
If registering for the first 4 topics, please choose two workshops:

Session 1: 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Topic # _____

Session 2: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Topic # _____

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Suggested Donation

\$10.00 per person \$5.00 Seniors / Students

Make checks to: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

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Sr. Kathy Donovan, OSF
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