

INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC LIBERAL EDUCATION

2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE *Cause of Our Joy*



JULY 17-20, 2023

Premier Videos Package

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, I thank you for viewing these recordings from our 11th annual National Conference. It was truly an unforgettable week, spent in prayer, conversation, formation, and celebration.

We were thrilled to welcome our bishops, priests, religious, superintendents, principals, and, especially, all the teachers who serve our Catholic school children each minute of the day in the classroom.

God is love, and when we love Him, we abide in Him—in this communion of spirit we gain joy. As Saint Paul teaches, “the Spirit yields a harvest of love [and] joy...” (Gal. 5:22). This was made manifest among the early Christians when it was said of them, “See how they love one another?” It was joy that personified the apostolic age and the spread of deep and authentic Christianity. It is also this very same fruit, joy, which must animate us as teachers if we are to be attractive Gospel witnesses to the children in our classrooms and the families in our schools!

And who more than the Blessed Mother is the cause of such joy?

Who else but her, through her fiat, caused Love himself to become incarnate and to call us into divine life through the sacraments? When we imitate Our Lady’s self-surrender, we immediately and always find joy because our spirit resonates with our true nature and calling. In her fiat, she found the ultimate joy and caused the world to change eternally, allowing us to inherit that same joy with God made man.

It is this realization and this reality that becomes the foundation of all that we do in education. The Church teaches us that education is the transference of culture. So this is our vocation as teachers: to transfer this culture. But Jesus Christ is the Heart of Culture, so it is Him we proclaim, Him—the Logos—we seek with our students. All through history, we see that a return to the true heart of culture is the catalyst to a renewal of education.

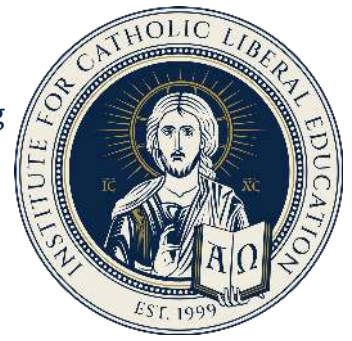
Today, as we find ourselves in a moment of education renewal, let us “rejoice and be glad in it!” (Ps. 118:24). As educators, may we become shadows of Our Lady as causes of joy to our students year in and year out, day in and day out.

We hope these recordings of our time together will inspire, inform, and strengthen you as you continue to share Christ and His Church with your students and their families. Please know that all of us at the Institute are grateful to you for your service to Christ’s children, and we stand at the ready to serve you in any way we can!

Mary, Cause of our Joy, Pray for Us,



Michael Van Hecke, President
Institute for Catholic Liberal Education



**"WHEN WE IMITATE
OUR LADY'S
SELF-SURRENDER,
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ON THE COVER

Our conference theme, *Cause of Our Joy*, points to our Blessed Mother's fiat - her “yes” to God at the Annunciation - which brought us the Source of all joy, Jesus. Mary always unites us to the heart of her Son. In Ingres’s masterpiece, *The Virgin Adoring the Host*, her gaze directs us to the Source and Summit of our faith as we proceed in the three-year National Eucharistic Revival. As Catholic educators, may we strive together to exude the deep joy that can only be found in Our Lord. *Our Lady, Cause of Our Joy, ora pro nobis!*



CATHOLIC LIBERAL EDUCATION: FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Elisabeth Sullivan

Executive Director, ICLE

Highly recommended for those who are new to this renewal, the session explores the nature and purpose of Catholic education and its roots in the classical liberal arts tradition. We frame the vision, clarify unfamiliar terms, and offer a roadmap.



THE JOY AND WONDER OF EDUCATION

The Most Reverend James D. Conley, D.D., S.T.L.

Bishop of Lincoln

This talk explores the true meaning and nature of Catholic liberal education and how it should engender joy and wonder in both the teacher and the student. Teaching is a species of friendship, albeit a very unique kind of friendship. Those who teach in our schools should see their colleagues as a “faculty of friends.” All true friendship should be a source of joy and wonder, modeled on the friendship we have with Jesus.



TURNING THE TIDE OF UNBELIEF WITH SCIENCE-BASED APOLOGETICS

Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.

President, Spitzer Magis Center

One of the leading reasons for the current rising tide of unbelief among young people is a perceived contradiction between faith and science (42%). However, quite the opposite is the case. Today, there is more evidence for God, Jesus, and even the Eucharist than ever before, and scientists are declaring their belief in the transcendent in ever greater numbers (51% overall and 66% of young scientists). Fr. Spitzer will briefly explain this remarkable evidence and how it can be effectively addressed in both middle school and high school.



MEMORY, IMAGINATION, AND RESILIENCE

Andrew Pudewa

Director, Institute for Excellence in Writing

While we cannot know exactly what the future will bring, we can expect that should difficult times come, the more resilient we are the more good we can do for those around us. The prayers, the poems, the stories, the truths—resources hidden inside our hearts—will aid us greatly if and when we face suffering or persecution. Therefore, let us consider how we should furnish our minds, cultivating our memory and imagination in ways which will greatly assist us in resisting evil.



WHY LOGIC IN K-12 EDUCATION? GIVE ME A REASON!

Dr. Benjamin Beier

Associate Professor of Education, Hillsdale College

Since its genesis, the classical education movement in the United States has placed an emphasis on the study of the trivium of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Yet, for many who are unfamiliar with logic and for some who are familiar with it, logic is reputed to be boring and difficult to understand. This talk will attempt to present logic in a new light as something common and useful as well as beautiful and profound.



“WHO AM I?” A CAUSE FOR JOY

Mary Rice Hasson, J.D.

Kate O’Beirne Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

They say statistics don’t lie. Statistics tell us America’s children are more depressed, confused, and lonelier than ever before, despite hyper-connected social media profiles. That’s true. What statistics can’t tell us is “why” or how to help. For that, we turn to deeper sources. This talk considers “identity” and the person through the lens of faith, explains why our culture is producing a lost generation unsure of ‘who they are,’ and what we can do. Not all the answers, but a start!



INTRODUCTION TO THE ANCIENT WORLD:

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS READ PAGAN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY?

Dr. Arthur Hippler

Chairman, Religion Department, Providence Academy

We are taught that Jesus came in the "fullness of time," and His coming was not only prepared by the Old Testament, but also by the "seeds of the Word" planted among the pagans. How does our understanding of the pagan philosophy and literature of Greece and Rome help us to appreciate the truths grasped by pagans, and more importantly, their longing for higher truths which only God can reveal?



GIVING OUR FIAT TO INCLUSION IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: A PRO-LIFE MODEL

Shelly Lampe

Teacher and Academic Needs Coordinator, Immaculata Classical Academy

At Immaculata Classical Academy in Louisville, Kentucky, the founders sought to fill a need: a Catholic education available to all children in a family, including those with special needs. They believed that a Catholic, pro-life school should embrace the value in all people as beings created in God’s image. Thirteen years later, the school’s model of inclusion continues to be a unique and beautiful undertaking. In her talk, Mrs. Lampe will discuss the school’s mission, the "Immaculata method", the impact on students and families, and what it takes to make it all work.



LEADING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO MEET JESUS CHRIST IN HISTORY

Abriana Chilelli

Associate Superintendent for Academic Renewal, Archdiocese of Denver

This session will present the Archdiocese of Denver's project to restore the teaching of history throughout its schools. Mrs. Chilelli will share the process of changing content from social studies to history, the important reasons for the switch, the year of formation for teachers, and other details regarding the change management of this shift.



WHY WISDOM MATTERS

Dr. John F. Boyle

Professor & Chairman, Department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, MN

St. Thomas Aquinas says that the purpose of the universe is truth and it is the duty of the wise to know this truth. What does that mean? What does it mean for a teacher? Does that mean the teacher is just a brain on a stick? St. Thomas yokes wisdom and charity together. What does that mean? What does it mean for a teacher? Dr. Boyle will explore these essential elements of wisdom with an eye to how they give life and meaning to our schools and classrooms.



FROM INSPIRATION TO ACTION: ICLE SUPPORT & STATE OF THE INSTITUTE

Michael Van Hecke, *President, ICLE*

Colleen Richards, *Director of School Services, ICLE*

Dr. Alyssan Barnes, *Director of Credential Program, Senior Faculty, ICLE*

Hear specifics of how ICLE's School Services, Catholic Educator Formation and Credential Program, Leadership Programs, and Consulting can help advance your renewal.

Dr. Benjamin Beier

Associate Professor of Education, Hillsdale College

Benjamin V. Beier, Ph. D. is an Associate Professor of Education at Hillsdale College. He speaks frequently to K-12 educators and has published articles on Shakespeare, Thomas More, and related topics. He is currently co-authoring a book on Aristotelian logic.

Dr. John F. Boyle

Professor and Chair, Department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas

Dr. Boyle is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He has published widely on the life and work of St. Thomas Aquinas, including the critical Latin edition of a long lost work of Aquinas. His most recent book, published this year, is *Aquinas on Scripture: A Primer*. Dr. Boyle has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, the Aquinas Medal from the University of Dallas, and has delivered the Aquinas Lecture at the National University of Ireland. He is a founding Fellow of the Center for Thomas More Studies and publishes on the thought of St. Thomas More including essays on More's education of his children. He is also a founding Senior Fellow of the Boethius Institute. Dr. Boyle lives in St. Paul with his wife, Dia; they have three grown children.

Abriana Chilelli

Associate Superintendent for Academic Renewal, Archdiocese of Denver

Abriana Chilelli serves as Associate Superintendent for Academic Renewal for the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools. 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.

The Most Reverend James D. Conley, D.D., S.T.L.

Bishop of Lincoln

Bishop James D. Conley has served the Catholic Church in many ways—as pastor, college campus chaplain, director of Respect Life ministries, theology instructor, Vatican official, and bishop. For his episcopal motto, Bishop Conley, a convert to the Catholic faith, chose the same motto as the great St. John Henry Cardinal Newman, “cor ad cor loquitur,” which means “heart speaks to heart.”

While in college, Bishop Conley studied in the University of Kansas's Integrated Humanities Program. He converted to the Catholic Church, and Professor John Senior, was his godfather. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Wichita on May 18, 1985. He had the privilege in 1991 of baptizing both his mother and father and receiving them into the Catholic Church.

Bishop Conley was called to serve the Holy See as an official in the Vatican Congregation for Bishops. He also served in chaplaincy and teaching roles at the Rome campuses of the University of Dallas and Christendom College. Pope John Paul II named him “chaplain to his holiness” with the title monsignor. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Denver. Bishop Conley was installed as the ninth Bishop of Lincoln on Nov. 20, 2012.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Rice Hasson, J.D.

Kate O’Beirne Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Mary Rice Hasson, J.D., is the Kate O’Beirne Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., where she co-founded and directs the Person and Identity Project, an initiative that educates and equips parents and faith-based institutions to promote the truth about the human person and counter gender ideology. An attorney and policy expert, Mary has been a three-time keynote speaker for the Holy See at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, on topics related to women, education, and gender ideology. She serves as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family, Life and Youth. Recently, Mary was honored to receive the *Christifideles Laici* award at the 2023 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast.

Dr. Arthur Hippler

Chairman of the Religion Department at Providence Academy

Adjunct professor, St. Paul School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas

Consultant, ICLE

Arthur Hippler is Chairman of the Religion Department at Providence Academy, where he has taught since 2006. He also teaches as an adjunct professor in St. Paul School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas and as an instructor in the Harry Flynn Catechetical Institute for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. A graduate of Thomas Aquinas College in California, he received his Doctorate in Philosophy from Boston College. He is the author of four books: two on Catholic social teaching and two eBooks on C. S. Lewis. He is married with five children

Shelly Lampe

Teacher and Academic Needs Coordinator, Immaculata Classical Academy

Mrs. Shelley Lampe is an Academic Needs Coordinator and Teacher at Immaculata Classical Academy in Louisville, Kentucky. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Louisville and graduate work at the University of Kentucky. A Catholic wife and mother of six, Mrs. Lampe has taught in small private Catholic schools for thirty-two years. Following the birth of her youngest child, who has Down syndrome, she completed a master’s program in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education which enabled her to practice developmental intervention with children with special needs. In her life outside of Immaculata, Mrs. Lampe can be found outdoors on her family’s small farm among her animals, fresh air, and open spaces.

Andrew Pudewa

Director, Institute for Excellence in Writing

Andrew Pudewa is the founder and principal speaker of the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Presenting around the world, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. His seminars for parents, students, and teachers have helped transform many a reluctant writer and have equipped educators with powerful tools to dramatically improve students’ skills. Although he is a graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Japan (Suzuki Method) and holds a Certificate of Child Brain Development, his best endorsement is from a young Alaskan boy who called him “the funny man with the wonderful words.”

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., PhD ***President, Spitzer Magis Center***

Fr. Spitzer is a Catholic Priest in the Jesuit order and President of the Spitzer Magis Center. As President of Gonzaga University from 1998 to 2009, he significantly increased their programs and curricula in faith, ethics, service, and leadership. He also led the efforts to build 20 new facilities, increased the student population by 75%, and raised more than \$200 million for scholarships and capital projects. Fr. Spitzer has made many TV appearances including Larry King Live (debating Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow), the Today Show (debating on the topic of active euthanasia), The History Channel in “God and The Universe,” and a multiple part PBS series “Closer to the Truth.” He currently appears weekly on EWTN in “Father Spitzer’s Universe”.

Elisabeth Sullivan ***Executive Director, ICLE***

A former journalist, Elisabeth developed her passion for Catholic liberal education while exploring authentic formation in faith and reason for her own children. She joined the Institute in 2010 to advance this vision and train educators in its philosophy and practice. As Executive Director, she develops ICLE’s program content and publications, designs our annual conference, and promotes our mission through speaking engagements across the country. Elisabeth is a CiRCE-Certified Classical Teacher who has taught middle school writing and literature, served on Catholic school boards, and served as director of communications for a liberal arts school in the Catholic tradition. She holds a B.S. in Humanities from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and an M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She and her husband live in North Carolina and have three sons.