



THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

Encounter • Formation • Discipleship

Calendar of Events 2021-2022

If no location or time is indicated, the event will be available online at [FormationReimagined.org](https://formationreimagined.org)

Catechetical Summit

August 25, 2021

Join Bishop Caggiano and the team from The Leadership Institute as we reimagine faith formation together. All pastors, parochial vicars, faith formation leaders, youth ministers, and other team members are invited and encouraged to attend.

We will begin with prayer at **10:00 am** and conclude with lunch. Topics include:

- + Principles of faith formation
- + Best practices in reimagining
- + The role of the pastor
- + Parish staffing ideas
- + Structure and models for ministry
- + Engaging parents
- + What's Next?

Please mark your calendar and keep an eye out for the response form to let us know who will be coming from your parish.



Family Bible Challenge

The Leadership Institute of the Diocese of Bridgeport is pleased to present the Family Bible Challenge. Now in its ninth season, the Family Bible Challenge continues to expand. We welcome the faithful of the Archdiocese of New York, Brooklyn, Dallas, Orange, Newark, and Rochester to our adventure and hope you enjoy the weekly reflections and quizzes.

Season nine will focus on the season of Pentecost. Our goal is to grow the number of families Accepting the Challenge of learning more about the Bible through weekly reflections, trivia questions, access to videos introducing each book of the Bible, and other resources.

Learn more at <https://familybiblechallenge.org>.

Coming this year: **August 15, 2021** – Season Ten
November 7, 2021 – Season Eleven

February 6, 2022 – Season Twelve
April 24, 2022 – Season Thirteen

Parish Leader Check-In

Every two weeks, all parish ministry leaders are invited to a virtual check in. Topics for discussion include diocesan norms, policies, upcoming events, planning together, and more. Oftentimes, there is a chance to gather in small groups to talk about your specific needs as a parish ministry leader.

Meetings are recorded and available online. There is no cost and no advance registration required.

All meetings are on Tuesdays, and all are at **11 am**.

August 24, 2021

September 7, 2021

September 21, 2021

October 5, 2021

October 19, 2021

November 2, 2021

November 16, 2021

November 30, 2021

December 14, 2021

January 11, 2022

January 25, 2022

February 8, 2022

February 22, 2022

March 8, 2022

March 22, 2022

April 5, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 3, 2022

May 17, 2022

May 31, 2022

June 14, 2022

New Faith Formation Leaders Orientation

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Ideally, this gathering is for anyone who has begun in ministry in their parish in the last year or so, but, all are welcome. We will cover diocesan policies, best practices in faith formation, managing change, identifying, inviting, and evaluating catechists and volunteers.

Faith Formation Leaders Quarterly Meetings

In addition to our bi-weekly virtual calls, all faith formation leaders are invited to join in person for prayer, food, and conversation. There is no business at these meetings – just a chance to get together and support one another. Let us know if you would like to host a meeting.

September 16, 2021 – Holy Spirit Parish, Stamford

December 9, 2021

March 17, 2022

June 9, 2022

June 23, 2022 (*wine down for the year*)

Forming Leaders for the Next Generation

Who will replace you when you retire? Who are the next generation of leaders in our faith communities? The Leadership Institute will invite pastors from across the diocese to nominate young leaders to join this cohort, which will meet monthly throughout the year. Benefits of participation include an inventory of gifts and skills and one on one coaching with a leadership professional and expert facilitator. Two face to face gatherings are required. All other meetings are via zoom. This is a great funded opportunity, so there will be no cost to cohort participants. If you are interested, please talk to your pastor. Nomination forms will be sent in June 2021.

Thursday, September 9, 2021 – Orientation

Friday, March 4, 2022 - Mid-year Retreat

The Catholic Biblical School

The Archdiocese of Hartford Catholic Biblical School (CBS) has been a kind of “hearing aid” for thousands of adults throughout New England as they engage God’s Word in every book of the Bible. Starting in Fall 2020, the Catholic Biblical School will be meeting in Bridgeport (and maybe Stamford).

There will be two locations available – the Catholic Center (Bridgeport) and another satellite in Stamford. Each year of the four-year program runs for 30 weeks. The cost is only \$380, a bit more if you wish to take courses for college credit.

September 11 – Orientation (evening)

Classes meet on Thursday evenings beginning **September 23** from **6:30 to 8:30**

To request an application, please visit <https://formationreimagined.org/catholic-biblical-school/>

Clergy Check-In

This year, we want to offer a chance for clergy to join in a virtual opportunity to touch base with Institute staff to ask questions, make suggestions, or get help in reimagining faith formation in their parishes.

Each meeting is via zoom beginning at **1:30 pm** and links are available on the Institute website.

September 15, 2021

October 20, 2021

November 17, 2021

December 15, 2021

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022

Documents That (Still) Matter

Join us once a month to unpack a new Church document – from our collective past and present – and learn more about the implications for the faithful of today. Every second Wednesday evening at **7:30 pm**, we will gather virtually to learn a bit more. Each document will be available in advance online and, if we have it, a summary and talking points.

August 11, 2021

September 8, 2021

October 13, 2021

November 10, 2021

December 8, 2021

January 12, 2022

February 9, 2022

March 9, 2022

April 13, 2022

May 11, 2022

June 8, 2022

Documents will include (subject to change):

- + *Lumen gentium*
- + *Guadium et spes*
- + *Dei verbum*

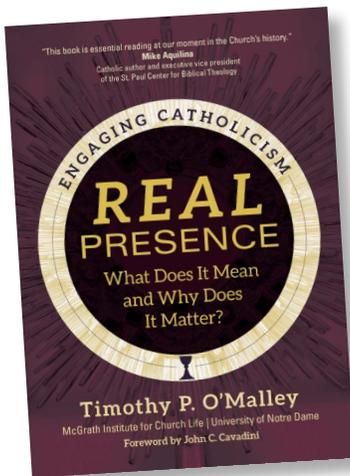
- + *Pacem in terris*
- + *Evangelii guadium*
- + *Caritas in veritate*

- + *Nostra aetate*
- + *Sacrosanctum concilium*

Form a Parish Reading Group

Get your friends together at your parish and start reading! This year, The Leadership Institute will help parishes get great discounts on books, provide a study and reflection guide, and then invite all those who have participated to join us for lunch and a conversation with the author.

Be sure to set your own schedule so that your group is finished in advance of the luncheon. If your parish does not form a group, feel free to read the book on your own and join us anyway.



Fall 2021

Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?

By Dr. Timothy O'Malley

Most Catholics don't believe that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist. Rather, they see the bread and wine of Holy Communion as mere symbols of Christ's body and blood. Is that disbelief just a misunderstanding or is it a blatant rejection of one of the central beliefs of the faith?

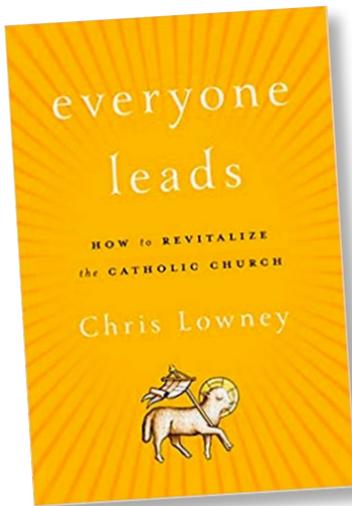
In Real Presence, University of Notre Dame theologian Timothy P. O'Malley clears up the confusion and shows you how to learn to love God and neighbor through a deeper understanding of the doctrine of real presence.

A 2019 study by the Pew Research Center found that almost seventy percent of Catholics don't believe that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist.

O'Malley offers a concise introduction to Catholic teaching on real presence and transubstantiation through a biblical, theological, and spiritual account of these doctrines from the early Church to today. He also explores how real presence enables us to see the vulnerability of human life and the dignity of all flesh and blood.

Gather on your own or in your parish and be ready for a conversation with Tim on **October 15, 2021**.

To place an order for books and the discussion guide, please email institute@diobpt.org.



Spring 2022

Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the Catholic Church

By Chris Lowney

Drawing on decades of leadership experience, bestselling author Chris Lowney examines the profound challenges facing the global Catholic Church, shares real-life stories of Catholics making a difference, and offers practical suggestions for change.

*The Catholic Church is suffering its worst decline in five centuries—a precipitous slide that will turn catastrophic unless reversed by fundamental changes in strategy, culture, and leadership style. Even the inspiring leadership of Pope Francis will not reverse the slide without a strategy for action, from the grassroots through the hierarchy. Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit seminarian and business executive who now chairs one of the world's largest Catholic ministries, not only outlines the challenges but also maps the path forward in *Everyone Leads*.*

*After a bracing review of the church's global struggles—from clergy shortages to declining participation—Lowney draws on two decades of change-management experience to propose an “EASTeR” strategy of five transformational principles: be entrepreneurial, be accountable, serve, transform, and reach out. These five ideas can catalyze profound change in every parish, in how bishops think, and in the roles laypeople play in leading the church. Filled with real-life examples, *Everyone Leads* outlines strategies that anyone can employ—from the pews to the pulpit—to strengthen the church.*

As a former business executive who lectures globally about leadership, Lowney speaks credibly about the institution's challenges and potential. And, as chair of one of Catholicism's largest hospital systems, he writes “from within” as a Catholic who loves his church and is committed to seeing it flourish.

Gather on your own in your parish and be ready for a conversation with Chris on **March 10, 2022**.

To place an order for books and the discussion guide, please email institute@diobpt.org.

Opportunities for Formation and Celebration

Best Practices for RCIA

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), also called the Catechumenate, is a process of initiation into the Catholic Community of Faith for persons who are experiencing a conversion in their lives and seeking either Christian baptism in the Catholic Church or full Communion with the Catholic tradition of Eucharist and Confirmation. This workshop is for parish RCIA teams to discuss best practices, diocesan and canonical policies, and to share resources that parish leaders have found most helpful. Pre-registration is required and more details can be found at the Institute website.

Tentative scheduled for **Sunday, September 12, 2021** at **2:30 pm**.

Praying with Parish Staff

All receptionists, bookkeepers, secretaries, and other parish staff who work so tirelessly to offer a great first impression for our parishes are invited to join in a day of prayer, food, and conversation on **Friday, September 17, 2021** from **9:30 am to 2 pm**. Save the date and don't worry about taking the day off. All pastors will be asked by the bishop to permit you to attend.

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

All those celebrating 25 years of marriage or 50+ years of marriage are invited to gather at St. Matthew's parish on **Saturday, September 25, 2021**, at either **10:30 am or 1:00 pm** for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano. Registration will open soon.

Face-to-Face Formation for Liturgical Ministers

If you hope to be a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at your parish and you have not yet completed formation, you may do so online. This workshop is for those who would prefer to meet in person and/or do not have a way to complete formation via the online platform. Pre-registration is required and more details can be found at the Institute website. Please note, this is not a workshop for renewing your mandate; it is only for new liturgical ministers.

Choose from any of the following dates/times. Locations can be found online once they are confirmed. If your parish wishes to host a session, please contact The Leadership Institute.

Sunday, October 17, 2021 – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 5, 2022 (as part of Ministry Day)

Preparation for Convalidation of Marriage

There are many couples in our diocese who are married, but not married sacramentally. Those numbers increased during the pandemic. "Convalidation" comes from two Latin words and means that a couple is getting married "with validity." A convalidation is a celebration of the sacrament of marriage, one of the Church's seven sacraments, all of which are gifts given to us by Jesus Christ so that we can share in God's life and grow closer to Him. If you are married civilly, but not sacramentally, and wish to have your marriage elevated to a sacramental marriage, this workshop is for you.

Join us **Saturday, October 30, 2021** from **9:30 am to 1:00 pm** for a session in English and in Spanish. For complete registration details, see the Institute website.

Christology 101

A **two morning** or **two evening** experience with Dr. Patrick Donovan, outlining who the person of Jesus was to his followers and how, by studying the life of Christ, we might make Matthew's confession of faith (Mt 16:16) our own. Two chances to join. **November 3, and 4, 2021 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. See the institute website for registration information.

Volunteer Management 101

What is the secret to inviting, managing, and keeping volunteers? Whether we are talking about catechists, liturgical ministers, or folks to help with the parish picnic, what is the silver bullet when it comes to finding the right people and making sure they know how much we appreciate their assistance? Join us for a workshop to discover best practices and answers to all your volunteer questions.

Saturday, November 13, 2021, at **9:30 am**. See the institute website for registration information.

Best Practices for Sacristans

Nearly every Catholic faith community has those quiet volunteers who assist parish clergy to maintain the vessels and vestments for the parish. To help these great people do their ministry effectively, join us for a short workshop to discuss the best practices for sacristans – and allow us to show our appreciation for all you do. Tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, January 22, 2022** from **10 am to noon**.

Ministry Day 2022

Looking back, we had no idea how much the world would change when we gathered on March 7, 2019. Now, back, and better than ever, Ministry Day begins at **9:00 am** on **Saturday, March 5, 2022**, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano and continues with a wide variety of workshops for you to attend. Come to learn, pray, enjoy the music, or see friends you met two years ago! See the institute website for registration information.

Closing of the Year of St. Joseph

Every parish in the diocese will be hosting their own closing Mass for the Year of St. Joseph on **March 19, 2022**, so be sure to check your parish bulletin.