

# CULTURES *of* FORMATION:

*Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*

## BREAKOUT SPEAKER BIOS AND SUMMARIES

ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.

### SESSION H - McKenna Auditorium

#### Pilgrimage: Living into the Sacramental Life

John Paul Lichon  
Founder, Verso Ministries

Joshua Schaffner  
President, Verso Ministries

*"Come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21). This invitation from Jesus is also an invitation to become a pilgrim. This presentation will dive in to a theology and practice of pilgrimage as a unique and relevant medium for vocational discernment, evangelization, and formation. A pilgrimage is an encounter with Christ which can teach, captivate, inspire, and motivate pilgrims of all ages to live more fully into a sacramental life of discipleship, prayer, and missionary zeal.*

*John Paul Lichon is the Founder of Verso Ministries, a pilgrimage company dedicated to share with the beauty of the Catholic faith around the world and at home. Before starting Verso, John Paul spent 10 years in parish and college ministry, serving on the campuses of the University of Notre Dame and SMU in Dallas, Texas. He is passionate about the practice of pilgrimage and the ways in which a pilgrim's heart and mind can be transformed by an encounter with God on a pilgrimage. He resides in South Bend, Indiana, with his wife and two children.*

*Joshua Schaffner is the President of Verso Ministries, having spent the previous 10 years in pastoral ministry. He has done everything from youth ministry and directing a choir, to RCIA and adult small groups. Josh received his Masters degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. A native Texan, he now lives in Indianapolis with his wife and two young boys.*

## ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.

### Practices from L'Arche: Recognizing, Interpreting and Choosing the Vocation to Love

**Beth Barsotti**  
Assistant Director for Faith Formation, University of Portland

**Thomas Murphy**  
Ph.D. student, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

*This presentation highlights the formative elements for the Christian vocation available to young people through L'Arche. Participants will be invited to consider how to utilize insights from L'Arche as they help young people discern their vocation.*

*Thomas N. Murphy is a PhD student at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. His scholarly interests lie at the intersection of disabilities studies, theology, and religious education. His research is driven by gratitude to his friends from L'Arche, with whom he had the privilege to live and work alongside for many years in the L'Arche Boston North community.*

*Beth Barsotti is the Assistant Director for Faith Formation at the University of Portland. She creates opportunities for reflection and integration of classroom learning, lived experience, and faith. Prior to earning her MDiv from the University of Notre Dame, Beth shared life in L'Arche Greater Washington, DC living and working in mutuality with people with and without intellectual disabilities. She was also on the L'Arche Portland Board of Directors for five years.*

### Learning to Speak the Language of Vocation: Forming Catechists Who are Storytellers

**Colleen Campbell**  
Ph.D. student in Catechetics, Catholic University of America

*The catechist has a vital role to play in creating and fostering a culture of vocation in faith formation and catechesis. To create the capacity for this culture, catechists must be formed to speak fluently the language of vocation: story. This presentation will focus on forming catechists who are able to recognize, articulate, and tell the story of their own catechetical vocation.*

*Colleen Campbell is a PhD student in Catechetics at the Catholic University of America. She holds a BA in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Dallas, and an MA in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. She is an alumna of the McGrath Institute for Church Life's Echo program, in which she served as an apprentice catechetical leader in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. At Catholic University, her research pursuits and interests include the role of catechesis in formation of Catholic identity, the sociocultural analysis of catechetical models and programs, and the relationship between female Catholic identity expression and catechetics.*

## ROUND 4 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 - 3:15 P.M.

### SESSION I - McKenna Rooms 100-104

#### Falling Into the Heart of Mystery

Father Martin Nocchi  
Archdiocese of Baltimore

*Settling for "all or nothing" thinking in today's world and Church has become all too familiar, sacrificing purpose, meaning, and above all, mystery, for the sake of certainty and a faith limited to learned knowledge rather than coupled with experience and imagination. The mystical journey, however, invites us into that tension of creative knowing, discerning, and forming that teaches us to deconstruct while transcending and including, recognizing all as gift and enveloped in Mystery.*

*Father Marty Nocchi has been a priest for the Archdiocese of Baltimore for nearly 14 years now. He has served in varying capacities, including several years in youth ministry as director of a local retreat house, and currently serves as pastor of two neighboring parishes. Last Fall he completed his tenth year teaching and forming high school juniors in the Pinkard Scholars Program of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He credits that experience, more than anything, in leading him to discover this mystical path of faith that teaches us to hold the tension of who we are and what we believe. He remains a student as well, currently working towards a License in Sacred Theology at St. Mary's.*

#### Anchoring Young Professionals: Trinitarian Practices in Response to a Secular World

Kathryn Thompson  
Medical student, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

*Faith formation is crucial for young Catholics in professions that aren't explicitly theological. This talk especially attends to the formation of medical professionals. Upon entering the secular professional world, Catholic desires are prone to unravel if they are not grounded in a cultivated and active faith. Through the regular practices of Scripture, prayer, and Eucharist, young professionals can come to know God's creative Trinitarian presence in their day-to-day work.*

*Kathryn Thompson is a medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She graduated from Notre Dame in 2017 with a BS in pre-professional science and theology. Kathryn co-teaches the RCIA program at the University of Chicago. Her current research interests, through the Department of Religion and Medicine, address trends in physician formation: particularly, attitudes towards patient prayer and barriers in discussing death. Kathryn is the youngest of a family of 6 and a native of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS.*

#### Beauty's Surround: The Grammar of Beauty in Daily Catholic Life

Kristen Drahos  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Western Heritage Program, Carthage College

*This presentation explores why beauty has gone missing from daily Catholic life and argues for its reclamation as a means of supporting a robust prayer life, upholding those who suffer, and cultivating the habit of wonder.*

*Kristen Drahos is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Western Heritage Program at Carthage College. Her research engages the intersection of contemporary Catholic thought and continental philosophy with particular interests in theological aesthetics, apocalyptic theology, the role of doubt in the life of faith, and kenotic cruciformity.*