



INSTITUTE FOR  
CATHOLIC LIBERAL  
EDUCATION

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# 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*For the Life of the World*

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Dear friends,

On behalf of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, I thank you for viewing these video recordings from our tenth 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.

This year, we celebrated “For the Life of the World,” echoing the theme for the National Eucharistic Revival we began a few weeks before across America, “My Flesh, For the Life of the World.” We chose this theme because of the intimate relationship between a truly Catholic education and the Holy Eucharist. As Catholic school educators, we engage in our ministry of Catholic education in order to help inculcate a Catholic vision—an incarnational worldview—in our children.

Through the study of His creation, and through the forming of our minds, hearts, imaginations and dispositions, we can more readily see the true purpose for our very being, loving union with God. This is the culture we aim to create in our schools. The closer we come to this ideal, the more deeply we and our students experience the peace and true joy of our nature as Christians—that echoing the characteristics of the early Christians, of whom it was said, “see how they love one another.” This is what the world needs today, more than anything! In a popular culture that is increasingly antithetical to truth, beauty, and goodness, we need you and your schools. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we can help restore the Life of the World by restoring all things in Christ.

This year, we gathered again at the nation’s only Pontifical University in order to renew ourselves in our own worldview. For only in renewing our own vision can we hope to share that vision with others meaningfully. We all have the Gospel charge to go forth in mission and to share what we have, so we set aside the week to renew ourselves in the beautiful vocation of Catholic educator. Thank you for joining us—even by simply viewing these recordings—as we strive to grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom, and to continue our mission, “for the life of the world.”

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!

In Christ,



Michael Van Hecke  
President  
Institute for Catholic Liberal Education



## CATHOLIC LIBERAL EDUCATION: FREEDOM IN CHRIST

**Elisabeth Sullivan**

*Executive Director, ICLE*

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



## TEACHING FROM THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR FAITH: HOW THE EUCHARIST FORMS AND FEEDS THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING

**The Most Reverend Thomas Daly**

*Bishop of Spokane*

*Chairman of the Committee on Education, USCCB*

As the bishops of the United States invite the faithful to renew their love of Jesus in the Eucharist, His Excellency reflects on the Eucharistic reality within the Catholic school classroom. In this talk, Bishop Daly invites teachers to reflect on their own sacramental imagination, and consider how God is working through their teaching to draw their students ever closer to Him.



## CREATED FOR BEATITUDE OR PROBLEM SOLVING? THOMISTIC/DEWEY DIFFERENCES IN THE CLASSROOM

**Sister Mary Thomas Huffman, O.P.**

*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia of Nashville*

Modern movements in progressive education find many of their roots in the pragmatic educational philosophies of 20th century America. One of its major proponents, John Dewey, knew that the best way to influence American society and bring about social reform was through its educational system, thus initiating a century of influence on American public schools and universities.

Catholic Schools ascribe to a different purpose of education, one that is rooted in the intrinsic dignity of the human person and man's ultimate goal being in union with God. However, our Catholic schools remain influenced by pragmatic educational philosophy because most educators presently receive training through university educational departments influenced by a pragmatic world view.

This presentation will explore the philosophical underpinnings of both Thomistic and pragmatic understandings of the goal of education, contrasting the two and applying their principles to show the fruit of both in the classroom setting.



## CLASSROOM RECITATIONS AND THE FORMATION OF MEMORY

**Andrew Beach**

*Head of School, South Campus, Our Lady of Lourdes*

The formation of memory for both the individual student and the classroom community/culture is of utmost importance in a fully Catholic liberal education. Borrowing from the wisdom of Joshua Gibbs and other classical educators, I plan to discuss and demonstrate the use of recitations in the classroom. Beyond these, we will discuss how the formation of memory should be one of the primary ends/goals of education. [HANDOUT 1](#) [HANDOUT 2](#) [HANDOUT 3](#)



## CLASSICAL LIBERAL EDUCATION AND THE "BOY CRISIS"

**Dr. Arthur Hippler**

*Chairman of the Religion Department at Providence Academy, Adjunct professor, St. Paul School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas*

Many educators are aware of a "boy crisis," a widespread disengagement from the academic life of the school program. We forget that the classical curriculum was developed primarily in boys' schools, and that it possesses many characteristics that help develop young men. Indeed, the modern curriculum arose in rejection of the classical—could this be part of the reason that boys find it harder to engage? This presentation will combine history, theory, and practical suggestions for application in single sex or co-ed schools.



## STATE OF THE INSTITUTE/ICLE SUPPORT

**Michael Van Hecke – President**

**Colleen Richards – Director of School Services**

**Dr. Alyssan Barnes – CEFC Director/Senior Faculty**

The movement to renew Catholic education is growing rapidly. Delivered by ICLE's leadership team, this presentation provides an overview of ICLE's work over the past year. It also details specific offerings from the Institute which can help advance the renewal at your school, including School Services, Catholic Educator Formation and Credential program, Leadership Programs, and more.



## SERVING PARENTS, THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF YOUR STUDENTS

**Michael Ortner**

*Tech Entrepreneur and Philanthropist*

If you want to maximize your chances of winning the minds and hearts of your students, you can't neglect their parents. They will either reinforce your efforts or undermine them. Win the parents; win the students!



## THE MEDIEVAL WORLD(S)

**Erick Allen**

*ICLE Faculty*

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce teachers to the fundamental aspects of the millennium-long Medieval period, especially those aspects which differ from our own and create a barrier to understanding the literature and ethos of the period. A handout will be provided with a bibliography of the most helpful primary and secondary resources for teachers new to the Medieval era, as well as a timeline of the most important persons and events to help them organize and frame the period. [HANDOUT](#)



## NUMBERS MAKE ME SAD: A MATHEMATICAL ACCOUNT OF THE EMOTIONAL POWER OF MUSIC

**Dr. Andrew Seeley**

*Director of Advanced Formation, ICLE*

Music has power to inflame, express, and even change our emotions. The ancient discovery that number relationships explain many of music's characteristics led to the mathematical treatment of music being considered necessary for complete education. This talk will introduce participants to the liberal art of music by sketching mathematical accounts of sad and happy music.



## AND I BURNED FOR YOUR PEACE

**David Dean**

*Superintendent, Diocese of Tulsa & Eastern Oklahoma*

You, the teacher, must burn with the fire of God and pass the flame to your students wherein lies your peace and theirs. Or, on being an amateur: your passion for The Passion.



## LOGOS: IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD – THE NATURE AND POWER OF LANGUAGE

**The Most Reverend James D. Conley**

*Bishop of Lincoln*

Words are the basis of thought, belief, and action. How we use words matters. This talk will look at how our language and use of words has been hijacked, distorting our understanding of Truth.



## WHY “WESTERN” CIVILIZATION?

**Dr. Arthur Hippler**

*Chairman of the Religion Department at Providence Academy, Adjunct professor, St. Paul School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas*

After years of "Multiculturalism" and now "Critical Race Theory" many Catholic educators feel anxious and confused. Is the patrimony of our culture in its Christian and Classical roots part of an oppressive "power structure" or does it in fact offer unique gifts, moral and intellectual, that no other culture does? This presentation will provide listeners with the specifics to address this topic confidently.

# SPEAKER BIOS

## Erick Allen

### *Faculty, Institute for Catholic Liberal Education*

Erick discovered the rich tradition of a liberal arts education while in graduate school. Soon after, Erick entered the Church as an adult convert and spent six years assisting his public charter school in their transition to a more classical and humanizing model of education. Erick has more than 20 years of teaching experience in a variety of settings, including public and private schools, higher education, grades 7-12 and even in law enforcement. He has taught Latin, Medieval Literature, ESL, and other subjects. He and his wife Kathy live in the mountains of western North Carolina where they raise chickens and rabbits.

## Andrew Beach

### *Head of School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Classical School, South Campus*

Andrew has been teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Classical School in Denver, Colorado, for the last seven years and has been Head of School at their South Campus for the last three. He has a passion for teaching the Great Books, leading seminars, forming teachers and students, and learning himself. He especially loves baseball, Bob Dylan, and books, with Aristotle, Dostoevsky, Chesterton, and Dawson being among his favorite authors.

## 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 BIOS

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## **The Most Reverend Thomas Daly**

### ***Bishop of Spokane***

Thomas Daly was born April 30, 1960, in San Francisco. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of San Francisco in 1982; a master of divinity from St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, California, in 1987; and a master of education degree from Boston College in 1996. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1987.

Pope Benedict XVI named him auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San José on March 16, 2011. He was ordained on May 25, 2011. Pope Francis named him the seventh Bishop of Spokane on March 12, 2015. Bishop Daly was installed on May 20, 2015 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane.

## **David Dean**

### ***Superintendent, Diocese of Tulsa & Eastern Oklahoma***

David Dean grew up in Carthage, Missouri and at age ten his family moved to Hutchinson, Kansas. He was reared a Presbyterian. He attended the University of Kansas and was a student in the Integrated Humanities Program where he earned a Bachelor's in English, Education and a minor in Classics. He converted to the Catholic Church his senior year of college. After teaching a couple of years, he returned to KU where he earned his MA in Classics teaching Latin and studied under Dr. John Senior. He has taught English, Latin, and World History at the middle school and high school levels. In addition to Latin, he also taught a Philosophy of Education course for four years at KU. He met his beautiful wife, Lorie, while in graduate school, and they have been married thirty-nine years. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Besides teaching the courses above, and a three year stint as an actuarial consultant, David has been a principal/headmaster/president of different schools for thirty years before coming to the Diocese of Tulsa as Superintendent three years ago.

## **Dr. Arthur Hippler**

### ***Chairman of the Religion Department at Providence Academy***

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.

# SPEAKER BIOS

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## **Sister Mary Thomas Huffman, O.P.**

***Veteran Educator and Bursar General***

***Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville***

Sr. Mary Thomas Huffman, O.P. is a member of the Dominican Sisters in Nashville, Tennessee. While currently serving as Bursar General of St. Cecilia Congregation, she served as principal of Mount de Sales Academy in Baltimore, MD from 2012 -2018. Before then, she served as principal of St. Cecilia Academy in Nashville from 2005 – 2012. Her previous experiences include teaching middle school and high school at various Dominican schools, including St. Cecilia Academy and Overbrook School on the Dominican Campus in Nashville, and St. Rose Academy and John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Belmont University and a Master of Science in mathematics from Middle Tennessee State University. She also received a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, and a Master of Science in Thomistic Studies from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

## **Michael Ortner**

***Tech Entrepreneur and Philanthropist***

Mike Ortner is a husband and father of six. Liz and Mike attend St. John the Beloved Catholic Parish in McLean, VA, and homeschooled their children through 6th grade. Mike has a business degree from Georgetown University and a philosophy degree from the University of London. Mike was the founder of Capterra, an award winning technology company he ran for 16 years before selling it in 2015. He then started a foundation to invest in both Catholic and classical education. His latest projects include Catholic School Playbook and Run With Saints. He continues to slowly work his way through Mortimer Adler's list of 22 books you need to read repeatedly to become well educated.

# SPEAKER BIOS

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## **Dr. Andrew Seeley**

### ***Director of Advanced Formation, ICLE***

For three decades, Dr. Andrew Seeley has been a Tutor at Thomas Aquinas College in California. Dr. Seeley received a Licentiate from the Pontifical Institute in Medieval Studies (Toronto) and a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto (1995). He has taught joyfully and extensively in all the areas of a Great Books curriculum. Desiring to share his love of Catholic learning, Dr. Seeley joined the Institute in 2005. He and his wife, Lisa, have six children and seven grandchildren.

## **Elisabeth Sullivan**

### ***Executive Director, Institute for Catholic Liberal Education***

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, a daughter-in-law, and one grandson.