



ON GOOD SOIL

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS OF ADULTS

Fall 2016

ON GOOD SOIL AND ON HOLY GROUND

CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
CANADIAN CATHOLIC ADULT FORMATION

What do you get when, in one room, you gather 50 people passionate about adult faith formation, 5 members of the executive of the Association for Canadian Catholic Adult Formation (ACCAF), the 4 bishops who make up the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis, 2 dedicated staff members from the national Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, 1 knowledgeable and inspiring keynote speaker, 1 skilled facilitator and a hard-working and prepared organizing team? *On Good Soil—The Conference!*

From September 20-23, 2016, the Hilton Garden Inn in Ottawa was the site of a dynamic and exciting conference that gathered all of the above people to explore best practices in adult faith formation in the Catholic Church in Canada, and to place this in dialogue with the principles outlined in *On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults*. The participants represented the broad spectrum of people who have a deep interest in adult faith formation—diocesan directors of evangelization and catechesis, Bishops and Archbishops, directors and coordinators of catechesis from a number of Catholic school boards, parish catechists and catechetical coordinators, directors of associate programs for a number of religious communities, staff from the CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis, university and college professors and lecturers.

On day one, Sr. Elizabeth Davis, RSM opened up for the participants a rich description of the world of five generations of adults in Canada today—the realities of their lives, their joys, sorrows, hopes and preoccupations. Her descriptions and her evocative questions facilitated a deep, probing and energizing conversation among the participants. Over the next two days, under the guidance of facilitator Anne Walsh, the probing and unfolding continued, as those present explored ways and means of

applying the new material offered by Sr. Elizabeth and the framework provided in *On Good Soil* to their local ecclesial situations.

The participants were honoured to welcome into their midst Margie Ann McKinnon, recently retired from the Archdiocese of Kingston. Margie Ann is revered as a wisdom figure for many in the field of adult faith formation, and it was our privilege to celebrate her at a banquet held on one night during the conference. Margie Ann is a former Chair of ACCAF, and a delight as well as an inspiration. Her presence among us will be sorely missed, but we wish her godspeed and God's blessing as she moves out on new roads.

The executive of ACCAF is made up of Ellen Bennett (Eastern Representative), Sr. Elaine Biollo (Western Representative), David Dayler (Central Representative), Fr. Eric Giddins (Administration and Bursar), and
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Anne Walsh (Chair). They wish to express their deep appreciation to Margaret Shea-Lawrence and Carley McEvoy of the CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. Marg and Carley worked tirelessly with Anne and David to make sure that every “i” was dotted and “t” crossed in the months and days leading up to the conference, and they seemed not to sleep as the conference progressed. For all of their skill, dedication, generosity and support, the Executive of ACCAF offers our gratitude.

Four members of the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis accompanied us through the conference and continue to accompany us in ministry— Bishop Gerald Bergie, Archbishop Martin Currie, Archbishop Albert Legatt and Bishop Albert Th  venot. They joined in our table conversations, shared meals with us, probed the deep questions and concerns of the soil with us, celebrated with us and worshipped with us. We are privileged to have leaders such as these as we labour in the soil of adult faith formation.



We look forward to exploring the fruits of this conference. With St. Paul, we pray, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

For more information, please contact:



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“WE KNOW WELL
THAT WITH JESUS LIFE
BECOMES RICHER AND
THAT WITH HIM IT IS
EASIER TO FIND MEANING
IN EVERYTHING.
THIS IS WHY WE
EVANGELIZE.”

(Evangelii Gaudium, no. 266)



PARISH VITALITY CONFERENCE 2016

ARCHDIOCESE OF MONTREAL

As an initial step to promoting the New Evangelization, the English sector of the Archdiocese of Montreal launched its first Parish Vitality Conference in November 2014. We are now preparing our second conference, around the theme *Unleashing Our Gifts: Encounter the Giver. Embrace Your Gifts.*

Our keynote speaker is Deacon Keith Stroh, teacher at the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and former Director of Evangelization at the Archdiocese of Chicago. The keynote presentation, to be held on November 10, is open to the public. Simultaneous translation into French will be available. In addition, the conference will feature 17 workshops that address practical needs in four areas: Gifts and Discipleship, Evangelization, Ministry, and Online Outreach.

To find out more and to register, visit
www.parishvitality.com.

Parish Vitality
CONFERENCE 2016



Unleashing
OUR GIFTS

ENCOUNTER THE GIVER. EMBRACE YOUR GIFTS.

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL”: SEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN’S FALL RETREAT IN KINGSTON

“Blessed Are the Merciful” (Matthew 5:7) was the theme of the seventh Annual Women’s Fall Retreat in Kingston, Ontario. The retreat, which ran from Friday, September 16, to Sunday, September 18, has been supported since its inception by the Religious Education office of the Archdiocese of Kingston.

The Women’s Fall Retreat is celebrating a small jubilee of its own. Now in its seventh year, the retreat has drawn together between 60 and 80 women of all ages for the past seven years during the third weekend of September. Over the years, the retreats have featured a variety of Catholic women speakers, both consecrated and lay, who give four keynote sessions on the retreat theme. Other program elements include

the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, prayer ministry and even up-scale entertainment.

This year’s speaker was Maureen Dufour, a chaplaincy leader with the Ottawa Catholic School Board whose background includes a novitiate with the Pembroke Sisters of St. Joseph, two periods of time with Waupoos Farm, and two building projects in the Dominican Republic with her own family and schools. Maureen led retreat participants to consider several doors of mercy, such as childhood, aging, grief and life transitions, and then invited each one present to enter the door by means of scripture and several points for personal
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Women’s Fall Retreat Core Team

Back Row, L to R: Bev Illauq (Chair), Annette Larmour (Vice-Chair), Adele Constantineau (Prayer Team Leader), Frankie Baird (Member at Large), Jean McNeil (Hospitality Leader), Sandy Laneville (Past Chair and Registrar), Annie Sinclair (Treasurer); Front Row: Margie Ann McKinnon

consideration. Her reflections on mercy culminated in leading the group on Sunday morning before Mass through the Stations of the Cross with a Dominican Republic lens. Many participants were moved to tears. It was so very fitting to conclude with Mass, with Fr. Don Cummings presiding; he pointed to the death and resurrection of Jesus as the ultimate sign of mercy for all ages.

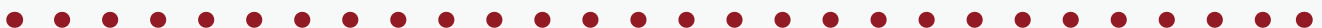
The Women's Fall Retreat Core Team, which plans the retreats each year, was started by Sandy Laneville, a member of St. Mary's Chesterville. Sandy and some friends had attended similar retreats in the Muskoka area over many years, and felt that they would like to attend a Catholic women's retreat closer to home. Teaming up with Margie Ann McKinnon, the Religious Education consultant for the Archdiocese of Kingston, Sandy and a handful of other women with various levels of administrative experience (or not!) have prayerfully and carefully developed and organized the retreats to become the ministry they are today: a time of refreshment and inspiration

for the women who attend as they continue their journeys of faith.

Glen House Resort, the venue, is particularly conducive to the reflective and inspiring nature of the retreat. All of the Women's Fall Retreats have been held at Glen House, a beautiful early-20th-century hotel located east of Gananoque on the Thousand Islands Parkway. The resort offers excellent food and accommodations for retreat participants, and makes its amenities available to all the women, including a spa, swimming pools, boats and deck areas. The core team has learned that this location is particularly appreciated by the women who attend, as many of them have no other opportunity in their lives to experience such comforts.

For more information, please contact:

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ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL USE FROM PEARSON EDUCATION

When you visit many local Catholic elementary schools, you will see students learning from a new Religious Education curriculum. Pearson Canada has been commissioned by the Ontario and Western Catholic bishops to create the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program. The Grades One, Two and Three editions are now available. This welcome resource replaces the *Born of the Spirit* series that served us well for about two decades. The bishops also requested that Pearson Canada develop an adult faith resource to support teachers in their own faith development in the development of the curriculum. This recognizes the key role the personal witness of the teacher plays in the delivery of the program. As noted religious educator Thomas Groome explains, “the heart of Catholic education is the heart of the Catholic teacher.” The adult faith component of *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* nurtures the hearts of Catholic teachers.

The modules of the adult faith program, ***Big Ideas in Religious Education***, help teachers develop their own religious literacy in non-grade specific modules. The adult faith program uses web-based resources to explore fundamental concepts that are woven through the entire curriculum. Teachers explore

- the liturgical year
- the New Evangelization
- Sacred Scripture
- the Creed
- the six tasks of catechesis

These **modules** are found on the Pearson Canada website and are available to all boards and jurisdictions that have purchased the eLearning component of the program. The modules consist of mini-lectures, instructional animations, short presentations from bishops and priests, classroom clips, and links to outside videos. The modules are hosted by Dr. Josephine Lombardi, a well-known Canadian theologian and presenter. Teachers can navigate through the modules at their own pace. Alternatively, the modules can be adapted for use in group settings.

Participants also use an **eJournal**, a Microsoft Word document that they can download at the beginning of a module. It contains content from the module (e.g., prayers, questions, activities, links to videos and articles) and provides places for users to record their thoughts. At the end of the module, the eJournal serves as a digital record of learning.

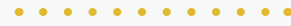
Facilitator guides for each module are also available. They supply ideas for adapting the modules for different modes of presentation. For example, facilitators can create a Faith Day for teachers on the New Evangelization using that module. They can also use parts of the modules to teach various courses. These facilitator guides give detailed background information to help leaders choose the best approach to adult learning in their jurisdictions. The front matter of these guides includes methodological insights into adult faith formation,

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considerations for presenters, community-building activities, and prayers. The guides also provide roadmaps for full-day, half-day or 90-minute presentations, as well as a half-hour introduction. They also provide alternatives for presenters. For example, the Liturgical Year module uses a Visio Divina of Ghirlandaio's *Adoration of the Shepherds* as an alternative exploration of the different understandings of *kairos* and *chronos* time. The different gazes of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph illustrate these two perspectives well.

Why should those working in adult faith at the diocesan and parish levels want to know about this resource? First, these are excellent learning materials that can be

adapted to local needs. They are valuable resources for anyone involved in religious education or catechesis in a school or parish setting. Second, those responsible for adult faith should know what the teachers in their areas are exploring. For the parish-home-school triad to work effectively, mutual understanding of programs is beneficial.



5-Year, Five-Module Licences Now Available for Schools and Individuals.

For more information, please contact:
Les Miller
rlesmiller@gmail.com
Or visit the Pearson Canada website:
<http://www.pearsoncanada.ca>

COMPONENTS OF THE FACILITATORS' GUIDES

- Pearson Education's Commitment to Supporting Religious Education in Catholic Schools
- Purpose and Scope including Learning Objectives
- Pedagogical Principles
 - Professional Learning Is Ongoing
 - Principles of Effective Professional Learning
 - Professional Learning in Religious Education
- Notes for the Facilitator
 - Role of the Facilitator
 - Tips for Effective Facilitation
 - Forming Groups
 - Structuring the Professional Learning Sessions
 - Adapting the Module for Different Settings
 - Exploring the Module in Religious Education AQ Courses
 - Community Building Activities
 - Spiritual Formation
 - Prayers
- Facilitators' Road Maps
 - Module at a Glance
 - Road Map A: Full-, half-day, 3 hour-long sessions
 - Road Map B: 30-minute staff gatherings
 - Road Map C: 90-minute session

ON THE BOOKSHELF

- *Canada's Catholics* (Reginald W. Bibby and Angus Reid)
- *Our Catholic Life: Complete Set* (Bill Huebsch)
- *The Gift of Administration: New Testament Foundations for the Vocation of Administrative Service* (Donald Senior)
- *A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion* (Joe Paprocki)
- *On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults* (CCCB)

HELPFUL LINKS

- On Good Soil
- CCCB
- CCCB Publications
- Association for Canadian Catholic Adult Formation (ACCAF)
- Vatican: The Holy See
- National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)
- Divine Renovation
- Word on Fire
- Dynamic Catholic
- Lifelong Faith
- Novalis
- 21st Century Catholic Evangelization

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Parish Vitality Conference
Montreal, QC
November 10-12, 2016

