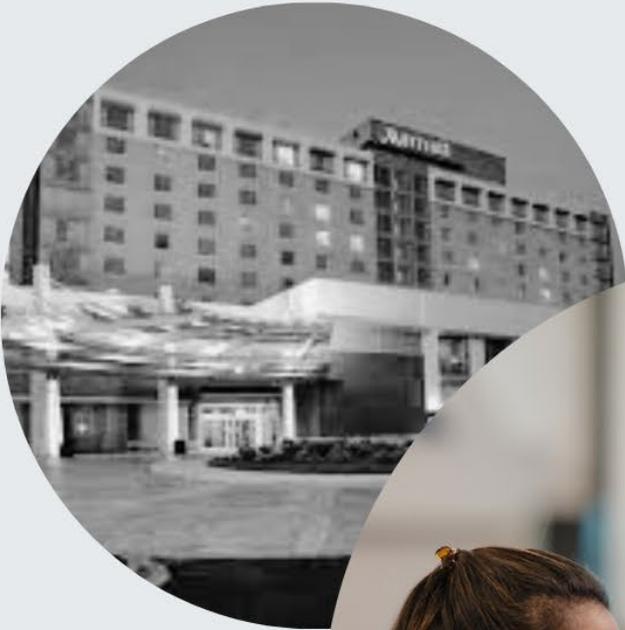


IFCYM
exchange



SCHEDULE & BREAKOUT SESSION GUIDE

FEBRUARY 1-4, 2026
LOUISVILLE, KY

SCHEDULE

* Times and locations are subject to change

PRE-EVENT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
5:00 PM	9:00 PM	Imago Dei Team Meeting (by invitation only)	Cardinal, 2nd Fl
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	Registration Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
6:00 PM	9:30 PM	Sponsor Tables Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
7:30 PM	8:00 PM	First Time Participant Welcome	Commonwealth A, 1st Fl
8:00 PM	9:30 PM	Opening Dessert Reception	Commonwealth Pre-function

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	Breakfast--All Participant Hotel Guests	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
7:45 AM	8:45 AM	Meet Up: Organizational Members	Bluegrass A, 2nd Fl
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
8:30 AM	6:00 PM	Hospitality Desk Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
9:00 AM	10:15 AM	General Session I Featuring: Rhyan Ramirez & Lucia Morales	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
10:30 AM	11:45 AM	Breakout Sessions I	Various
		Accompanying Young People in Parish Settings	Commonwealth A, 1st Fl
		Crawling in the Dark	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl
		Leading Like Don Bosco: The Bosco Blueprint	Commonwealth B, 1st Fl
		Moments That Matter: Forming Middle Schoolers for Encounter and Vocation	Colonel B, 2nd Fl
		Moving from Service Projects to Gospel Relationships	Colonel A, 2nd Fl
		Revival at the Edges: How Reaching At-Risk Teens will Revitalize your Parish	Colonel C, 2nd Fl
		The Evangelization Process: The Secret Source of Accompanying Youth	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
10:30 AM	11:45 AM	Imago Dei Meeting (by invitation only)	Cardinal, 2nd Fl
12:00 PM	2:00 PM	Hosted Lunch NFCYM Membership Meeting	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
12:30 PM	10:00 PM	Prayer Room Open	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl
2:15 PM	3:45 PM	General Session II Featuring: Sr. Mary Johanna Paruch, FSGM	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Daily Mass Celebrant: Fr. Tony Cecil	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
5:15 PM	5:45 PM	Regional Meet Ups	Various
9:15 PM	9:45 PM	Prayer Experience: Chaplet of the Divine Mercy with Steve Angrisano	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	Breakfast--All Participant Hotel Guests	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
7:45 AM	8:45 AM	Meet Up: Diocesan Members	Bluegrass A, 2nd Fl
7:30 AM	10:00 PM	Prayer Room Open	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl
8:30 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
8:30 AM	6:00 PM	Hospitality Desk Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
8:30 AM	6:00 PM	Sponsor Tables Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
9:00 AM	10:30 AM	General Session III Featuring: Dr. Brian Reynolds	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions II	
		AI and the Catholic Lifecycle: Forming Disciples in a Digital World	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
		Leading Well Through Parish Transitions: Best practices for Priests, Staff, and Diocesan Leaders	Commonwealth A, 1st Fl
		Look What You Can Steal: Working Smarter Not Harder	Steamboat, 1st Fl
		Navigating Church Hurt	Colonel A, 2nd Fl
		Parent and Youth Ministry Leader-The Best of Both Worlds	Colonel C, 2nd Fl
		Still Called, Newly Stretched: What Years of Research Says About Accompanying Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leaders	Commonwealth B, 1st Fl
		Unlocking Your Influence	Colonel B, 2nd Fl
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	Imago Dei Meeting (by invitation only)	Cardinal, 2nd Fl
12:15 PM	2:00 PM	Hosted Lunch	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
2:15 PM	3:45 PM	General Session IV Featuring: Sr. Nancy Usselman, FSP	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Daily Mass Celebrant: Fr. Tony Cecil	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
5:15 PM	9:00 PM	Free Time Regional Night Out	
9:15 PM	9:45 PM	Prayer Experience: Prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	Breakfast--All Participant Hotel Guests	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
7:45 AM	8:45 AM	Meet Up: Strategy Conversations	Bluegrass A, 2nd Fl
7:30 AM	5:00 PM	Prayer Room Open	Thoroughbred Room, 1st Fl
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
8:30 AM	6:00 PM	Hospitality Desk Open	Commonwealth Pre-function
9:00 AM	10:30 AM	General Session V Featuring: Denise Utter	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions III	
		Accompanying Like Christ: Leading Youth & Families from the Heart of the Eucharist	Colonel A, 2nd Fl
		Building a Family of Faith: Equipping Parents to Grow Faith at Home	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
		Evangelized or Sacramentalized	Colonel B, 2nd Fl
		Mental Health Ministry Models and Supports with Young People	Commonwealth B, 1st Fl
		Retreat Follow-Ups: Fostering On-Going Connections and Community	Commonwealth A, 1st Fl
		The Church is Our Home	Colonel C, 2nd Fl
		Youth Discipleship for the Family, Not Despite It	Steamboat, 1st Fl
10:45 AM	12:00 PM	Imago Dei Meeting (by invitation only)	Cardinal, 2nd Fl
12:15 PM	2:00 PM	Hosted Lunch	Bluegrass, 2nd Fl
2:15 PM	3:45 PM	General Session VI Featuring: Sr. M. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Daily Mass Celebrant: Archbishop Shelton Fabre	Commonwealth CD, 1st Fl
5:00 PM		Exchange Concludes	

BREAKOUT SESSION I

- Session Title:** **Revival at the Edges: How Reaching At-Risk Teens will Revitalize your Parish.**
Presenter: **Chris Bartlett and Brian Baudoin**
Description: Young people on the fringes of our communities long to be seen, known, and loved, yet parish ministry often overlooks them. This presentation will reawaken a missionary heart for those who struggle with family instability, addiction, and/or the criminal justice system. Learn how intentional presence, small initiatives, and courageous accompaniment can open doors for grace in the lives of the most vulnerable teens and how doing this will enliven your parish with a renewed sense of mission, not just for young people, but for sharing the Gospel to all!
- Session Title:** **Leading Like Don Bosco: The Bosco Blueprint**
Presenter: **Sr. Guerline Joseph**
Description: Don Bosco was a man ahead of his time, and his approach to working with young people remains highly relevant in youth ministry today. An understanding of Don Bosco's Oratory Model (Blueprint) will help anyone engaged in mission with young people, offering practical guidance for effective accompaniment.
- Session Title:** **Moments That Matter: Forming Middle Schoolers for Encounter and Vocation**
Presenter: **Cooper Ray**
Description: Middle school is a time of discovery, questions, and forming identity—and the moments we create can shape a young person's faith for a lifetime. This workshop equips ministry leaders and volunteers to help middle schoolers encounter Jesus, awaken their faith, and plant early seeds of vocational awareness. Participants will learn to create meaningful "moments that matter" using story, presence, participation, and invitation. You'll gain practical tools to help students hear and respond to God's voice in age-appropriate ways. Whether in a parish, school, or retreat setting, this session will empower you to design experiences that draw middle schoolers closer to Christ, deepen their discipleship, and open their hearts to mission.
- Session Title:** **Accompanying Young People in Parish Settings**
Presenter: **Joe Perdreauxville and Mare Ernesto**
Description: Accompanying young people in parish settings is easy to talk about, but much more challenging to accomplish. The youth minister and their team already have a lot on their plate, and while they can grow close to some teens, we have learned that teens thrive when multiple faith-filled adults are present in their lives. In this breakout session, we will discuss who in the parish could serve as mentors, how to invite them into the ministry, train them, and support them. The benefits of accompanying young people following this model is two-fold - 1) The youth find safe spaces with trusted adults to have conversations about their faith journey as they grow in their relationship with Jesus, and 2) a larger number of parishioners will be engaged in the lives of young people, causing them to grow in their relationship with Jesus and with your parish!

Session Title: **Crawling in the Dark**
Presenter: **Dr. Pat Sprankle**
Description: Have you ever been in the dark, darkness so deep and black that you cannot see your hand before your eyes? Many young adults who experience times of doubt and confusion in their faith wander around as if in spiritual darkness. This session will offer 4 reasons young people doubt and strategies for guiding them in the light.

Session Title: **The Evangelization Process: The Secret Source of Accompanying Youth**
Presenter: **Jeannie Bross-Judge, JC Montenegro, Lucia Morales, and Rhyan Ramirez**
Description: Many ministry models focus on programs or events, yet the heart of true accompaniment lies in the evangelization process that the Church has consistently shared. Beginning with authentic witness and relationship, moving through meaningful dialogue, and leading young people toward encounter, conversion, catechesis, community, and mission, this pathway has been lifted up by the Church from the time of the apostles. We will offer references of how this vision has been supported by church documents, popes, and councils, and how it becomes the hidden strength behind effective youth ministry. Participants will gain practical ways to integrate these moments in parish and school settings, creating spaces where young people feel known, loved, and invited into a transformative relationship with Christ that forms missionary disciples.

Session Title: **Moving from Service Projects to Gospel Relationships**
Presenter: **Kevin Molm, Doug Tooke, and David Casey**
Description: How do we help young people encounter Christ through service, not just "do" service? This session equips youth ministers to guide teens on mission and service experiences that form discipleship and solidarity. Drawing on the Diocese of Helena's Justice Outreach Project with the Blackfeet Nation, participants will explore how service becomes a sacred encounter rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. Together, we'll unpack best practices for preparation, on-site accompaniment, and post-trip integration that foster humility, friendship, and mutual respect. Youth ministers will gain practical tools for helping young people move from charity to justice, from projects to relationships, and from serving others to walking with them in faith.

Session Title: **Worthy: How Youth Leaders Can Instill a Godly Sense of Self-Worth in Young People**
Presenter: **Laura Werner**
Description: These secular influences often equate value with appearance, popularity, achievements, or material possessions. As a result, many teens struggle with insecurity, comparison, and a distorted sense of self-worth. God created each one of them in his image and likeness, so their worth is in Him. Youth leaders will now learn to reshape the narrative around what makes us "worthy" and how we can lead young people to a better understanding of their true self-worth.

BREAKOUT SESSION II

Session Title: **Navigating Church Hurt**

Presenter: **Andrew Furphy**

Description: We are going to look at the biblical foundations of forgiveness and apply them to forgiving 'the Church'. Those in the Church are also humans living post-fall, and so learning to forgive them and leading others to forgiveness is critical in our work. It is most critical in times when those with authority failed to use that authority or misuse it, that is, when we follow Jesus's teaching of forgiving seventy times seven.

Session Title: **Parent and Youth Ministry Leader-The Best of Both Worlds**

Presenter: **Catherine Becker**

Description: So many of our lay youth ministry leaders are parents too, which creates a need for a delicate dance between home life and ministry. Married life, parenting, and leading youth ministry are all worthy vocations. But we need to create a balance between the work of ministry while holding marriage and family up as a vocation that is real and holy. Cathy Becker, a 30-year veteran of youth ministry leadership, mom to three girls, and wife to Josh, has experienced periods of success and challenge in the dance of vocation, ministry role expectations, and parenting. We will explore the need to be grounded in our true identities as children of God so that our roles don't define or limit us. We will share the experience of ministering to and with our own teens while they are involved in the ministries we lead, as well as how we blend home life when the kids are young. We will also share tips, experiences, and ways to work with other staff and clergy to balance the ministerial life of a parish or organization and the life at home, including the places where the two can seamlessly meet.

Session Title: **Still Called, Newly Stretched: What Years of Research Say About Accompanying Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leaders**

Presenter: **Charlotte McCorquodale**

Description: Over 25 years of studying Catholic youth and young adult ministry leaders, one thing has stayed constant: they are joyful, resilient, and deeply called. What's changed is the context—and the expectations. This session unpacks findings from 2000–2024 showing recurring needs (fair pay, clear roles, vision of ministry & young, formation) alongside new generational turns, where younger leaders bring growing assumptions and needs about career needs, salary, work–life balance, and formation. We will blow some youth ministry myths out of the water! We'll explore how this field has quietly served as a feeder system for the Church's wider leadership—and why that pipeline is under strain. Participants will leave with concrete implications for dioceses, pastors, and national organizations on how to better understand the accompaniment needs of these leaders and how we accompany them, and possibly retain some of those serving youth and young adults.

Session Title: **Leading Well Through Parish Transitions: Best Practices for Priests, Staff, and Diocesan Leaders**

Presenter: **Christine McCarty**

Description: Transitions in parishes are inevitable, yet the way they are handled can profoundly shape the spiritual, emotional, and organizational health of the community. This session explores best practices for navigating transitions with clarity, consistency, and compassion. Drawing on insights from organizational leadership as well as parish life, we will examine how priests, parish staff, and diocesan offices can collaborate effectively to ensure continuity, reduce anxiety, and support healthy change.

Session Title: **Look What You Can Steal: Working Smarter, Not Harder**

Presenter: **Dr. Patrick Donovan and Priscilla Wanderley**

Description: The Diocese of Bridgeport's Institute for Catholic Formation has been blessed with funding from Lilly Endowment, and we want to share the fruits of our work with you. From AI-generated quizzes, smart Presenter skills, family movie nights, to daily prayers and animated Sunday readings, let us give you some great resources and opportunities that will impress even the hardest of hearts. Come and learn what you can take home, modify, and use in your own ministry. Good ministers replicate good ideas. Great ministry leaders just steal outright.

Session Title: **Unlocking Your Influence**

Presenter: **Pete Burds**

Description: As a diocesan youth leader, you're blessed to be THE champion for those who are forming young disciples in your (Arch)diocese. This workshop will help you get up from behind your endless administrative 'to-dos' and step into real connection—walking with your youth ministers, supporting their ministry, and helping them grow as missionary disciples themselves. You'll leave with a renewed sense of your role, practical tools and fresh strategies to implement, and a renewed confidence in your ability to expand your influence in the (Arch)diocese.

Session Title: **AI and the Catholic Lifecycle: Forming Disciples in a Digital World**

Presenter: **Matt Zerrusen**

Description: We're living in the most connected, yet disconnected, generation in history. Students crave belonging, but the Church struggles to meet them where they are. This session will explore how AI Discipleship and the Catholic Lifecycle model can help ministry leaders accompany students from high school through college and beyond, using real tools that strengthen relationship, community, and faith formation. We'll share how Newman Connection connects high school students to campus ministry, how Faith Forward builds the bridge between parish, school, and home, and how Called / Discipleship AI empowers ministers to personalize accompaniment at scale. Together, these tools form a complete ecosystem that ensures every young person is needed and known. Not just reached, but disciplined. Participants will leave inspired, equipped, and ready to lead with confidence in this new digital mission field.

BREAKOUT SESSION III

- Session Title:** **Mental Health Ministry Models and Supports with Young People**
Presenter: **Chris Miller**
Description: All are welcome to attend an enlightening session on the mental health ministry and youth. This session will include information on mental health ministry efforts with young people, including best practices around suicide, programming options, and special considerations such as mandated reporting. Attendees will leave with several mental health tools and supports they can use to effectively minister to and with young people, including information on the USCCB mental health campaign.
- Session Title:** **The Church is Our Home**
Presenter: **Ogechi Akalegbere and Marcia Lane-McGee**
Description: Sponsored by "The Church Is Our Home" project team, we invite you to join us for a transformative session dedicated to exploring self-identity and awareness within the context of relationships with God, others, and ourselves. In this session, we will delve into understanding how our identities shape our interactions and experiences in faith communities. Our focus will be on fostering a more inclusive environment that respects and amplifies diverse identities, while also examining the subtle ways in which these identities might be overlooked or diminished. You will leave with practical insights and strategies to enhance your understanding of yourself, others, and the youth we accompany. At the end of the session, we will offer a more in-depth resource for creating spaces of belonging in our Church and community.
- Session Title:** **Evangelized or Sacramentalized**
Presenter: **Marlene Stammerman and Fr. Tom Clegg**
Description: The Sacramental Life of the Catholic Church is its heartbeat. It is what sustains us, strengthens us, and supports us in our discipleship. Way too often, parishes focus on making sure the Sacraments of Initiation are made by parishioners. What if they were celebrated? What if evangelization were at the core of sacramental prep? What if we intentionally made our relationship with Jesus Christ the foundation? What if parishioners were both evangelized and celebrated Sacraments?
- Session Title:** **Retreat Follow-Ups: Fostering Ongoing Connections and Community**
Presenter: **Mary Emrich and Jake Savage**
Description: Retreats help participants learn about and grow in their relationships with family, friends, and God. The sense of community formed among retreatants is a key component in helping them deepen their faith, but without ongoing connections, a retreat may just be 2-3 great days, fun and meaningful, but doesn't become integrated into their daily lives or faith journey. Seeds may be planted, but they need attention and nurturing. One of the many challenges in ministry is how to accompany young people in the busyness and realities of their lives, not just in "ministry" moments or programming. This workshop will offer ways to foster relationships, build on connections made during retreats, and continue supporting young people far beyond the retreat experience.

Session Title: **Building a Family of Faith: Equipping Parents to Grow Faith at Home**
Presenter: **Charlie Hardesty, Danny May, and Susana Solorza**
Description: Parents are the number one influencers on the faith lives of their youth. But what are the most important things a parent can be doing to help support and grow faith in the home? This session will equip ministry leaders to guide the parents they support and work with into practical, daily efforts of faith in the home.

Session Title: **Youth Discipleship for the Family, not Despite it.**
Presenter: **Lauren Gothard**
Description: As we walk with youth, the biggest hindrance to their growth is often the lukewarmness or toxic faith environments in their families. The session, through witness, testimony, encouragement, and relatable steps. This session will help a student's journey with Jesus impact, honor, and transform their families.

Session Title: **Accompanying Like Christ: Leading Youth & Families from the Heart of the Eucharist**
Presenter: **Dr. Maria Parker and Dr. Julia Dezelski**
Description: This breakout session invites diocesan, school, and parish ministry leaders to rediscover the Eucharist as the wellspring of authentic accompaniment with young people and families. Rooted in Christ's sacrificial love, participants will explore how Eucharistic spirituality can shape the way we listen, mentor, teach, and journey with those whom we serve. Drawing from both the Listen, Teach, Send and Called to the Joy of Love USCCB Frameworks, ministry leaders will be guided to reflect on the Eucharist as both a model and a mission that is forming us to be people of presence, prayer, and hope in our modern world. Through practical tools, shared experiences, and pastoral insights, ministry leaders will learn how to cultivate ministries that radiate Eucharistic love, foster deeper belonging, and guide young people and families into a living encounter with Christ.

PRESENTER BIOS

Ogechi Akalegbere

Ogechi Akalegbere is a Nigerian-American who works as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and serves as the Campus Minister at Howard University in the Archdiocese of Washington. Ogechi is the 2021 winner of the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Pastoral Studies at Catholic Theological Union.

Chris Bartlett

Chris Bartlett is the President of Ablaze Ministries and believes God's love is for everyone. At Ablaze, he is leading the charge to transform the Church through its mission to youth. A devoted husband and father of six, Chris is as passionate about faith and family as he is about the transforming power of God. Whether inspiring the next generation with his visionary leadership, mentoring others in their spiritual journeys, or unleashing his unparalleled arsenal of dad jokes, Chris lives a life ablaze with purpose and joy. Fueled by a love of 90s rock and a heart for ministry, he balances the chaos of family life with a deep commitment to spreading the Gospel, leaving a lasting impact on all who cross his path.

Brian Baudoin

With over 10 years of experience in Youth Ministry, Brian Baudoin has become an expert in high-quality youth ministry coaching. His dedication as a missionary at Ablaze has led him to countless leadership positions and ministry contexts. If it can happen in ministry, Brian has either seen it, caused it, or fixed it. When he is not on the road coaching parish teams or Diocesan Partners, Brian is cheering on LSU with his wife, son, and newborn in College Station, Texas.

Catherine Becker

Cathy Becker holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (Same as Pope Leo!) and is a nationally Certified Lay Ecclesial Minister. Currently, she serves as the Director of Faith Formation at St. Agnes Parish in Springfield, Illinois. Most recently, Cathy and her daughter Leah co-presented at NCYC in Indianapolis, which was awesome, scary, and eye-opening as a parent and youth ministry leader. Cathy has been an adjunct and author for the Center for Ministry Development and Benedictine University in Springfield, Illinois, and is currently Champion of the NFCYM Pathways to Professional Ministry Focus Area. Cathy resides in Springfield, and with her husband Joshua has three daughters, two Australian Cattle Dogs (Definity not Bluey and Bingo!).

Jeannie Bross-Judge

Dr. Jc Montenegro is an expert in the field of Youth Ministry and has been working for over 20 years in this area. He has published books and articles on the topic and is a highly sought-after speaker at national and international levels. Dr. Montenegro is passionate about helping young people reach their full potential as good Christians and honest citizens.

Pete Burds

Pete Burds, MA, serves as the Chief Mission Officer for NET Ministries, where he leads the formation and training of missionary disciples dedicated to engaging the next generation. Since his encounter with Jesus Christ through a high school youth ministry program, Pete has used his five loaves and two fish for the sake of the Kingdom. With over 20 years of experience in youth, campus, and young adult ministry, Pete has guided thousands in discovering the freedom and joy found in Jesus Christ. He is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Augustine Institute. Pete and his family reside in St. Paul, Minnesota.

David Casey

With over 10 years of experience in Youth Ministry, Brian Baudoin has become an expert in high-quality youth ministry coaching. His dedication as a missionary at Ablaze has led him to countless leadership positions and ministry contexts. If it can happen in ministry, Brian has either seen it, caused it, or fixed it. When he is not on the road coaching parish teams or Diocesan Partners, Brian is cheering on LSU with his wife, son, and newborn in College Station, Texas.

Fr. Tom Clegg

Fr. Tom has been a priest for 35 years and serves as pastor of the vibrant St. John Paul II parish in Sellersburg, Indiana, near Louisville, Kentucky, guiding a community dedicated to growing and making disciples with a sacramental heartbeat.

Dr. Julia Dezelski

Julia Dezelski, STD, is dedicated to serving family life in her mission as Assistant Director for Marriage and Family Life for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This includes serving as a liaison to diocesan directors of marriage and family life, as well as advancing and recommending priorities of pastoral concern. Originally from western Massachusetts, Julia lives in Hyattsville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC, with her husband, daughters, and a neighborhood of friends.

Dr. Patrick Donovan

Patrick Donovan has been a teacher, retreat leader, workshop presenter, and diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry. Since 2016, he has served as the director of The Institute for Catholic Formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport. He has authored four books and more than fifty articles on using movies in ministry. In addition to his day job, Patrick is an adjunct faculty member at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. He holds a degree in communications from the University of Tennessee, an MA in theology from the University of Notre Dame, and a doctorate in theology from La Salle University. Patrick is married to Maureen Gross, and they have four children. The family lives in Fairfield, Connecticut, and are members of St. Anthony of Padua parish in Fairfield.

Mary Emrich

Mary Emrich has worked with young people in parish, college, and high school settings for over 35 years. She currently serves as Director of Campus Ministry at Trinity High School in Louisville, where, for 23 years, she has accompanied thousands of young men on their faith journeys. She served as Director of the Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) for the Archdiocese of Louisville from 2003-2017 and has facilitated retreats and workshops for Catholic high school faculty/staff, lay ministers, and as part of several NFCYM events. She is also a trained Spiritual Director. With her husband, Tim, she has two young adult daughters with whom they perform live music as the band, "Moses on a Motorbike."

Mare Ernesto

Andrew Furphy

Andrew Furphy is a passionate Catholic leader dedicated to helping young people encounter the healing, transforming love of Jesus. Drawing from years of ministry experience in youth discipleship, inner-healing prayer, and parish leadership, Andrew brings a unique blend of pastoral sensitivity and practical skill. He is the founder of the Joshua 1:9 Inner Healing Ministry, where he equips teams to create safe, Spirit-led spaces for people to experience God's restoration. Andrew also mentors group leaders, develops formation resources, and speaks on topics including identity in Christ, healing prayer, and building sustainable ministry cultures. Known for his relatable storytelling and faith-filled encouragement, Andrew's mission is to empower leaders to walk confidently with the young Church—and to help teens discover that God is closer, kinder, and more powerful than they ever imagined.

Lauren Gothard

Lauren Gothard is the daughter of the abundantly generous father. She has been seeking to know and serve the Lord for eleven years since converting to the Catholic Church. She is passionate about seeing a Church fully alive in the joy, peace, and purpose that God has for us. Lauren is currently a full-time missionary for Damascus Catholic Missions Centerburg, Ohio. She spends most of her time loving on teens and creating environments where people can fall head over heels in love with God. She enjoys good coffee, acoustic vibes, and quality cheese.

Charlie Hardesty

Charlie is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. He was a youth minister for 13 years before serving in the diocese and has a master's in theology from Saint Meinrad. He is married with 2 children, and his deepest desire is for young people to know their worth in Christ Jesus.

Sr. Guerline Joseph

Sister Guerline (girl-lean), a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco, has been dedicated to the mission of the Salesian Sisters since her First Profession in 2011. Her ministry has taken many forms, including serving as a Director of Religious Education, Assistant Retreat Director, Boys & Girls Club mentor, high school campus minister, and a teacher across all levels. She currently serves as an Associate Director in the Archdiocese of Newark Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Passionate about accompanying young people, she finds joy in affirming their worth and reminding them that they are deeply loved, often through informal moments like cheering them on at their sporting events. A sports enthusiast herself, she finds even greater joy in playing sports. With proud Haitian roots, she carries the rhythm of dance in her spirit. Learn more about her mission at salesiansisters.org.

Marcia Lane-McGee

Marcia Lane-McGee is an author, speaker, and the cohost of the Plaid Skirts and Basic Black podcast. A former Family Teacher and high school youth minister, she has a heart for the young church, justice, and Taylor Swift. In addition to being an aspiring joy guru, a fan of karaoke nights, trivia, and strawberry Twizzlers, Lane-McGee is a founding member, executive board member, and secretary of Catholics United for Black Lives and an executive board member and vice president of New Wave Feminists.

Danny May

Danny May is the Director of Marriage & Family Life for the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, where he has served since 2017. A graduate of the Ministry Formation Program at Brescia University in Owensboro, Danny previously served as a parish youth minister and family life director in a local parish for 15 years. He and his wife, Kelly, have two teenage sons and are active members of Precious Blood Catholic Church in Owensboro.

Christine McCarty

Christine McCarty is a passionate and dynamic Catholic speaker, educator, and ministry leader with a deep commitment to fostering faith formation in youth and young adults. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, equipped with a strong foundation in theology and communication. As a wife, mother, and Diocesan Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Christine combines her professional expertise with a heart for nurturing the spiritual growth of the next generation of Catholics. Christine holds a bachelor's degree in completing two majors in Theology and Communication, which together enable her to effectively bridge the gap between profound theological teachings and the practical realities of everyday life. Her educational background, coupled with her hands-on experience in ministry, makes her a sought-after speaker for conferences, retreats, and parish events.

Charlotte McCorquodale

Dr. Charlotte McCorquodale, from Louisiana, is an international educator, researcher, speaker, and consultant. She has led Ministry Training Source since 2000 and has over 40 years of ministry experience in parish, school, diocesan, and national settings. She holds an MRE from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, and a PhD from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Chris Miller

Dr. Chris Miller is an educator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He most recently worked for NAMI Santa Clara County, coordinating their FaithNet Program and as a high school teacher at De La Salle High School in Concord, CA, as well as teaching theology and serving as director of campus ministry at a Catholic boarding school in Connecticut. Prior to these positions, Chris taught in Catholic middle and high schools and served as a youth ministry coordinator, all within the Diocese of San Jose. He holds 6 academic degrees and 5 academic certificates in the areas of education, history, pastoral ministries, spirituality, restorative justice, canon law, clinical psychology, and school counseling from Santa Clara University, University of San Francisco, Boston College, St. Paul's University, and Notre Dame de Namur University. Chris currently serves as co-chair of the Pastoral Care and Mental Wellness Ministry Network through the NFCYM.

Kevin Molm

Kevin Molm serves as the Manager of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Helena. Born and raised in Montana, his faith journey was profoundly impacted by his own youth minister's witness to the Gospel, which inspired Kevin to dedicate his life to accompanying young people in their faith. He has accumulated over 20 years of ministry experience, including work in parishes, schools, and college campus ministry. He currently serves as the Secretary for NFCYM's Board of Directors.

JC Montenegro

Dr. Jc Montenegro is an expert in youth ministry and has been working in this field for over 20 years. He has published books and articles on the topic and is a highly sought-after speaker at national and international levels. Dr. Montenegro is passionate about helping young people reach their full potential as good Christians and honest citizens.

Lucia Morales

Lucia Morales was born and raised in New York City, where her faith journey began in the church, from Sunday school and altar serving to becoming an active member of the Jornada Movement. Her professional career began in community health, doing case management while continuing to serve the Jornada community by leading youth retreats.

Lucia later joined the Diocese of Brooklyn, where she spent nine years helping parishes across Brooklyn and Queens strengthen their youth ministries through the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative, eventually serving as Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. She now serves as the Director of Communications and External Affairs at a high school and as a coach with The Accompaniment Project, guiding parish leaders in creating welcoming spaces where young people can belong and thrive.

Dr. Maria Parker

Maria Parker is passionate about serving young people and families in her role as Assistant Director for the Laity at the USCCB. She has served in youth and young adult ministry and Catholic Education for the past seventeen years. Maria earned her B.A. in Theology, with minors in Latin and History, from Mount St. Mary's University before serving as a FOCUS missionary at Ramapo College of New Jersey. She later served in youth and young adult ministry and Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia while completing an M.A. in School Counseling from The College of New Jersey and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Neumann University. Passionate about introducing young people to Jesus Christ, Maria draws inspiration from St. John Paul II. She enjoys spending time with her family back home in Philadelphia.

Joe Perdreauxville

Joe Perdreauxville serves as the Director of Mission Resourcing for Goodfaith. In his role, he listens to the needs and desires of parish and diocesan ministry leaders and shares the resources of Goodfaith to help meet those needs. Prior to this role, Joe served as the Clergy Outreach Manager for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). He has served in parish and diocesan ministries over his 27-year career. His roles have encompassed diverse ministries and administrative responsibilities. Joe holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Administration from St. Mary's University in Minnesota. He has served as a board member for national Catholic organizations like NFCYM, NCCL, and CYFUSA, as well as local Catholic entities. Additionally, he serves as a consultant both locally and nationally. Joe is a seasoned workshop presenter who covers a range of topics at conferences, retreats, and formation events.

Rhyan Ramirez

Rhyan Ramirez, also known as Bro Rhy, is a dynamic speaker and mentor with over 20 years of ministry experience, from local parishes to national events. With over a decade of experience in adult mental health and as a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) educator, he brings a unique perspective to his work. His commitment to his personal and professional growth is reflected in his recent associate degree in theology from Franciscan University and in his current pursuit of a bachelor's in professional studies with a focus on industrial-organizational psychology. Bro Rhy is especially excited and grateful to be a coach for NFCYM's Accompaniment Project, guiding 10 parishes nationwide over a 3-year span, and to serve as one of the instructors for the EQ Saints certificate program. Rooted in faith and compassion, his work aims to inspire others to live authentically and pursue their purpose in Christ.

Cooper Ray

Cooper is a dynamic speaker, worship leader, and retreat facilitator who shares faith with honesty, humor, and passion. He draws on music, storytelling, and audience participation to help people recognize God's presence in their lives. Over the past 20 years, Cooper has inspired youth and adults at conferences like NCYC, NCCYM, Catholic Heart Work Camp, and Steubenville – to name a few. He served four years in parish youth ministry and ten years in diocesan ministry, guiding young people and those who accompany them to live the Gospel. His call to ministry began as a camp counselor, sparking his love for music and faith formation. Now Director of Strategic Partnerships for Newman Ministry, Cooper holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's in Pastoral Studies. He lives in Flower Mound, TX, with his wife Laura and their three sons, Eli, Keller, and Maximus.

Jake Savage

Jake Savage is an English teacher and Head Volleyball Coach at Trinity High School in Louisville, KY. Before Trinity, he taught middle school Language Arts at St. Edward (and volunteered with the youth ministry program) and at St. Albert Catholic Schools in Louisville. He also coaches a travel volleyball team of young men ages 15-18. Jake served as an alumni leader in Trinity's Christian Awakening Senior Retreat program throughout college and now leads as a faculty member.

Susana Solorza

Susana is the Coordinadora de Pastoral Juvenil for the Diocese of Owensboro. She spent several years as a Spanish teacher at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, Ky. She has a husband and three boys who are currently homeschooled.

Dr. Pat Sprankle

Dr. Patrick Sprankle (Pat), husband, father, and grandfather, is Director of Youth Ministry at the Pastorate of Christ the King and St Bernadette in Maryland. Having served parishes over a 40-year span, Pat has extensive experience with middle and high school young people and young adults. Pat graduated from Graduate Theological Foundation with a doctorate in Ministry and has a master's in theology, writing *Crawling in the Dark* as part of his dissertation.

Marlene Stammerman

Marlene joins us at Exchange bringing 35+ years of ministry in the Catholic Church. Serving in parish, deanery, diocesan and national ministries - the consistent factor has been helping teens and adults discover their relationship with Jesus Christ and finding their Spiritual Home within the Catholic Faith. This workshop unpacks her latest assignment as Director of Evangelization at St John Paul II parish in Sellersburg Indiana and changing a parish culture to embrace an increase in retaining parishioners post celebration of a Sacrament! Going from a 26% to an 83% retention rate in Confirmation.... Come check it out!

Doug Tooke

Doug Tooke serves as the Head of School at St. Andrew Catholic School in Helena, Montana. With over twenty years of experience in youth ministry, Catholic Education, and leadership formation, Doug has served in a variety of Catholic ministry settings, bringing a wealth of knowledge and practical insight to his work. He lives in Helena with his wife, Becky, and their five daughters, and is deeply committed to forming young people as missionary disciples through accompaniment, service, and Catholic social teaching.

Laura Werner

Laura Werner is the current Manager of Outreach and Stewardship at the Steubenville Conference Office at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Her role is to support, equip, and encourage youth ministers, campus ministers, diocesan leaders, and parents to bring teens to a Steubenville Youth Conference. She also connects them to catechetical resources offered through the university. has a master's degree in special education and a Certificate in Catechesis from the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University. Prior to working for Steubenville Conferences, Laura was a career high school educator and learning specialist. She has been involved in youth ministry at her parish for 15 years.

Priscilla Wanderley

Priscilla Wanderley is originally from Brazil and served as a missionary for fifteen years with the *Community of the Sweet Mother of God*. Her ministry took her across five continents, working with youth and young adults. She holds a degree in education with a concentration in Multiple Intelligences and studied Theology. Priscilla works for the Institute for Catholic Formation in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Matt Zerrusen

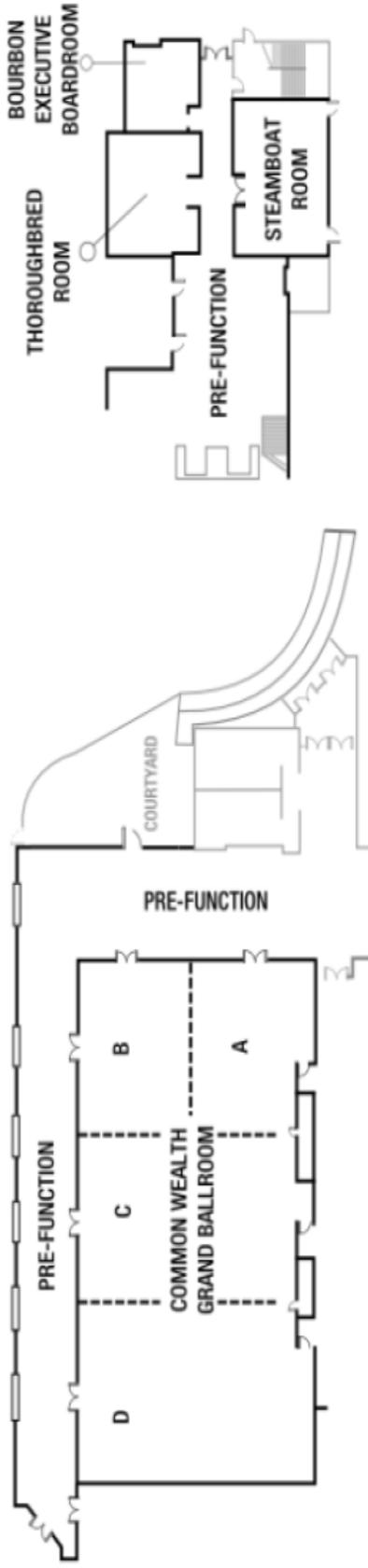
Matt Zerrusen is the Founder and CEO of Newman Ministry, a network of mission-driven companies including Newman Connection, Called App, and Newman Student Housing Fund. Together, they exist to connect, engage, and empower the next generation of believers through authentic faith community. A Catholic entrepreneur and visionary leader, Matt has helped ministries across the country modernize their outreach, data, and discipleship strategies to reach the 70% of youth who identify as Catholic but are not fully engaged in the life of the Church. His work combines technology, mission, and formation, bridging faith and innovation to bring people closer to Christ.

MAP



MARRIOTT
LOUISVILLE EAST

FIRST LEVEL



SECOND LEVEL

