

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

Dear Friend,

Blessings to you. It is with gratitude and great hope that the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) greets you. NCCL serves as the only national conference dedicated to the mission of catechesis and evangelization throughout the United States today. We are excited to *personally extend an invitation requesting your presence* at this year's annual convocation to be hosted in the Diocese of Orange.

In the spirit of synodality, the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership is encouraging you, along with diocesan and parish leaders, to attend the **annual membership meeting and convocation of the NCCL from May 19-23, 2019** at the **Hyatt Regency Orange County** (11999 Harbor Blvd. Garden Grove, CA 92840.) *If you are unable to attend the conference in full, your presence on Day 3, Wednesday, May 22nd, would be most desirable.*

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership is composed of diocesan and parish directors, diocesan staffs, bishops, pastors, publishers, independent consultants and speakers, and academics. It is the mission of the organization to nurture and gather the catechetical leaders of our church, to promote evangelization and innovative catechesis in our changing world, and to collaborate with the Bishops and other leaders to encourage the highest level of development in the ministries of evangelization, catechesis, religious education, and faith formation. The Annual Convocation is one way that NCCL assures it is accomplishing this mission. Each year the conference rotates throughout the United States to reach out, engage, learn from, *and pray with* the various local church community cultures and realities in our nation.

Our 2019 Annual Conference, entitled "Nurturing the Hungry Heart," will include in-service opportunities, large membership meetings, liturgies (including Mass), and province gatherings. The registration fee for members is \$375 and \$475 for non-members. NCCL is offering a local regional rate of \$305 for all online registrations from January 16 through May, as well as a one day only rate of \$135. Registration is available at <https://nccl.org/convocation2019/>.

The theme for this event surfaced through an intentional process of discernment with diverse leaders throughout the nation. This process unveiled the importance and urgency of your presence specifically. Here is a brief overview of what participants can anticipate throughout our intentional four-day journey:

- **Pre-Conference – Sunday, May 19th** - Leadership Meetings and *celebration of the Eucharist*. An opening event at Christ Cathedral will inspire.
- **Day 1 – Monday, May 20th** - Begins with the exploration of *Longing* through contemplative silence, prayer, and kerygma. This day seeks to prepare space and time for attendees to ponder the layers of individual and communal aching, specifically during this moment in church history. This will be a day of prayer, discernment, and guided movements to uncover the complexity of what lies in the depths of the heart.



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- **Day 2 – Tuesday, May 21st** - Enable movement into the theme of *Nurturing*. After prayerful reflection on our deepest longings, the ability to nurture the extent of our aching will be available through and with the community. Recognizing the face of Christ in the diversity of our humanity, manifested through various cultural, generational, and spiritual approaches, our communion with one another is strengthened and our hearts are nurtured. With honest inquiry, participants will be invited into the sacred threshold of the other, of Jesus Christ in our very midst. The vision for the second day attempts to include marginalized voices and underrepresented faces, inspiring and creative leaders, paralleled with educators and informers of the mission of catechesis and evangelization.
- **Day 3 – Wednesday, May 22nd** - The third day of the conference will see participants experiencing a dramatic shift, moving from discernment to action. The theme for Wednesday is *Preparing*. With intentional facilitation processes, NCCL aims to foster opportunities for members to explore difficult and necessary conversations with their colleagues, both at the local and national level, **including pastors and bishops**, especially in regard to the abuse crisis in the church. A two-fold track experience will provide reserved time to explore the unique circumstances and internal structures of our communities of faith that inhibit the potential of sharing the Gospel in today's world. With guided facilitation of visionary leadership, there will be a juxta-positioning of what stifles with where the Spirit is inspiring change; truly an experience of Pentecost for today's disciples.
- **Day 4 – Thursday, May 23rd** - On the fourth day, just as the first disciples were shaken by the Spirit, attendees will be *commissioned* to go forth, implementing the necessary movements to inspire a revitalized living of the vocational calling to catechesis and evangelization. An opportunity to explore a local mission will provide hope for the spreading of the Gospel.

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership is honored *and truly blessed* to have the opportunity to encourage your presence in the Diocese of Orange. *If you have further questions, please do contact NCCL at office@nccl.org. May God continue to bless us.*

Sincerely,



Margaret Matijašević
Executive Director
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

Sincerely,

NCCL Member

