

Casting A Wider Net



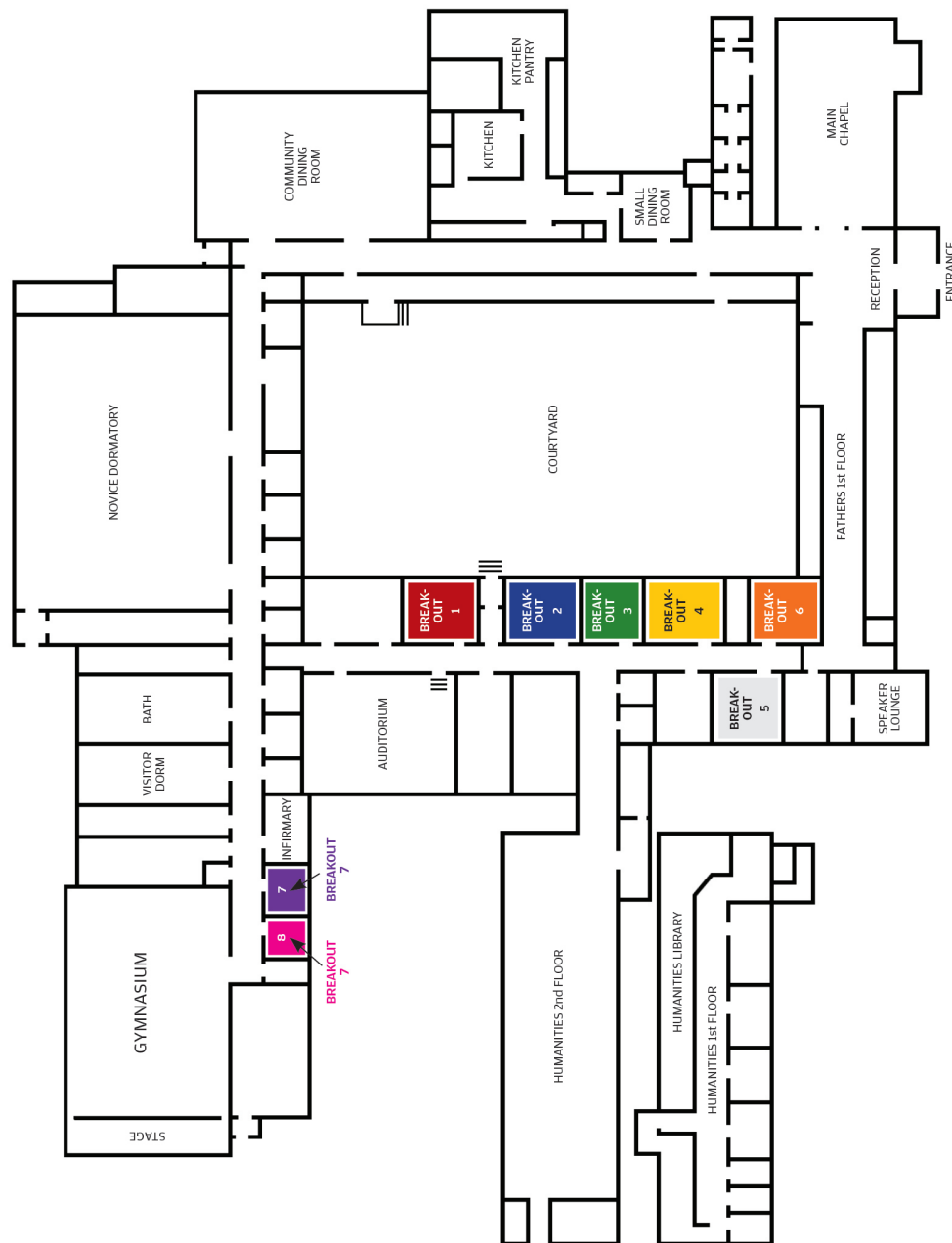
NATIONAL VOCATION SUMMIT

BUILDING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

Friday, March 14 – Sunday, March 16, 2025

Legion of Christ College of Humanities
Cheshire, CT

NationalVocationSummit.org



Seminary Visitor's Map



A Prayer for Vocations



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life and the vocation you have placed in each heart. Raise up holy families in fertile soil that protects and nourishes the delicate seeds of every vocation.

Send out your Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to discern your voice of truth, to respond with freedom, courage, generosity and embrace the call you have placed in their hearts Grant to those accompanying them the gifts of wisdom and counsel.

We ask that you cling ever so tightly to those who have set out on the journey to answer your call, that their hands remain on the plow not looking back. Keep the fire within their hearts burning with a passionate love, overcoming all doubt, fear, and temptation, so they may approach your altar worthily, ready to live out your call.

Lord, bless our priests and consecrated men and women. Grant them a faith that moves mountains, strength to carry their cross with determination of heart and mind and sustain them while they work tirelessly for your Kingdom.

Thank you heavenly Father for your Kingdom, our family on Earth, and for our own vocation to holiness. Unite us with the Holy Family to protect, guard, and sustain us, so that we may persevere in fidelity to your most holy will, until we rejoice together with you forever in Heaven. Amen.



Vocation Action Network

An outreach of Regnum Christi.
Find us at www.vocationactionnetwork.com



Welcome

It is a great joy to welcome you to the 2025 National Vocation Summit. Our theme this year is “Casting a Wider Net”. The Summit has been crafted to provide you with ample opportunities to rest with the Lord in prayer, share with other Vocation Apostles within the Church, and be inspired by the Holy Spirit to return to the many places you have begun your work with renewed energy and vigor. We especially welcome our religious and diocesan clergy to share in this great work of building a culture of vocations. We hope it will be a weekend of inspiration, intellectual growth and encounter with our Lord!

Many have asked, what is the Mission and Vision of the Summit? We share our statutes here:

MISSION

Inspired by the charism of Regnum Christi to equip and send out Apostles, the National Vocation Summit gathers Christian leaders with a heart for vocations and a desire to help the next generation become vocation apostles. Rooted in the holy Eucharist and working effectively in teams, the Summit communicates to the younger members of the Church this message: God has a plan for you, and we want to help you discover it!

The National Vocation Summit seeks to build a true vocation culture in any Christ centered community in the Church, building leadership teams of committed Vocation Apostles. We aspire that all participants to the Summit leave with a greater dependence on the Lord of the Harvest (Lk 10:2), a renewed love for the Church, zeal for our common mission, and an ever deeper hope in Christ and his grace for our lives.

VISION

Over the next years, we envision the National Vocation Summit uniting, forming, and sending out hundreds of priests, consecrated, and lay vocation apostles to impact the culture in five specific areas:

- 1) Focusing every form of vocational discernment on Eucharistic Adoration and an authentic sacramental life.
- 2) Elevating the gravitas of the universal call to holiness for all baptized (Lumen Gentium Ch. 4:39-41).
- 3) Making the topic of one’s vocation a mainstream conversation.
- 4) Accompanying and equipping leaders to help young men and women to discern and fulfill God’s plan in their lives.
- 5) Bringing greater unity in vocation work across all sectors of Church life, resulting in a vocational plenitude of holy Catholic priests, consecrated, and marriages.

POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the means by which all vocations are revealed to each individual. Our Mission is to provide opportunities for all people to gather in the unity of praying for vocations.

Schedule
Friday

March 14

7:00 AM	Morning Meditation	Main Chapel
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7:30 AM	Mass	Main Chapel
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8:15 AM	Registration / Check In	Narthex
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8:15 AM	Breakfast	Small Dining
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9:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Session <i>Father Martin Connor, LC, National Vocation Director Legionaries of Christ</i>	Auditorium
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9:30 AM	Introduction	Auditorium
	Pursued by Love: Rediscovering the Universal Call to Holiness and the Beauty of Vocations in the Church	
	<i>Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship Archdiocese of Atlanta</i>	

11:00 AM	Panel	Auditorium
	One Church, Many Callings: The Impact of Different Vocations on our Culture	
	<i>Anthony MacDonnell, CMRC, Facilitator; Laura Matthews, CWRC; Fr, Jim Sullivan (Archdiocese of Hartford); Brenner LeCompte; Mother Rosario Vega, HMSS</i>	

12:15 PM	Break	12:50 PM	Angelus
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Schedule
Friday

March 14 Continued

1:00 PM	Lunch	Main Dining
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2:30 PM	Keynote	Auditorium
	An Experience of Building a Vocation Culture	
	<i>Stephen D. Minnis, President Benedictine College</i>	

3:30 PM	Workshop Becoming Champions of All Vocations	Breakout
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4:45 PM	Break
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5:00 PM	Adoration for Vocations	Main Chapel
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6:00 PM	Break
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6:30 PM	Dinner	Main Dining
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Saturday

March 15

7:00 AM	Morning Meditation	Main Chapel
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7:30 AM	Mass	Main Chapel
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8:15 AM	Breakfast	Small Dining
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Schedule Saturday

March 15 Continued

9:00 AM	Discernment for Action: Docility to the Holy Spirit <i>Father John Van Dorpe, LC, Regional Vocation Director</i>	Auditorium
9:45 AM	Call to Action: Helping People Find Their Purpose <i>Jackie Couture-Gonzales, National Director Vocation Action Network</i>	Auditorium
10:30 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Engaging the Vocation Conversation <i>Jackie Couture-Gonzales, National Director Vocation Action Network</i>	Auditorium
12:00 PM	Break/Optional Tour	12:50 PM Angelus
1:00 PM	Lunch	Main Dining
2:45 PM	Working Session: Taking Action as a Vocation Apostle	Breakout
4:15 PM	Sharing of SubGroups	Auditorium
4:45 PM	Break	
5:00 PM	Adoration for Vocations with Vespers	Main Chapel
6:00 PM	Cocktail Hour / Refreshments	Main Dining
6:30 PM	Dinner	Main Dining

Schedule Sunday

March 16


7:30 AM	Morning Meditation	Main Chapel
8:15 AM	Breakfast	Small Dining
9:00 AM	Go Forth! <i>Father Shawn Aaron, LC, North American Territorial Director</i>	Auditorium
9:45 AM	Closing Session <i>Father Martin Connor, LC, National Vocation Director Legionaries of Christ</i>	Auditorium
11:00 AM	Mass <i>The Most Reverend Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Hartford</i>	Main Chapel
12:00 PM	Lunch & Departure	Main Dining

Commissioning Prayer

Prayer of Saint Anthony Mary Claret

O my God and Father,
Grant that I may know You and make You known,
that I love You and bring others to love You,
that I serve You and inspire others to serve You,
that I praise You and work that all Your creatures praise You.
Grant, my Father, that all sinners be converted,
that all the just persevere in grace
and all of us reach eternal glory.

Amen.

Key Points from Talks:	Inspirations / Resolutions / Action Items:
Big Ideas:	
	

Speakers



Stephen D. Minnis, President Benedictine College
An Experience of Building a Vocation Culture

Biography

A native of St. Joseph, MO, Stephen D. Minnis graduated from Benedictine College in 1982. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Washburn University in 1985 and Master of Business Administration degree in 1993 from Baker University. He served as an Assistant District Attorney and as General Attorney, Director, regulatory policy at Spirit Corporation before becoming President of Benedictine College in 2004. He was a contributing author to *Inside the Mind: Achieving Success as a CEO* (©2008 Thomson Reuters/Aspatore) and has given numerous talks on spirituality in the workplace and academic freedom to groups across America, including the Heritage Foundation, Legatus, and Catholic Charities. He was one of only five college presidents to be included on the Committee on Catholic Education Ex Corde Ecclesia Working Group and he was invited by the Vatican to participate in the 2012 Pontificia Comisión Para América in Rome. In November of 2021, Caritas in Veritate (CiV) honored him as a distinguished leader in the international community and in the Church with the organization's Papal Award.

Talk Overview

“There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit.” The Church’s marvelous unity in spite of the diversity of vocations is a fruit of the gift of the Holy Spirit that raises up prophets, teachers, apostles and evangelizers each with his own task and gift for the good of the whole Church. Understanding the gift that is the personal vocation of each member brings out the joy and richness of belonging to Christ and working to spread his Kingdom. Thus, the diversity of callings does not create a power differential, but each is called to serve according to his own gifts, charisms and state in life. If all are united to Christ the Head, then “those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor” (1 Cor 12).

Notes:

Speakers



Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship Archdiocese of Atlanta

Pursued by Love: Rediscovering the Universal Call to Holiness and the Beauty of Vocations in the Church

Biography

Andy is the Director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He serves on the Family Rosary board of Holy Cross Family Ministries, the board of Life-Giving Wounds, and the advisory committee for Newman Ministry. He was also a member of the advisory committee for Chesterton Academy of Atlanta. His faith was nurtured through family life and the love of his parents and siblings, with the support of Catholic schools, campus ministries, and parish life in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. After taking time in college (University of Georgia) to discern the Lord’s call, Andy married his college sweetheart, earned an MA and PhD in theology (University of Dallas and The Catholic University of America, respectively), and worked for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for twelve years before returning home to Georgia. Andy and his wife are blessed with four living children, with three little ones entrusted to the Lord.

Talk Overview

Clericalism is a direct result of looking at the vocation and authority of priests from a secular point of view. For the Secular mind, power and prestige are the marks of authority. Only when we remember Christ’s words “the greatest among you must be your servant” can the authority of the clergy be correctly understood. This understanding also frees the lay faithful to exercise their true role as followers of Christ without seeking to supplant or act as substitute clerics.

Notes:

Speakers



Father John Van Dorpe, LC Regional Vocation Director
Discernment for Action: Docility to the Holy Spirit

Biography

Fr. John is from a large Catholic family from Dayton, OH. He felt the call early on, and decided to leave home for a pre-seminary high school in New Hampshire for his freshman year. After graduating, he joined the novitiate of the Legionaries of Christ and was sent to Dublin, Ireland where he made his first vows in 2009. His studies have brought him to Connecticut, New York, and a total of six years in Rome. He also had the chance to do three years of apostolic internship at another pre-seminary high school in Guadalajara, Mexico. He serves as the regional vocations director for the Legionaries in Atlanta, Georgia. He enjoys cheering for his favorite sports teams (all the ones from southern Ohio) playing sports, the outdoors and a good read.

Talk Overview

Now that we have come to understand better the call to holiness and apostolate that each of us has received, what's next? How can I be sure that I am docile and open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as I seek to act. Where do I even start living out my call to be a vocation apostle?

Notes:

One Church, Many Callings: The Impact of Different Vocations on our Culture

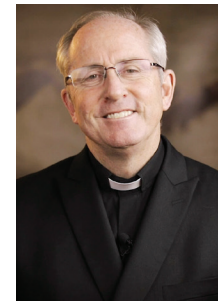
Panel Facilitator: Anthony MacDonnell, Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi

Panel: Laura Matthews, Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi; Father Jim Sullivan, Archdiocese of Hartford; Brenner LeCompte, Mother Rosario Vega, HMSS

This session you will hear speakers from various vocations of the Church. Each will share how living his or her vocation is a pathway for knowing, loving, and following Christ and how they have seen Christ invite people to transform the world by living his or her vocation authentically.

Notes:

Sessions



Master of Ceremonies

Father Martin Connor, LC

National Vocation Director, Legionaries of Christ

Father Martin Connor was born in Baltimore MD, grew up near Annapolis, one of eight children. He entered the Legionaries of Christ in 1990 after graduating from Boston College. He holds degrees in Philosophy and Theology from the Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, Italy. He was Ordained to the priesthood in January 2001 in Rome with his brother, Fr John Connor, LC. He spent the first 7 years of his priesthood in Dublin, Ireland where he was Chaplain to a School and Director of a Family Center. From 2007-2010 he worked as Chaplain to the Youth programs of Regnum Christi that run in Northern Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. He worked in Atlanta, GA for 12 years as a retreat and spiritual director and is currently working as the LC National Vocations Director. He has also published: Ten Reflections on the Kingdom, Reclaiming Love: Connecting the Head and Heart, and the Dating Booklet for Young Adults.

Call to Action: Helping People Find Their Purpose

Jackie Couture-Gonzales, National Director Vocation Action Network (VAN)

Notes:

Engaging the Vocation Conversation

Jackie Couture-Gonzales, National Director Vocation Action Network (VAN)

Notes:

Go Forth!

Father Shawn Aaron, LC - North American Territorial Director, Legionaries of Christ

Closing Mass with Commissioning of Vocation Apostles

The Most Revered Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Hartford, CT

Special Thanks

The Most Revered Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Hartford, CT
Father Shawn Aaron, LC, North American Territorial Director Legion of Christ
Father Timothy Walsh, LC President/Rector Legion of Christ College of Humanities

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All Our Speakers

Stephen D. Minnis
Dr. Andrew Lichtenwalner
Father John Van Dorpe
Tony MacDonnell
Laura Matthews
Brenner LeCompte
Jacki Gonzales
Father Jim Sullivan
Mother Rosario Vega, HMSSS

Special Thanks

And those who have supported us in other wonderful ways...

The Legion of Christ College of Humanities for Hosting Us
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All Religious Orders that are hosting participants
All our wonderful volunteers
All our Priests, Vocation Directors and Vocation Coordinators



Notes

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SAVE THE DATE!

March 13 – March 15, 2026

Cheshire, CT

Awakening Apostles of Hope



NationalVocationSummit.org