

Ronald E. Bolster
Assistant Professor of Theology and Catechetics
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Education

Franciscan University

- M.A. Theology and Christian Ministry, May 1997
- Certificate in Catechetics, May 1998

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

- B.S. Mechanical Engineering (with Distinction), May 1987

Employment History

Franciscan University

- Director of Catechetics, August 2005-June 2016
- Assistant Professor of Theology and Catechetics, August 2004-present

Catholic Diocese of Peoria, Illinois

- Director of Catechetics, 2001-2004
- Associate Director of Catechetics, 1998-2001

United States Navy

- Naval Officer, Aviation Maintenance Manager, Tactical Jet Pilot, 1987-1994

Publications:

Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation (with Chris Stefanick), Ascension Press, 2014

Courses Taught:

CAT 204 Catechetics

This course provides a survey of the history, methods, content and contemporary practice of Catholic religious education, inspired by God's Pedagogy of Revelation and the Response of Faith, for the purpose of familiarizing future catechists with the mind of the Church concerning catechesis. Essential catechetical documents of the Church will be studied for the purpose of providing an understanding of the nature and scope of catechetics while establishing a basis for further catechetical study. An introduction to catechetical methodology will include certain post-Conciliar methodologies that interfere with the delivery of the Deposit of Faith and the conversion of those being catechized. Typical deficiencies in catechetical materials will be discussed. Finally, the content of catechesis will be addressed by introducing the technique of analyzing doctrine for effective delivery. Thus the content will be studied as well as its application.

CAT 301 Catechetical Content and Curriculum

Course specifically addresses the content of catechesis, the Deposit of Faith. It will explore magisterial guidance on the characteristics of the content, its integrity, organic unity, and the need for its systematic delivery. Kerygmatic catechesis will be presented as the delivery system for doctrine. The right ordering of catechetical material will be presented and exercise in the development of curricula will be provided. Finally, the process of analyzing doctrine for the purpose of delivering it more effectively will be explained and demonstrated for various individual doctrines.

CAT 403 Management and Administration in the Parish and Diocese

This course is designed to be proximate preparation for entry into the professional catechetical field. This course will be a survey of administrative, management, personal and public relations, leadership, policy, legal, and professional development topics from a gospel perspective for the purpose of facilitating a successful transition to a parish or diocesan position within the Church.

CAT 405 Catechetical Ministries in the Church

This course will examine the various ways in which catechesis is done in the United States. It will be explicit in relationship to a Catholic worldview and the catechumenal model. We will cover adult catechesis, family catechesis, parish school of religion, Catholic schools, textbook evaluation, catechist training, catechesis of the young child, sacramental prep, youth ministry, campus ministry, chastity education, the RCIA and Catholics returning to the sacraments. We will discuss each of those apostolic endeavors in light of their principles, materials, and the needs of the Church today.

THE 641 Catechetical Content and Curriculum

This course examines Jesus as the essential content of all catechetical endeavors. It identifies the four pillars of the Deposit of Faith—creed, liturgy and sacraments, Christian moral living, and prayer—as the basis for the Christian life. It discusses the implications of the kerygma on catechesis, i.e., emphasis on insertion into the mystery of Christ. This course considers necessary elements of any catechetical work as explicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and includes practice in the development of curricula for specific catechetical needs. A tour of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, for the purpose of analyzing doctrine, will complete the second half of the semester

THE 694 Catechetical Practice Today

This course will examine the various ways in which catechesis is done in the United States. It will be specific in relationship to a Catholic worldview and the catechumenal model. Specifically we will cover adult catechesis, family catechesis, youth ministry, campus ministry, Catholic schools, parish school of religion, DRE/catechist training, textbook evaluations, chastity education, and Sacramental Preparation. There are specific reading assignments for each of these topics which must be represented in the projects.

Presentations:

Christian Morality and Engaging Difficult Parents

Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 9, 2016

Epistemology for Catechists

St. John Bosco Conference, July 20, 2016

Christocentricity of Catechesis

St. John Bosco Conference, July 19, 2016

Online Catechist Training (14 presentations)

Franciscan University Catechetical Institute, June 22-24; July 7-8, 2016

Christian Morality and Mariology

St. Mary School faculty, Martins Ferry, May 25, 2016

Theology and Catechetics

Priestly Discernment Program, January 28, 2016

Christian Anthropology

Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 11, 2015

Ecclesiology

Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 11, 2015

Topics in the New Testament

St. Mary's School faculty, St. Clairsville, August 4, 2015

Christian Morality

St. Mary's School faculty, St. Clairsville, August 4, 2015

Catechetical Methodology
St. Mary's School faculty, St. Clairsville, August 4, 2015

Sacramental Economy for RCIA
St. John Bosco Conference, July 16, 2015

Metaphysics for Catechists
St. John Bosco Conference, July 15, 2015

From Pilot to Catechist
Cleveland Men's Leadership Forum, February 5, 2015

Matrimony & Holy Orders
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 5, 2014

Christocentricity
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 5, 2014

Purgatory
St. John Bosco Conference, July 17, 2014

Philosophy for Catechesis
St. John Bosco Conference, July 15, 2014

Evangelization and Catechesis
Theology on Tap, March 20, 2014

Mariology
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 12, 2013

History and Mission of the Church
St. John Bosco Conference, July 18, 2013

Preparing for the Rites of RCIA
St. John Bosco Conference, July 20, 2013

Canon Law for Catechists
National Catholic Education Association Conf. - Houston, April 4, 2013

Understanding Catechesis
Arlington Catechetical Conference, November 10, 2012

Mission of the Church
Arlington Catechetical Conference, November 10, 2012

Vocation to Fatherhood
Franciscan University Priestly Discernment Program, October 4, 2012

Canon Law for Youth Ministry
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2012

Revelation
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bellaire, June 5, 2012

Mission Evangelization
Franciscan University Bronx Mission, November 14, 2011

The Ecclesial Method
Ohio Catholic Education Association Conf. – Columbus, October 4, 2011:

Christology
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2011

Scripture and Tradition
National Catholic Education Association Conf. – New Orleans , April 2011

Virtue Formation
Steubenville Diocesan Catechist Certification - Minerva, March 19, 2011

The Ecclesial Method
Steubenville Diocesan Catechist Certification - Minerva, March 19, 2011

Evangelization
Franciscan University Priestly Discernment Program, February 17, 2011

Preparing your Witness Talk
Franciscan University Honduras Mission, November 21, 2010

Mission of the Church
Arlington Catechetical Conference, October 23, 2010

Understanding Catechesis
Arlington Catechetical Conference, October 23, 2010

Using the Catechism
Steubenville Diocesan Catechist Certification – Bridgeport, August 12, 2010

Scripture and Tradition: Sources of Faith
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2010

The Universal Call to Holiness
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2010

Balancing Personal life and Ministry
Franciscan University St. John Bosco Society, March 2, 2010

Analyzing Doctrine
Steubenville Diocesan Catechist Certification – Marietta, February 18, 2010

Using the Catechism
Steubenville Diocesan Catechist Certification – Marietta, February 18, 2010

Introduction to the Catechism
Deacon Aspirants of the Diocese of Steubenville – Wheeling, November 20, 2009

The Christocentricity of Catechesis
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 11, 2009

The Content of Catechesis
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 11, 2009

Scripture and Tradition: Sources of Faith
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2009

Scripture the Driving Force of Doctrine
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2009

Catechesis
Franciscan University Priestly Discernment Program, March 12, 2009

Preparing our Students for the Sacraments
City of Steubenville PSR; Holy Rosary, October 16, 2008

The Problem of Evil
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 12, 2008

The Ecclesial Method
Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 12, 2008

The Mission and History of the Church
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2008

Making Disciples on the Front Lines
Franciscan University Youth Ministers Conference, January 26, 2008

The Catechism & other Magisterial Catechetical Documents
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2007

The Christocentricity of Catechesis
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2006

Scripture, the Driving Force of Doctrine
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2006

Telling the Story of Salvation History
St. John Bosco Conference, July 2006

The Problem of Evil
Diocese of Harrisburg Annual Teacher Conference, September 27, 2006.

RCIA Team Training

Diocese of Greensburgh, PA, November 4, 2006

Pastoral Service:

- Confirmation Team – City of Steubenville Parishes, 2014-present
- Scoutmaster - Troop 401 Holy Family Church, 2014-present
- Lay Ecclisial Ministry Symposium, Collegeville, MN, August 2011
- Stuebenville Diocesan Educational Leadership Conference – 2008
- RCIA Team – St. Philomena, Peoria, IL – 1999-2004
- Neocatechumenal Way – St. Philomena, Peoria, IL – 1999-2004
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps/Hospice Home Health Aide – Peace Hospice, Great Falls Montana – 1994-95
- Assistant Youth Minister – St. Augustine, Oak Harbor, WA – 1990-1994
- Camp Counselor – Camp Happiness/Camp Agape for developmentally disabled children, Wickliffe, OH Summers 1984, 1985