

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

Education

University of Notre Dame, Australia

- PhD Education, March 2021

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
- Associate 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:

The Kerygmatic Pedagogy of the Catechism – in *Speaking the Truth in Love*, Emmaus Academic 2019

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 101 Foundations of Catholicism

This course introduces the student to the teaching of the Catholic Church as it is rooted in Scripture and Tradition and faithfully proclaimed by the Church's magisterium, celebrated in the sacraments and expressed in our prayer. In addition, the course will include some discussion of Church history, spirituality, the moral life and theology, including how these are embodied in the life and teaching of St. Francis.

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.

THE 780 Scripture, the Heart of Catechesis

This course introduces revelation as the teaching technique of God the Father and examines the content and method of Jesus' teaching. The apostles' teaching styles, the content of their catechesis, and their use of Scripture are covered as well. The scriptural basis of the catechesis of the Fathers of the Church is included. The course also explores implementation of Bible studies and liturgies of the Word for evangelical and catechetical purposes and provides practice in biblical narrative and teaching from Scripture.

Presentations:

Analyzing Doctrine

St. John Bosco Conference, July 12, 2022

Reality: Epistemology for Catechists

St. John Bosco Conference, July 12, 2022

St. Joseph and Fatherhood

Daughters of Divine Mercy Household Retreat October 23, 2021

The Classic Catechesis: Making disciples in the lockdown

St. John Bosco Conference, July 14, 2021

Coronavirus and the Directory for Catechesis: Lessons from the Lockdown

St. John Bosco Conference, July 13, 2021

The Christocentricity of Catechesis – Teaching Jesus and everything in relation to Him

St. John Bosco Conference, July 13, 2021

Paschal Mystery

Franciscan University Seraphic Valor Household Retreat, February 22, 2020

Mission, Vocation, Identity

Steubenville Catholic Schools Annual Faculty/Staff Retreat, August 20, 2019

Philosophical Foundations for Catechesis

St. John Bosco Conference, July 16, 2019

Analyzing Doctrine

St. John Bosco Conference, July 16, 2019

Confirmation Retreats

SENT Missionary Training, January 20, 2019

Priest as Catechist

Priestly Discernment Program, September 27, 2018

Epistemology for Catechists

St. John Bosco Conference, July 20, 2016, July 18, 2018

Philosophical Foundations of Catechetics

St. John Bosco Conference, July 18, 2017, July 17, 2018

The Catechism and Kerygmatic Catechesis

Franciscan University's Truth in Love Conference, October 14, 2017

Pilot to Catechist

Steubenville Serra Club, September 14, 2017

God the Father

Steubenville LAMP Ministries, September 9, 2017

Philosophy of the Human Person

St. John Bosco Conference, July 20, 2017

Breaking Open the Word for RCIA Team Training

Franciscan University Catechetical Institute, November 18, 2016

Scripture and Tradition for RCIA Team Training

Franciscan University Catechetical Institute, November 15, 2016

Christian Morality and Engaging Difficult Parents

Steubenville Diocesan Teacher Certification, August 9, 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
Stuebenville 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
Stuebenville 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
Stuebenville Diocesan Catechist Certification – Marietta, February 18, 2010

Using the Catechism
Stuebenville 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
Stuebenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 11, 2009

The Content of Catechesis
Stuebenville 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
Stuebenville Diocesan Teacher Certification – Bridgeport, August 12, 2008

The Ecclesial Method
Stuebenville 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 Ecclesial Ministry Symposium, Collegeville, MN, August 2011
- Steubenville 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