



APOSTOLIC VICARIATE
OF SOUTHERN ARABIA
The Catholic Church in UAE, Oman & Yemen



15th Anniversary
APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF SOUTHERN ARABIA
Office of
CHRISTIAN FORMATION

15th Annual Christian Formation Conference



Blessed
are the
Peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.
(Matthew 5:9)

“Peace firstly means there are no wars ... but it also means that there is friendship between all, that every day a step ahead is made for justice, so that there are no more children who are hungry, that there are no more sick children who do not have the possibility of receiving healthcare. Doing all of this means making peace. Peace involves work, it is not about staying calm and doing nothing. No! True peace means working so that everyone has a solution to the problems, to the needs, that they have in their land, in their homeland, in their family, in their society.”

- Pope Francis

Audience with children of the Peace Factory, May 12, 2015

H.E. Msgr. Francisco Montecillo Padilla

Titular Archbishop of Nebbio, Apostolic Nuncio to the State of Kuwait
and Apostolic Delegate to the Arabian Peninsula

Msgr. Padilla hails from the Republic of The Philippines. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 and holds a doctorate in Theology. He entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1985, and his first assignment was in the Apostolic Nunciature of the Dominican Republic.

Msgr. Padilla then worked in the Pontifical Representations in Venezuela, Austria, India, Japan and Australia. He was appointed Papal Nuncio in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste on 1 April 2006 and soon after consecrated bishop on 23 May 2006.

Prior to his appointment to the Arabian Peninsula on 5 April 2016, Archbishop Padilla served as Apostolic Nuncio in Tanzania since 10 November 2011.

The Archbishop is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, French and German.

Bishop Paul Hinder, OFM Cap

Bishop Paul Hinder was born in Bussnang TG, Switzerland and was ordained a Franciscan Capuchin Order priest in 1967. After specialized studies in Canon Law in Munich/Germany and Fribourg/Switzerland he got a Doctorate in Theology in 1976.

He was active as a professor, in the formation of young Capuchins, later as provincial in Switzerland and since 1994 as General Councillor in Rome for the worldwide Capuchin Order.

Bishop Paul Hinder was appointed Auxiliary Bishop in 2004 in Abu Dhabi and succeeded Bishop Bernardo Gremoli. It is in this capacity that he now shepherds the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia (UAE, Oman & Yemen).

Mons. Pedro Gerardo O. Santos

Mons. Pedro Gerardo O. Santos or Mons Gerry was born on the 29th of June 1960 in Manila; ordained a Catholic priest on the 29th of September 1984. He finished his AB Philosophy/Theology 'summa cum laude' at St. Peter's University in New Jersey, USA; his ecclesiastical studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Maryland USA with an STB and STM degrees. He finished his Licentiate in Sacred Theology major in Moral Theology 'summa cum laude' at the Angelicum University; and a doctorate in education 'with distinction' at the De La Salle University Manila.

He held various positions in the areas of Catholic Education and Catechesis on the national and diocesan levels. At present, he is the parish priest of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Makati City, Metro Manila.

Keynote Address:

Blessed are the Peace Makers (Matthew 5. 9)

The conference address is divided into three parts:

- A. Jesus of Nazareth: the center of the Christian Message;
- B. Called to be 'Saints': Living the Beatitudes;
- C. The Building Blocks of Peace - making.

Breakout Session:

Mons. Santos will expand on the subjects covered in the keynote address during his interactive breakout sessions.

Fr. Arul Edward Joseph

Fr. Arul Joseph is the Director of AVOSA Family ministry. He has completed 10 years as a catholic priest and is currently working in St. Mary's Dubai. Fr. Arul has an M.Phil in counselling psychotherapy and has conducted seminars in psychotherapy and psycho-spirituality. Formerly mission done in Anugraha Counselling Psychotherapy Research Center.

Breakout Session:

Divinity In Developmental Milestones

(The skills of giving God to children)

The skills of giving God to children can be done by understanding the developmental psychology of 'geek generation. Spiritual growth occurs in all developmental stages and in all aspects of life - mental, physical, social and emotional. But what are those growth stages? And how can we encourage the development of faith in children during these crucial periods? The talk will enhance us how we can accelerate the mission of imparting faith effectively.

Maria Merlyn Furtado

Ms. Maria Merlyn Furtado is a member of the lay Secular Institute 'Caritas Christi'. She joined the Institute on 7 October, 1995 in Goa, and made her First Commitment on 1 May, 1998. Merlyn made her Final Donation (Commitment) on 2 February, 2006.

She completed her college studies at RPD College Belgaum, Karnataka, following her Secondary School education at Divine Providence School, Belgaum, Karnataka. Merlyn has studied for her Certificate Course in Theology at Mater Dei, Old Goa, India.

Pastoral Ministry and Assignments:

2014 till date	St. Anthony of Padua Church Ras Al Khaimah, UAE	Secretary
2013 – 2014	Al Zarhawi Hospital Ras Al Khaimah, UAE	Registered Nurse
2011 – 2013	Trinity Hospital	Nurse In-charge/Catechist in the Parish
2010 – 2011	Vintage Hospital Goa	Nurse
2007 – 2009	Tara Dhadpale Centre, A home for the Spastic Children, Pune, Maharashtra	Director of the Centre/ Catechist in the parish
2005 – 2007	Social Worker Diocesan Social Centre, Chikkamangalore, Karnataka	Co-ordinator for Self Help Groups (Women Empowerment) Catechist & Youth Ministry
1998 – 2000	St. Mary's Home for the Aged, St. Anthony's Church Goa	Nurse Helper/Catechist/Youth Coordinator

Keynote Session:

Merlyn will speak on her work with Caritas Christi and the work of the Institute in supporting pastoral work and catechesis.

Dr. Martin Stewen

Born in Germany in 1970, since 1997 in Switzerland. In Abu Dhabi since 2015 (as a Fidei-Donum missionary priest): Moderator of the AVOSA Office of Christian Formation. Counsellor for Private Affairs and Organisations.

Diploma in Theology (University of Bochum (Germany)). PhD in Pastoral Theology (University of Fribourg (Switzerland)). Master of Advanced Sciences in Supervision, Counselling and Mediation (Zurich University of Applied Sciences).

Since 1997 pastoral ministry in several Swiss parishes: 3 years as a lay minister, priestly ordination in 2001. Pastoral care on cruise ships. Amateur cook. Professional eater.

More: www.martinstewen.com

Breakout Session:

A Catechist: Teacher - Prophet - Witness – We reflect our role from an educational, biblical and theological perspective

“Who are you?” they asked. ‘Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,’ Jesus replied.” (John 8:25) – Who are you as a catechist? How would you answer once parents or parishioner ask you? What does it mean to be a catechist for children, teenagers or adults?

We will look for role models in the Scriptures: Are there any women and men who did something similar as we do? Was Jesus a catechist? Was St. Paul a catechist? Was Mary a catechist? What did they do and how?

How is religious education different from school education? - Once you are a teacher you are also a catechist? Does religious education have the same objectives like school education? How can we compare?

A catechist is always a minister of the Church. The ministry is public and part of a bigger context. It never ends at the church door. What are some theological ideas of the Church about our ministry? In an overview we will have some short glimpses into church documents.

Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt

Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt is a Catholic Priest from India. At present Catechetical Commission Secretary and the Spokesperson of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church. Did his Doctorate in Christology, particularly in Christocentric Catechesis from the Salesian University, Rome. Written many books and articles like Christocentric Catechesis, Gospel of Parenting etc. For more details visit jimmypoochakkatt in Google.

Breakout Session:

Fr. Jimmy will be addressing catechists of the Syro-Malabar community in the Vicariate.

Fr. Thomas Sebastian, OFM Cap.

I am a Franciscan Capuchin Priest belonging to St. Joseph Province, Kerala. I was ordained on 5 May 1980 and have served in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Rome. My specialization is in Moral Theology. The offices I held are: Secretary in the Capuchin General Curia, Rome, Professor of Moral Theology, Major Seminary Rector, Provincial Minister. Currently I am working as Secretary to Bishop Paul Hinder.

Breakout Session:

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) is a post-synodal apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis addressing the pastoral care of families. Dated 19 March 2016, it was released on 8 April 2016. It follows the Synods on the Family held in 2014 and 2015.

The exhortation consists of 9 chapters and covers a wide range of topics related to marriage and family life as well as the contemporary challenges faced by families throughout the world. *Amoris Laetitia* also includes an extended reflection on the spirituality of family life and the meaning of love in the day-to-day reality of family life.

Fr. Jose Antonio Solorzano, op.

Father Solo was born in the north of Spain in 1950 and was ordained a Dominican Order priest in June 1981. After specialized studies in Theology, Civil Philosophy and Pedagogy in the University of Salamanca in Spain, he got a Doctorate in Philosophy in Universidad Complutense in Madrid and Ecclesiastical Philosophy at Univ. Angelicum, Rome. He has taught Literature, Philosophy of education and Pastoral Theology in Spain and Latin America. He was National Director of the Department of Pastoral Education for Catholic Schools of Spain for 16 years. He has published many books and articles on pastoral education, literature and philosophy. Now, he dedicates his time to preaching, counseling, writing and pastoral animation in different communities.

Breakout Sessions in Spanish:

The Kingdom of God

Catechesis = resonance: Educating in faith

"Educating is teaching to see"

Peace/Joy: the 8th Sacrament

Note: The Break out sessions will be conducted in Spanish with a power point in English. There will be a bilingual handout with the outline of the session.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Rathan Nicholas Almeida, OCD

Rev. Fr. Rathan Nicholas Almeida, OCD is a Carmelite Priest belonging to the Karnataka-Goa Province, India. Born in 1973, he joined the Carmelite Order in 1990. Besides his philosophical and theological degrees, he holds a Masters Degree in English Literature.

He recently successfully completed his doctoral studies in Dogmatic Theology (Christology) at the University of Vienna, Austria. At present he is the Rector of the Provinciate of the Austrian Province in Vienna. Christology, Pastoral Theology and Ecumenism are some of the themes that interest him. He is at present also working on his Post-doctoral thesis.

Breakout Session:

The Kingdom of God (God's Project for a Peaceful World)

God is a peace-loving God, and a peace-making God. The whole history of redemption, climaxing in the death and resurrection of Jesus, is God's strategy to bring about a just and lasting peace between broken, wounded humanity and himself, and also between man and man. The radical message of Jesus was "the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15), a Kingdom of love, peace and joy. Therefore, God's children are same as their Father, because they have the character of their Father. What he loves, they love. What he pursues, they pursue. Hence the children of God are active agents in creating a happy society and a peaceful world.

Fr. Reinhold Sahner

Fr. Reinhold Sahner was born in Germany in 1960. Priest since 1990 (incardinated in the diocese of Copenhagen, Denmark); as such working in youth ministry on diocesan and European level and as teacher at the Jesuit High School in Copenhagen.

Working for the German Episcopal Conference in the UAE since 2012 and also as parish priest of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Jebel Ali since 2015.

Breakout Session:

Making Children's/Youth Masses more vibrant

The breakout session will focus on small practical ideas on how to make children's (or youth) masses more attractive (interactive) and vibrant.

Fr. John Bosco Mosha, OFM Cap

I was born on 22.01.1972 in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. I was ordained in 2004 and belong to the Order of Friar Minors Capuchin. My specialization is Spiritual Theology. I arrived in UAE in November 2017 and currently reside in St Joseph's Catholic Church, Abu Dhabi.

Breakout Session:

Peace of Spirit

Baptism makes a person to be born of Water and Spirit (cf. Jn 3:5). This rebirth gives the baptized a true peace as an integral human person made up of body, soul and spirit.

The objective of the topic is to bring into awareness that catechesis is not only about imparting the contents of faith but above all helping the students to have a lived experience of faith so that the light of baptism can be seen clearly through his/her works as done in God. **(Breakout Session #4 only)**

John E. John

Assisted by: **Mrs. Reeny Deepak**

Mr. John E. John has been working as Director of Communications for the Office of Communications of the Vicariate since November 2013. Prior to this, he worked in the Electronics and Information Technology sectors for 16 years. As a member of the Community of Grace, a Public Association of the Vicariate devoted to evangelization, John has been involved in new media projects since 2004, sharing in a passion for spreading the "fragrance of the knowledge of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14) using the fantastic possibilities offered by the emergence of digital platforms of social communication.

Mrs. Reeny Deepak has been working for the Office of Communications as Digital Media Officer since 1 January 2018. A Computer Engineer, Reeny brings her technical expertise into managing the digital assets and social media platforms of the Vicariate.

Breakout Session:

Using the media to build

"Using media to build" aims to provide the participants of the conference with an overview of the popular media platforms of today, their significance, statistical data and influence. We debate how new media platforms can be utilized in constructive ways and highlight the work of the Office of Communications in the Vicariate. Finally, we showcase examples of how some Catholic professionals are successfully using new media technologies in various levels of catechesis and Christian formation.

Sister Lorraine Marie Delaney csj

Sister Lorraine Marie Delaney, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Chambéry, (France), has faithfully lived religious life for forty-nine years in active ministry, both in India and abroad. As Educator and Administrator, she has a wide experience in interacting with educators, religious formators and youth. Currently, she is based in Savoy, France on a Congregational project which began in August 2017.

Breakout Session 1:

Qualities of Effective Religion Teachers

I will interact with Religion teachers from our Catholic schools focusing on the importance of their work, encouraging them, motivating them in their responsible ministry. Hence, I will highlight the special qualities of Religion teachers through a short presentation, allowing for further interaction and questions.

Breakout Session 2:

Noble Vocation of a Catechist

At this breakout session, I interact with Catechists and strongly support their ministry of formation in the church.

Zelma De Souza

Zelma has been working with the St. Joseph's Catechism Program, Abu Dhabi for the last 12 years where she has focused on preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Zelma has a Maryvale Certificate in Catechesis and is the Vicariate Coordinator for the University of Dayton VLCFF courses. She also assists with formation activities in the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia.

Breakout Session:

University of Dayton - Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Zelma will meet those wishing to enroll in the coming cycles of Dayton's online courses. She will present a live demonstration on how the VLCFF portal works and walk participants through the various sections of the course study. Zelma will answer questions related to the online study program - the benefits of the courses, the subject areas covered, the level of commitment required, the study methodology, use of resources, etc.

Jessie D'Souza

Jessie is a motivational speaker and a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). She has been an active member of Toastmasters International since 2004 and has won several awards in speech contests, at various levels. She conducts Youth Leadership Programs and is a Trainer in Personality Development, for children.

At parish level she conducts Echoes and other training programs for new catechists. She is also a speaker in parish based marriage preparation program.

At vicariate level she has had sessions on 'Understanding Spiritual Leadership' at WYD-2010 (World Youth Day-Palm Sunday) on 27 March 2010 at St. Mary's Church, Dubai and on 'Public Speaking & Personality Development' at AVOSAPET, 2011-2012 (Preachers' Empowerment Training Program) on 24 Feb. 2012 in Jebel Ali.

Breakout Session:

Effective communication and presentation skills

Although we communicate from the time of our first breath, it is the effectiveness and efficiency of the communication that matter. In this era of information overload, our attention span has been shrinking rapidly and learning the art of mastering effective communication, is of paramount importance.

With perseverance and practice this skill can be mastered. Our ability to connect with others is innate and wired to our nervous system. She will be pleased to share the various facets of communication – verbal and non-verbal, using most of our senses of communication – auditory, visual and kinesthetic to get across the message swiftly and effectively.

Kristina Azavedo

Kristina Azavedo is a catechism coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Jebel Ali. She has been a catechist for the past 14 years and has taught the Reconciliation/First Holy Communion class and the post-Confirmation students. She has earned the vicariate's Master Catechist certification and the Special Needs Certificate through the University of Dayton. Before becoming a catechist, she was a music teacher in Ecuador, the United States, and Qatar.

Breakout Session:

Effective Communication Techniques with Parents

This session will discuss creative ways we can communicate with the parents of our students. We will look at different methods of communication and how to use them effectively.

Fr. Chito Bartlo, OFMCap

Fr. Chito Bartlo, OFMCap., Spiritual Director of the Filipino Community of St. Mary's Church Dubai. Completed Masters in Pastoral Theology at the Divine Word School of Theology in 2001.

I have been assigned as Parish Priest of 3 different Parishes in the Philippines, one of which is the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Manila where I was also a rector. In 2005- 2008, designated as the Retreat House Director and Retreat Master of the Capuchin Retreat Centre in Lipa, Batangas. For a period of three years (2008 – 2011), served as Chairman of the Council on Formation of the Philippine Capuchin Province and was assigned as a Postulant and Postnovitiate Director for the formation of the seminarians. In the year 2011-2014, appointed as Chairman of the Commission on Parishes of the Capuchin Parishes in the Philippines. Elected for 2 terms (2008-2014) as Councilor of the Capuchin Province of the Philippines.

Breakout Session:

Prayer: Connecting to God in a High Speed World

This session will be dealing on the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian who is actively ministering in a dynamic world where work is vital to the existence of a human person. Through this session, the participants will be guided to have a deeper understanding of the significance of prayer in balancing work-life without compromising the essential demands of the fast pacing world.

Joseph Flynn

Joseph Flynn has been involved with youth and music ministry for over 30 years. He is also the Managing Director of St. Mary's Group of Schools.

Breakout Session:

Sing a new song unto the Lord!

Join the conference choir to learn and provide music for the conference and Mass. **(Breakout Session #2 only).**

Thomas Cardozo

Thomas has been a catechist for over 15 years, teaching Confirmation Grades 7th & 8th and is currently the co-ordinator for the Confirmation Grade 8th and also the coordinator of the Word Sharing/Teaching Ministry for the English Prayer group at Abu Dhabi Cathedral. He has done the 2 year 'Certificate in Catechesis' from Maryvale-UK and the Basic, Advanced & Master Catechist courses offered by University of Dayton-USA. He is part of the groups facilitating the Bible Study programme ("Bible Timeline") and in Training of new Catechists, Adult Confirmation classes and RCIA candidates. He is married with one daughter, has an Engineering degree and heads the Estimation Department of a Multinational Construction Company.

Breakout Session:

Bible Study: Key elements to a Catholic approach including an Overview of the Vicariates' Bible Study Programme

("Bible Timeline" from Ascension Press-USA).

The breakout session will cover Key elements of Studying the Bible with a Catholic approach which will include related Catechism topics such as "Senses of Scripture", Interpretation Criteria, Science & Scripture, Role of Magisterium & Apostolic Tradition in Scripture, Denominational differences over the Catholic Approach etc. In addition, an introduction to the Vicariates' Bible Study Resource ("Bible Timeline" from Ascension Press-USA, currently being done in most parishes) will be done for both the Adult and Teen Versions with an aim that attendees will join such courses either as students or facilitators in their respective Parishes. Other related Resources such as "A biblical walk thru the Mass" & "A Biblical Walk with Mary"- also from Ascension Press-USA will also be reviewed so that these may be introduced into various Parish Bible Study Programmes.

Michel Chaccour

Michel Chaccour is the General Coordinator for Arab Catechism Group at St. Michael's Church Sharjah and a member of the Arabic Catechism General Coordination Committee in UAE.

He joined the Catechism team in Sharjah and Dubai in 1995. He teaches "Parents' Class" . Michel did his theological studies, by correspondence, with "Lady of Protection – Melkite Catholic" Institute for Theology and Christian Formation. As well, Michel attended many religious, educational and interpersonal courses and workshops. Michel Holds a Bachelor degree in Business Computer as well as Master's Studies in Computer Sciences from St. Joseph Jesuits' University in Beirut – Lebanon.

Breakout Session:

The journey towards human maturity

Michel will present the session in Arabic entitled: "The journey towards human maturity" and will talk about the 4 major phases from early childhood till signs of maturity occur.

Loreine Daou

Loreine Harb currently an English and EMILE or CLIL (content language and integrated learning) teacher at Lycee Français International Georges Pompidou. Joined the LFIGP in 2009. Started her career in 1990 as a primary teacher in Lebanon. Worked at a French nursery in Dubai from 2000 to 2003. Between 2003 and 2006, pursued her studies and earned a diploma in early childhood and special education. Worked in Dubai center for special needs in 2006-2007. Then went then to the British University in Dubai, earned a postgraduate diploma in TESOL (teaching English for the speakers of other languages), and taught English as second language in Jumeirah Model School in 2008.

Breakout Session 1:

Comprendre les enfants à besoins particuliers

Les élèves à besoins éducatifs particuliers regroupent une grande variété d'élèves qui ont, de manière significative, plus de mal à apprendre que la majorité des enfants du même âge quand ils sont dans une situation particulière ou qu'ils souffrent d'un handicap qui les empêche ou les gêne dans leurs apprentissages.

Dans cette session nous allons voir de près comment découvrir ces enfants pour pouvoir mieux les aider.

Breakout Session 2:

Trouble de l'attention avec ou sans hyperactivité

Qu'est-ce que le TDAH?

Le Trouble du Déficit de l'Attention avec ou sans Hyperactivité est une affection neurobiologique du cerveau pouvant produire des difficultés d'attention, de l'hyperactivité et de l'impulsivité. Dans cette session nous allons parler de ce trouble ; de ses causes et de ses effets sur la scolarisation de l'enfant.

Breakout Session 3:

Dans cette session nous allons échanger des idées pour mieux gérer les troubles de l'attention ainsi que des idées pratiques sur la différenciation des activités dans l'éducation d'un enfant à besoins particuliers.

Father Tanios Geages OFM Cap

Father Tanios Geages OFM CAP is the priest of Arabic and French Communities at Saint Mary Church in Dubai and St. Francis Church in Jebel Ali since 2009. As a priest, he has to follow closely all details of the Parish's life and be present for all parishioners. He places a big importance and put a lot of his effort and time on building strong teams and guiding them in their journey of life and faith. Father Tanios loves to read, listen and talk to people and spends time in the Nature especially at (Mamlaket el Lezzab) Lezzab Kingdom in Lebanon.

Fr. Tanios will animate a workshop on Sacraments and how to approach them with the students in interactive ways.

Hermito Fernandes

Hermito Fernandes is a catechist and volunteer at St. Michael's Church, Sharjah since 2012. He is a member of the Life Teen core team with a great passion for teen ministry. Hermito has a BSc from Mumbai University and MBA from the University of Melbourne. He is currently in the process of completing his Advanced Catechist certification and the Certificate in Youth Ministry through the VLCFF, University of Dayton.

Shaun John Stephen

I am from 'GODs Own Country' - Kerala, India but I have resided in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates for over 34 years and St. Joseph's Cathedral has been my second home. My Bachelor of Engineering is from Anna University - Chennai, India and I currently work as a Group QA/QC Manager for a German Contracting Company. My happy ever after of 4 years is Sheethal Sanshiya. I am always learning when it comes to my faith formation - from Catechism and growing up to VLCFF online programs, today. I have been a Catechist for over 6 years and heavily involved with the Life Teen Programme. I am also involved in various other Ministries like Music Ministry – St. Joseph's Youth Choir and The REDEEMERS, Community Ministry – CROSSFIT (Teens) and Worship Ministry – English Charismatic Prayer Group.

Breakout Session:

Life Teen : Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Life Teen is an Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church that leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. With the Blessed Virgin Mary as our intercessor and guide, Life Teen seeks to unleash the fullness of the Sacramental power present within the young Church. Through power Eucharistic encounters and engaging catechesis, teens are immersed in a dynamically Catholic parish culture. Life Teen seeks not just to equip parishes with resources to reach today's teens, but also to create an environment where Catholic teenagers feel supported and engaged, within the parish and outside.

St. Joseph's parish in Abu Dhabi, has adopted Life Teen as their core teen ministry curriculum and would love to share this experience with fellow youth leaders. Our Core Team will present a Life Session, engage you in an open discussion on the session theme and answer questions on the program.

Christopher Martinez Meriam Moreno Mary Ann Rianzares

Mr. Christopher Martinez

- School Counsellor
- Child Protection Officer
- St. Mary's Catholic High School Muhaisnah
- Member: Philippine Guidance & Counselling Association
- Post Graduate in Guidance and Counselling
- Bachelor of Art in Psychology

Miss Meriam Moreno

- Inclusion Teacher
- Individualised Education Plan Reinforcer
- St. Mary's Catholic High School Muhaisnah
- Licensed Professional Teacher
- Bachelor of Elementary Education major in SPED

Miss Mary Ann Rianzares

- Counsellor cum Behaviourist
- St. Mary's Catholic High School Muhaisnah
- Group Dynamics Practitioner
- License Counsellor: Philippine Guidance & Counselling Association
- Master in Education major in Guidance & Counselling
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Breakout Session:

Student Centered Teaching Approach: Breaking Barriers and Bridging Gaps

At the heart of Christ's teaching is the fact that we are all wonderfully made.

Catherine Miles-Flynn

Catherine (Kate) is the Director of Christian Formation for the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia. She has served in Catholic schools as the head of the religion department and on a Diocesan Committee for religion curriculum development. She also served as the Director of Religious Education for St. Mary's parish in Virginia. She has an MA in Theology and is the author of the sacramental preparation program, *Confirmation: A Journey of Faith*, and *Bible People for Young People, Old Testament* (Catherine Miles-Flynn and Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND, 2017). She and her husband Joseph are blessed with 8 children.

Breakout Session:

Kate will unpack the Vicariate **Catechetical Directory** with coordinators of programs and grade levels.

Fr. Brillis Mathew

Brillis Mathew, incardinated priest of the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia and member of Community of Grace, was ordained by Bishop Paul Hinder on 29 April 2017 at St. Mary's Church, Dubai.

Even before pursuing the call to be a priest, Brillis was active as a full time missionary for almost twenty years, travelling all over the world giving talks and animating retreats and seminars for lay people, clergy and religious. In 2002, together with two companions, Brillis formed the Community of Grace, an association with a unique charism to spread the power of God's Word in everyday life. In 2012, Bishop Paul approved the Community as a Public Association and appointed Brillis as the Moderator.

Brillis studied at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome and has attended several courses in the fields of formation and pastoral leadership.

Breakout Session:

Catechists as Formators

The Catechist is not only someone who passes on certain truths of the faith or doctrine, but assists the work of the Spirit in forming the person of Christ in those under their care.

Learning the skills of spiritual accompaniment and ongoing personal sanctification will enable the catechist to be an effective instrument in God's hands. The Session will give participants an overview of the multi-faceted role of catechists, with special emphasis on the pastoral, spiritual, intellectual and human dimensions of formation.

Christian Formation Conference – 2018 (UAE)

St. Mary's Church & School, Dubai

Theme:

"Blessed are the Peacemakers"

Day 1 - Friday, February 2, 2018

9:00	Opening prayer
9:10	Welcome from the Parish Priest.
9:25	Procession of Flags, Introduction of Speakers
9:50 - 10:20	Father Thomas Sebastian "Blessed are the Peacemakers"
10:20 - 10:45	Opening Remarks: Bishop Paul Hinder
10:45 - 11:45	Keynote Address: Mons. Gerardo O. Santos
11:45 - 12:00	Tea break
12:00 - 1:00	Breakout Session #1
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch
2:15 - 3:15	Breakout Session #2
3:15 - 4:15	Mass
4:30 - 5:45	Parish Sharing Session: Diana Vellara , Facilitator
6:00 - 7:00	Breakout Session #3
7:00	Dinner

Day 2 – Saturday, February 3, 2018

9:30-10:00	Opening Prayer
10:00- 11:00	Keynote Address: Archbishop Francisco M. Padilla , Apostolic Nuncio
11:00- 11:15	Tea Break
11:15-12:15	Q & A with Bishop Paul
12:30- 1:30	Grade Level Meetings
1:30- 2:30	Lunch
2:30- 3:30	Breakout Session # 4
3:45- 4:15	Maria Merlyn Furtado - Caritas Community
4:15- 4:30	Closing Prayers and Thank You