

## Publications

- *Going, Going, Gone! The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics* (St. Mary's Press, 2018). Report on why young people leave the Catholic Church based on the comprehensive national study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown and Saint Mary's Press. This report uniquely details the many and varied reasons for disaffiliation by telling young people's stories in their own words.
  
- Ascension Press – Study Programs  
These study programs consist of a series of DVD lessons with expert speakers along with a study guide/workbook. Contact info: [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com) 1-800-376-0520 (Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST)

Program: For Middle School and High School Students

- Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation – highly recommended
- Chosen: This is Your Catholic Faith – highly recommended
- Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed
- Encounter: A Middle School Bible Study
- You: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body
- Theology of the Body for Teens: Middle School Edition
- T3: The Teen Timeline – Teen Version of the Great Adventure Bible Timeline
- T3 Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come
- T3 Acts: The Keys and the Sword
- T3 Revelation: The Lion and the Lamb

Programs for Adults

- Joy-filled Marriage
- Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God
- Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer
- Epic: A Journey Through Church History
- Epic: The Early Church
- The Gift: Your Call to Greatness
- Momnipotent – Finding Peace, Balance & Joy in your Vocation as a Mother
- An Introduction to the Theology of the Body
- Intro the Heart: A Journey Through the Theology of the Body
- Freedom to Love
- God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage
- El Plan de Dios para un Matrimonio Lleno de Alegria
- Living a Joy-Filled Marriage – Life Skills
- Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family
- Pillar I: The Creed
- Pillar II: Sacraments

## **Speakers**

Think Tank members: contact for more details about the resources and ideas listed.

- Mark Topp, Coordinator
- Rev. Christopher M. Stanish
- Deacon Tom Gryzbek, Senior VP/COO Post-Acute/Compliance, Franciscan Alliance.  
Contact: [tom.gryzbek@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:tom.gryzbek@franciscanalliance.org) 219-662-3742.
  
- Stacia Bolakowski, Campus Minister, Bishop Noll Institute. Director of Religious Education, Sacred Heart, Wanatah. Retreat director with 25+ years experience throughout the Diocese for teens and adults; guest speaker on a variety of topics; has lived in the worlds of parish religious education/administration and Catholic school education/administration for 23+ years. [sbolakowski@bishoppnoll.org](mailto:sbolakowski@bishoppnoll.org). (219) 363-8216.
- Adela Bonta
- Joan Crist, Associate Professor of Theology, Calumet College of St. Joseph,  
[jcrist@ccsj.edu](mailto:jcrist@ccsj.edu)
- Joyce Malecki, Director of Religious Education at St. Martin of Tours in LaCrosse, IN  
Contact: [jmalecki@scentral.k12.in.us](mailto:jmalecki@scentral.k12.in.us) 219-754-2522.

## **Service Opportunities**

- Youth, post-Confirmation: Involve young people in religious education programs in the parish, first as catechetical aides in the classroom and eventually as catechists.
  - Taking on a different role, many will love to “help” in teaching younger students but they are also learning when hearing the lessons in the classroom (as an aide) and when preparing lesson plans or participating in on-going formation for catechists.
  - Doing this is kind of a “back-door” in, to reaching them. They might not want to participate in a high-school or adult course as a student but are willing to help out in teaching and don’t realize that they are learning too.
  - Catechetical Aides are in the classroom with the catechist and help the catechist. As they become more experienced, they can participate in preparing and teaching a lesson, subbing when the catechist cannot be there and eventually taking on a classroom of their own (over the course of several years’ time).
  
- High-school to young adult: Service-based pedagogy: learners are empowered to discern, to debate, to choose, and to carry out their own service projects, and to evaluate their success and failures. Contact Dr. Kevin Considine at Calumet College of St. Joseph for more info.

## **Successful Programs**

- Youth to Adult: Why Abortion is Wrong from legal, spiritual, moral, and ethical viewpoints. Speaker Deacon Tom Gryzbek. 1 to 1.5 hours. Audiences: Confirmation classes, adult formation programs.
  
- Youth to Adult: the “Toxic Tour.” Up to 12 participants can travel to sites in the Region which suffer from toxic pollution and environmental injustice, with narration by Region environmental activist Thomas Frank. Contact Kevin Considine or Joan Crist at Calumet College of St Joseph. Related to Catholic Social Teaching on Stewardship of Creation.
  
- Youth: “Theology Unscooped” (Contact Doris Stanish for more details.)
  - Based on “Theology On Tap” but for teens.
  - Combine an ice cream social with speaker about topics pertinent to teens.
  - Meet once a month.
  - Some topics you could do: Are Ghosts Real? (What does the Church teach about spirit world, occult, Ouiji boards, séances etc.); What is Your Mission From God? (vocations); Defending our Faith: How to answer questions our friends have about our faith. What does our Church say about sexuality, marriage and family?