

2018 LCUSA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PITTSBURGH PA—SEPT 21 –SEPT 22

Ladies of Charity Remember the Past; Embrace the Future

“Do not believe that things will always be as they are now” St Louise de Marillac



Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M.

KEYNOTE & CLOSING SPEAKER

“Where Does The Road Ahead Lead You”

Father Dick Gielow, like his brother Bob, is a Vincentian Priest born in LaSalle, Illinois. He has served as Director of Vocations, Principal and Rector of a High School Seminary. He has degrees in Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Education. He is listed in “who’s, who in America” as a well-known preacher and retreat director. Among his other jobs he is a National Spiritual Advisor for two organizations and is currently the director of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center.



Sister Elyse Staab, DC

“Finding God in the Experience”

Sister Elyse Staab is a Daughter of Charity currently serving in Macon, GA. She holds a BA in education; a Masters in Social Work and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. Sister Elyse has ministered in roles of social service, formation, and leadership. Currently she serves as Vincentian Family Coordinator for the province of St. Louise. In this role she collaborates with various branches of the Vincentian Family, providing workshops, retreats and other areas of spiritual formation.



Ms Kat O'Loughlin

“ A seat at the Table; Engaging Young Adults

Kat O'Loughlin currently serves as the Associate Director for Mission and Ministry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, NY. She is responsible for engaging students in 10,000+ hours of intentional community service per year, as well as directing the Seton Service and Leadership program. She has volunteered with Vincentian Lay Missionaries in Jimma, Ethiopia and currently is on the Board of Directors of Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic community of lay volunteers in West Virginia.

“The More Things Change; The More Things Stay The Same”



Very Rev. Joseph M. Mele

Father Mele currently serves as the Episcopal Vicar for Leadership Development and Evangelization, head of the Secretariat for leadership Development and Evangelization, and director of the Department of Clergy and Parish Leadership Development for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Father earned a Master of Divinity from St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, in 1973. In addition, he holds a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Communications and Rhetoric from Duquesne University. Father Mele also undertook graduate studies in liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. In 1998, in recognition of scholarly pursuits in Oxford, England, and in acknowledgement of the fulfillment of the educational enterprise authorized by the Regent of Studies and Tutorial Faculty under the aegis of an Oxford Foundation Fellowship, Father Mele was appointed in perpetuity an Oxford Foundation Fellow in 2013, Father Mele received an honorary doctorate from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pa. He is the author of a book entitled *The Sacred Conversation; The Art of Catholic Preaching and the New Evangelization*.



Sister Paule Freeburg, DC

“Rosalie Rendu: Heroine of our Past, Model for our Future”

Sister is a Daughter of Charity of the Seton Province and is currently the Western Region Spiritual Advisor to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She holds a Masters in Theology with an emphasis in Scripture and has a extensive background in religious education for both children and adults. She is also a member of the Spirituality Committee of LCUSA. A long-time collaborator with composer Christopher Walker, Sister Paule has written song and prayer texts for many well known collections of children’s music. Sister is an avid fan of our Vincentian Heritage and Charism.

WORKSHOP PRESENTORS & PRESENTATIONS

“Embracing the Future Through Recovery



Rosa Davis

Rosa Davis is the Executive Director of POWER—an organization whose mission is to help women reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction and reduce in the incidence of addiction in the future generations. Under her leadership POWER has grown from a single program agency founded in 1990 to an organization that today offers a range of comprehensive gender responsive, trauma-informed addictions treatment and recovery support services to women with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders and their families. Rosa earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and she has more than 30 years of diverse experience in health and human services. Rosa is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh XVII and is a member of the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work Executive Council, CLEAR Steering Committee, and Allegheny County’s Block Grant Advisory Board. Rosa is the recipient of several awards and honors including Duquesne University School of Nursing’s *Eileen Zungolo Spirit of Service*, YWCA’s *Tribute to Women’s Leadership*, Oakland Catholic’s *Leading Ladies*, Girl Scouts-Trillium Council’s *Woman of Distinction*, Message Carriers’ *Tree of Life*, and Soroptimist International’s *Women Helping Women*.

“The Ministry of Presence”



Sister Catherine

Sister Catherine Higgins is currently serving as Minister of Member Well Being for the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden and Director of Ignatian programming at St. Joseph Spirituality Center. Sister’s professional history includes many years in school administration, over twenty years as a Hospice Social Worker and chaplain and most recently Sister Catherine has been providing Spiritual Direction to clergy, religious and lay persons for many years as well as directing retreats and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Alongside Sister’s professional ministries, she continues to be a caregiver. “It is important to me to be aware of the poor, the vulnerable, especially those in our midst, and to respond with generosity,” says Sister Catherine.

“Using Music To Relax & Refresh”



Sister Sandy Pelusi, RSM

Sister Sandy Pelusi is a Sister of Mercy; she is presently a Chaplain at UPMC-Mercy Hospital where she has worked as both a Chaplain and Music Therapist since 1976. She also is a Music Therapist for the Sisters of Humility of Mary in Villa Maria, Pa. Sister Sandy has a Bachelors in Music from Carlow University, and a Masters in Counseling Ed. from Duquesne University. She is a Fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery. Sister is also the Spiritual Moderator for the St. Maurice Ladies of Charity, Pittsburgh Pa.

“Hope for People Experiencing Homelessness”



Christopher Roach

Christopher Roach, Street Outreach Team Leader for Pittsburgh Mercy Operation Safety Net and has been providing street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness in the region for over 6 years. In addition he serves as vice-chair of Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board and co-chairs the Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee. Chris is a graduate of Duquesne University’s School of Education, husband and father of five children, resident of Pittsburgh’s Hill District Community, avid community gardener and member of St. Benedict the Moor Parish.