

## Gifts of the Council Series

The **Second Vatican Council** began 50 years ago – on October 11, 1962. Vatican II, as it came to be known, has profoundly affected Christian life ever since. This series offers the opportunity to explore key areas of Vatican II transformation for Catholic Christians.

### September 22, 2012 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Vatican II and Our Understanding of Revelation and Scripture**

In November of 1965, the Second Vatican Council issued *Dei Verbum*, the “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation”. This short but crucial document summarizes the Catholic Church’s official teaching on the bible, understood within the context of God’s “revelation” or “self-communication” to the world, and how it is passed on across generations and centuries. An understanding of *Dei Verbum* is essential for scripture study and lectionary-based ministry in the Catholic Church. This workshop will explore key questions, such as: How did *Dei Verbum* take shape? What are its central principles, and how has this remarkable document affected the theology and pastoral life of the Church? In what ways does *Dei Verbum* still challenge us to grow, as individuals and as Church?

### September 29, 2012 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm. **Vatican II and the Renewal of Baptismal Spirituality**

The Council’s call for the restoration of the Church’s ancient catechumenate for the initiation of adults with the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* was not an isolated move that emerged at the Council. It was a decision built upon two “trends”: first, the success of a pastoral experiment in adult initiation in Africa and, second, the Council’s overall shift from an Ordinal Spiritual to a Baptismal Spirituality. This workshop will explore these two “trends” in their historical context and in the theology of the Council, along with an emerging tension within the Church today between these two spiritualities. It will then provide an overview of the restored Catechumenate and its implementation in the US since 1988, identifying some challenges for our times as we continue to implement the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

### December 8, 2012 Rev. Alexei Smith **The Catholic Church and Other Religions: Rediscovering Vatican II**

This workshop will examine the influence of the Second Vatican Council on the relationship between the Catholic Church and other Christian Churches and between the Catholic Church and non-Christian Religions. We will examine two key documents of the Council: *Unitatis Redintegratio* (Restoring Christian Unity), and *Nostra Aetate* (the Declaration on Interreligious Dialogue). We will (1) explore their origin, major points, and development; (2) review how the Church has accepted or revised these documents in practical terms; and (3) take a serious look at the state of their questions today, suggesting directions that the Church appears to or should be heading, offering suggestions as to how parishes and individual Catholics may become involved in living out the vision of these two historic documents of the Council.

## Early Christians in Turkey Series

The area now known as Turkey was the site of much of the early growth of Christianity. Drawing primarily upon the New Testament, but also upon archaeology, historical records, photographs and current Christian practices, this series will provide an exploration of the rich Christian heritage in this area of the world. Designed especially for those who will participate in the May 2013 Pilgrimage to Turkey “In the Footsteps of Paul and the Early Christians”, this series is open to all who have an interest in the early Church as it spread beyond the Holy Land, and into Turkey.

### November 10, 2012 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Paul and His Companions in Turkey: Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles**

As Christianity spread throughout much of the land now called Turkey, Paul was the most famous of the early missionaries. However, he worked closely with Barnabas, Timothy, Aquila and Priscilla, and many others to spread the good news and to establish small communities throughout this vast territory. Most of our evidence is found in the Acts of the Apostles, along with scattered references in Paul’s own letters. This workshop will provide a thorough understanding of Acts, as an essential foundation for understanding of the growth of early Christianity in this great land.

### February 9, 2013 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Early Christians in Turkey: Most Important Sites To Visit Today**

While some of the early Christian sites mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of Paul are unexcavated, or buried under modern cities, others are spectacular archaeological sites, containing the ruins of ancient temples, theaters, houses, ports and features of historic cities. This workshop will provide an overview of the remains of the Early Christian centuries that are still visible to modern pilgrims – in cities and regions such as *Antioch, Tarsus, Cappadocia, Pamphilia, Miletus, Ephesus, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Smyrna, Pergamum, Nicea, Constantinople (Istanbul) and many more!* We’ll explore what these sites can tell us about the diversity, development, gifts and struggles of our early Christian ancestors.

### March 9, 2013 Rev. Alexei Smith **Who Are the Christians of the Middle East and Turkey?**

Usually overlooked, frequently forgotten, and often misunderstood, Eastern Christians trace direct lineage to our early Christian ancestors in faith. This workshop is designed for Western Christians who wish to more deeply appreciate this diverse - and now widely marginalized - Christian minority in a volatile part of the world. The role of and gifts from this important branch of the worldwide Church will be highlighted by focusing on the history, culture, diversity, and profiles of individual church bodies, and a country-by-country discussion of the current state of Christianity in the Middle East, with a particular emphasis on Turkey.

For more about the pilgrimage to Turkey, go to:  
<http://catholic-resources.org/Events/2013-05-Pilgrimage-Turkey.pdf>

## Christian Initiation Series

### Especially for beginners... September 1, 2012 Gail M. Gresser **Pathway to the Door of Life: An Introduction to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

While most Catholics now know that there *is* something called RCIA in our parishes, many are still not too sure exactly what it is, where it comes from, or, most importantly, what it asks of us. This workshop will give an overview of this powerful Rite of the Church, and its theology, history and principles. It will explore its various periods and ministries, and how it helps communities to welcome the many varieties of seekers who come to their doors. Especially designed for beginning RCIA team members or parish ministers who want to better understand the Rite, this workshop may also be helpful for experienced ministers who would like to freshly revisit basic Initiation issues.

### September 29, 2012 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm. **Vatican II and the Renewal of Baptismal Spirituality**

This workshop description is located in the “Gifts of the Council” series’ leaf. This workshop may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the “Christian Initiation” Series.

### January 19, 2013 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm. **The Period of Purification and Enlightenment in the RCIA: Keeping a Holy Lent**

Lent, although observed by the Faithful for centuries, began as a period of intense preparation for the Easter Sacraments for the catechumens of the ancient Church. When the catechumenate faded from the Church’s initiation practice, the Faithful continued its disciplines making it their own preparation period for Easter. This workshop will explore:

- the history of Lent as a period of preparation for Easter
- the restored **Period of Purification & Enlightenment** as presented in the RCIA
- pastoral implementation of this period in the catechumenal process (including a practicum with the Scrutinies and Presentations)
- and its influence on Lent in a parish.

### March 16, 2013 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm. **The Period of Mystagogy - Unfolding the Mysteries: Not Just for the Neophytes during Eastertime**

Prior to Vatican II, and in most child-centered catechetical programs today, Catholics experience the celebration of any given sacrament as the concluding piece of a sacramental preparation program. However, the early Church’s approach (restored by *Vatican II* with the reintroduction of the *Catechumenate in its sacramental practice*) has the rituals of the sacrament as thresholds along a faith journey. Thus the celebration of the sacrament is not a concluding ritual, but a key element in the ongoing formation process itself. This is best seen in the RCIA’s **Period of Mystagogy** and its implications for sacramental preparation and catechesis. This workshop will explore:

- the difference between Sacramental Preparation & Sacramental Catechesis
- the **Period of Mystagogy** as structured in the Easter Lectionary
- a methodology (with a practicum) for implementing this period in a parish
- and Mystagogy as a way of life for the Christian.

## Scripture Series

### September 22, 2012 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Vatican II and Our Understanding of Revelation and Scripture**

This workshop description is located in the “Gifts of the Council” series’ leaf. This workshop may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the “Scripture” Series.

### November 10, 2012 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Paul and His Companions in Turkey: Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles**

This workshop description is located under the “Early Christians in Turkey” Series. It may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the “Scripture” Series.

### February 9, 2013 Rev. Felix Just, S.J. **Early Christians in Turkey: Most Important Sites To Visit Today**

This workshop description is located under the “Early Christians in Turkey” Series. It may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the “Scripture” Series.

## Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Series

### December 8, 2012 Rev. Alexei Smith **The Catholic Church and Other Religions: Rediscovering Vatican II**

This workshop description is located under the “Gifts of the Council” Series. It may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations* Series.

### March 9, 2013 Rev. Alexei Smith **Who Are the Christians of the Middle East and Turkey?**

This workshop description is located under the “Early Christians in Turkey” Series. It may also, or alternatively, be taken as part of the *Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations* Series.

Workshops in a series complement each other but may be taken independently or in conjunction with another workshop or series

When attending three or more workshops in a series, a discounted ‘series rate’ will apply.\*

\* Registration for the two workshops in the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Series will qualify for the discounted ‘series rate’.

For additional registration forms, go to:  
<http://www.msmc.la.edu/ecclesia.asp>

To register, complete this form  
(front and back)  
and, with check or credit card info, mail to:

Ecclesia - Campus Ministry  
Mount St. Mary’s College  
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Or call 310-954-4126  
Or email [ggresser@msmc.la.edu](mailto:ggresser@msmc.la.edu)

**WORKSHOP:** Please check the boxes of the workshops you would like to attend.

- Sept. 1 Gail M. Gresser  
**Pathway to the Door of Life: An Introduction to the RCIA**
- Sept. 22 Rev. Felix Just, S.J.  
**Vatican II and Our Understanding of Revelation and Scripture**
- Sept. 29 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm.  
**Vatican II and the Renewal of Baptismal Spirituality**
- Nov. 10 Rev. Felix Just, S.J.  
**Paul and His Companions in Turkey: Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles**
- Dec. 8 Rev. Alexei Smith  
**The Catholic Church and Other Religions: Rediscovering Vatican II**
- Jan. 19 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm.  
**The Period of Purification and Enlightenment in the RCIA: Keeping a Holy Lent**
- Feb. 9 Rev. Felix Just, S.J.  
**Early Christians in Turkey: Most Important Sites to Visit Today**
- March 16 Rev. Ronald Oakham, O.Carm.  
**The Period of Mystagogy—Unfolding the Mysteries: Not Just for the Neophytes during Eastertime**
- March 9 Rev. Alexei Smith  
**Who Are the Christians of the Middle East and Turkey?**

All workshops take place on Saturdays  
between the hours of **9am - 4pm**  
at Mount St. Mary’s College, Doheny campus.

## REGISTRATION

Please send your check or credit card info with form.

Checks should be made out to:  
*Ecclesia-Mount St. Mary's College*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (Please write clearly):  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your parish/community? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT:

Individual Rate: \$25 per workshop

Group Rate: \$20 per person per workshop, if enclosed with five or more registration forms.

Series Rates: \$20 per person when registering for three or more workshops in a series or the two workshops for the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Series. All must be paid at the time of the first registration for the \$20 rate to apply.

Check: enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Please make payable to Ecclesia-Mount St. Mary's College)

Credit Card: please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following credit card:  Visa  Mastercard

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO REGISTER, COMPLETE THIS FORM  
(FRONT AND BACK)**

**AND, WITH CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFO,  
MAIL TO:**

*Ecclesia - Mount St. Mary's College,  
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Or call 310-954-4126.*

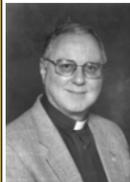
## The Presenters



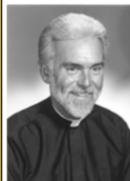
**Gail Gresser** is the Director of Campus Ministry at Mount St. Mary's College. She also teaches the certification course for RCIA ministers at the Center for Religion and Spirituality at Loyola Marymount University. She served for many years on the Office for Worship Initiation Committee and is currently a member of the Religious Education Congress Liturgy Committee. She holds a Masters degree in Anthropology from UCLA, and a Masters in Theological Studies from LMU.



**Felix Just, S.J.**, is the Director of Biblical Education at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, CA. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Yale University, and has taught at several universities, including Loyola Marymount. A frequent public lecturer, educator and retreat director on a wide variety of scriptural themes, he also maintains an internationally recognized website of "Catholic Resources", especially for scripture, at <http://catholic-resources.org>.



**Ron Oakham, O.Carm.** is the pastor of St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish in Tucson, AZ, a position he assumed after serving as the Carmelite Western Regional Provincial. For many years, he has been a leader in Initiation ministry throughout the United States. He has served with the North American Forum for the Catechumenate as the Director of Institutes, Team member and Board member, and as the Director of the Catechumenate for the Archdiocese of Newark. A strong advocate for a renewed Baptismal spirituality, he is the author of *One at the Table: The Reception of Baptized Christians*.



**Rev. Alexei Smith** is the Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He studied International Relations at USC, and earned his Masters of Divinity from the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Ordained a Greek Catholic priest, he serves as pastor of Saint Andrew's Russian Greek Catholic Church in El Segundo. He has served as co-chair of the Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue, and as president of the Interreligious Council of Southern California, and is the recipient of the Religious Leadership Award of the Valley Interfaith Council.

*Ecclesia - Campus Ministry  
Mount St. Mary's College  
10 Chester Place  
Los Angeles, California 90007*



# Ecclesia

*Serving Those  
Who Serve the Church*

Mount St. Mary's College

Los Angeles

2012-2013

## Ecclesia

is a project of  
Mount St. Mary's College  
Campus Ministry  
committed to the  
continuing education,  
development and support  
of ministry in the contemporary  
and future Church.

*Ecclesia* welcomes ministers,  
lay and ordained,  
salaried and volunteer,  
from the  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
and beyond.

