

Catholic Formation Services  
Diocese of Helena  
PO Box 1729  
Helena, MT 59624

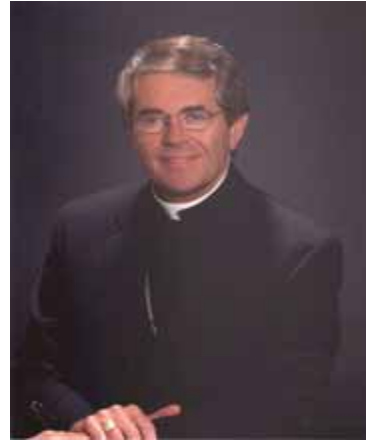


*“Encountering the  
Living Christ”*

**CONNECTIONS**

**2007**

OCTOBER 12-13  
CARROLL COLLEGE  
Helena, MT



My dear friends in Christ:

Our new Pastoral Plan - "Come to the Light" - presents significant challenges and opportunities for the Diocese of Helena in coming years. As we set about its implementation, we will strive to seize the moment to address those challenges and thereby fulfill the vision and hopes to which the Plan gives expression.

In helping to develop our Pastoral Plan, the priests and people of the Diocese of Helena identified the vital importance of providing opportunities for lifelong formation in our Catholic faith, including training in the many tasks associated with that endeavor. I happily invite you to "Connections," our fall catechetical conference for all persons engaged in faith formation: parents, catechists, religious education and youth ministry coordinators, youth workers and other adults. Previously offered from 1999 through 2003, "Connections" will once again provide an opportunity for adults to gain new insights into not only their own spirituality, but also many of the skills necessary in their respective roles and ministries of faith formation. "Connections" will live up to its name by bringing together nationally recognized presenters and major catechetical publisher representatives to guide and assist us further in "Encountering the Living Christ."

With prayers that the Living Christ will continue to bless the many connections of life and faith we share with one another in his Church, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph. D.  
Bishop of Helena

# REGISTRATION - "CONNECTIONS 2007"

(reproduce as needed)

(Please print)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Catholic School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees:** (make check payable to "Diocese of Helena") (NOTE: no split fee for single day)

Received at the Diocese of Helena by September 17th

\$40 per person—includes Friday social, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch

"Early Bird" special: 3 registrants for the price of 2

NOTE: Registrations for other 2 persons must be submitted with this registration

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

Received at Diocese of Helena after September 17th

\$45 per person—includes Friday social, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Refund Policy:** \$10 refund only for cancellations received before October 1, 2007

**Saturday Breakout Selections:** (indicate by number and letter - e.g., 1-B, 2-D, 3-F)

Session 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Session 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:** (please indicate any required access, visual, audio, or dietary accommodations)

Mail this form with fee payment to:

Catholic Formation Services

PO Box 1729

Helena, MT 59624

## Catechists' Prayer

Loving Father,  
You have called me and I have responded.  
Here I am, Lord!  
You invite me to a personal relationship with you  
so that I may share the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
with those you have entrusted to me.  
My mind and my will are yours.  
Through the Holy Spirit, enlighten me with your wisdom,  
set my heart on fire with your love,  
strengthen me and guide me  
so that my life faithfully echoes the Gospel.  
Grant that, having deepened my understanding and appreciation  
of the treasure that is the Catholic faith,  
I may share it fully with others.  
May I find in my parish and diocesan community  
the wisdom, support, and inspiration that I need  
to serve you in this essential ministry of the Church.  
Amen

Copyright © 2007 (adapted), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved

## Prayer for Catechists

Our God,  
you continually call men and women  
so that, helped by your Holy Spirit,  
they may teach others to know, love and serve you.  
We place under your loving care  
all catechists who so generously have responded to your call.  
Enlighten them with your wisdom,  
set their hearts on fire with your love,  
and strengthen them to give witness to your Son  
by their teaching and deeds.  
Grant us that, as a faith community,  
We may be a living witness and a source of inspiration for all catechists.  
Guide our catechists so that they may respond  
to the invitation to know your Son more fully,  
so that others in turn may recognize  
the presence of Christ in their lives.  
As they catechize those you have entrusted to them,  
may they too grow more fully in communion with you,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

Copyright © 2007 (adapted), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved

## Welcome to "Connections 2007" ...

*our fall catechetical conference! You may not be actively involved in parish religious education, youth ministry, the RCIA, or other faith formation settings, although "Connections" has much to offer if you are! You need simply come looking to "encounter the living Christ," and we trust you will during your time here. May this conference be a source of renewed energy and direction in our shared efforts as the Church in and of the Diocese of Helena!*



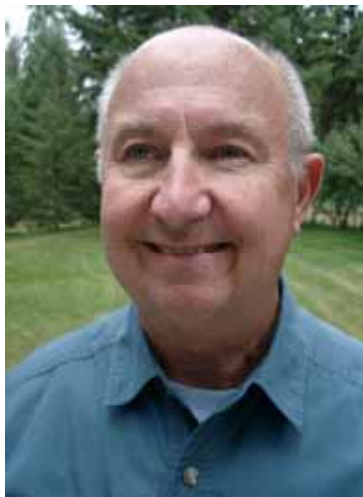
**Jim Tucker**  
Director

**Doug Tooke**  
Youth/Young  
Adult Minister

**Kathy Ward**  
Resource Center  
Manager

**Mary Vogl**  
Administrative  
Assistant

The Catholic Formation Services Staff



## FRIDAY NIGHT KEYNOTE

### “Walking with Jesus...High Adventure and Deep Holiness”

Spiritual awareness is an essential feature of our spiritual lives. For Christians, this means an acute awareness of the companionship of Jesus as we walk the various paths of our lives. Like the disciples at Emmaus, we will seek ways for us to experience more deeply “our hearts burning within us” as we tread the many paths in our beautiful Montana.

**Dr. David Thomas** is co-director of Bethany Family Institute and internationally known as an educator and innovative thinker in the areas of family life and adult religious education. For over thirty years, he was Professor of Systematic Theology, Religion, and Family Life at St. Louis University, St. Meinard School of Theology in Indiana and Regis University in Denver, where he directed their highly regarded graduate program in Adult Christian Community Development and Community Leadership.

David served as theological consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Marriage and Family Life, and also the USCCB National Advisory Committee on Adult Religious Education (NACARE). He has presented numerous seminars in over 100 dioceses in the United States, Canada, Ireland and England for clergy, lay ecclesial leaders, teachers, married couples, parents and families. He is the author of numerous articles and books, several of which will be available for purchase and signing at our conference.

David and his wife, Karen, are the parents of seven children, grandparents of eight, and foster-parents of 75. They now live in Whitefish.

## Helena Motels & B&Bs

Quotes vary within range: \$=under \$40; \$\$=\$41-60; \$\$\$=\$61-80; \$\$\$\$=over \$80; 1 person, double room; add 7% tax to all

Barrister B&B 416 Ewing Street 443-7330	\$\$\$\$	Holiday Inn Downtown 22 North Last Chance Gulch 443-2200 or 800-465-4329	\$\$\$\$
Best Western Great Northern 835 Great Northern Boulevard 457-5500	\$\$\$\$	Holiday Inn Express 701 Washington Street 449-4000 or 800-465-5329	\$\$\$\$
Quality Inn 2300 North Oakes Street 442-3064	\$\$\$	Jorgenson’s Inn and Suites 1714 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 442-1770 or 800-272-1770	\$\$\$
Budget Inn Express 524 North Last Chance Gulch 442-0600	\$	Knights Extended Stay 1831 Euclid Avenue 442-6384 or 888-442-6384	\$\$
Colonial Red Lion 2301 Colonial Drive 443-2100 or 800-422-1002	\$\$\$\$	Lamplighter Motel 1006 Madison Street 442-9200	\$\$
Comfort Inn 750 North Fee Street 443-1000 or 800-221-2222	\$\$\$	Motel 6 800 North Oregon Street 442-9990 or 1-800-466-8356	\$
Guest House Int’l Inns & Suites 2101 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 443-2300 or 800-541-2743	\$\$\$	Mountain Meadow Inn 2245 Head Drive 443-7301	\$\$\$
Days Inn 2001 Prospect Avenue 442-3280 or 800-325-2525	\$\$\$	Shilo Inn 2020 Prospect Avenue 442-0320 or 800-222-2244	\$\$\$\$
Fairfield Inn by Marriott 2150 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 449-9944 or 800-228-2800	\$\$\$\$	Super 8 Motel 2201 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 443-2450 or 800-800-8000	\$\$
Hampton Inn 3000 East Highway 12 443-5800	\$\$\$\$	Wingate Inn 2007 North Oakes 449-3000 or 866-300-7100	\$\$\$\$

- 2-D** “Total Faith Initiative: A Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry”  
**Presenter: Dennis Kurtz**  
**Description:** Rooted in the Scriptures and in the Tradition of the Catholic Church, the main goal of the “Total Faith Initiative” is to provide comprehensive ministry to youth. Guided by the USCCB’s document, “Renewing the Vision,” Saint Mary’s Press and the Center for Ministry Development have created a set of resources that address all components of ministry with youth. This workshop will provide insights of how to use these resources in your youth ministry.
- 2-E** “Faith in Action”  
**Presenter: Jackie Hopper**  
**Description:** Put the stewardship model into any faith formation program. Hands on, interactive fun!
- 2-F** “RCL-Benziger Showcase – A New Journey...”  
**Presenter: Mary Jo Donahue**  
**Description:** A wonderful opportunity to explore the top-notch line of RCL-Benziger. This session will highlight resources for child and adult faith formation, the new “Echoes of Faith Plus” modules, plus pre-school and Vacation Bible School resources. Come find out how the heritage of RCL and Benziger, now united as one, can assist your parish to meet the living Christ!
- 2-G** “Getting off on the RITE Foot: Celebrating the First Sacraments with Young People”  
**Presenter: Mark Friedman**  
**Description:** An in-depth look at two of the first sacraments young people receive: Reconciliation and Eucharist. Learn how to make these sacramental celebrations come alive for your students with prayerful rituals, new music, and scriptural storytelling.
- 2-H** “Renewing Youth and Young Adult Ministry”  
**Presenter: Doug Tooke**  
**Description:** An exploration of the “National Directory for Catechesis,” “Renewing the Vision,” and “Empowered by the Spirit,” contemporary youth ministry practices and the Church documents that shape them.



## **SATURDAY MORNING KEYNOTE**



### **“Meeting Jesus at the Movies: Stories, Messages and Mystery”**

Cinema can provide marvelous opportunities to help ourselves and others meet Jesus in daily life through stories. This very visual and practical presentation will look at a variety of film clips from major motion pictures through the lens of the Gospel mystery and offer suggestions to bring faith and values into conversation with cinema, leading to an authentic experience of *cinema divina*.

**Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP** is the founding director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies, and has been a member of the Daughters of St. Paul since 1967. With experience in book publishing, marketing, film, television, and radio production, and writing for these media, she is the film and TV columnist for St. Anthony Messenger. She is also a facilitator and media curriculum developer for the University of Dayton’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives’ online Virtual Learning Community, where she teaches media and pastoral communications in their summer program.

Often known as “Sister Media,” she has served on Catholic and ecumenical media juries at the Venice, Berlin, and Locarno Film Festivals, as well as the 2006 Newport Beach Film Festival. Sr. Rose has published numerous books about faith and the movies (several of which will be available for signing at our conference), and presented on media literacy in dioceses around the United States and throughout the world.

In 2007, Sr. Rose received the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Technology Award in recognition of her contributions to the field of media and faith.

## MEDIA FAIR & “HELP YOURSELF!”

Participants are invited to visit our “Connections” Media Fair to become acquainted with some of the many items and services available through our Diocesan Resource Center. Kathy Ward, manager of the Center, will display a wide array of materials in varied formats for the enhancement of your local catechetical interests and endeavors.

We are also happy to offer a selection of books from the Resource Center for the taking. Come browse and help yourself to the wisdom of others...free!



## EXHIBITORS & DISPLAYS

We are grateful to the following catechetical publishers and religious goods store for their support of “Connections 2007” with exhibits and professional expertise. Participants are invited to stop by their displays during the conference, and respect their availability as scheduled. Exhibit displays will close at 2:30 pm on Saturday.

Diocese of Helena Youth Ministry  
Harcourt Religion  
Montana Church Supply  
Pauline Media  
RCL-Benziger  
Saint Mary’s Press  
Silver Burdett Ginn  
Watercarver Productions

CYC Board  
Gloria Reinhardt Majerus & Phillip Sandoval  
Roy & Mary Theresa Houseman  
(courtesy of Sr. Rose)  
Kate Ristow & Mary Jo Donahue  
Dennis Kurtz  
Jackie Hopper  
David Casey

- 1-F “God Lives in Our Bathroom”  
**Presenter: Dr. David Thomas**  
**Description:** One of our most challenging tasks is to find God’s presence in our ordinary everyday lives. One of the places God likes to “hide” is in our family. We will explore how God is present in the day-to-day mundane events of family, even those taking place in the WC!
- 1-G “Enter the Journey: Exploring the Liturgical School Year”  
**Presenter: Mark Friedman**  
**Description:** Come explore music and creative liturgical ideas for the cycle of the liturgical year woven in and out of the fabric of the school year. Seasonal imagery will also be explored through the integration of rituals, storytelling and creative setting of the liturgical space. New liturgical music will be presented from OCP’s newest hymnal “Never Too Young: Spirit & Song for Young People.”
- 1-H “Renewing Youth and Young Adult Ministry”  
**Presenter: Doug Tooke**  
**Description:** An exploration of the “National Directory for Catechesis,” “Renewing the Vision,” and “Empowered by the Spirit,” contemporary youth ministry practices and the Church documents that shape them.

### Breakout Session 2 1:30-2:30 pm

- 2-A “Crucial Ingredients for the Success of Lifelong Faith Formation”  
**Presenter: Gloria Reinhardt Majerus and Phillip Sandoval**  
**Description:** In this afternoon presentation, Gloria will join with Phillip Sandoval, Harcourt Religion regional representative, to facilitate a conversation with attendees around lifelong formation and whole community catechesis. Fielding questions from the floor on what works or doesn’t, what’s been tried or hasn’t, they will respond with practical pointers and answers from the Harcourt line of products. Whether you’re just beginning or have some experience on this path, come with your questions and insights, prepared to receive answers and added insights in return.
- 2-B “Meeting Jesus at the Movies II”  
**Presenter: Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP**  
**Description:** This workshop continues the morning keynote presentation and considers how we “see” cinema stories and identify their sacramental moments.
- 2-C “Seven Signs and Wonders”  
**Presenter: Kate Ristow**  
**Description:** This workshop focuses on making the meaning of the sacraments come alive in your faith formation sessions. Creative and practical techniques will be offered to help intermediate and junior high learners to deepen their understanding of the sacraments.

## SATURDAY Breakout Session 1 10:45-11:45 am

- 1-A**    "Recipes for Success in Lifelong Faith Formation"  
**Presenter: Gloria Reinhardt Majerus**  
**Description:** They tell us that lifelong formation and whole community catechesis are the ideal! Yet, how do you go about making the ideal a reality? Or maybe you have been working at lifelong catechesis and whole community catechesis, but it is not working out. How do we deal with some of the pitfalls we find ourselves in? This presentation, geared for those involved in making the ideal a reality, will take you step-by-step through a process for lifelong formation or whole community catechesis, address some of the hurdles and offer practical solutions.
- 1-B**    "Helping Kids Mind the Media"  
**Presenter: Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP**  
**Description:** An introduction to media literacy with helpful insights and practical application to faith formation for parents and catechists.
- 1-C**    "Creative Catechesis: You Make the Difference!"  
**Presenter: Kate Ristow**  
**Description:** This practical workshop will explore creative ways of helping our students to learn, celebrate, live and translate our faith into prayer and service. Many "hands on" ideas for activities, seasonal prayer and suggestions for making faith come alive in faith formation settings will be offered, incorporating the six tasks of catechesis found in the NDC into our work with young learners.
- 1-D**    "Who Do You Say That I Am: Assisting Teens in Meeting the Living Jesus"  
**Presenter: Dennis Kurtz**  
**Description:** Meet the Jesus of the Bible! What can we learn about Jesus from those who wrote about him? This workshop will explore activities and methods of engaging adolescents in discovering Jesus and answering the questions: What do others say about Jesus, and who do you say that I am?
- 1-E**    "Confirmation Programming"  
**Presenter: Jackie Hopper**  
**Description:** Come and see a new approach to immediate preparation for any age level confirmation program. Participants will walk away with the ability to immediately implement these new insights.

## SCHEDULE

SPECIAL NOTE: In consideration of and courtesy to our presenters, we ask participants to honor the conference schedule by making every effort to arrive in time for the various sessions.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 Carroll College Center (the "Cube")

6:00 pm      Registration/exhibits open  
6:55 pm      Exhibits close  
7:00 pm      Welcome & Prayer  
7:30 pm      Keynote presentation  
                    Dr. David Thomas  
9:00 pm      Social/exhibits re-open  
                    Music by David Casey  
9:45 pm      Exhibits close/leave taking

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 (the "Cube" and other campus locations)

8:00 am      Registration/exhibits re-open  
                    Continental breakfast  
8:25 am      Exhibits close  
8:30 am      Welcome & Prayer  
9:00 am      Keynote presentation  
                    Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP  
10:30 am     Passing break  
10:45 am     Breakout session #1  
11:45 am     Passing break  
12:00 pm     Lunch  
12:45 pm     Exhibits re-open  
1:15 pm      Exhibits close/passing break  
1:30 pm      Breakout Session #2  
2:30 pm      Passing break  
2:45 pm      Re-gathering & Evaluations  
3:00 pm      Closing Ritual  
3:30 pm      Leave-taking



## OTHER FEATURED PRESENTERS

**Mark Friedman** has been a liturgist, cantor and music director for more than twenty years. With Janet Vogt, he is composer of seven collections of music for young people published by Oregon Catholic Press (OCP). Mark has presented workshops, concerts and keynotes around the country, most notably for the East Coast Conference, NCEA's annual gathering, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) and the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. He recently completed his Master's degree in religion and pastoral ministry at the Athenaeum of Ohio, serves on the NPM Music Education Board and is a music minister and liturgist at St. John Fisher Parish in Cincinnati.

**Jackie Hopper** has been a lay ecclesial minister for twenty-five years, with experience at the parish, diocesan and national levels. Currently working on her Master's degree in pastoral theology, she has also been active as a seminar presenter for Adult Catholic Education of the Treasure Valley (ACE-TV), serving eight parishes in Boise, Idaho. Jackie and her husband Rob have been married for 26 years, and are the parents of three children, ages 16, 13 and 11.

**Dennis Kurtz** is coordinator of the Catholic Teen Bible Study Project at Saint Mary's Press in Winaona, Minnesota. He holds a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Ministry from the Center for Ministry Development, and has done graduate work in theology and sacred scripture at St. John's University in Collegeville. For twenty years, he directed the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Dennis has also served as a high school religion instructor and campus minister, and on the Boards of Directors for both NFCYM and the TEC ("Teens Encounter Christ") Conference.



## OTHER FEATURED PRESENTERS

**Gloria Reinhardt Majerus** is a former teacher, school principal, and diocesan associate director. She holds an MA in Religious Studies from Boston College and has completed post-graduate studies in faith development and homiletics, as well as adult formation. A nationally esteemed speaker and author, Gloria has written for *FYI*, a quarterly publication of the Office of Christian Formation in Richmond, Virginia, and for *Echoes of Faith*. Gloria is currently a regional consultant for Harcourt Religion Publishers.

**Kate Ristow** is a national consultant for RCL-Benziger and a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences. For the past fifteen years, she has served as a contributing editor and feature writer for *Catechist* magazine. Kate has worked in religious education for over thirty years as a classroom teacher, catechist and administrator; and has written catechist and teacher guides, as well as student text materials, for every elementary grade level. She has a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Mundelein College in Chicago. Kate is married and the mother of three adult children and five grandchildren.

**Doug Tooke** is the Youth and Young Adult Minister of the Diocese of Helena, bringing with him ten years of youth ministry experience. He has traveled to over 25 dioceses in the past five years: teaching, keynoting conventions, and training youth ministers. His work with multiple-parish youth ministry, established in recent years in the Flathead Valley as Catholic Youth Rural Outreach (CYRO), has been recognized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry as a prototype for collaborative ministry to be modeled throughout the country. Doug is blessed by his wife, Becky and their three daughters: Mederise, Lilian and Joelle.

We are also happy to have with us **Mary Jo Donahue** and **Phillip Sandoval**, regional consultants for RCL-Benziger and Harcourt Religion respectively. They, along with our other speakers, will host publisher displays and showcase breakout sessions with their sponsored presenters.