

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 5 & 6



**Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, JCD**, is the 12th bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, your host diocese for the 2022 conference. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Cleveland in 1979. He was ordained and installed as bishop of Grand Rapids on June 18, 2013 following an appointment by Pope Francis.

He obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio, and his licentiate and doctorate degrees in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America.

***Join Bishop Walkowiak for the celebration of the conference's opening Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 5.***



**Most Reverend James V. Johnston Jr.** is the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville on June 9, 1990. He pursued graduate studies at the Catholic University of America, where he obtained a Licentiate in Canon Law in 1996. He served as chancellor and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Knoxville, as well as in parish ministry.

Bishop Johnston is the vice-chair of the board of regents for Conception Seminary College and has served as a member of the board of trustees for Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. In November 2018, he was elected to serve as the chairman of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People; he is currently a member of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the Committee for National Collections.

**Topic:** CPCYP Chair Address



DIocese of GRAND RAPIDS

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 6



**Suzanne Healy** has been a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's (USCCB) National Review Board addressing matters of child and youth Protection since 2017 and is currently serving as chairwoman. She was the victim assistance coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from 2007 through 2016. Her role was to assure healing, reconciliation and support for victim-survivors. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist with experience in private practice and as a school counselor. Ms. Healy has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling, M.F.C.C. option, with a Pupil Personnel Services

Credential with Advanced Specializations in School Counseling and Child Welfare and Attendance Services, both from California State University at Los Angeles. Ms. Healy served on the executive board of the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health Faith Based Advocacy Council, and also as a committee member for the Los Angeles City Attorney Office's Cyber Crime Prevention Symposium in Los Angeles, both from 2008 to 2016. In 2016, she received the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Department of Health Affairs Excellence Award. She presently is retired and serves on the board of directors for Valley Family Center in San Fernando, California.

**Topic:** National Review Board Chair Address



**Deacon Bernie Nojadera** is the executive director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Formerly, he served as director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults with the Diocese of San Jose, California, from 2002 to 2011. He has a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California, in 1984; a master of social work degree specializing in health and mental health services from San Jose State University, in 1991; and a master of arts in theology from St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Menlo Park, California, in 2002. He has been a member of the Diocese of San Jose's Safe Environment Task Force,

involved with the San Jose Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the County of Santa Clara Interfaith Clergy Task Force on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the County of Santa Clara Task Force on Suicide Prevention. Deacon Nojadera has worked as a clinical social worker for Santa Clara County Mental Health (1991-2000) and is a military veteran. He is married and has two children.

**Topic:** USCCB Child & Youth Protection



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 6



**Molly Fara** is the associate director for the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington, D.C. She works with and on behalf of the bishops in promoting safeguarding measures in dioceses and eparchies throughout the nation. She actively participates in international symposia and finds the open exchange of ideas with people of different cultures an opportunity to broaden her perspective of the root causes of abhorrent behavior and the advancement of protocols to protect the most vulnerable among us. Ms. Fara has over 35 years of professional experience with a focus on safeguarding youth for more than a decade. She has spent many years

advocating on behalf of those who are in abusive situations with a special focus on the sexual abuse of minors. She frequently provides trainings on the safeguarding of minors and consults with institutions in developing safe environments for youth activities. Ms. Fara has been actively involved in the investigation of allegations of abuse, often in conjunction with civil authorities and youth-serving organizations. She assists in the development of policies and procedures including the establishment of safety plans for alleged offenders and those who may seek to harm vulnerable people. Ms. Fara earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton, Ohio, with a major in psychology and minor in criminal justice. Ms. Fara is recognized as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Professional Educator License with School Social Work Endorsement.

**Topic:** USCCB Child & Youth Protection



**Kathleen (Kathy) Damman, OFS**, is a native of Michigan. She grew up in Detroit and attended a Catholic primary school. Before retiring in 2018, Kathy cared for people as both a Hospice patient care technician and para-educator for adults with developmental disabilities. Kathy has been an active member of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville, Michigan since 1971 and has been involved in several parish ministries. Kathy is also a Third Order Franciscan and has served as the Order's treasurer and councilor. Kathy has been married for 44 years and has three children and six grandchildren.

**Topic:** Victim Impact Statement



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS



# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 6



**Reverend Kenneth W. Schmidt** is a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was ordained in 1981. He has served in various roles in the diocesan Tribunal since earning a doctorate in canon law in 1992. For 21 years he served as a campus minister and pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, and three years as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage, Michigan. He now serves as the advocate for priestly ministry and support. Father Schmidt earned a master's degree in counseling psychology and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. He is co-founder of the Trauma Recovery Program in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, and co-founder and executive director of Trauma

Recovery Associates (TRA). TRA educates and fosters the development of organizational leaders, human service providers, and trauma survivors themselves to respond more effectively to the impact of childhood trauma. TRA has trained individuals in 23 states and seven countries, and provides programs for childhood trauma survivors throughout southwest Michigan, as well as a free online program as people deal with the stress of the pandemic.

Father Ken is published in the areas of canon law, pastoral theology, psychology, and spirituality. He has published a book about trauma and spirituality, and one that paraphrases the Psalms of the Old Testament as prayers for people in addiction and recovery.

**Topic:** Trauma Recovery



**Kathleen McChesney, Ph.D.**, is CEO of Kinsale Management Consulting through which she and her teams assist religious organizations, youth-serving organizations, and schools in matters relating to ethics and conduct. Prior to founding Kinsale, Dr. McChesney served in many leadership positions in the FBI, heading its field offices in Chicago, Illinois and Portland, Oregon and the FBI's International Training Academy, before being appointed as executive assistant director - the Bureau's third highest position.

In response to the crisis of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, Dr. McChesney was selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to

establish and lead a national office for child protection. She developed and oversaw a national compliance mechanism to ensure that all Catholic dioceses complied with civil laws and internal policies relative to the prevention, reporting and response of the sexual abuse of minors. She coordinated a major research study into the nature and scope of the problem of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and has published and lectured frequently on the issue of the sexual abuse of minors in youth-serving organizations. Dr. McChesney is the co-author/co-editor of two books including *Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: A Decade of Crisis* (2012). She received her Ph.D. in Public Administration from Golden Gate University, her M.A. in Public Administration from Seattle University and her B.S. in Police Science and Administration from Washington State University.

**Topic:** The Charter - 20 Years Later



DIocese of GRAND RAPIDS

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 6



**Dr. Monica Applewhite, Ph.D.**, is a leading practitioner in the field of abuse prevention. Throughout her undergraduate education, Monica worked in psychiatric hospitals and emergency shelters for children. Monica went on to receive a Bachelor's in Social Work at TCU and a Master's of Science and Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work at the University of Texas Arlington.

From 1992 to 2007, Dr. Applewhite garnered experience in both studying abuse and helping organizations prevent and respond to incidents or allegations of abuse. During this time, she worked with more 300 organizations to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults in their care.

In 2007, Dr. Applewhite began working independently as an LLC. She is able to provide clear answers to questions on whether an organization did or did not meet the standards of care for prevention, detection and response to abuse at a time in history, and whether an organization is meeting the standards of care today.

As the issue of abuse gains attention internationally, Dr. Applewhite is working on educational and policy development programs in Poland, Ireland, Indonesia, Italy, Central America, Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in addition to the United States. Dr. Applewhite's areas of expertise include screen and selection protocols, responding to survivors of abuse, female and juvenile sexual offenders, internal feedback systems, monitoring and supervision systems, policy development for the prevention of abuse, internal investigation protocols in organizations, risk management procedures for those with histories of sexual offending and current best practices to protect the vulnerable. She provides intensive, dynamic workshops geared towards recognizing and preventing abuse in organizations.

**Topic:** Peer on Peer Abuse



**Chris McKenna** is founder and CEO of Protect Young Eyes (PYE). A man with never-ending energy when it comes to fighting for the safety and protection of children. Chris practices his internet safety tips on his four amazing children and is regularly featured on news, radio, podcasts, and most recently on Capitol Hill for his research. His 2019 U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee testimony was the catalyst for draft legislation that could radically change online child protection laws and earned PYE the NCOSE Dignity Defense Alert Award in 2020. The PYE team has provided over 1,000 presentations at schools, churches, and nonprofits and was featured in the Childhood 2.0 movie.

When not leading PYE, Chris is the digital marketing manager for Covenant Eyes. Other loves include running, spreadsheets, and candy. Find Protect Young Eyes on: **Instagram:** [instagram.com/protectyouneyes](https://www.instagram.com/protectyouneyes) |

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/protectyouneyes](https://www.facebook.com/protectyouneyes) | **Website:** [protectyouneyes.com](https://protectyouneyes.com)

**Topic:** Social Media & Human Trafficking Risks



DIocese of GRAND RAPIDS

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 7



**Monsignor William H. Duncan, JCL**, has served as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Grand Rapids since 2002. He leads the Diocese of Grand Rapids' child and youth protection efforts. In addition to his role as vicar general, he serves as pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Byron Center, where he was appointed in 2007. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grand Rapids in 1990. He received his Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in 2002. Monsignor Duncan will be the celebrant for morning Mass on June 7.



**Laura Harder, MA, CCFT**, founder of Happy With Work, LLC, is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Therapist and Psychology instructor at Metropolitan State University. As a researcher, she explores the causes of burnout in people-work and the effect of practitioner stress on their success with clients. By using psychology theory to create self-care techniques, Laura's presentation style is as warm and interactive as it is informative. She believes self-care is a lens we use rather than a "thing we do."

**Topics:** The Psychology of Stress & Motivation - Uphill Battles



**Sheri Wohlfert** is a Catholic wife, mom, speaker and teacher. She uses her great sense of humor and deep faith to help others discover the joy of being a child of God. Her roots are in Kansas, but her home is in Michigan. The mission of her ministry is to encourage others to take a good look at the simple ways we can all find God doing joyful, blessed, amazing things smack dab in the middle of the laundry, ball games, farm chores and the hundred other things we manage to cram into a day. Sheri and her husband Dave live on a small farm in Westphalia, Michigan. She is the mother of three adult children. She is a member of St. Mary Parish and teaches sixth grade at St. Mary Elementary School in Westphalia.

Sheri has a degree in secondary education from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, and a master's degree in elementary education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is a certified religious education instructor for the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan.

**Topics:** Finding Everyday Joy & Love Letters for God





# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 8



**Will Bloomfield** has been general counsel for the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan since 2019. Prior to joining the diocese, Mr. Bloomfield was the charitable trust attorney for the Michigan Attorney General, where he acted as the principal regulator of charitable nonprofits for the State of Michigan. Mr. Bloomfield is a veteran of the Navy JAG Corps and served in Iraq. He is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville and Ave Maria School of Law. He and his wife have six children.

**Panelist:** Attorney General Clergy Investigations



**Annalise Laumeyer** is the director of communications for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. In her role, Ms. Laumeyer creates and manages the day-to-day internal and external communications as well as long-term planning for the diocese's communications strategy. She is also responsible for crisis management and media relations, ensuring the media and public have quick access to accurate information that impacts the reputation of the Catholic Church. She serves as communications counsel to Bishop Walkowiak, the 80 parishes and 31 schools across the 11 counties of the diocese. She also oversees the weekly televised broadcast of Sunday Mass

and is the editor-in-chief of *FAITH Grand Rapids* magazine, an award-winning publication.

Ms. Laumeyer is the former marketing communications coordinator for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, responsible for launching the Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative which led to enrollment growth for the first time in more than a decade. She is a former reporter and producer for television stations FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and 7&4 News in Traverse City, Michigan, giving her inside knowledge of what makes news and how to prepare.

She leads a team that has won more than 12 awards for its communications and public relations work from the West Michigan Public Relations Society of America over the past five years.

She has a bachelor's degree in broadcast and cinematic arts from Central Michigan University and is a member of St. Sebastian Parish in Byron Center, Michigan.

**Panelist:** Attorney General Clergy Investigations



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 8



## **Madelaine C. Lane**

When a search warrant or grand jury subpoena hits, organizations know they can count on Ms. Lane to see them through the process with sound legal counsel. An experienced trial attorney focused on white collar criminal defense, she advises on complex civil investigations involving high-volume documents and high-risk publicity. As co-chair of Warner Norcross + Judd's White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Practice Group, Ms. Lane advises clients on a wide range of issues. She has extensive experience dealing with compliance, civil and criminal matters in higher education,

automotive, health care, finance, agricultural and other industries. Ms. Lane is recognized as one of the go-to attorneys in Michigan when clients need to create programs focused on sexual abuse prevention and detection training. She helps clients establish, maintain and improve their programs and respond if a report of abuse should arise. Ms. Lane regularly coordinates with law enforcement agencies and, if necessary, defends clients in civil and criminal cases arising from allegations of wrongdoing.

**Panelist:** Attorney General Clergy Investigations



**Amanda Fielder** is a member of the steering committee of Warner Norcross + Judd's Labor and Employment Practice Group and the Employment Litigation Practice Group. Known for her no-nonsense approach and fierce advocacy, Ms. Fielder has established a reputation for defending employer interests in employment-related issues. Her practice covers all aspects of employment law. Passionate about her clients' business needs and goals, Ms. Fielder prides herself on being a critical resource, regularly counseling employers on current and relevant employee relation issues. Her experience and expertise have earned her recognition

as a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyer for the past four years. As counsel to the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Ms. Fielder's practice includes advising the diocese on alleged claims of clergy sexual abuse and related litigation.

**Panelist:** Attorney General Clergy Investigations



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS



# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 8



**Dr. Paul Ashton, Psy.D., D. Min.** presents workshops, courses, retreats and training seminars in Catholic dioceses across the country and internationally. His professional ministry enfolds adult education and praxis, and has included several teaching, counseling and administrative positions in schools and parishes. He serves as a consultant to diocesan bishops and religious community superiors.

His work in the area of child sexual abuse prevention and healing includes training facilitators, developing and implementing curricula and retreat programs, counseling, and support group facilitation through the VIRTUS programs for over eighteen years.

He is the author of numerous articles and educational support materials, a chapter on vulnerable persons in *Towards Healing and Renewal* published by Editions Dehoniane Bologna, and a book entitled *Etched in Hope* through ACTA Publications of Chicago.

He works with victims/survivors/thrivers of sexual abuse in the area of recovery and healing. In addition, he works with priests/religious offenders whose ministry is restricted and who are living a life of prayer and penance.

Dr. Ashton is the founder of OPEN HEARTS HIV/AIDS Ministry and has supervised support and bereavement groups for over 25 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, an M.A. in clinical pastoral counseling from Emmanuel College, Boston, a D.Min. in counseling and marriage and family therapy and a Psy.D. in psychology from Andover Newton and the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana. He has a private practice in Boston and West Palm Beach.

**Topic:** VAC Breakout Session



# 2022 CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

---

PRESENTER LINEUP - JUNE 8



**Melanie Takinen** has worked in the field of child and youth protection since 2011. She began with the Diocese of Phoenix as the director of safe environment training. After five years, Melanie progressed to the national level working for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., where she served as associate director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. Upon returning home to Arizona in August 2020, Melanie began her role with the VIRTUS Programs as assistant director. She has a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in education and sociology, and a master's in psychology. She is married and is blessed with one son.

**Topic:** SEC Breakout Session



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS