BUZZ REPORT

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY & FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

JULY 2020

FROM THE DESK OF SR. KATHY...

Dear Friends:

As most of us already know, 2020 will probably go down in history as one of the worst years for horrific viruses, Covid-19. I pray that you and your families have been able to remain well and safe from the ravages of this disease. By this point, I think many of us know someone who has contracted the virus and how its effect destroys lives, relationships and life as we knew it before January, 2020.

For this month, I will be using our Buzz News platform to concentrate on local events so that we can best prepare for how life may be this upcoming academic and faith-filled year. In this issue, I will be explaining what is happening in three major areas of the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry. Specifically, I will be discussing our chancery and parish staff annual formation program entitled Formation for Mission and Ministry. Second, I will discuss Spiritual Direction -- what it is, what it is not and how to go about ascertaining a spiritual mentor. Third, I will discuss a new partnership the Diocese has formed with the University of Dayton to enable specifically the laity (teachers, principals, DRE's, youth ministers, parish office managers, music directors, office personnel, and parishioners) wonderful opportunities to grow in the faith. Also, one can achieve continuing education credits as well as credits toward beginning, intermediate and advanced catechetical certification from some of the finest theologians, pastoral counselors and psychologists. Make sure your computer or IPAD has the latest download of zoom:

https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/zoom-v5-0.html

Should you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at: kadamski@charlestondiocese.org or call me at 843.261.0498. I will be happy to share anything that interests you. Please stay safe and well.

Peace and all good,

Sr. Kathy

LOCAL

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY YEAR SIX SEMINAR

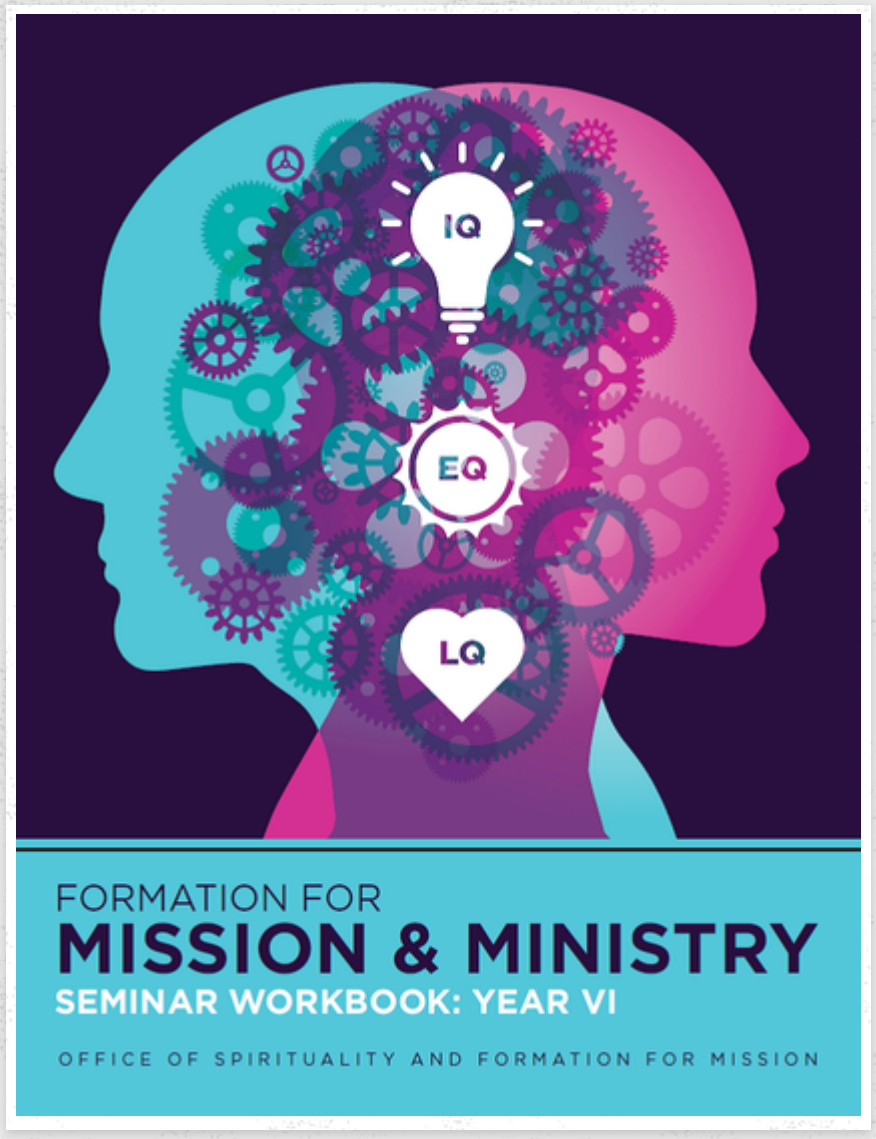
As in previous years, I have arranged our program in such a way as to cluster parishes in deaneries with one parish being the host. This year I have asked the host parish **NOT** to serve food because of the virus. They will, however, provide coffee and water. I have also asked host

parishes to arrange tables and people so that social distancing can be honored. **I also ask that every person come with a mask.**

Some pastors prefer that I hold the seminar via Zoom, and I am happy to do so. Should the virus reappear with a vengeance, I may be doing the seminar with everyone via Zoom. It will be abbreviated. If any parish would like a hybrid version (offering a Zoom version while I am presenting in person), I would be happy to do that as well. If the seminar is done virtually, we will send program booklets to parishes along with the Zoom log on information. Let's hope we can meet again and share good news with each other.

Pastors will be receiving a letter containing all the information stating the same that is mentioned here, as well as the schedule for the year. One must download zoom onto your computer or laptop. Here is the link for the latest copy:
https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/zoom-v5-0.html

I am hoping to attach the schedule for the year in our August Buzz, and it will be posted on: https://charlestondiocese.org/formation-for-ministry/ in the near future.
We will be concentrating on "Human Formation" again this year, as we discuss "**Emotional Intelligence and its Impact on Faith Formation**." We'll also briefly discuss intelligent and love quotient. The topic of emotional intelligence has been around for almost 20 years, and I find it to be an interesting one. I hope you do too.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW DIOCESAN CERTIFIED SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS!

I take this opportunity to congratulate those individuals who have or will have completed their studies with Spring Hill College and receive their Certificate in Catholic Spiritual Direction either this summer or fall, 2020. The Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry is the diocesan office that keeps all records regarding Certified Spiritual Directors.

Congratulations to:

Fr. John Bosco
Carole Nicolini
Dcn. Bert Chavez
Dcn. Barry O'Brien
Dcn. Kurt Herbst
John Sarpy
Marilyn Mauriello
Elena Ziegler

These men and women have studied over two years and learned how to mentor or journey with individuals who are desiring to have a closer relationship with God. They have been trained in the Ignatian Tradition first organized by St. Ignatius of Loyola, a Jesuit. Ignatian spirituality is grounded in the conviction that God is active in our world. As the great Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote: "God is not remote from us. He is at the point of my pen, my pick, my paintbrush, my needle — and my heart and my thoughts." The spiritual path laid out by Ignatius is a way of discerning God's presence in our everyday lives. And doing something about it.

The Jesuits have a handbook for this search. It is The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. Feel free to read more here: https://jesuits.org/spirituality.

On our diocesan website, one can read about what spiritual direction is not and what it is. Please take a moment to peruse this information at:

https://charlestondiocese.org/formation-for-ministry/spiritual-direction/

I invite each of you reading this newsletter to consider spiritual direction for your life and mature growth in the faith. I guarantee you will not be sorry!

DIOCESE PARTNERS WITH UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Diocese of Charleston recently signed an agreement to partner with the University of Dayton in offering Adult Faith Formation opportunities for teachers and principals who need continual education credits, parish staff, especially parish managers and coordinators, DRE's, Youth Ministers; and, in fact, any lay person interested in learning about our faith and becoming an intentional disciple of the Lord. The Marianist religious order supports the University of Dayton. I taught with these great men for 13 years when in Pittsburgh, PA during the 80's and 90's.

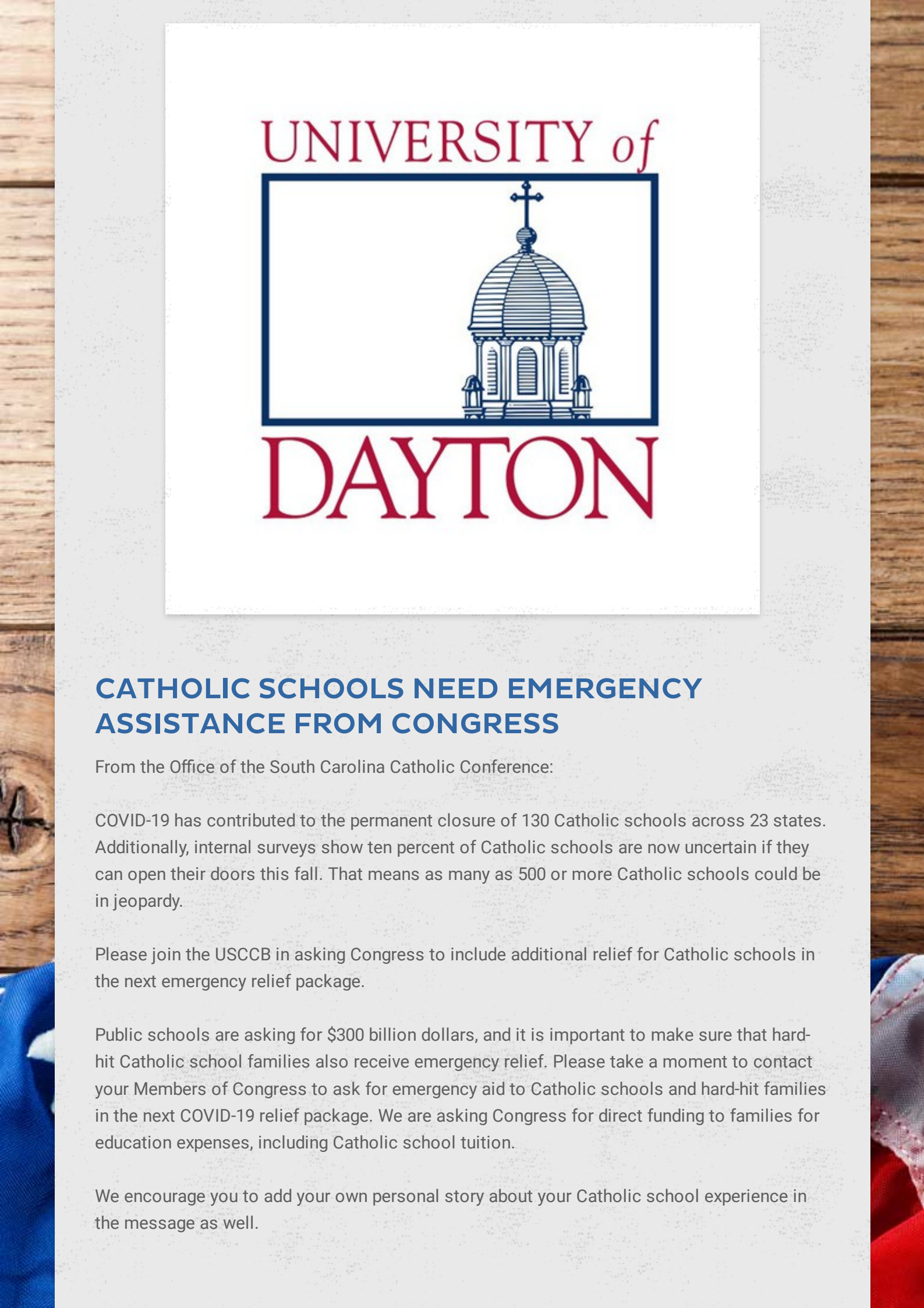
This partnership does cost the Diocese money, so I am really hoping people sign up for a course. You will not only receive credits, but you will grow in the faith. In fact, one course is free when you go online.

Someone shared with me a few years ago that her children, whom she was sending to a Catholic school, knew more about the faith than she did. I thought, "Wow, wouldn't it be great if parents knew more than their children about the faith?" I believe continual education of adults is a responsibility of each of us, especially with regard to the most important relationship in our lives---God.

New classes start in the fall! To sign up for a course, go to hpps://vlcff.udayton.edu and create a **profile** as a student. Then you can simply sign up for the course.

If you do avail yourself of this opportunity, please let me know you have signed up. If I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am hoping to offer tuition assistance this fall for those that specifically minister in the Church.

Feel free to go online and investigate this great opportunity. https://vlcff.udayton.edu/.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM CONGRESS

From the Office of the South Carolina Catholic Conference:

COVID-19 has contributed to the permanent closure of 130 Catholic schools across 23 states. Additionally, internal surveys show ten percent of Catholic schools are now uncertain if they can open their doors this fall. That means as many as 500 or more Catholic schools could be in jeopardy.

Please join the USCCB in asking Congress to include additional relief for Catholic schools in the next emergency relief package.

Public schools are asking for $300 billion dollars, and it is important to make sure that hard-hit Catholic school families also receive emergency relief. Please take a moment to contact your Members of Congress to ask for emergency aid to Catholic schools and hard-hit families in the next COVID-19 relief package. We are asking Congress for direct funding to families for education expenses, including Catholic school tuition.

We encourage you to add your own personal story about your Catholic school experience in the message as well.

Catholic schools urgently need help in this time of uncertainty. Please contact your members of Congress today!

Please take a moment to add your voice by visiting https://charlestondiocese.org/south-carolina-catholic-conference/take-action/

Photo credit: www,trinitynorfolk.org

PLEASE PROTECT DACA RECIPIENTS

A message from the South Carolina Catholic Congress:

The U.S Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has ruled on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. While SCOTUS allowed DACA to continue, the Administration can still attempt to end DACA at a later date. As a result, DACA immigrant youth are safe for now, but could be at risk for deportation in the future. We must not allow this to happen.

Most DACA recipients have spent the majority of their lives in the U.S., many have families, and all of them contribute to American society as taxpayers, consumers, and community members. Additionally, there are 62,000 DACA-eligible healthcare workers involved in the COVID-19 response.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6, one year ago. H.R. 6 would give a path to citizenship for Dreamers. Now, in the wake of SCOTUS' ruling, the U.S. Senate must act in order to protect Dreamers from the risk of deportation and family separation. The USCCB supports the DREAM Act, which includes a path to citizenship, and sent a letter to each Senator asking that they the support S. 874, the DREAM Act of 2019. Additionally, USCCB supports efforts to introduce a Senate companion to H.R. 6.

As Catholics, we affirm the inherent dignity of every person. The U.S. Catholic Bishops urge you to express solidarity with Dreamers and ask you to contact your Senators requesting that they support the bipartisan DREAM Act of 2019 and encourage the Senate to introduce a companion bill to H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

TAKE ACTION: https://charlestondiocese.org/south-carolina-catholic-conference/take-action/

Urge your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support S. 874, the DREAM Act, which would

protect Dreamers and provide a path to U.S. citizenship. Also urge your Senators to introduce and co-sponsor a companion bill to H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

Photo Credit: www.texastribune.org

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SAFE GRANTS EDUCATION FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

On July 20, Gov. Henry McMaster announced an exciting and important school funding opportunity. Safe Access to Flexible Education (SAFE) Grants is a program to address the educational needs of eligible K5-12 students who attend participating independent schools in South Carolina.

Families with a household adjusted gross income of 300% or less of the federal poverty level may apply to receive a SAFE Grant of up to $6,500 per student. This program is permitted up to 5,000 students statewide for a total of $32 million in aid.

Nearly 68% of all South Carolina households qualify. This means that families who could not have afforded private schools now have the ability to make the best choice for their children's education -- and we want families to join us in our top-rated, faith-filled Catholic schools. Additionally, many of our current families qualify for this program.
Lower-income families should have the same educational opportunities for their children, and we now have a way to assist them. Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone asks that parishioners be encouraged to participate in this program.

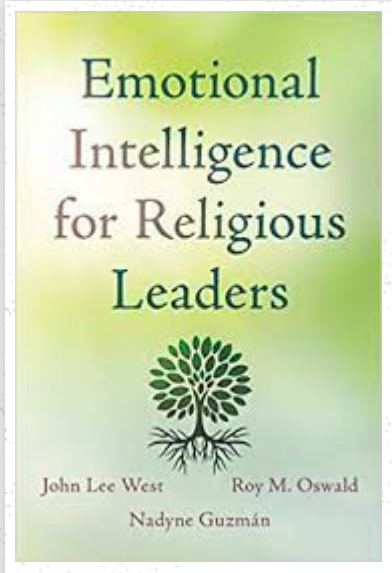
Parents may sign up to receive important program notifications, such as the opening of the online portal at MySCeducation.org. If you have any questions, please contact Michael F. Acquilano, Director of the SC Catholic Conference, at macquilano@charlestondiocese.org or 843-709-2717.

Photo Credit: Fox Carolina News

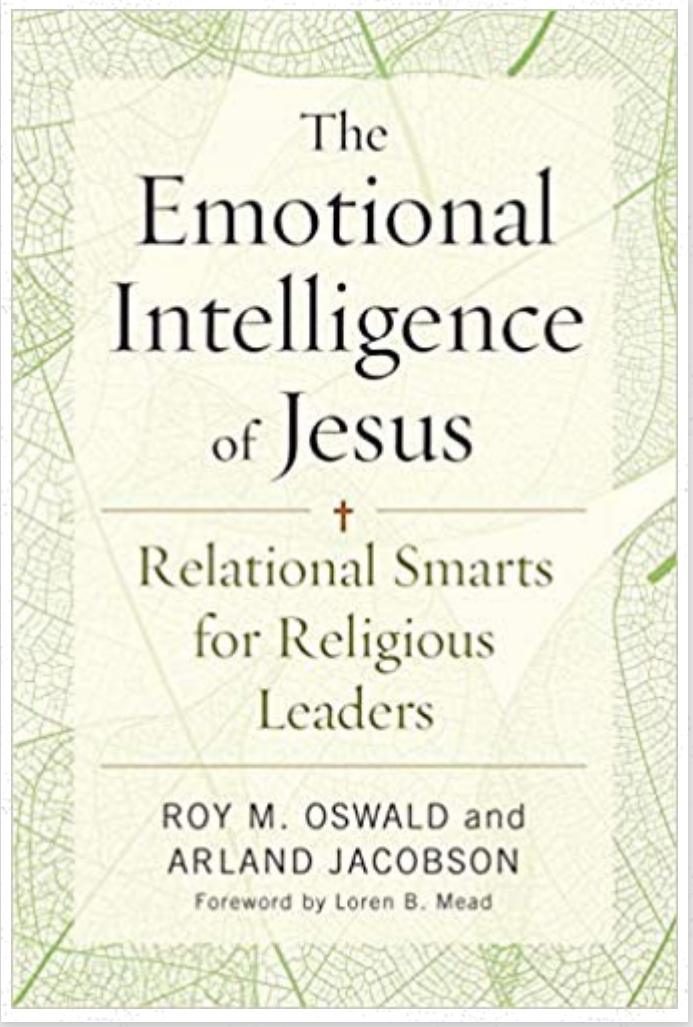
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

THESE BOOKS COINCIDE WITH THE FORMATION FOR MINISTRY YEAR SIX SEMINAR THIS YEAR!

John West, Roy Oswald, & Nadyne Guzman *Emotional Intelligence for Religious Leaders* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018 ISBN: 153810914X, 13: 978-1538109144.



Oswald, R. M., & Jacobson, A. 2015 *The Emotional Intelligence of Jesus: Relational Smarts for Religious Leaders* Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield ISBN: 1566997801; 13: 978-1566997805.



FACTOID

CONTINUING OUR INVESTIGATION OF THE AMERICAN PARISH -- CARA REPORT

Topic: City Living – Where They Were & Where They Went

https://cara.georgetown.edu/

US Dioceses with the **largest increase** in Catholics 2008-2018:

Dallas: +346,000
Fort Worth: +389,000
San Diego: +410,000
Sacramento: + 470,000
Orange, CA: +479,000
Atlanta: +500,000
San Bernardino: +500,500

Phoenix: +564,400
Galveston-Houston: +705,000
Fresno: +883,000

US Dioceses with the **largest decrease** in Catholics 2008-2018:
Detroit: -332,000
Miami: -291,000
Chicago: -161,000
Milwaukee: -137,000
Los Angeles: -136,000
Las Vegas: -116,000
Pittsburgh: -115,000
Hartford: -113,000
Honolulu: -101,000
Newark: -98,000

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Facebook

901 Orange Grove Road, Charl...
843.261.0498
kadamski@charlestondioces...
charlestondiocese.org/forma...