



Announcement for Parish Groups

December 2019

Dear fellow parishioners,

The Catholic Life Conference is pleased to invite you to a big day for all Western Mass Catholics, the first annual Catholic Life Conference on **March 21, 2020 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield**. Join Bishop Rozanski and guest speaker **Scott Hahn**, together with **Hudson Byblow** (“bib-lo”), **Trish Short** and **Popple** for a full day of all things Catholic. With the overall theme, “This is Why We are Catholic,” the 2020 Catholic Life Conference is asking the question, “Why are YOU Catholic?” The conference aims to help you answer that with confidence!

Here are some things to know about this conference:

- It is for both men and women.
- The conference includes an impressive children’s program with a performance by Popple, a kid-fun duo entertaining with music and ministry.
- These speakers are fantastic—nationally and internationally known. **Scott Hahn** is a convert whose mission has been to remind Catholics why they are Catholic and to help us understand our faith in view of Scripture and theology. Scott Hahn will speak to the entire conference twice and will also be one of three breakout speakers. In the morning breakout session, **Scott Hahn** will bring his insightful knowledge of Bible and theology to our understanding of the family, addressing the sacramental life in marriage and parenting; **Hudson Byblow** offers a powerful testimony to young adults and teens about loneliness, anxiety, sexual identity, and chastity; and **Trish Short**, from EWTN, will share her testimony of hope for those hurt by divorce, abortion, and grief.
- The conference cost has been kept as low as possible: \$50/adults, \$15/students & children; with a household maximum of \$150. Children 3 & under are free. Priests are welcome as our guests.
- Bishop Rozanski will celebrate the Vigil Mass to close the conference.
- Parishes are invited to promote themselves in a Real to Reel video in connection with the 150th Anniversary of the diocese.
- We are expecting well over a thousand participants—as many as 1500. Program ads and vendor tables will reach your fellow Western Mass Catholics.
- If you have been feeling discouraged about the challenges of being Catholic, this conference is for you. Come recharge! We have much to draw upon here in the Diocese of Springfield and we want to know fully and joyfully just why it is that we are Catholic.

Mission Statement:

To invigorate the Catholics of Western Massachusetts with an annual conference that will nourish families and parishes with the beauty of the Catholic Faith by proclaiming, “This is Why We Are Catholic.”

Vision Statement:

Drawing upon the faith of our Catholic parishes and our Catholic heritage in Western Massachusetts, the Catholic Life Conference offers a feast for Catholics who desire the love of God. As a Church we are nourished by Divine Revelation, Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition; the Catholic Life Conference will display “All Things Catholic,” bringing to mind what we love about our faith. A full day of speakers, presentations, and the sacraments will remind us that we are part of a Church much bigger than it may seem in our busy lives and separate parishes. In the face of discouragement and past hurts, this is a day of hope. The Catholic Life Conference intends to motivate us to live and love our faith so that the Church will sustain its truth, beauty, and integrity for generations to come. This is why we are Catholic.

A DAY FOR EVERYONE: The Catholic Life Conference invites men, women, and children, teens, young adults and seniors, to come together as a diocese and as a church. This is one big day for everyone. Together we will receive inspiration and food for the journey ahead so that we—each one of us—can say, “This is Why I am Catholic!”