



## THIS IS WHY 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!"

**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2020

**Place:** Mass Mutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA

**Time:** 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Registration begins at 7:30 am.

**Directions** from I-91:

Northbound take Exit 6 onto East Columbus Ave. Turn right onto Court Street (.1 mi) The Mass Mutual Center is on the corner of Court and Main across from Court Square.

Southbound take Exit 7 turning left at the end of the ramp. Circle under the highway and go straight through one light. Take a right at the second light onto Main Street. The Mass Mutual Center is 1277 Main St. across from Court Square.

**Conference Cost:** \$50/adults (18 & over), \$15/students and children under 18; \$150/household maximum; Children 3 and under are free. Priests are welcome at no cost.

**Parking:** Free parking is available at the MGM parking lot. Address is One MGM Way, Springfield. MGM Parking is a .2 mile walk from the Mass Mutual Center. On-street parking is free on Saturdays; parking is also available in closer lots for a day fee (not included in the registration).

**SPEAKERS:** Scott Hahn, Trish Short, Hudson Byblow, and Popple (children's program)

Scott Hahn is our keynote speaker. Dr. Hahn's talk will address why we are Catholic with an emphasis on the Eucharist. Upon registering, each person will designate the break-out session speaker he or she would like to attend: Scott Hahn on living the sacrament of marriage and family life; Trish Short on the Divine Mercy and the burden of abortion grief, or Hudson Byblow addressing one of the most serious divides within our current culture: same sex attraction and gender identity, as well as his testimony to pornography's influence. A fourth choice is the performance by Popple, music and ministry for children and any adults who'd like to be in on the fun.

**Latino Community:** Headsets with translation in Spanish are available. Requests for headsets will be included with registration.

**Teens:** Young people ages 13-17 are included in the general conference programs. We are also inviting teens to come as volunteers for the children's program, which will give them an energetic and inspiring day—and they can put it on their resume!

**Children's Program:** Children ages 4-12 are invited to register for programs by age. When parents arrive they will sign in their children in their respective classes, then be free to enjoy the adult program. Children will join their parents for lunch and then proceed to their afternoon programs, returning for Adoration and Mass.

Children are divided into three age groups: 4-5 year-olds, 6-9 year-olds, and 10-12 year-olds. The Conference program for children features Totus Tuus volunteers ready to engage your child for a day of activity and ministry. A performance by Popple, a music and entertainment duo, will keep the day hopping. Please note: we are not offering care for children under 4, as special licensing is required. However, there will be a Family Room where parents can stay to care for their babies and toddlers while connecting to the conference via video monitor. Register your child online or send in the brochure form; for questions, email Chrissy Graves at catholiclifeconference@gmail.com.

**Sacraments & Worship:** The day will begin with the Rosary led by Bishop Rozanski. Music ministry is by Kelly Walsh and Vic Bergeron. Confession is available in the chapel throughout the day. The day will culminate in Eucharistic Adoration and the Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

**Lunch and Snacks:** Lunch is included in your registration fee. Additional snacks and beverages may be purchased throughout the day.

**Registration Information:** you may register through our website, [www.catholiclifeconference.org](http://www.catholiclifeconference.org) or by mail. Registration forms are available in our brochure. Register by March 1. Please note: registrations received after March 1st will include a price increase of \$10; Registration closes March 10.

**Registration Contact:** Call Virginia Christi at 413 768-0698 or email her at [catholiclifeconference@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclifeconference@gmail.com)

**"Look At Us" Presentation:** This is a chance to highlight who we are and what we do as Catholics in the Diocese of Springfield. Each parish is invited to participate in our Diocesan slideshow featuring your church and program. There's so much to be proud of!

**Vendor Registration:** Registration forms for Vendors are on our website, [www.catholiclifeconference.org](http://www.catholiclifeconference.org). Email Karen Yestramski at [catholiclifeconference@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclifeconference@gmail.com) or call 413/768-0698.

**Program Ads:** Support the conference with an ad in our conference program. See our website for ad sizes and costs. Questions please email Joanne Dowdy at [catholiclifeconference@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclifeconference@gmail.com) or call 413/768-0698

**Under the Patronage:** We are grateful to our patron saints for their prayers and confidence in us here in the Diocese of Springfield. Pray for us, Blessed Mother, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for our parishes, St. Joseph, and be our protection, St. Michael the Archangel. Pray for this day of hospitality, St. Benedict, that all who come to this conference will be truly blessed and filled.

**Liaison Captains:** Liaisons are organized by county and your captain is your "go to" when you have questions:

Berkshire County, **Debbie & Steve Pickering**, [stephen.pickering10@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.pickering10@gmail.com) 703/200-5984

Franklin County, **Che & Virginia Christi** [cheandvirginia@hotmail.com](mailto:cheandvirginia@hotmail.com) 413/624-3467

Hampden County, **Brendan & Liz O'Neill** [brendan55@charter.net](mailto:brendan55@charter.net) 413/519-2164

Hampshire County, **Brenda D'Astrous** [bubblesgb@live.com](mailto:bubblesgb@live.com) 413/221-4372

**For more information:** [www.catholiclifeconference.org](http://www.catholiclifeconference.org)