

Our Speakers & Guests



Most Rev. Robert W. Finn earned a Master's in theology in 1979 from the *Angelicum* University in Rome and was ordained for the Archdiocese of St. Louis on July 7, 1979. As a priest, he served as an educator, parochial vicar, and in a number of other administrative posts. Bishop Finn was ordained to the episcopacy on May 3, 2004 and later succeeded Bishop Raymond Boland as sixth bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Rev. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM., a member of the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey, in Silverado, California, is National Director of the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE. Ordained in 1981, he holds a Licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, and has many years of experience in teaching, lecturing and spiritual formation. He is the local superior of the Norbertine community in San Pedro, California.

Leon J. Suprenant is the former President of *Catholics United for the Faith* (CUF) and *Emmaus Road Publishing*, and former publisher of *Lay Witness* magazine. He currently works as the Director of Outreach for CUF. Married and the father of 6 children, Leon has a Master's in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville and a law degree from University of Missouri-Kansas City. In addition to speaking to various Catholic groups, he writes articles for various print and online publications including *This Rock*, *Religious Life*, *Catalyst* and the *National Catholic Register*.

**Franciscan Prayer Center
2100 N. Noland Road
Independence, MO 64050
816-252-1673**



Travel Directions to Center

From the North:

Take I-435 South. Take Hwy 24 / Independence Avenue exit (through town Hwy 24 is called Independence Avenue). Go east on Independence Avenue approximately 5-7 miles to Noland Road (William Chrisman High School on NE corner / 7-Eleven on SE corner). Go north on Noland Road. Continue as directed below.

From the East::

Take I-70 west to Noland Road. Go north on Noland Road approximately 6 miles. Continue as below.

From the West::

Take I-70 east to Noland Road (2 exits past the Royals/Chiefs Stadiums). Go north on Noland Road approximately 6 miles. Continue as below.

From all directions:

- 1 mile north of Independence Avenue, Noland Road dead ends and veers to the right (you will see a large sign saying "Sisters of St. Francis").
- Follow the curve of the road and go through the gates.
- Follow the long driveway to the circular drive.
- Enter at door to the left of chapel.

IRL Regional Meeting

Essential Elements on Religious Life -Revisited



Saturday, February 23, 2008

**Franciscan Prayer Center,
Independence, MO**

**Religious, Priests,
Consecrated Persons,
Seminarians, Students
& Laity Invited!**

Sponsored by

INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE

(847) 573-8975; (847) 573-8960 FAX;

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Saturday Schedule February 23, 2008

- 8:30 AM Registration
- 9:00 AM *The Consecrated Life as Covenant*
— Rev. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.
- 10:15 PM *Deepening One's Call Through Prayer and Asceticism*
— Most Rev. Robert W. Finn, D.D.
- 11:30 AM Holy Mass
- 12:30 PM Lunch (provided for Pre-Registrants)
- 1:45 PM *Dare to be Different: Lay Reflections Concerning the Religious Life*
— Leon J. Suprenant
- 3:00 PM Rosary and Benediction
—Rev. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

Schedule and speakers subject to change.



Essential Elements on Religious Life —Revisited

In 1983, Pope John Paul II proclaimed a Holy Year calling the entire Church to seek “to live out more intensely the mystery of Redemption.” As part of this celebration, the Pope reminded religious that, by their consecration, they are intimately linked to Christ’s saving work. Consecrated religious, he said, are meant to be “a sign of the Redemption that He accomplished.”

To aid those consecrated to the Lord by means of the evangelical counsels, the Vatican issued the document, *Essential Elements in the Church’s Teaching on Religious Life*, on May 31, 1983. Drawn from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and the revised Code of Canon Law, *Essential Elements* was intended to aid the renewal of apostolic religious life by exploring “what it means to live the consecrated life according to the Gospel, the founding charism of a religious institute, and the signs of the times.”

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of this historic document, the Midwest Regional Meeting will revisit some of its major themes. The talks will deepen one’s understanding of and commitment to this particular vocation as a gift to the Church and an evangelical witness to the world.

Respond by February 19, 2008

- Please register me/us for this conference. There will be _____ persons (@ \$10 person*).
- I/we cannot attend. Enclosed is a donation of _____ to support your important work.

*Use separate sheet to submit additional names — *Students FREE*

Name _____

Community _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Send registration to:

Sr. Connie Boulch, O.S.F., 300 East 36th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
Make checks payable for registration or donation to the “INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE”

