

WORCESTER CATHOLIC MENS CONFERENCE FAQs

SPEAKERS

Who are the speakers this year?

Dr. Pat Castle, PhD, Major, USAF (Ret.) will inspire and motivate us to be Pro-Life Champions! Kevin O'Brien, former collegiate and professional athlete and one of the original founders of our conference, returns to Worcester with his presentation "The Courageous Father". The renowned Tim Francis will present "How Science Tests Faith", exploring signs from God, miracles and their meaning. Dan Egan, world famous skier and pioneer of extreme sports who has been featured in 13 Warren Miller ski films will speak of his harrowing survival experience and "Running Towards God's Purpose - The Power of Manifesting Outcome". Father Anthony Hamaty of St. Augustine, Florida, a former pediatrician and newly ordained priest will be our confession speaker - "How and Why We Hide from God's Love and Mercy". Bishop Robert McManus will offer the homily at the 4:00 pm Mass.

What is different about this years conference?

We've addressed the excessive noise in the Plourde Center by locating the vendors/exhibitors into a larger area located where lunch was held in the past: the Laska Gym. Registration & coffee are located in the Laska lobby.

PROMOTION

Why do I get so many emails?

Starting in December, we announce the upcoming conference with a "Save The Date". We follow up with emails promoting early registration/ticket sales to save you \$15 in ticket cost, announce the bios of the speakers, and give you information regarding the conference day. Once registered/tickets purchased, you'll only receive emails regarding pertinent information about the conference.

How do you promote the conference?

In many ways: Email, your parish contact, your pastor, parish bulletins, pulpit personal witness accounts, brochures, posters, Catholic Radio, Catholic TV, Catholic Newspapers, and social media. The most successful form of promoting the conference is YOU! Your "tap" on another man's shoulder to come with you for the day works best.

Does the Catholic Men's Conference have a Facebook page?

Yes, and it will be updated throughout the year.

Is it possible to meet the speakers?

Yes! The travel schedule of our speakers sometimes limits their availability, but most of our speakers make themselves available to attendees in the exhibitor area at their own or one of their affiliates tables.

VOLUNTEERS

How can I volunteer to help with the conference?

Parish Contacts are a critical success factor for us through the last two decades. Men respond to that “tap on the shoulder” - A personal invitation to attend. If you would like to volunteer as a parish contact for your parish, please contact Herman Millet at hjmillet@verizon.net or call him at (508) 735-8465.

You can sign up to help on the conference day by signing up on the “Sign-Up Genius” on the website under “MORE”- Then click on “Help Out on Conference Day”. View the available times and positions. Many positions only require a few minutes of support, but are greatly needed and appreciated.

TICKETS

How do I buy a ticket?

Just go to www.firstmensconf.org to purchase tickets online or please contact Elaine Ford at (774) 253-2996 to purchase tickets by phone.

Can I buy a ticket at the door on conference day?

Tickets are always available at the door. On rare occasions, we’ve had to close registration due to capacity issues. We will post that announcement on the website and by email if that occurs. Remember tickets at the door are \$60 for adults. If purchased before March 21, 2022, tickets are only \$45. Student tickets are always \$30.

Can I buy a ticket for a friend?

Yes. If you are purchasing a ticket online, just select the appropriate number in the drop-down response to the right of the question: “How many men (including yourself) are you purchasing tickets for?”

If you are purchasing your tickets by phone, just call Elaine Ford at (774) 253-2996.

Can my teenage son come to the conference?

Yes. Just purchase a student ticket for each of them. Although student tickets are designed for high school or college students, several younger boys have attended and the feedback from their dads was very positive. This is your call and we support your personal decision.

What happens if I forget my ticket?

If you misplaced or forget your ticket, please come to the registration desk. We will check your registration information, and issue you a new ticket.

What do I do if I can’t afford a ticket?

Although we operate with a breakeven budget plan, we do offer “scholarships” to men undergoing financial stress. Just call Elaine Ford at (774) 253-2996 and she will help you.

I purchased a ticket but cannot attend. Can I get a refund?

Since we order lunch, coffee etc. with each ticket sold, we have a “no refund” policy in place. However, if you are unable to attend due to circumstances beyond your control and you let us know before the conference, we offer you two options: you can either donate your ticket to an Assumption University student, or get a free ticket to next years conference.

Do you offer a senior discount?

Before our first Conference we put a policy in place that all committee members, seniors, volunteers, exhibitors, etc. must purchase full price tickets. As far as seniors go, our major problem is that there are not enough “non-seniors“ attending to allow us to provide the high quality level of our speakers, lunch and the other earmarks that allow our conference to sustain itself in the future.

What if I decide that I don’t want to attend in person due to Covid related issues?

Everyone who purchases a ticket can pre-register for a LIVE virtual broadcast presentation of the conference.

Will Assumption University require proof of vaccination for entry to their campus?

The University has indicated that they will allow Conference attendees entry to the campus WITHOUT the need to preregister or be additionally screened at the front gate.

Will I be required to wear a mask?

The City of Worcester has a mask requirement in place which may still be in effect on the Conference date. Assumption has indicated that the Worcester Catholic Men’s Conference would be the party who would enforce said regulation, not Assumption University nor any other entity.

ARRIVAL ON CONFERENCE DAY

Where is the registration area?

Registration is in the lobby of the Laska Gymnasium. Conference materials, meal tickets and name tags can be obtained at the registration table. Admittance to the conference in the Plourde Recreation Center will not be allowed without a registration card. If volunteering for the conference, please also check in at the Volunteer Desk next to the Registration Desk.

How do I get from the parking area to the registration area?

Parking is spread out throughout the Assumption University campus. Campus police will assist you. (There is a campus map PDF file on the website under “More”)

Conference venues are located in the central portion of the campus. Venues can be easily reached by walking. Walkways and the main campus road pass in front of the buildings we use. Conference signage

will aid with direction. A shuttle bus is available for those unable to walk, which will continue to make full loops around the campus via the main campus road.

Where are the restrooms located?

Ample restrooms are available in both buildings. All restrooms in the Plourde Recreation Center will be converted to Mens rooms. Several large restrooms are also available in the Laska Gymnasium.

Are coffee and snacks available at the conference?

Assumption has a “no incoming food or drink” policy since it’s not covered by its insurance plan. Coffee, water, muffins, bagels, etc. are available for purchase in the conference snack room or at the Dunkin’ Donuts in the nearby registration/exhibitor building.

LUNCH

Is lunch included?

Yes your ticket price does include lunch and it is similar to the lunches that we have provided in past years.

I have a food allergy or dietary restriction. Can you help me?

If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please contact Elaine Ford at (774) 253-2996 or Angelo at angelo0527@gmail.com.

Can I donate my lunch ticket?

Yes, and typically we give your ticket to one of the Assumption University student volunteers or one of our scholarship attendees who are currently experiencing financial hardship.

EXHIBITORS

How many exhibitors are at the conference?

Between 50 and 60 exhibitors/vendors are expected.

CONFESSIONS

Is confession available at the conference?

Yes, confessions are always offered at the conference. Approximately 40 priests (and Bishops) will be here at mid-day.

CONFERENCE TALKS ON DVD

Are DVDs of the presentations available for purchase?

Yes, and for previous years presentations as well. Please contact Angelo at angelo0527@gmail.com.