

2021 Diocese of Harrisburg Women's Conference
16 October 2021
Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA

Keynote Speaker – Theresa Farnan, PhD



Title - *From clown socks to crazy socks: St. John Paul II's insights about women, culture, and our maternal vocation.*

Description: In *Christifidelis Laici* 51, Pope Saint John Paul II noted that “women have the task of assuring the moral dimension of culture.” He locates the primary place for women’s role in evangelization in the care of the most vulnerable, especially in the family and in support of families. This talk will consider how each one of us is called to shape our culture in the particular circumstances of her vocation.

Bio: Theresa Farnan is the co-founder of the *Person and Identity Project*. She has taught at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and served on the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. She and her husband, Michael, are the parents of 10 children, ages 10-28.

Workshop 1 – The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, DD, JCL



Title: “When Tommy wants to be Tammy”: *A Look at Gender Dysphoria from Our Catholic Teachings*

Description: The gravity of the new gender ideologies cannot be overestimated. Agendas that insist that we are not identified by two sexes and that the body-soul unity of the human being is arbitrary have created a moral pandemic in our society. We will examine the reality of gender dysphoria from the perspective of our Catholic faith.

Bio: Bishop Gainer was appointed Bishop of Harrisburg by his Holiness Pope Francis on January 24, 2014. He was installed as Bishop of Harrisburg on March 19, 2014. Originally from Pottsville, Pa., he was ordained a Priest for the diocese of Allentown on May 19, 1973. Bishop Gainer was consecrated and installed as Bishop of Lexington, Ky. on February 22, 2003. For much of his priesthood, Bishop Gainer served in parish, campus ministry, marriage and family ministry, and tribunal positions. In addition to his responsibilities as the Bishop of Harrisburg, Bishop Gainer also serves as President of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the eight dioceses in Pennsylvania. Learn more about Bishop Gainer [here](#).

Workshop 2 – Sister John Sheila Galligan, IHM, STD



Title: *Arise and Call Her Blessed*

Description: Come to celebrate God’s gift of his Mother – whom we usually refer to as the Blessed Virgin Mary. This presentation will focus on the implications of the special Marian descriptive: “Blessed”, and provide a practical way for each of us to claim the title “Blessed” as disciples of the Lord.

Bio: Sister John Sheila Galligan is a Sister Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She teaches Theology at Immaculata University. Sister earned her Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (The Angelicum) in Rome. She has spoken at many events and has been published numerous times.

Workshop 3 – Sister John Sheila Galligan, IHM, STD



Title: *Praying the Hail Mary Slowly and Fruitfully*

Description: This presentation will focus on slowing down in our praying of the Hail Mary so that we can more fruitfully pray this prayer that we call the “Hail Mary,” which is really a scriptural prayer derived from the Annunciation and the Visitation, from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1

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Workshop 4 – Theresa Farnan, PhD



Title: *The Dignity and Vocation of Woman*

Description: This presentation on “The Dignity and Vocation of Woman” will examine the core tenets in Saint John Paul II’s document of the same title, with special focus on the “feminine genius” and unique role that women have to play in the building up of the culture so that it might more and more become “A Culture of Life, A Civilization of Love.”

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Workshop 5 – Mrs. Patty Price



Title: *The Seven Sisters Apostolate: Praying for Priests*

Description: Our priests face enormous cultural and spiritual challenges today in living out their sacred consecration to the Lord. They need many prayers. Women in our Diocese can help fill that need by offering Holy Hours for our pastors and priests. Is God calling you to bring this apostolate to your parish? Come and see!

Bio: Mrs. Patty Price is a member of St. Mary's Parish in Lebanon. She served many years in youth ministry, and is a catechist in adult religious education and RCIA. She also serves as an annulment assessor for The Tribunal.

Workshop 6 – Mrs. Tina Kowalski



Title: *The SHINE Faith & Fitness Exercise Ministry Experience*

Workshop Description: Join us in this interactive session to exercise your body and soul with motivating music, basic exercise movements, and prayer! It is just right for every “body” and will get you feeling happy! *Shine Faith-Infused Exercise Program* targets the physical body with a wide variety of exercises, nourishes the soul with prayer and fellowship, and involves group charity efforts. Attend this session to learn about it, and experience a sample of it for yourself (*no sweat required*)!

Personal Bio: Tina Kowalski formed *Shine* in November 2017 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Palmyra as a result of her faith, fitness, and family passions. She is an ACE-Certified Personal Trainer and has been teaching group fitness classes for 17 years. She is active at Holy Spirit Church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, team member of the Adoration Chapel Committee and Ministry Leader of *Sparkling Hearts*, the parish cleaning ministry. She previously served on the Parish Pastoral Council for four years. She is married to Rich and has three sons Richie, Ryan, and Reece.

Workshop 7 – Mrs. Bonnie Finnerty



Title: *Being Women of Life*

Workshop Description: In a world so darkened by sin, how do we bring a message of life and love into the culture? How do we boldly proclaim truth while showing compassion to the wounded? With Our Blessed Mother as our model, we will reflect on what our individual and collective *Fiat* looks like in today's culture and how we can answer the call to be women of life.

Personal Bio: Bonnie Finnerty is the Education Director at the *Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation*. Prior to that, she was a DRE, catechist, English teacher, and homeschool mom. She and Tim, her husband of 34 years, are blessed with five children and four grandchildren.