



July 1–4, 2017
**Convocation
of Catholic Leaders**
The Joy of the Gospel in America



ABOUT THE CONVOCATION

From July 1 – 4, 2017 in Orlando, Florida, the USCCB will convene an unprecedented gathering of key leaders from dioceses and Catholic organizations from across the country in order to assess the challenges and opportunities of our time, particularly in the context of the Church in the United States. The gathering will assemble Catholic leaders for a strategic conversation, under the leadership of the bishops, on forming missionary disciples to animate the Church and to engage the culture.

Inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium*, this Convocation will form leaders who will be equipped and re-energized to share the Gospel as missionary disciples, while offering fresh insights informed by new research, communications strategies, and successful models. Guided by Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world, diocesan delegations and leaders of Catholic organizations will reflect, with their bishops, on topics such as:

- What does social analysis tell us about the “landscape” of the United States today?
- How can we respond?
- How does the call to Missionary Discipleship affect the way we structure Church programming?
- How do we witness to, live out, and celebrate our faith in the public square?
- What is the spirituality of a missionary disciple and what does the communion of saints have to teach us?
- What does it mean for parishes, dioceses, and Catholic organizations to go to the peripheries?

While conversations like this are already happening on a local level, a national conversation led by the bishops will deepen and widen the conversation for the whole Church, at the service of these local efforts.

What kind of activities will take place?

Bishops will lead presentations, workshops, and discussions in their areas of expertise to form missionary disciples for 21st-century. Bishops and priests will celebrate Mass and lead other liturgies, bringing together Catholic leaders in worship and allowing for a prayerful encounter with Christ. The entire convocation will participate in a Eucharistic Procession, expressing our joint following of Christ. Our networking opportunities will allow delegates from across the country who are engaged in similar work to network with each other, but also for delegates engaged in diverse ministries to share best practices and brainstorm regarding future collaboration. Diocesan delegations will have time to pray and strategize with their own bishops on forming missionary disciples back home.

THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO DELEGATION

Pastoral Center

Bishop Jaime Soto
Kevin Staszko
Steve Patton
John Watkins
BeeJae Visitacion
Richard Chervenky

Newman Centers

Cecilia Flores (Sacramento)
Maritza Ortega (Sacramento)
Edrick Bondoc (Davis)
Guadalupe Figueroa (Davis)
Chidinma Ohanele (Davis)
Paul Miner (Chico)
Vanessa Castellanos (Chico)

Theology Teachers

Rick Norman
Ian Emperador

Youth Minister

Maria Liranzo

Purpose: A diocesan design team will design and implement a Catholic social network targeted to confirmation age, high school and young adults where they can explore the teachings and practices of the Gospel of Joy in the Diocese of Sacramento building on the Catholic Legislative Network.

Pre-Convocation

- Define the team and the task
- Team begins discussions of the what/how/who of the network
- Team attends the convocation

Post-Convocation

- Team convenes July-December 2017 to elaborate a plan
- Plan gets incorporated into the 2017-2018 budget
- Depending on the plan, an implementation team is developed to succeed the design team

PRAYER FOR THE CONVOCATION

O Holy Spirit, you who first enkindled in our hearts the joy of the Gospel, renew that same joy in those who are preparing for the Convocation of Catholic Leaders.

We pray for our bishops and their diocesan delegations; for all leaders of national organizations and movements; for clergy, religious and laity; for all who make this event possible; and for Catholic leaders across the United States.

May we be moved by the Holy Spirit to welcome the word of life in the depths of our hearts and respond to the call of missionary discipleship.

O Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, transform our hearts and enable us to enter into the perfect communion of the blessed Trinity.

Amen.