

**LIONS TO
LAMBS**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND
MEN'S CONFERENCE

January 10, 2015

Diocese of Richmond

Pastoral Center • 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201 • Phone: (804) 359-5661 • Fax: (804) 358-9159



Dear Brothers in Christ,

I want to welcome each of you for our 3rd annual diocesan-wide Catholic Men's Conference. As Catholic men in the Diocese of Richmond, you come from parishes far and wide in order to gather with your brothers in the faith. As you approach this day, I hope you find it restful and inspiring, and leave renewed to continue carrying out the message of the Gospel with enthusiasm.

This year we kick off the theme "Lions to Lambs" where we are reminded that our expectation is not always the reality that God shows to us. Many expected the Messiah to be a great king who would destroy his enemies when in reality God sent his only Son who is likened to a lamb come to lay down his life for the salvation of all mankind. In this image we encounter a Savior who exemplifies manhood and who defies what we have come to know as modern notions of manhood.

Jesus reveals, among many things, that the true nature of a man involves self-sacrifice, strength, fortitude, strong leadership, a sense of justice, and utter humility. As Christian men we are called to rely on God's grace to achieve this example for our families, our friends, all our loved ones, and also those who may persecute or ridicule us for choosing to live this Christian life. I pray that you encounter Christ in a deeper way today at this conference so that you might become a faithful example of the model of the Christian man that Christ shows us.

Whatever your vocation in life, your decision to follow Christ and rely on his grace will have a huge effect on your lives and influence everyone around you. May your time here with friends, old and new alike, help you to come to understand God's loving will for your lives and enable you to live the faith with joy. I want to personally challenge each of you to celebrate the Mass with joy, to pray for an increase in faith before the Holy Eucharist, and to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance with humility and courage.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in our Lord,



Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo
Bishop of Richmond

Diocese of Richmond

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Office of the Bishop

Queridos hermanos en Cristo,

Quiero darles la bienvenida a cada uno de ustedes a esta tercera conferencia anual de hombres católicos de nuestra Diócesis. Como hombres católicos de la diócesis de Richmond, vienen de parroquias de todo lo largo y ancho de la diócesis, con el fin de reunirse con sus hermanos en la fe. Al acercarse el día de hoy, yo espero que les sea relajante y estimulante, y que los deje renovados para continuar llevando a cabo el mensaje del Evangelio con entusiasmo.

Este año queremos dar inicio al tema de "Leones a Corderos", donde se nos recuerda que nuestras expectativas no son siempre la realidad que Dios nos muestra. Muchos esperaban que el Mesías fuera un gran rey que destruiría a sus enemigos, cuando en realidad Dios envió a su único Hijo, que se asemeja a un cordero que viene a dar su vida por la salvación de toda la humanidad. En esta imagen encontramos un salvador que es un ejemplo de hombría y que desafía a los ya conocidos como las nociones modernas de la virilidad.

Jesús revela, entre otras muchas cosas, que la verdadera naturaleza de un hombre implica auto-sacrificio, fuerza, fortaleza, fuerte liderazgo, sentido de la justicia, y absoluta humildad. Como los cristianos estamos llamados a confiar en la gracia de Dios para lograr este ejemplo para nuestras familias, nuestros amigos, nuestros seres queridos, y también los que nos pueden perseguir o ridiculizarnos por la elección de vivir esta vida cristiana. Pido a Dios que se encuentren hoy con Cristo de una manera más profunda en esta conferencia para que ustedes puedan convertirse en un fiel ejemplo del modelo del hombre cristiano, que Cristo nos muestra.

Sea cual sea su vocación en la vida, tu decisión de seguir a Cristo y confiar en su gracia tendrá un efecto enorme en sus vidas e influirá en todo el mundo que te rodea. Qué tu tiempo hoy aquí con amigos, antiguos y nuevos, te ayude a llegar a entender la voluntad amorosa de Dios para sus vidas y que les permita vivir su fe con alegría. Quiero desafiar personalmente a cada uno de ustedes para celebrar la Misa con alegría, para orar por un incremento en la fe antes de la Santa Eucaristía, y para celebrar el Sacramento de la Penitencia con humildad y valentía.

Con mis mejores deseos, quedo,

Sinceramente en nuestro Señor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis X. Di Lorenzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

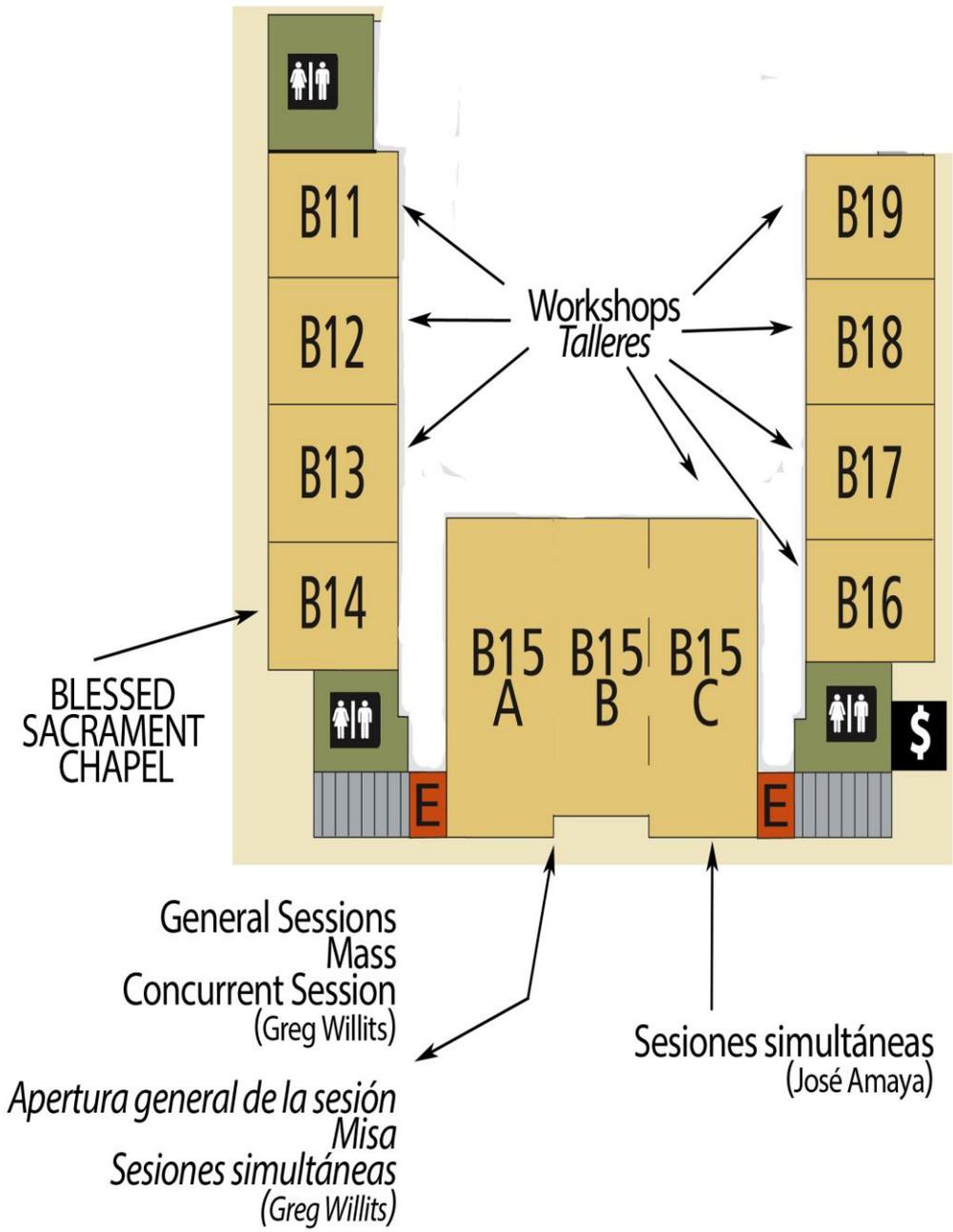
Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo
Obispo de Richmond

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30 am	Registration opens Expo open	LOBBY
9:30 am	General Session Opening Remarks by Bishop DiLorenzo Introduction from Greg Willits Introduction from José Amaya	B15AB
10:45 am	Break	
11:00 am	Concurrent Sessions - Greg Willits - José Amaya	B15AB B15C
12:00 pm	Lunch Sacrament of Reconciliation available Expo open	B15AB LOBBY
1:30 pm	Workshops (English and Spanish)	B15C B11,12,13 B16,17,18,19
2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions - Greg Willits - José Amaya	B15AB B15C
3:15 pm	Break	
3:30 pm	Adoration	B15AB
4:00 pm	Vigil Mass for Sunday	B15AB
5:15pm	Conference ends	

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS

8:30 am	Inscripción Expo abierta	VESTÍBULO
9:30 am	Apertura general de la sesión Saludo de Mons. Di Lorenzo Introducción de Greg Willits Introducción de José Amaya	B15AB
10:45 am	Descanso	
11:00 am	Sesiones Simultáneas - Greg Willits - José Amaya	B15AB B15C
12:00 pm	Almuerzo Sacramento de la reconciliación (confesiones) disponibles Expo abierta	B15AB VESTÍBULO
1:30 pm	Talleres (En inglés y En español)	B15C B11,12,13 B16,17,18,19
2:30 pm	Sesiones Simultáneas - Greg Willits - José Amaya	B15AB B15C
3:15 pm	Descanso	
3:30 pm	Adoración	B15AB
4:00 pm	Misa de vigilia para el domingo	B15AB
5:15pm	Final de la conferencia	



GREG WILLITS

I'm a lifelong pop culture junkie that was raised on Star Wars and 1980's Steven Spielberg movies.

I was a good kid, moved around too much, did my time as an angst-ridden teen, spent more time waiting tables in college than I did attending classes, and stumbled my way into a degree that to this day I don't know how I earned.



I had a lukewarm faith until my twenties when I married my best friend and having children with her made me realize how much I need God. Together, she and I have created multiple non-profits, and experienced the blessing of having five kids here on earth and several more in heaven.

The jobs I've had include paperboy, burger flipper, Big-and-Tall store assistant manager, comic shop clerk, table waiter, newspaper staff writer, advertising firm accounting staff, Lotus tech support, Big 5 Firm tech consultant, web developer, software development manager, business analyst, non-profit executive director, Chief Operations Officer, President of an international production company, SiriusXM Radio Host, and Director of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries.

I have a wide range of skills. I'm a diehard Catholic, which I know freaks some people out, but I genuinely love and believe in my faith 100%. I play guitar and piano like a hack, and paint at about the same level, but I love doing these things anyway. My favorite pet ever was a rabbit (which is probably why Watership Down is one of my favorite novels) but now I'm partial to orange tabbies.

And one of my kids is actually named Benjamin Kenobi Willits...no kidding.

JOSÉ AMAYA



José M. Amaya es Director de Formación en la Fe de la Arquidiócesis Castrense de los Estados Unidos de América. Actualmente es responsable de la implementación de Formando discípulos para la nueva evangelización: Guía arquidiocesana del currículo de religión, la formación de catequistas y liderazgo catequético cuyo esfuerzo sirve a 1.8 millones de católicos en 220 bases

militares alrededor del mundo. Obtuvo una Maestría en Divinidad de la Washington Theological Union. Después de estudiar en el seminario con los Sacerdotes Operarios Diocesanos, trabajó diez años en la Arquidiócesis de Washington como Coordinador Arquidiocesano para la formación de catequistas y la catequesis hispana. Forma parte del equipo de facilitadores de cursos en línea de la Comunidad cibernética para la formación en la fe de la Universidad de Dayton (CCFF) y miembro de la mesa directiva de NCCL.

José M. Amaya is the Director of Faith Formation of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. He is currently responsible for the implementation of AMS Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization: Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, catechist formation and catechetical leadership development serving 1.8 million Catholics at 220 military installations around the world. He holds a Masters of Divinity from Washington Theological Union. After attending the seminary with the Diocesan Laborer Priests in Washington, DC, he worked as parish Director of Religious Education and as Archdiocesan Coordinator of Catechist Formation and Hispanic Catechesis for ten years in the Archdiocese of Washington. He is a facilitator of online learning with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) and an At-Large Board Member of NCCL.

WORKSHOPS / TALLERES (1:30-2:20)

Session Topic	Speaker	Location
Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood	Deacon Kevin Hogan	B11
How to Become a Real Catholic Man and True Leader	John Horvat	B12
Dad Life: Quick Tips to Help Dads Succeed	Aaron Lee	B13
Pornography: the addiction, the effects, the solution	John and Marylee Allard	B15c
Do you hear voices? – Discerning God's call in your life.	John Christian Mark Kowalski Marton Lonart Miguel Melendez	B16
How Do We "Put The Family In The Hands Of The Father" And Why Does It Matter?	Carl Tarantino	B17
Jesus, el amor del padre hecho carne	Cesar Rivas	B18
En español	Kerygma	B19

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SPEAKERS

STEPPING UP: A CALL TO COURAGEOUS MANHOOD | Room B11

Our goals as Men include: Master True Leadership, develop a plan for our lives, and make a difference in our world. This workshop will include the topics: Define Courage; 5 Steps of Manhood (Childhood, Adolescence, Manhood, Mentor and Patriarch); Define "STEP" - "S" Standing Firm, "T" Taking Initiative, "E" Engaging with wisdom and grace, and "P" Planning and Providing. This session will introduce the "Stepping UP" program for MEN.

Deacon Kevin Hogan has been married to his bride, Adria, for 32 years. They have 2 sons; Nick, and his wife Emily who just celebrated their 3rd anniversary; and Chris. Deacon Hogan was ordained two years ago in the Diocese of Richmond and is currently assigned to Saint Edward the Confessor in Richmond. His ministry is Marriage and Family Life; and his focus is Marriage Preparation, Marriage Enrichment and Men's Ministry. Deacon Hogan also serves as the Athletics Chaplain for Benedictine College Preparatory School in Richmond.

HOW TO BECOME A REAL CATHOLIC MAN AND TRUE LEADER | Room B12

Follow the footsteps of Christ, as He carries His Cross. This is the secret to becoming a real man, a respected father and husband, and a true leader. It calls for rejecting today's "anti-Cross" society with its promises of a material paradise without suffering or great effort. This easy way leads to frustration and often ends in tragedy. Our Catholic response is to embrace Christ's "Way of the Cross" with enthusiasm and gusto in our daily lives. That's how we become real Catholic men.

John Horvat II is a scholar, researcher, educator, international speaker, and author. He heads the Tradition, Family, and Property Commission on American Studies.

DAD LIFE: QUICK TIPS TO HELP DADS SUCCEED | Room B13

The dad life can be hard. Leading kids in life and faith doesn't come easy, but it's not impossible. We'll take a look at a few quick tips to help dads succeed. Whether you are a dad or you lead and encourage dads, you'll be able to put these tips into practice for the benefit of families – yours, or those you lead.

Aaron Lee was born in Richmond and has spent his life covering every corner of the city, finishing college and graduate school in the city. After serving as the Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions at Gayton Baptist Church, Aaron now serves as Director of Programming at First Things First of Greater Richmond. Aaron enjoys spending time with his wife and daughters, watching baseball and working on a new project around the house.

PORNOGRAPHY: THE ADDICTION, THE EFFECTS, THE SOLUTION | Room B15C

The workshop will discuss the problem of pornography addiction in our society. How it negatively affects individual lives, relationships, and marriages. It offers Catholic-based solutions on how to overcome the addiction, gain your freedom and repair and strengthen your marriage and your relationship with God. John and Marylee will give personal testimony on how his secret 45-year addiction almost destroyed their 35-year marriage and how he gained his freedom from the addiction, repaired their marriage, their relationship with God and how their lives and Marriage have new meaning.

John and Marylee Allard are cradle Catholics and active members of St John the Apostle Catholic Church since 1989. In 2012 they helped create a new parish ministry called "My House". Its goal is to assist men overcome pornography addiction and help their spouse overcome this betrayal with a Catholic Approach.

DO YOU HEAR VOICES?: DISCERNING GOD'S CALL IN YOUR LIFE | Room B16

You've heard it before: perhaps in a dream, from a friend, or a seasoned church goer: you would be a great Priest! You think... 'Really??? Me?? I'm not worthy. I've got to many faults. Married life is just too attractive. What's the right answer?' How do you even know you even begin to discern God's will? Spend some time discussing the questions on your heart about a Priestly or Religious vocation with four of our Richmond guys immersed in Seminary formation.

John Christian is a seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond and is from Lynchburg where he was a parishioner at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Though John was baptized as a Presbyterian, his entire family converted to Catholicism while he was still young. John attended Georgetown Preparatory School, a Jesuit high school in Maryland. After graduating from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 2009 John spent two years working for a local historical association. John entered formation at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD in August of 2011. He is currently serving his Pastoral Year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newport News.

Mark Kowalski is a seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond and currently on his pastoral year assignment at Saint Anne parish in Bristol. Growing up in Roanoke, Mark attended Roanoke Catholic School and was a member of Our Lady of Nazareth parish with his parents. He graduated from Florida State University in 2008 and worked for one year as a golf professional before spending two years in youth ministry. He entered seminary at Theological College in Washington, DC in August of 2011. Mark's previous summer parish assignments include Sacred Heart parish in Danville (2012) and Holy Rosary parish in Richmond (2013).

Marton Lonart was born in Hungary and grew up in Texas and Virginia. Attending UVA, he received the three Sacraments of initiation Easter 2006. He moved home to Virginia Beach and became involved in ministry at his home parish, Holy Family. At this time he began discerning a vocation to the priesthood, applied, and started the priestly formation program in the fall of 2011. Having completed three academic years at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, he is now on his pastoral year at St. Gabriel's in Chesterfield, VA.

Miguel Melendez is a seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond and is currently on his pastoral year at Holy Spirit Parish in Virginia Beach. Miguel grew up with his parents and one brother and sister in Christiansburg, where they attended Holy Spirit Parish. After graduating from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Miguel was commissioned an officer in the Coast Guard where he served five years as a Deck Watch Officer in Florida and Virginia. After his military service, he entered seminary at Theological College in Washington, DC in August of 2011. Miguel's previous parish assignments include Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Salem and Saint Bede in Williamsburg.

HOW DO WE “PUT THE FAMILY IN THE HANDS OF THE FATHER” AND WHY DOES IT MATTER? | Room B17

In this presentation we will discuss the current crises of spiritual leadership in the average home. Why are many "Catholic" men out coaching football or on the golf course on Sunday morning instead of at Mass. Many men have abdicated their place as the spiritual leaders of their homes. Family life and parish communities are experiencing the negative effects of this absence of spiritual vitality, leadership and mentorship. In recent years a movement has been growing around the country called the Men of Saint Joseph (MOSJ). The stated purpose of the movement is to "Put the Family in the Hands of the Father". Come hear from the Executive Director and local chapter members: Who are the MOSJ, what are we doing, and most importantly how is the Lord using this movement to make a difference in the lives of men, their families, and their parishes.

Carl Tarantino has been a parishioner of Saint Edward the Confessor in Richmond since 1986. He has been involved in various parish ministries including lector, choir, ministry to the homebound, and most recently in September 2014 began a chapter for the Men of Saint Joseph (MOSJ). The MOSJ is a group of lay Catholic men dedicated to becoming spiritual leaders of our families by strengthening our faith and being "real world" examples of Christ, emulating the attributes of Saint Joseph. Men gather weekly for one hour using the Magnificat for prayer, reflection, and gospel reading for the following Sunday.

JESUS, EL AMOR DEL PADRE HECHO CARNE | Room B18

Profundizar plenamente en el valor del gran don que el Padre nos ha hecho en Jesús. Es necesario que ante la mirada de nuestra alma se presente Cristo, el Cristo de Getsemaní, el Cristo flagelado, coronado de espinas, con la cruz a cuestas y, por último, crucificado. Cristo tomó sobre sí el peso de los pecados de todos los hombres, el peso de nuestros pecados, para que, en virtud de su sacrificio salvífico, pudiéramos reconciliarnos con Dios.

EXPO AREA

We are pleased to welcome several ministry exhibitors and vendors to our Expo Area in the main lobby. Be sure to stop by their tables before Mass begins to get information and to see what they have available for purchase.

EXHIBITORS

Knights of Columbus
Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)
Mary Mother of the Church Abbey
Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC)
Secular Franciscans
First Things First
Men of Saint Joseph
Fraternus

VENDORS

Greg Willits
Author/Speaker

John Horvat
Author/Speaker

Lighthouse Catholic Media
CDs, Books, DVDs, etc.

Religious Goods Shop
Books, DVDs, Religious articles

Faith Life Family Wear
Catholic Apparel

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our thanks to the following people and organizations who have provided invaluable resources to men attending this conference. To learn more about any of the following resources check out their websites or call the Center for Marriage, Family, and Life at 804-622-5109.

...to Covenant Eyes (www.covenanteyes.com) for providing 200 free copies of their CD bundle of resources for men struggling with pornography use. If purchasing, use the code “Richmond” to get some extra perks and support men’s ministry in the Diocese of Richmond while you do.

...to That Man Is You (TMIY) (www.paradisusdei.org/index.php/programs/tmiy) for providing support for three of our parishes, Saint John the Evangelist – Waynesboro; Saint Bede – Williamsburg; and Holy Trinity – Norfolk.

...to the Men of Saint Joseph (www.menofstjoseph.com) for providing support to one of our parishes, Saint Edward the Confessor, and for presenting at the conference.

...to the Men’s Ministry at Saint Bridget Catholic Church in Richmond and for the Men’s Club at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia Beach for providing solid models for a parish men’s group and for being willing to serve as resources for other parishes who want to get something going.

We would like to recognize and thank several others whose service is indispensable in making this event possible:

...to Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo for your continued support, encouragement, and words of wisdom.

...to the priests of our Diocese who continue to answer the call to hear confessions and to celebrate Mass at so many events throughout the year. We are grateful that you answered the call to be priests.

...to our seminarians who are always eager to be present and to serve with humble hearts. Our prayers are with you as you continue to discern God’s call to priestly ministry.

...to our speakers, Greg Willits and José Amaya, for your prayerful preparation for this conference and for all you do to serve the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

...to all our workshop speakers who prepared so diligently and who were so willing to share their wisdom and expertise with other men of the Diocese of Richmond.

...to all those who took your valuable time to invest in your spiritual growth by choosing to attend this conference. Our prayers go with you as you go back to your parishes, your homes, and your workplaces.