

## **SPEAKERS**

### **Who are the speakers this year?**

**Scott Hahn**, internationally famous, will make two presentations. **Bishop Robert Reed** of Boston will offer an inspiring presentation prior to confessions. **Luis Soto**, who has experienced the wonders associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe will make both English and Spanish presentations. **Bishop Robert McManus** will offer the homily at the 4:00 pm Mass.

### **What is different about this year's Conference?**

We've addressed the excessive noise in the Plourde Center by locating the vendors/exhibitors into a larger area located where lunch was last year: 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 information with "Save the Date." We follow-up with emails promoting early registration, to save you \$15 in ticket cost; announce the bios of the speakers; and give you information regarding conference day. We're working towards a system that once registered 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 ~ 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.

### **Do you advertise on social media?**

The Catholic Men's Conference has a Facebook page.

### **Are there breakout sessions?**

Not normally, for reasons of space. This year Luis Soto will provide an additional talk for Spanish speakers.

### **Is it possible to meet the speakers?**

In general, yes. The travel schedules of our speakers sometimes limit their availability but most of our speakers make themselves available to attendees usually in the exhibitor area at their own or one of their affiliate's table.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

### **How can I volunteer to help with the Conference?**

Parish Contacts are a critical success factor for us through the last 20 years. Men respond to that "tap on the shoulder" ~ a personal invitation to attend. If you'd like to volunteer as a Parish Contact for your parish please contact Herman Millet at [hjmillet@verizon.net](mailto: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. Numerous positions only require a few minutes of support but are greatly needed.

## **TICKETS**

### **How do I buy a ticket?**

Just go to [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) to purchase tickets online or contact Joan Demasi at 508-929-4345 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’ll post that announcement on the website and via email if necessary.

### **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 Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 and she’ll help you.

### **Can my teenage sons 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 positive. This is your “call” and we support your personal decision.

### **What happens if I forget my ticket?**

If you misplace or forget your ticket please come to the registration desk. We’ll check your registration information and issue a new ticket.

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

Although we operate with a break-even budget plan and we do offer “scholarships” to men undergoing financial stress just call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 and she’ll 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 2 options. You can either donate your ticket to an Assumption College student or get a free ticket to next year’s 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.

## **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 registration tables. 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 Volunteer Desk next to the Registration desk.

### **How we get from the parking area to the registration area?**

Parking is spread out throughout the Assumption College campus. (There is a campus map pdf file on the website under 'More'). Conference venues are located in the central portion of 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.

### **Is there handicapped parking?**

Handicapped parking is available directly in front of the Plourde Recreation Center. You must have a handicapped car tag or license plate to use this area. If you do not have a handicapped car tag or license plate but need to use this area due to age or other affliction, just call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345 and she'll help you.

### **Where do the vans stop?**

The shuttle van will make stops at various locations along the main campus road. These locations will be marked with Shuttle Stop signage. Please allow those attendees with walking challenges first access.

### **What is the pick-up van route?**

The shuttle van will continue to make full loops around the campus via the main campus road.

### **Is there a campus map?**

Yes. On the website under 'More.'

### **Where are the rest rooms located?**

Ample rest rooms are available in both buildings. All bathrooms in the Plourde Recreation Center will be converted to Men's Rooms. Several larger Rest Rooms are also available in the Laska Gymnasium.

### **Are coffee & snacks available at the Conference?**

Assumption (as did DCU) 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 Doughnuts in the nearby registration / exhibitor building.

## **LUNCH**

### **Is lunch included?**

Your ticket price does include lunch and it is similar to the lunches we 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 Joan Demasi at 508-929-4345 or Angelo at angelo0527@gmail.com.

**Can I donate my lunch ticket?**

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

**EXHIBITORS**

**How many Exhibitors are at the Conference?**

Between 60 and 70 exhibitors/vendors are expected.

**Where should exhibitors park?**

Parking is available for vendors in a parking lot behind the Plourde Recreation Center. Vendor parking signage will be posted. You will be allowed to unload your vehicles in the few spaces available and then move to a designated lot.

**Does the Conference offer exhibitors any assistance in transporting materials into & out of the exhibitor area?**

Yes. Student volunteers will assist you.

**Do exhibitors have access to power?**

Some vendors, on the periphery of the gym, will have access to power. Discuss your needs with Shawn Shields in advance.

**Do exhibitors have access to Internet / WiFi?**

Yes

**Does the exhibitor price include lunch?**

Yes

**ROSARY**

**Is the rosary part of the Conference?**

Yes, at 8:00 am on the second floor of the Hagan Center, attached to the Laska Gym.

**CONFESSIONS**

**Is Confession available at the Conference?**

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

**Are DVDs of the past Conference presentations available for purchase?**

For last year's conference and previous conferences talks are available for purchase for compact disc, DVD and USB flash drives.