**Deacon Matthew W. Halbach, Ph.D.**

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Ankeny, IA 50023

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**Education**

Ph.D. in Religious Education/Catechetics, The Catholic University of America (CUA), Washington, DC

Dissertation: “The Conceptual Evolution of Evangelization and Catechesis, *from the General Catechetical Directory* (1971) to the *General Directory for Catechesis* (1997): Tracing the Path Towards New Evangelization."

Successfully Defended: May 29, 2014

M.A. in Theology (2006), Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH

B.A. in Economics (2000), University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

**Executive Experience**

**Executive Director of Catechesis for William H. Sadlier Inc.**

**December 2018-March 31, 2023**

Detail of Responsibilities:

* Guide and offer insight into publishing plan, new product ideas and revision plans, product proposals, and other product- and services-related activities. A key contributor to product visioning, research and development, positioning, and promotion.
* Determine and develop appropriate pedagogy/methodology, determine user experience and design across components and lessons, plan and map content to all key considerations including all applicable standards, input into planning documents and activities, set key target dates for availability and launch to market, and overall, help set the direction for publishing.
* Key strategist, leader, and contributor to efforts to gather the voice of the customer and analyze market feedback on existing products as well as potential new products, in collaboration with Religion publishing team and SVP, heads of Marketing and Sales, and Catechetical Consultants for Sadlier
* Product prototyping (manuscript, design, TOC, and S&S) and manuscript reviews for products in R&D, Religion, and all religion-related material, marketing- and sales-related materials and activities, communications to parties and groups outside of Sadlier, and assures that materials meet the market needs and the requirements of the USCCB as necessary.
* Manage imprimatur and conformity review processes and manages or provides key inputs into market reviews and market development efforts.
* Maintain external relationships with Catholic catechetical/educational organizations, leadership, schools and dioceses, through presence, presentations at conferences, at schools and dioceses, and other key occasions, and publications on topics in catechesis and education, all in coordination with Sadlier leadership.
* Identify and cultivates relationships with key individuals, groups, and organizations in the Catholic market for market development, product development, and other core strategies.
* Take part in publishing meetings with the USCCB, NCCL, NCEA, and other national and regional Catholic organizations.
* Serve as an advisor to the CEO, SVP Publisher, SVP Marketing, and SVP Sales on religion-related materials and keeps them apprised of critical issues, trends, and events in the Church.
* Assist Sadlier CEO, Executive Committee, Publishing leadership, and others, as requested, with strategic and tactical planning and direction for the company.

**St. Joseph Evangelization Center:**

**Diocese of Des Moines, IA (2012-2018)**

Detail of responsibilities:

* Assist parishes in assessing faith formation and catechetical needs of adults and families
* Provide ongoing formation opportunities for clergy and parish lay ministers
* Develop educational programs and curricula that support evangelization and catechesis
* Support parish visioning and renewal efforts through consultation and resource creation
* Collaborate with diocesan offices
* Fundraising
* Manage staff and budget

**Ministry Experience**

Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Des Moines, IA (2018)

-Assigned to St. Luke the Evangelist Parish and School: Ankeny, IA (2018-Present)

Adult Faith Formation Director: (2008-2012), St. Patrick Parish, Rockville, MD.

Objectives:

- Design and curate catechetical resources

- Design faith enrichment programs for adults

- Coordinate and teach classes for R.C.I.A.

Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: (2007-2008), Tulsa, OK.

Objectives:

- Develop diocesan vision for formation

- Create catechetical materials

- Provide training programs for minister development

- Fundraising and budget management

- Coordinate diocesan youth camps

**Appointments**

* Diocesan Director of Deacon Formation: Des Moines, Iowa (Present)
* United States Catholic Conference of Bishop’s National Advisory Council (2019-2022)

**Publications and Presentations**

*They Saw Through God’s Eyes: An Invitation from Mary and the Saints.* Word Among Us (2023)

*The New Directory for Catechesis: Highlights and Summaries for Catechists and Pastoral Leaders*. Twenty-Third Publications (2020)

“Dealing with the Impact of Clergy Abuse and its Cover Up in Our Catholic Schools”

National Catholic Education Association’s Catholic Leadership Summit (Fall 2019)

*The Wounded Body of Christ*. Twenty-Third Publications (2019)

*Understanding Missionary Discipleship*. Twenty-Third Publications (2018)

"The Art of Accompaniment in Catechesis," presented at Archdiocese of Los Angeles Regional Religious Education Congress (Spring 2017)

“From Martin Luther to Pope Francis: Reforms and Reformations," presented as part of Drake University's Ray Society Lectures (Fall 2017)

"Becoming a Parish of Mercy," presented at annual Archdiocese of New York Pastors' Conference (Fall 2016)

*Becoming a Parish of Mercy.* Twenty-Third Publications (July 2016).

September 17, 2013 "Evangelization and Catechesis from Vatican II to Today: the Struggle for Reform," presented at The Annual Gathering of Iowa Bishops and Religious Superiors, at New Melleray Abbey in Dubuque, IA.

"The Incarnational Dimension of Catechesis and the Work of the New Evangelization" in *Proceedings of the International Symposium of Theology* (Dublin, Ireland: Veritas, 2013): 700-710.

*International Symposium of Theology:* Dublin, Ireland, "The Incarnational Dimension of Catechesis and the New Evangelization" June 6, 2012

*College Theology Society Convention:* New Rochelle, NY, "Simone Weil: Transforming Violence into Love." June 3, 2011

*International Congress on Medieval Studies:* Kalamazoo, MI, "Suffering and the Divine *Paideia* in the Christian Anthropologies of Saint Augustine and Blessed Pope John Paul II." May 13, 2011

**Languages**

Latin (reading proficiency)

French (reading proficiency)

German (reading proficiency)

Spanish (semi-conversational)

**References**

Bishop William Joensen, Diocese of Des Moines, IA [wjoensen@dmdiocese.org](mailto:wjoensen@dmdiocese.org)

Bishop Ed Scharfenberger, Diocese of Albany [Edward.scharfenberger@rcda.org](mailto:Edward.scharfenberger@rcda.org)

Danny McElhinny, Fmr. VP Sales and Marketing for William H. Sadlier [dannyjmcelhinny13@gmail.com](mailto:dannyjmcelhinny13@gmail.com)

Tom Quinlan, Exec. Director St. Joseph Evangelization Center, [tquinlan@sjeciowa.org](mailto:tquinlan@sjeciowa.org)

Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Assoc. Professor of Hispanic Studies and Religious Education @ Boston College [ospinoho@bc.edu](mailto:ospinoho@bc.edu)

Dr. Timothy O’Malley, Director of Education at Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute [tomalley@nd.edu](mailto:tomalley@nd.edu)