

Catholic Community of Practice Meeting Notes

July 10, 2023, 9:15-10:45 PM Eastern (on Zoom)

In conjunction with REA 2023 Annual Meeting

Approximately 17 people attended.

Charles Chesnavage and Maureen O'Brien facilitated the session. After welcome and individual introductions, we heard a presentation from Dr. Rito Baring (De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines) and Dr. Jeramie Molino (St. Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines) on Filipino youth ecotheology and its relevance to religious education. Rito also reported on the 2023 RE Conference in the Philippines, "Greening the Faith: Challenges to Religious Education."

We then engaged in a "Conversation in the Spirit" modeled on the Vatican synodal process to explore the question, *What are the most important 1 or 2 top issues or focus areas that you believe Catholic religious educators are being called to address in the next 10 years?*

Highlighted responses include:

- Revolutionary moment, pedagogy of contemplation, "expanding our tent" (Synod metaphor)
- Youth as agents, their role to care for created order, youth seeing selves as church, dialogue and youth as part of it
- Climate crisis/catastrophe, RE attending to gender and sexuality, RE for reconciliation relative to polarization in society
- Fostering capacity to listen through RE; naming ways to foster listening across polarization, engaging across different religious traditions

At the conclusion, participants were reminded that if they wish to be on the Catholic COP mailing list, please contact Maureen.

Maureen O'Brien

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