

Catholic Community of Practice Meeting Notes
July 11, 2024, 1:00-2:30 PM Eastern (on Zoom)
In conjunction with REA 2024 Annual Meeting

Ten people attended the session.

Maureen O'Brien convened the session and welcomed all. After initial introductions and announcements, members were invited to reflect on the question: *What is one initiative I've taken in religious education over the past year that has felt especially promising—or that I've read, observed or mentored in someone else's work that has felt especially promising to me?*

Responses included:

- Practical theology methods in teaching sacramental theology to high school students
- Engaged pedagogy methods with theology faculty using technology (Candler School of Theology)
- LGBTQ ministry in Jesuit secondary education
- Circle practice from Indigenous traditions applied in church, school, multifaith and other contexts
- Sports team model in youth ministry
- Attending to changing context and environment (natural and otherwise) in teaching Bible and religious history
- Synodality and pedagogy to form Catholics for it
- Doing COP approach with religious congregation's education committee for professional development (Duquesne University)
- Training institute for high school campus ministers and teachers
- Mental health literacy in Catholic education
- Mentoring emerging scholars to become public theologians (Boston College with Commonweal magazine)
- Critical Conversations in Catholic Education in Toronto schools (St. Michael's College)

We continued with open-ended conversation prompted by a further round of questions:

- *What are the initial responses revealing about the direction of RE?*
- *Where might they be showing us areas our COP members could collaborate?*
- *What are we being called to relinquish in order to embrace new directions?*

Responses included:

- Query on what is being done in Catholic education regarding abuse issues, synodality, etc.
- Need for Catholic RE research in AI and other technologies impacting practice (and relevance of the 2025 RE meeting theme for this)
- Impact of missionary priests in North American Catholic church, cultural and theological dimensions
- Drawing on synodal processes to foster agency in RE participants, especially young people

Maureen announced that this was her final year as Catholic COP convener and invited others to consider taking on the role.

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