

## Mark Your Calendar!!!

Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops' Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs Conference.

**“DIRECTIONS IN ABORIGINAL MINISTR” Program**  
**“HOW WE CELEBRATE OUR FAITH IN OUR CULTURES —**  
***Exploring Baptism and Aboriginal sacramentality*”**

Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 3:00 PM — Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 1:00 PM, 2014

**Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre**

Archdiocese of Vancouver,

3690 152nd Street, Surrey, BC V3S 0L3,

[www.rosemaryheights.com](http://www.rosemaryheights.com), Phone: 604-578-8802.

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**“HOW WE CELEBRATE OUR FAITH IN OUR CULTURES — *Exploring Baptism and Aboriginal sacramentality*”** will include materials presented on aboriginal ministry, spirituality and Aboriginal issues. It will begin on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 @ 3:00 PM — Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM, 2014. The conference will allow participants to experience and reflect on the faith life and ritual celebrations of Aboriginal people in the context of the sacraments of the Church. They will explore our faith as it has developed through the lives of our Aboriginal faith ancestors in the context of ritual, ceremony and sacraments. We will explore how their understandings of faith, service, and reconciliation are rooted in their Aboriginal cultural heritage and how that cultural heritage enhances and informs the way they live their Catholic faith. Interculturation of faith is of significant importance for our church and country at the present time, particularly, as we begin to dialogue with theologians to find theological language to identify the seeds of faith that are already present in the cultures of Canadian Aboriginal peoples. It will allow participants to develop a strong theology of interculturation of faith and to further explore a variety of subjects that are directly related to the sacraments, ministry, spirituality, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Rationale:

Jesus said to his disciples: **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets: I have come not to abolish but to fulfill”** (Matthew 5:17).

At that time Jesus exclaimed: “Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth: you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. (Matthew 11:25).

... Once the Gospel has been inculturated in a people, in their process of transmitting their culture they also transmit the faith in ever new forms; hence the importance of understanding evangelization as inculturation. Each portion of the people of God, by translating the gift of God into its own life and in accordance with its own genius, bears witness to the faith it has received and enriches it with new and eloquent expressions. One can say that “a people continuously

evangelizes itself". Herein lies the importance of popular piety, a true expression of the spontaneous missionary activity of the people of God. This is an ongoing and developing process, of which the Holy Spirit is the principal agent. **EVANGELII GAUDIUM — The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis**, (P. 97. Par. 122).

Conference Program Presenters include:

Bishop Gary Gordon, Diocese of Whitehorse, YK; Patrick Twohy, SJ Seattle, WA; Fr. Fr. Garry LaBoucane, OMI, Rennie Nahanee and S. Denece Billsberger, SCJ, Vancouver, BC; Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, Bob McKeon, and Maggie Hodgson, Edmonton, AB; Harry Lafond, Saskatoon, SK; Edmonton, AB; Priscilla Solomon, CSJ, North Bay, ON; Eva Solomon, CSJ, Winnipeg, MB; Local FN Elders and other invited guest presenters.

The following books will be available for purchase at the conference.

1. HATER, Robert J. *The Sacraments and Indigenous People*. Louisiana: Sky World Publications, 2013. (\$10.00)
2. TWOHY, Patrick. *Finding A Way Home: Indian and Catholic Spiritual Paths of the Plateau Tribes*. Spokane: University Press, 1983. (\$20.00)
3. TWOHY, Patrick. *Beginnings: A Meditation on Coast Salish Lifeways*. Seattle: Rainier Colors, 1999. (\$10.00)