



**** MEDIA ADVISORY ****

**BOSTON CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCES TO BE HELD
FEBRUARY 27, 2010 AT BOSTON'S CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY CROSS**

WHAT: **5th Annual Boston Catholic Women's Conference** – About 2,000 Catholic women from Greater-Boston and throughout Eastern Massachusetts are expected to attend the Conference.

WHEN: **Saturday, February 27, 2010**

TIME: 9:00am - 5:30pm
Media are invited to the entire conference.
All media are required to check-in upon arriving via the entrance at 1400 Washington Street to be issued a media pass.

WHERE: Cathedral of the Holy Cross at 1400 Washington Street in Boston's South End.

This will be the first time that the Women's Conference will be hosted in the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese and Region. The lower church of the Cathedral has recently been renovated. The new parish center will be utilized for the first time to hold the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

SCHEDULES: (Additional information available at www.CatholicBoston.com)

Boston Catholic Women's Conference

Theme: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)

9:15am-10am: **Leah Darrow:** *"The Lord in my Strength", Living My Life for Christ.*

10:30am-11:30am: **Patti Mansfield:** *"We belong to Mary", Understanding her role as Mother; following her example of faith.*

11:30am-12noon: Eucharistic Procession/Adoration followed by Preparation for midday program

12noon-1:30pm: Midday Program: Lunch – Confession – Adoration – Reflection

1:30pm-2:30pm: **Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle:** *"Taking Our Faith to the Streets: Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love."*

2:45pm-3:45pm: **Sr. Olga Yaqob:** *"From Baghdad to Boston at the School of Mary: Journey of Trust & Obedience"*

4:15pm-5:15pm: Mass – **Cardinal Seán O'Malley**, Celebrant and Homilist

5:30pm: End of Conference

CONTACTS: Scot Landry (617-851-5800; slandry@rcab.org)
Jennifer Schiller (617-852-9632; jennifer_schiller@msn.com)

SPEAKER BIOS & TALK THEMES:



LEAH DARROW

“The Lord is My Strength, Living My Life for Christ.”

Talk themes: Today’s society poses daily challenges to women of all ages who are seeking to live a life of faith. The key to overcoming these challenges is turning to God in all circumstances. Once we turn to him, we begin to understand what it means to trust. Trust then leads to prayer, and prayer leads to an awareness of God’s presence. Once we become aware of God, it is hard to turn away from Him, although we are constantly tempted to do so. Leah will provide a personal testimony on how her awareness of God’s presence in her life has allowed her to live a life of faith. She will provide an encouragement to all conference attendees that they can live a life of peace in the midst of this chaotic world, if they turn to Christ.

Bio: The oldest of six children, Leah was born in 1979 and raised on a small farm in Norman, Oklahoma. She attended private Catholic school in Oklahoma and then college at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, earning a B.A. in Psychology. Not too long after college, Leah made her TV debut on Season 3 of the hit reality TV Show, America’s Next Top Model. Over time she came to realize the dark depths of the Fashion industry, had a “prodigal daughter” experience and found her way back to Christ. She then was exposed to the Pure Fashion ministry and became heavily involved in it. She now speaks across the country on topics such as modesty, chastity, pro-life messages (including the death penalty), “catholic” fashion, conversion from sin, and living your life for Christ.



PATTI MANSFIELD

“We belong to Mary”, Understanding Her Role as Mother; Following Her Example of Faith.”

Talk themes: How can you discover a renewed relationship with Jesus, through Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to say “yes” to God as Mary did at the Annunciation? Know the difference an intimate relationship with Mary our heavenly Mother can make in your life and how to enter into this new relationship with Mary.

Bio: Patti Gallagher Mansfield was a participant in the February 1967 "Duquesne Weekend" which marked the beginning of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. From the earliest days of the Renewal she has served as a leader through teaching, writing and pastoral ministry. Patti’s testimony has been widely published and she has been a speaker at conferences and retreats for laity and priests in the United States and around the world. She is a frequent guest on Ralph Martin’s television program: The Choices We Face and she has authored several books & CDs. Patti is married to Al Mansfield, Coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans, and they have four adult children and four grandchildren. She and Al serve together in pastoral leadership of a weekly prayer meeting and an annual Catholic Charismatic Conference. The Mansfields are Liaisons to the Archbishop of New Orleans for the Charismatic Renewal and are recipients of the Papal Medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For the Church and the Pope). Patti was asked by the Pontifical Council for the Laity to thank Pope Benedict XVI on behalf of all the ecclesial movements and new communities before a crowd of 400,000 people in St. Peter’s Square on the vigil of Pentecost, 2006. She has also ministered at the International Retreat for Priests in Ars, France during the Year for Priests sponsored by the Congregation for the Clergy.



DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE

"Taking Our Faith to the Streets: Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love"

Talk themes: Donna-Marie will provide a personal account of her own journey with God as a wife, mother and lay person serving the Church. She will share important life lessons learned from Mother Teresa, a long time personal friend. Her personal stories throughout her talk will help encourage and inspire attendees to turn to God for strength in all situations.

Bio: Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle is known to millions as the friendly face and soothing voice of Catholic motherhood. Her frequent appearances on radio and television, her many books, and her speaking engagements are the public face of a life devoted to seeking holiness in the context of a happy Catholic family. She grew up in a large, close-knit Catholic family, is now married and raising five children, the youngest now entering college. Family life has always been her first vocation. Donna-Marie's decade-long friendship with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta led to a long correspondence and meetings around the world. Following in the footsteps of Blessed Teresa, Donna-Marie became a lay Missionary of Charity and founded a branch of the lay Missionaries of Charity. Today, Donna-Marie is passionate about encouraging others to follow in the footsteps of her blessed friend, caring for the poorest of the poor. It was Mother Teresa who constantly encouraged Donna-Marie to keep writing for mothers, women, and families, and she wrote the foreword to Donna-Marie's book *Prayerfully Expecting: A Nine Month Novena for Mothers-To-Be*. Donna-Marie is a host of EWTN segments called "Everyday Blessings for Catholic Moms" and she appears frequently on Ave Maria Radio's "Mom's Corner" with radio host Teresa Tomeo.



SR. OLGA OF THE EUCHARIST

"From Baghdad to Boston at the School of Mary - Journey of Trust and Obedience"

Talk themes: A personal account of one women's spiritual journey from Iraq to America. Including a reflection on the following scripture: *The Lord said to Abram (Abraham): Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. Abram went as the Lord directed him.(Genesis 12:1-5)* She will encourage attendees to depend on the Lord to meet all our needs, that with Christ as our strength, we have no need for worry or anxiety, no matter the circumstance. *"As we walk along the many paths which make up the journey of our lives, we often desire to know what comes next. We want to experience the destination before we've even finished getting there. However, when we trust that God is leading us we should surrender ourselves totally to His will. No matter what the destination is, God has great things in store for us. This has certainly been the case in my life. Over the past decade I have seen my life radically transformed. Part of that transformation included moving halfway across the globe."*

She will also share on the significance of the Blessed Mother in her life. *"Very often people ask me what the turning point was in my spiritual life. The turning point was not a what, but a who. My answer has always been: the Blessed Mother. She has been the mother of my faith, my vocation, and my ministry".*

Brief Bio: Sr. Olga Yaqob was born and raised in Iraq. When she was 13 years old a war between her native Iraq and Iran began. It was the horrific conditions of that war that she witnessed, that shaped her decision to become a nun. With her great love and devotion to Jesus, Sr. Olga joined the order of The Missionaries of the Virgin Mary. Sometime after becoming a nun in 1995, Yaqob received permission from the Assyrian Catholic Church to start her own order in Baghdad, where she was already leading a service-oriented religious outreach called Love Thy Neighbor. She is known as the "The Mother Teresa of Baghdad".

Coming to the USA in 2001, she studied at Boston University & Boston College and received a Masters in Ministry and Spirituality. She currently is a Chaplain for BU and often is a speaker & retreat leader.