



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      **Aquinas College Hosts *Come, follow me* Conference**

February 8, 2022

Nashville, TN – The Center for Evangelization and Catechesis at Aquinas College announces the ***Come, follow me / Ven sígueme Catechetical Conference*** to be held at Aquinas College on The Dominican Campus in Nashville, June 10-11, 2022. ***Come, follow me*** is a catechetical method that helps children contemplate and pray lessons from scripture and sacraments. Developed by members of the Notre Dame de Vie Institute in France, the ***Come, follow me*** program will be presented by Sr. Hyacinthe Defos du Rau, O.P. of the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph of Lymington, England.

“We are thrilled to have Sister Hyacinthe back in the United States for the ***Come, follow me / Ven sígueme Catechetical Formation Conference***,” said Sister Mary Johanna Melody, OP, co-organizer of the Aquinas event. “The conference in June will be presented in Spanish and English. We hope many catechists from our Hispanic communities will attend.” Sister Mary Johanna is a formator of Hispanic catechists in the Diocese of Nashville.

“The ***Come, follow me*** program was first introduced to catechists in the United States by Sr. Hyacinthe at the St. John Bosco Conference in 2015,” said Jason Gale, Director of the Center for Evangelization and Catechesis. Since that time there has been growing American interest in the program. “The Center for Evangelization and Catechesis at Aquinas College is proud to host this catechetical formation conference,” Gale said. The Center supports the work of catechists and leaders by providing workshops, retreats, and directed study of the Catholic Faith.

The conference, which was originally scheduled for March of 2020, but had to be postponed due the pandemic, will be held on Friday, June 10 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Aquinas Center on The Dominican Campus in Nashville. The conference is being supported by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Limited accommodations are available for out-of-town participants at Aquinas College’s Siena Hall, also on The Dominican Campus.

The ***Come, follow me Conference*** will prepare catechists for using the methodology with children ages 7-11, but with principles that can be applied to children and youth of all ages. ***Come, follow me*** has received the *imprimatur* for catechetical use. The program has also received the stamp of approval of the French Episcopal Commission for Catechesis and the Catechumenate.

Registration is open on the Aquinas College website. For more information contact Jason Gale at 615-297-7545 x469 (for English) or Sister Mary Johanna Melody, O.P. at 615-259-5486 x3172 (for Spanish) or visit <https://www.aquinascollege.edu/calendar-event/come-follow-me-conference/>.

Aquinas College is a private, Catholic, four-year liberal arts college founded in 1961, owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation in Nashville, Tennessee. Offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and the arts and sciences, Aquinas College is a leader in the formation of educators who are sent forth to teach, preach, and witness to Truth and Charity for the salvation of souls and the transformation of culture.

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