



24th Annual
World Communications Day
Catholic Media Conference

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015

PRODUCED FOR
THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
BY DESALES MEDIA GROUP

#WCDnyc





“IN THE FAMILY we realize that others
have preceded us,

they made it possible for us to exist and in our turn

TO GENERATE LIFE and to do
something
GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL.

We can give because we have received.

This virtuous **HEART** of the family's ability to
circle is at the communicate

among its members and with **THE MODEL**
others. More generally, it is

for all

COMMUNICATION.”





TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Francis de Sales Distinguished Communicator Award Prior Honorees	Page 6
Welcome Message	Page 7
Conference Schedule	Page 8
About the Diocese of Brooklyn	Page 12
The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D. Bishop of Brooklyn	Page 13
Keynote Speaker	Page 15
Message of Pope Francis for World Communications Day	Page 16
Mensaje del Santo Padre Francisco para Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales	Page 18
Speakers and Panelists	Page 20
Thank You to Our Guests	Page 29
With Appreciation for Our Sponsors	Page 30
Venue Map	Page 38
Social Media Information	Page 39

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
DISTINGUISHED COMMUNICATOR AWARD
PRIOR HONOREES**

1997

Charles W. Bell, New York Daily News

1998

Rich Lamb, WCBS-AM

1999

David Gonzalez, The New York Times

2000

Dick Oliver, WNYW-TV

2001

Ralph Penza, WNBC-TV

2002

**The Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily
Bishop of Brooklyn**

2003

Dr. William F. Baker, WNET-TV

2004

**David Gibson, Journalist
Maurice DuBois, WNBC-TV**

2005

Bill Gallo, New York Daily News

2006

Dan Barry, The New York Times

2007

**Hugh A. Mulligan, Associated Press
Francis X. Comerford, WNBC-TV**

2008

Magee Hickey, WCBS-TV

2009

Joseph Zwilling, The Archdiocese of New York

2010

Jane Hanson, WNBC-TV

2011

**Larry Kudlow, CNBC
Pablo José Barroso, Film Producer**

2012

**Christopher Ruddy, Newsmax
Joseph Campo, Grassroots Films**

2013

**William McGurn, Editorial Page Editor, The New York Post
Monsignor James Lisante, Host, "Close Encounter"**

2014

**The Most Reverend Claudio Maria Celli, President of the
Pontifical Council for Social Communications**



May 13, 2015

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Diocese of Brooklyn, I would like to welcome you to the 24th Annual World Communications Day Catholic Media Conference. This year, our conference hopes to inspire new ways of communicating the Gospel as we prepare for Pope Francis' first pastoral visit to the United States, while also expanding on the Holy Father's 2015 World Communications Day message, *Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love*.

It is with great delight that we honor Austen Ivereigh, author of "The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope" with our St. Francis de Sales Distinguished Communicator Award. His work has been heralded as the best biography of Pope Francis to date.

Austen is a British writer, journalist and commentator on religious and political affairs. He founded Catholic Voices, an initiative to improve the Church's representation in the media by training lay people and clergy around the world. He is a former deputy editor of *The Tablet*, the British Catholic international news weekly, and served as Director for Public Affairs for former Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

This year, our Holy Father has chosen "Family" as the theme for World Communications Day. Good communication fosters strong family life and strong families are indispensable for the work of the New Evangelization.

Authentic communication and strong families enable the Church and her members to better express needs, wants and concerns to one another. As we hear in the book of Hebrews (10:24-25): "Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." It is our responsibility as Catholics to share this message.

Following Austen's keynote speech, join us for a gathering with award-winning journalist David Gibson of Religious News Service, award-winning journalist John Thavis, and our honoree, while they share their experiences as "Vatican Insiders."

After lunch, we will present a live taping of *In the Arena*, where I will be joined by the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, and contributors Grant Gallicho, Associate Editor of *Commonweal*, and Ed Wilkinson, News Director of NET TV and Editor of our diocesan weekly newspaper, *The Tablet*.

We also welcome Donald Clemmer of the USCCB, Angela Flood from the Archdiocese of Washington, Kenneth Gavin from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Joseph Zwilling from the Archdiocese of New York, and Stefanie Gutierrez, Press Secretary for our diocese, as they discuss our Holy Father's September pastoral visit to the United States.

Pope Francis states in his World Communications Day message this year: "The family, in conclusion, is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is an environment in which we learn to communicate in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a 'communicating community.'"

Thank you for joining our "communicating community" today.

Your brother in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Kieran E. Harrington
Vicar for Communications
Diocese of Brooklyn

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

SESIÓN HISPANA: FORTALECIENDO LA FAMILIA HISPANA

SALON G



Panel Discussion led by
Rev. Tomás Del Valle-Reyes
Founder, Discovering
the XXI Century;
Author, *Sabías que...*
Producer and Director,
La Tertulia Radio Program



Natasha Bisbal
Manager of
Hispanic Relations,
DeSales Media Group;
Host and Producer,
Tu Fe al Día



Luis Alejandro Medina
Journalist,
WNJU Telemundo 47;
Author,
Mi lucha de Fe and
Crónicas con Jesús



Mario J. Paredes
Director of Catholic
Ministry, ABS;
Chairman Emeritus,
Catholic Association of
Latino Leaders (CALL)

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP: BUILDING THE PARISH NETWORK

SALON H



Christine Mohan
Director of Digital Operations,
DeSales Media Group



John-Mark de Palma
Project Manager,
DeSales Media Group



Charlie Hanger
Digital Media
Consultant



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Registration and Refreshments
PROMENADE / DESALES EXHIBIT HALL

GRAND BALLROOM

11:00 A.M.



Invocation
Reverend Monsignor Kieran E. Harrington
Vicar for Communications

11:05 A.M.



**Presentation of the St. Francis de Sales
Distinguished Communicator Award
to Austen Ivereigh, Journalist and Author**
The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn

11:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



Keynote Address
Austen Ivereigh

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

12:00 – 1:00 P.M.

VATICAN INSIDERS: COVERING POPE FRANCIS

GRAND BALLROOM



Panel Discussion led by
David Gibson
Co-author, *Finding Jesus*
Reporter, Religion News Service



Austen Ivereigh
Honoree



John Thavis
Reporter and Author,
The Vatican Diaries

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Lunch

DESALES EXHIBIT HALL

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

LIVE TAPING OF *IN THE ARENA*

GRAND BALLROOM



Monsignor
Kieran E. Harrington
Host, *In The Arena*



The Most Reverend
Nicholas DiMarzio
Bishop of Brooklyn



Ed Wilkinson
Editor of *The Tablet*
News Director of
NET TV



Grant Gallicho
Associate Editor
Commonweal

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

3:00 – 3:45 P.M.

POPE FRANCIS IN THE U.S.
AND WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW

GRAND BALLROOM



Panel Discussion led by
Stefanie Gutierrez
Press Secretary,
Diocese of Brooklyn



Donald Clemmer
Interim Director
of Media Relations,
U.S. Conference of
Catholic Bishops



Angela Flood
Secretary for
Communications,
Archdiocese of
Washington



Kenneth Gavin
Director of
Communications,
Archdiocese of
Philadelphia



Joseph Zwilling
Director of
Communications,
Archdiocese
of New York

3:45 – 5:00 P.M.

Networking Reception

SALON C

ABOUT THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



“The interaction of disparate cultures, the vehemence of the ideals that led the immigrants here, the opportunity offered by a new life, all gave America a flavor and a character that make it as unmistakable and as remarkable to people today as it was to Alexis de Tocqueville in the early part of the nineteenth century.”

— John F. Kennedy, *A Nation of Immigrants*

This quote aptly captures the history and essence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. Founded in 1853, the Diocese of Brooklyn sought to address the needs of the more than five million Irish Catholic immigrants who, tired and poor, arrived at the port of New York in search of a better life. Today, the Diocese of Brooklyn continues its vibrant and diverse history, home again to an immigrant population, this time driven by Hispanics.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn serves the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. It is presided by the seventh and current Bishop of Brooklyn, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, a champion of immigrant rights.

The boroughs' combined population stands at 4.8 million residents, of which 1.5 million identify themselves as Catholics. The diocesan cathedral is the Cathedral Basilica of St. James in downtown Brooklyn. The Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Prospect Heights was elevated in February 2013 by

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and was dedicated on May 13, 2014, by Bishop DiMarzio. The faces of the people in the pews of St. Joseph's reflect the diversity of the many cultures that call the Diocese of Brooklyn home. It is also among the largest churches in Brooklyn and Queens.

Due to its multicultural and diverse populations, Masses are regularly held in 33 different languages across the Diocese, throughout 186 parishes with 211 churches. Its 26 ethnic ministries promote cultural events and provide an opportunity for immigrants to belong to the larger community while preserving and sharing their uniqueness and traditions.

Within its borders is the seventh largest Catholic school district in the United States, with 86 elementary schools and academies that educate nearly 30,000 students.

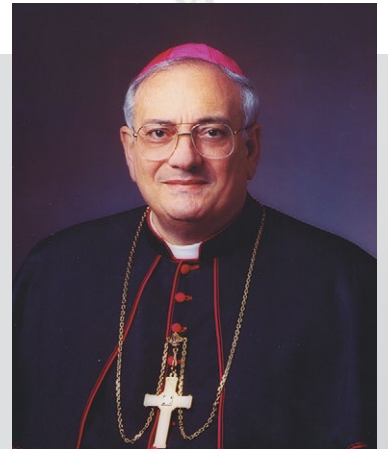
Last year, the Diocese celebrated 16,542 Baptisms, 12,125 First Communions, 9,351 Confirmations and 2,267 Marriages.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, on June 16, 1944, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, attended the Immaculate Conception Seminary in New Jersey, was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest in 1970, and named Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II in 1986. Bishop DiMarzio was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Newark in 1996, where he served as Vicar for Human Services and directed their Catholic Charities. In 1980, Bishop DiMarzio earned a Masters in Social Work from Fordham University, and a Ph.D. in Social Work Research and Policy in 1985 from Rutgers University.

In July of 1999, Bishop DiMarzio was appointed as the Sixth Bishop of Camden, New Jersey, and served there until October 2003, when he was installed as the Seventh Bishop of Brooklyn. He is currently a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of

Migrants and Itinerant People, chairman of the board of the Center for Migration Studies, and the Migration Policy Institute board. Previously, he chaired the Migration Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); as well as the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., and Finance Committee of Catholic Relief Services. Bishop DiMarzio was also the U.S. representative to the Global Commission on International Migration as our Nation's Commissioner representative.

Bishop DiMarzio has spent his ministry of over 40 years in the areas of immigration assistance and refugee resettlement services. He has served as both an advocate for refugees and immigrant concerns in political forums, and as the initiator and administrator of programs to assist refugees and immigrants within the U.S. and throughout the world.



**THE MOST REVEREND
NICHOLAS DIMARZIO,
PH.D., D.D.
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN**

 @BpDiMarzio

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER



**REV. MONSIGNOR
KIERAN E. HARRINGTON, V.E.**
VICAR FOR
COMMUNICATIONS
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

 @MonsignorH

The Reverend Monsignor Kieran E. Harrington, V.E., is Vicar for Communications for the Diocese of Brooklyn. He also serves as the President and Chairman of DeSales Media Group, a full-service media company that includes NET TV, a cable television network that can be seen in New York City on Cablevision 30, Time Warner Cable 97 and Verizon FiOS On Demand; The Tablet, the Diocese of Brooklyn's weekly newspaper with a circulation of 75,000 and 50,000 unique online visitors per month; a monthly Spanish language newspaper *Nuestra Voz* with a circulation of 17,000; a technology division overseeing more than 20 websites; as well as a public relations office serving ecclesiastical needs.

Monsignor Harrington hosts *In The Arena*, a weekly series on WOR radio, with world-renowned guests, intense debates and compelling interviews covering various topics and social opinions from a Catholic cultural perspective.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio appointed Monsignor Harrington

to Vicar for Communications in December 2006.

Monsignor Harrington also serves as the Rector of the Co-Cathedral of Saint Joseph in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn. He graduated cum laude from St. John's University with a degree in Philosophy. He holds a Masters of Divinity degree from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception and a Masters of Business Administration from the N.Y.U. Stern School of Business.

The Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily ordained him a priest at Saint James Cathedral Basilica on June 2, 2001. His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI elevated him to the rank of Papal Chaplain with the title of Reverend Monsignor on September 3, 2009.

The Diocese of Brooklyn, which also encompasses the borough of Queens, is the eighth largest diocese in the United States with 1.5 million Catholics. The only entirely urban diocese in the country, it is the port of entry and home for millions of immigrants. The 86 Catholic schools and academies in the Diocese educate nearly 30,000 students.

Dr. Austen Ivereigh (pron. 'ivory'), the co-founder and director of the international media project Catholic Voices (www.catholicvoices.org.uk), is a British writer, journalist and commentator on religious and political affairs who regularly appears on TV and radio.

He is known in the United States above all for two books: *How to Defend the Faith Without Raising Your Voice: Civil Responses to Catholic Hot-button Issues* (published by Our Sunday Visitor, 2012) and more recently his highly-praised biography of Pope Francis, *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope* (Henry Holt) which was published in the English-speaking world and in Italy last Fall. He has recently returned from Chile and Argentina where he launched the Spanish-language edition of the Pope's biography, entitled *El Gran Reformador*. The New York Times describes it as "a gracefully written and meticulously researched account of Francis' life...The best English-language biography of the pope to date," and John L. Allen of *Crux* as "masterful, indispensable, and gripping."

The biography draws on his 1993 doctoral thesis from Oxford University, published as *Catholicism and Politics in Argentina, 1810-1960*

(MacMillan 1995). After a brief spell in the Society of Jesus as a novice, he was deputy editor of the international Catholic weekly *The Tablet* from 2000 to 2004, before going on to work as the public affairs director for the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. He later led a campaign for a pathway to citizenship for migrants which led to his book *Faithful Citizens: A Practical Guide to Catholic Social Teaching and Community Organising* (Darton, Longman & Todd 2010), a highly-regarded primer for Catholic institutions seeking to influence the public square.

In 2010, months before the visit of Pope Benedict XVI, he co-founded Catholic Voices, a project to train ordinary people to make the case for the Church on contentious issues in the media, which has won praise from bishops and broadcasters alike. It is now in 16 countries, including the USA, Chile and Australia.

Ivereigh divides his time between Catholic Voices and his writing, journalism and broadcast work. He reports regularly for *Our Sunday Visitor* in the US, and writes occasionally for a large range of newspapers and magazines, including the *Guardian* and the *Spectator* in the UK, and the *Boston Globe* and *America* in the US.



Photo credit: Linda Ivereigh

AUSTEN IVEREIGH, PH.D.
JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR,
THE GREAT REFORMER

 @AustenI



**MESSAGE OF HIS
HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 49TH WORLD
COMMUNICATIONS DAY
COMMUNICATING
THE FAMILY:
A PRIVILEGED PLACE
OF ENCOUNTER WITH THE
GIFT OF LOVE**

 @Pontifex

The family is a subject of profound reflection by the Church and of a process involving two Synods: the recent extraordinary assembly and the ordinary assembly scheduled for next October. So I thought it appropriate that the theme for the next World Communications Day should have the family as its point of reference. After all, *it is in the context of the family that we first learn how to communicate*. Focusing on this context can help to make our communication more authentic and humane, while helping us to view the family in a new perspective.

We can draw inspiration from the Gospel passage which relates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56). "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb' " (vv. 41-42).

This episode first shows us how communication is a *dialogue intertwined with the language of the body*. The first response to Mary's greeting is given by the child, who leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. Joy at meeting others, which is something we learn even before being born, is, in one sense, the archetype and symbol of every other form of communication. The womb which hosts us is the first "school" of communication, a place of listening and physical contact where we begin to familiarize ourselves with the outside world within a protected environment, with the reassuring sound of the mother's heartbeat. This encounter between two persons, so intimately related while still distinct from each other, an encounter so full of promise, is our first experience of communication. It is an experience which we all share, since each of us was born of a mother.

Even after we have come into the world, in some sense we are still in a "womb", which is the family. A womb made up of various interrelated persons: the family is "where we learn to live with others despite our differences" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 66). Notwithstanding the differences of gender and age between them, family members accept one another because there is a bond between them. The wider the range of these relationships and the greater the differences of age, the richer will be our living environment. It is this *bond* which is at the root of language, which in turn strengthens the bond. We do not create our *language*; we can use it because we have received it. It is in the family that we learn to speak our "mother tongue", the language of those who have gone before us (cf. 2 Macc 7:25, 27). In the family we realize that others have preceded us, they made it possible for us to exist and in our turn to generate life and to do something good and beautiful. We can give because we have received. This virtuous circle is at the heart of the family's ability to communicate among its members and with others. More generally, it is the model for all communication.

The experience of this relationship which "precedes" us enables the family

to become the setting in which the most *basic form of communication*, which is *prayer*, is handed down. When parents put their newborn children to sleep, they frequently entrust them to God, asking that he watch over them. When the children are a little older, parents help them to recite some simple prayers, thinking with affection of other people, such as grandparents, relatives, the sick and suffering, and all those in need of God's help. It was in our families that the majority of us learned the *religious dimension* of communication, which in the case of Christianity is permeated with love, the love that God bestows upon us and which we then offer to others.

Even after we have come into the world, in some sense we are

STILL IN A WOMB
which is **THE FAMILY.**

A womb made up of various interrelated persons: the family is

WHERE WE LEARN TO LIVE with others

despite our differences.

In the family, we learn to embrace and support one another, to discern the meaning of facial expressions and moments of silence, to laugh and cry together with people who did not choose one other yet are so important to each other. This greatly helps us to understand the meaning of communication as *recognizing and creating closeness*. When we lessen distances by growing closer and accepting one another, we experience gratitude and joy. Mary's greeting and the stirring of her child are a blessing for Elizabeth; they are followed by the beautiful canticle of the *Magnificat*, in which Mary praises God's loving plan for her and for her people. A "yes" spoken with faith can have effects that go well beyond ourselves and our place in the world. To "visit" is to

open doors, not remaining closed in our little world, but rather going out to others. So too the family comes alive as it reaches beyond itself; families who do so communicate their message of life and communion, giving comfort and hope to more fragile families, and thus build up the Church herself, which is the family of families.

More than anywhere else, the family is where we daily experience our own *limits* and those of others, the problems great and small entailed in living peacefully with others. A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively. The family, where we keep loving one another despite our limits and sins, thus becomes a *school of forgiveness*. Forgiveness is itself a *process of communication*. When contrition is expressed and accepted, it becomes possible to restore and rebuild the communication which broke down. A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society.

When it comes to the challenges of communication, *families who have children with one or more disabilities* have much to teach us. A motor, sensory or mental *limitation* can be a reason for closing in on ourselves, but it can also become, thanks to the love of parents, siblings, and friends, an *incentive to openness, sharing and ready communication with all*. It can also help schools, parishes and associations to become more welcoming and inclusive of everyone.

In a world where people often curse, use foul language, speak badly of others, sow discord and poison our human environment by gossip, the family can teach us to understand *communication as a blessing*. In situations apparently dominated by hatred and violence, where families are separated by stone walls or the no less impenetrable walls of prejudice and resentment, where there seem to be good reasons for saying “enough is enough,” it is only by blessing rather than cursing, by visiting rather than repelling, and by accepting rather than

fighting, that we can break the spiral of evil, show that goodness is always possible, and educate our children to fellowship.

Today the *modern media*, which are an essential part of life for young people in particular, *can be both a help and a hindrance* to communication in and between families. The media can be a *hindrance* if they become a way to avoid listening to others, to evade physical contact, to fill up every moment of silence and rest, so that we forget that “silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist.” (BENEDICT XVI, Message for the 2012 World Communications Day).

...It is in the context of

THE FAMILY that we FIRST LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE.

Focusing on this context can help
to make our communication

MORE AUTHENTIC

while helping us to
view the family in a

new PERSPECTIVE.

The media can *help* communication when they enable people to share their stories, to stay in contact with distant friends, to thank others or to seek their forgiveness, and to open the door to new encounters. By growing daily in our awareness of the vital importance of encountering others, these “new possibilities,” we will employ technology wisely, rather than letting ourselves be dominated by it. Here too, parents are the primary educators, but they cannot be left to their own devices. The Christian community is called to help them in teaching children how to live in a media environment in a way consonant with the dignity of the human person and service of the

common good.

The great challenge facing us today is to *learn once again how to talk to one another*, not simply how to generate and consume information. The latter is a tendency which our important and influential modern communications media can encourage. Information is important, but it is not enough. All too often things get simplified, different positions and viewpoints are pitted against one another, and people are invited to take sides, rather than to see things as a whole.

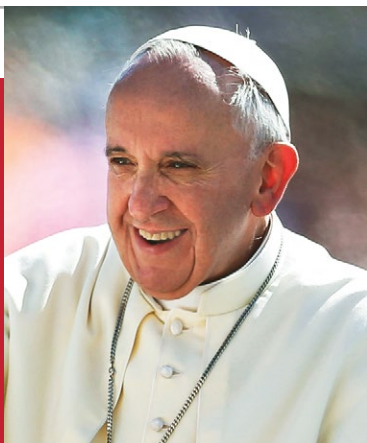
The family, in conclusion, is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is *an environment in which we learn to communicate* in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a “*communicating community*.” The family is a community which provides help, which celebrates life and is fruitful. Once we realize this, we will once more be able to see how the family continues to be a rich human resource, as opposed to a problem or an institution in crisis. At times the *media* can tend to present the family as a kind of abstract model which has to be accepted or rejected, defended or attacked, rather than as a living reality. Or else a grounds for ideological clashes rather than as a setting where we can all learn what it means to communicate in a love received and returned. Relating our experiences means realizing that our lives are bound together as a single reality, that our voices are many, and that each is unique.

Families should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem for society. Families at their best actively *communicate* by their *witness* the beauty and the richness of the relationship between man and woman, and between parents and children. We are not fighting to defend the past. Rather, with patience and trust, we are working to build a better future for the world in which we live.

From the Vatican, 23 January 2015

Vigil of the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

FRANCIS



**MENSAJE DEL SANTO
PADRE FRANCISCO
PARA LA 49^{VA} JORNADA
MUNDIAL DE LAS
COMUNICACIONES SOCIALES
COMUNICAR LA FAMILIA:
AMBIENTE PRIVILEGIADO
DEL ENCUENTRO EN LA
GRATUIDAD DEL AMOR**

 @Pontifex_es

El tema de la familia está en el centro de una profunda reflexión eclesial y de un proceso sinodal que prevé dos sínodos, uno extraordinario –apenas celebrado– y otro ordinario, convocado para el próximo mes de octubre. En este contexto, he considerado oportuno que el tema de la próxima Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales tuviera como punto de referencia la familia. En efecto, *la familia es el primer lugar donde aprendemos a comunicar*. Volver a este momento originario nos puede ayudar, tanto a comunicar de modo más auténtico y humano, como a observar la familia desde un nuevo punto de vista.

Podemos dejarnos inspirar por el episodio evangélico de la visita de María a Isabel (cf. Lc 1,39-56). «En cuanto Isabel oyó el saludo de María, la criatura saltó en su vientre, e Isabel, llena del Espíritu Santo, exclamó a voz en grito: «¡Bendita tú entre las mujeres y bendito el fruto de tu vientre!»» (vv. 41-42).

Este episodio nos muestra ante todo la comunicación como *un diálogo que se entrelaza con el lenguaje del cuerpo*. En efecto, la primera respuesta al saludo de

María la da el niño saltando gozosamente en el vientre de Isabel. Exultar por la alegría del encuentro es, en cierto sentido, el arquetipo y el símbolo de cualquier otra comunicación que aprendemos incluso antes de venir al mundo. El seno materno que nos acoge es la primera «escuela» de comunicación, hecha de escucha y de contacto corpóreo, donde comenzamos a familiarizarnos con el mundo externo en un ambiente protegido y con el sonido tranquilizador del palpitante del corazón de la mamá. Este encuentro entre dos seres a la vez tan íntimos, aunque todavía tan extraños uno de otro, es un encuentro lleno de promesas, es nuestra primera experiencia de comunicación. Y es una experiencia que nos acomuna a todos, porque todos nosotros hemos nacido de una madre.

Después de llegar al mundo, permanecemos en un «seno», que es la familia. *Un seno hecho de personas diversas en relación*; la familia es el «lugar donde se aprende a convivir en la diferencia» (Exort. ap. Evangelii gaudium, 66): diferencias de géneros y de generaciones, que comunican antes que nada porque se acogen mutuamente, porque entre ellos existe un vínculo. Y cuanto más amplio es el abanico de estas relaciones y más diversas son las edades, más rico es nuestro ambiente de vida. Es el *vínculo* el que fundamenta la *palabra*, que a su vez fortalece el vínculo. Nosotros no inventamos las palabras: las podemos usar porque las hemos recibido. En la familia se aprende a hablar *la lengua materna*, es decir, la lengua de nuestros antepasados (cf. 2 M 7,25.27). En la familia se percibe que otros nos han precedido, y nos han puesto en condiciones de existir y de poder, también nosotros, generar vida y hacer algo bueno y hermoso. Podemos dar porque hemos recibido, y este círculo virtuoso está en el corazón de la capacidad de la familia de comunicarse y de comunicar; y, más en general, es el paradigma de toda comunicación.

La experiencia del vínculo que nos «precede» hace que la familia sea también el contexto en el que se transmite esa *forma fundamental de comunicación* que es la *oración*. Cuando la mamá y el papá acuestan para dormir a sus niños recién nacidos, a menudo los confían a Dios para que vele por ellos;

y cuando los niños son un poco más mayores, recitan junto a ellos oraciones simples, recordando con afecto a otras personas: a los abuelos y otros familiares, a los enfermos y los que sufren, a todos aquellos que más necesitan de la ayuda de Dios. Así, la mayor parte de nosotros ha aprendido en la familia la *dimensión religiosa de la comunicación*, que en el cristianismo está impregnada de amor, el amor de Dios que se nos da y que nosotros ofrecemos a los demás.

Lo que nos hace entender en la familia lo que es verdaderamente la comunicación como *descubrimiento y construcción de proximidad* es la capacidad de abrazarse, sostenerse, acompañarse, descifrar las miradas y los silencios, reír y llorar juntos, entre

Después de llegar al mundo,
permanecemos en un seno

QUE ES LA FAMILIA.

Un seno hecho de personas
diversas en relación; la familia

ES EL LUGAR donde

se aprende a **CONVIVIR**

en la diferencia.

personas que no se han elegido y que, sin embargo, son tan importantes las unas para las otras. Reducir las distancias, saliendo los unos al encuentro de los otros y acogiéndose, es motivo de gratitud y alegría: del saludo de María y del salto del niño brota la bendición de Isabel, a la que sigue el bellissimo canto del *Magnificat*, en el que María alaba el plan de amor de Dios sobre ella y su pueblo. De un «sí» pronunciado con fe, surgen consecuencias que van mucho más allá de nosotros mismos y se expanden por el mundo. «Visitar» comporta abrir las puertas, no encerrarse en uno mismo, salir, ir hacia el otro. También la familia está viva si respira abriéndose más allá de sí misma, y las familias que hacen esto

pueden comunicar su mensaje de vida y de comunión, pueden dar consuelo y esperanza a las familias más heridas, y hacer crecer la Iglesia misma, que es familia de familias.

La familia es, más que ningún otro, el lugar en el que, viviendo juntos la cotidianidad, se experimentan los límites propios y ajenos, los pequeños y grandes problemas de la convivencia, del ponerse de acuerdo. No existe la familia perfecta, pero no hay que tener miedo a la imperfección, a la fragilidad, ni siquiera a los conflictos; hay que aprender a afrontarlos de manera constructiva. Por eso, la familia en la que, con los propios límites y pecados, todos se quieren, se convierte en una *escuela de perdón*. El perdón es una *dinámica de comunicación*: una comunicación que se desgasta, se rompe y que, mediante el arrepentimiento expresado y acogido, se puede reanudar y acrecentar. Un niño que aprende en la familia a escuchar a los demás, a hablar de modo respetuoso, expresando su propio punto de vista sin negar el de los demás, será un constructor de diálogo y reconciliación en la sociedad.

A propósito de límites y comunicación, tienen mucho que enseñarnos *las familias con hijos afectados por una o más discapacidades*. El déficit en el movimiento, los sentidos o el intelecto supone siempre una tentación de encerrarse; pero puede convertirse, gracias al amor de los padres, de los hermanos y de otras personas amigas, en un *estímulo para abrirse, compartir, comunicar de modo inclusivo*; y puede ayudar a la escuela, la parroquia, las asociaciones, a que sean más acogedoras con todos, a que no excluyan a nadie.

Además, en un mundo donde tan a menudo se maldice, se habla mal, se siembra cizaña, se contamina nuestro ambiente humano con las habladurías, la familia puede ser una escuela de *comunicación como bendición*. Y esto también allí donde parece que prevalece inevitablemente el odio y la violencia, cuando las familias están separadas entre ellas por muros de piedra o por los muros no menos impenetrables del prejuicio y del resentimiento, cuando parece que hay buenas razones para decir «ahora basta»; el único modo para romper la espiral del mal, para testimoniar que el bien es siempre

posible, para educar a los hijos en la fraternidad, es en realidad bendecir en lugar de maldecir, visitar en vez de rechazar, acoger en lugar de combatir.

Hoy, los *medios de comunicación más modernos*, que son irrenunciables sobre todo para los más jóvenes, *pueden tanto obstaculizar como ayudar* a la comunicación en la familia y entre familias. La pueden *obstaculizar* si se convierten en un modo de sustraerse a la escucha, de aislarse de la presencia de los otros, de saturar cualquier momento de silencio y de espera, olvidando que «el silencio es parte integrante de la comunicación y sin él

cristiana está llamada a ayudarles para vivir en el mundo de la comunicación según los criterios de la dignidad de la persona humana y del bien común.

El desafío que hoy se nos propone es, por tanto, *volver a aprender a narrar*, no simplemente a producir y consumir información. Esta es la dirección hacia la que nos empujan los potentes y valiosos medios de la comunicación contemporánea. La información es importante pero no basta, porque a menudo simplifica, contrapone las diferencias y las visiones distintas, invitando a ponerse de una u otra parte, en lugar de favorecer una visión de conjunto.

La familia, en conclusión, no es un campo en el que se comunican opiniones, o un terreno en el que se combaten batallas ideológicas, sino *un ambiente en el que se aprende a comunicar* en la proximidad y un sujeto que comunica, una «comunidad comunicante». Una comunidad que sabe acompañar, festejar y fructificar. En este sentido, es posible restablecer una mirada capaz de reconocer que la familia sigue siendo un gran recurso, y no sólo un problema o una institución en crisis. Los medios de comunicación tienden en ocasiones a presentar la familia como si fuera un modelo abstracto que hay que defender o atacar, en lugar de una realidad concreta que se ha de vivir; o como si fuera una ideología de uno contra la de algún otro, en lugar del espacio donde todos aprendemos lo que significa comunicar en el amor recibido y entregado. Narrar significa más bien comprender que nuestras vidas están entrelazadas en una trama unitaria, que las voces son múltiples y que cada una es insustituible.

La familia más hermosa, protagonista y no problema, es la que sabe comunicar, partiendo del testimonio, la belleza y la riqueza de la relación entre hombre y mujer, y entre padres e hijos. No luchamos para defender el pasado, sino que trabajamos con paciencia y confianza, en todos los ambientes en que vivimos cotidianamente, para construir el futuro.

Vaticano, 23 de enero de 2015

Vigilia de la fiesta de San Francisco de Sales.

FRANCIS

La **FAMILIA** es el primer

lugar donde aprendemos a comunicar. Volver a este

momento **ORIGINARIO**

nos puede ayudar, tanto

A COMUNICAR de

modo más **AUTÉNTICO**

Y HUMANO, como a

observar la familia desde un nuevo

PUNTO DE VISTA.

no existen palabras con densidad de contenido» (Benedicto XVI, Mensaje para la XLVI Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales, 24 enero 2012). La pueden *favorecer* si ayudan a contar y compartir, a permanecer en contacto con quienes están lejos, a agradecer y a pedir perdón, a hacer posible una y otra vez el encuentro. Redescubriendo cotidianamente este centro vital que es el encuentro, este «inicio vivo», sabremos orientar nuestra relación con las tecnologías, en lugar de ser guiados por ellas. También en este campo, los padres son los primeros educadores. Pero no hay que dejarlos solos; la comunidad



MODERATOR

DAVID GIBSON
AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST,
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

 @GibsonWrites

David Gibson is an award-winning religion journalist, author, filmmaker, and a convert to Catholicism. He came by all those vocations by accident, or Providence, during a longer-than-expected sojourn in Rome in the 1980s. It was there that he got his start in journalism, working first for an English-language daily and then for the English Program at Vatican Radio – run by the Jesuits, who now sort of run the whole church, thanks to the election of Pope Francis.

Gibson returned to the United States in 1990, worked for newspapers in the New York area,

wrote for various magazines, and co-wrote and co-produced several documentaries for CNN and the History Channel.

He is also an author of two books on the Catholic Church, and a new 2015 joint effort on biblical archeology, “Finding Jesus: Faith. Fact. Forgery,” that is the basis of a CNN series of the same name.

Gibson is currently a national reporter for Religion News Service specializing in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church, though he also keeps tabs on the role of religion in the worlds of politics and entertainment – and anything else that catches his eye.

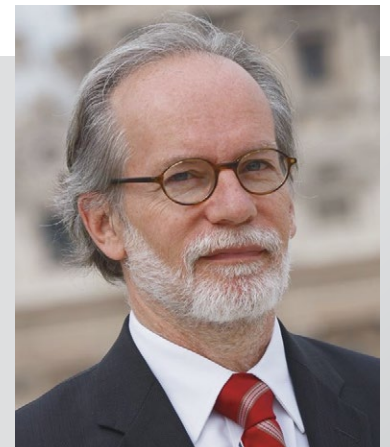
John Thavis is a journalist, author and speaker specializing in Vatican and religious affairs. He is known in the trade as a “Vaticanista,” a calling that became clear only after a circuitous career path.

Thavis grew up in Minnesota, attending Catholic schools and graduating from St. John’s University in 1973. After studying classical languages, he went to Italy as a student of archeology in 1977, fell in love with the country and decided to stay. In 1978, the day Prime Minister Aldo Moro was kidnapped by the Red Brigades, he walked into the offices of the Rome Daily American and was hired as a headline writer, eventually becoming news editor.

He returned to Minnesota in 1979, working as a reporter and then news editor of the Mankato Free Press. In 1982 he convinced his wife, Lauren O’Connell, to relocate to Italy. He wrote a guide book to Rome and worked part-time for Associated Press, ABC News and the Wine Spectator. In 1983 he took a reporting job with Catholic News Service and began covering the

Vatican daily. He traveled with Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI to more than 60 countries, and reported on other religious stories from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He became CNS Rome bureau chief in 1996, and served three years as president of the Association of International Journalists Accredited to the Vatican — the only American ever elected to that position. He has won numerous journalistic awards.

In 2012 Thavis retired from his CNS position to devote full time to writing. His book, *The Vatican Diaries*, was published in 2013 and immediately became a New York Times best-seller. He did live commentary for ABC News in Rome during the conclave of 2013, and on his blog the day before the conclave began he singled out Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio as the candidate to watch. He travels frequently to Rome and continues to cover Vatican affairs. John and Lauren’s three children were born and raised in Rome. Their two sons are studying in Minnesota, and their daughter is a blues singer in St. Paul.



PANELIST

JOHN THAVIS
REPORTER AND AUTHOR,
THE VATICAN DIARIES

 @JohnThavis



MODERATOR

STEFANIE GUTIERREZ
PRESS SECRETARY
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

 @dobpress

Stefanie Gutierrez is the Director of the Press and Communications Office of DeSales Media Group and Press Secretary for the Diocese of Brooklyn. Her responsibilities include serving as official spokesperson for Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, the Diocese of Brooklyn and its 186 parishes and 86 Catholic schools and academies, as well as multiple affiliated organizations. In the last two years, she has led four public relations campaigns, with ads receiving national media attention.

She has also managed challenging communications issues, working hand in hand with local, national and international reporters both proactively and responsively.

She graduated from Franciscan

University of Steubenville, Ohio, where she studied Political Science and Communications, with a concentration in Journalism. After earning her Bachelor of Arts, she moved to New York City in 2006 and began her professional career as a reporter for The Tablet, the weekly newspaper serving the Diocese of Brooklyn.

In the summer of 2011, she took on the challenge of the newly formed Press and Communications Office and was named the first Press Secretary for the Diocese.

With Ohio roots, she has been a New Yorker for nearly ten years and lives in Brooklyn with her husband Manny, their son, Gabriel, and a very active rescue pup named Ruby.

Donald Clemmer has served the communications efforts of the U.S. bishops since 2008. With a background in diocesan and secular print, web and broadcast media, his work for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has included launching USCCB's presence on various social media channels, spearheading a summit meeting of bishops and bloggers, and providing media relations support for the U.S. cardinals during the 2013 papal transition. His writing has been recognized by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada. He lives in Washington with his wife and daughter.



PANELIST

DONALD CLEMMER
INTERIM DIRECTOR
OF MEDIA RELATIONS,
U.S. CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

 @USCCB



PANELIST

ANGELA FLOOD
SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNICATIONS,
ARCHDIOCESE OF
WASHINGTON

 @WashArchdiocese

Angela Flood has more than 20 years of experience in senior positions in government and the private sector, including as a vice president of a strategic communications firm, White House deputy political director, chief of staff and press secretary in the U.S. House of Representatives and legislative and policy positions in the U.S. Senate.

In her current role as head of the Secretariat for Communications for the Archdiocese of Washington, Flood leads the development, coordination and implementation of communications strategies across the archdiocese, using a wide variety of platforms to project the vision and values of the Catholic faith and its teachings. The

secretariat she directs includes the Office of Media and Public Relations; the Office of Digital Media; the Office of Multimedia Production; Carroll Publishing, which produces the Catholic Standard and *El Pregonero* newspapers; and Abriendo Puertas, a Spanish-language Catholic radio program. The Communications Secretariat serves the archdiocese's 139 parishes and 95 schools, as well as its Central Pastoral Administration offices and affiliated organizations in support of the priorities of the archbishop.

An Indiana native, Flood holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and business from the University of Notre Dame. She is a member of St. Mary Parish in Alexandria, Virginia.

Kenneth A. Gavin serves as the Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Press Secretary for Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. His responsibilities include immediate oversight for internal and external strategic communications planning, development, and execution as well as media relations support for all Archdiocesan entities and offices in the five-county region. This network includes dozens of administrative offices, 219 parishes, 123 elementary schools, 17 high schools, 4 schools of special education, and one of the largest social services and elder care outreach service agencies in the region. In a typical year, his office processes in excess of 2,000 press inquiries.

He has worked on some of the most challenging organizational and communications issues ever faced by the Archdiocese including two Grand Jury reports, school mergers and closures related to the Blue Ribbon Commission Report, large scale parish mergers, and the disclosure of multi-million dollar operational deficits among others.

He earned a full academic scholarship to La Salle University where he studied Communications, American History and Spanish. He is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University Honors Program.

Gavin began his professional career in 2001 with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a Communications Assistant. From 2002 to 2007, he served as a Communications and Development Coordinator at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

In early 2007, he joined the American Institute for History Education, serving as both the Director of Fellowship and Field Study Programs. In the fall of 2010, Gavin returned to the Archdiocese as the Associate Director of Communications. In February of 2013, he was appointed the youngest Director of Communications in the history of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

A lifelong resident of the Philadelphia region, Gavin is a native of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Prospect Park, Pennsylvania with his wife, Gina, and their son, Jackson.



PANELIST

KENNETH A. GAVIN
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS,
ARCHDIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA

 @ArchPhilly



PANELIST

JOSEPH ZWILLING
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS,
ARCHDIOCESE
OF NEW YORK

 @NY_Arch

Joseph Zwilling is the Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of New York. He joined the Archdiocese in May 1982 as Assistant Director of Communications, and was promoted to Director in 1990 by John Cardinal O'Connor.

Among the significant events he has undertaken in his role as Director of Communications and spokesman for the Archdiocese, Zwilling has coordinated the media coverage of two papal visits to the Archdiocese of New York, helped to organize the visits of five different Presidents of the United States to meet with the Archbishop of New York, helped to guide the Church in

New York through the sexual abuse crisis, and worked closely with the Holy See press office and colleagues from around the United States during the papal conclaves that elected Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. He has been proud to serve four Cardinal-Archbishops of New York: Terence Cardinal Cooke, John Cardinal O'Connor, Edward Cardinal Egan, and Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

In 2006, Zwilling founded, under the direction of Edward Cardinal Egan, the Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio (now Sirius XM). The Catholic Channel is a 24/7 radio station dedicated to the Catholic Church and its teaching, and reaches the entire United States and Canada.

Grant Gallicho is an associate editor of *Commonweal* magazine, a biweekly review of religion, politics, and culture, founded in 1924 and edited by lay Catholics. He has worked there since 2000. He is also a regular contributor to *In the Arena*, a weekly Catholic radio talk show that airs on WOR radio and NET TV. He received a B.A. in English and Theology from Fordham University, and an M.A. in Theology from the University of Chicago. In 2006, he launched dotCommonweal, the magazine's award-winning blog, where he writes twice a week on a variety of subjects.

In 2013, he covered the papal transition in Rome for *Currents*, NET TV's daily news program.

His writing has appeared in the *National Catholic Reporter*, *America* magazine, *The Tablet* of London, *El Ciervo* of Spain, *Religion News Service*, the *New York Observer*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere. He lives in Brooklyn.



CONTRIBUTOR

GRANT GALLICHO
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
COMMONWEAL

 @Gallicho



CONTRIBUTOR

**CHRISTINE MOHAN
CAWLEY**

DIRECTOR OF SALES,
MARKETING AND DIGITAL
OPERATIONS,
DESALES MEDIA GROUP

@christinemohan

Christine Mohan Cawley is Director of Sales, Marketing and Digital Operations, responsible for cross-platform initiatives for DeSales. She has 20 years of experience working for media, technology, health care, non-profit and lobbying firms in New York, Boston and Washington D.C., including 12 years at New York Times Digital and The Wall Street Journal Digital Network.

As founder of Mohan Media, she provided PR, web operations and product marketing services for clients including Tiffany & Co., Business Insider and WordPress. Mohan Cawley received a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross; she and her husband, Neil, reside in Queens and serve on the Board of Directors of St. Mel's Catholic Academy in Flushing.



CONTRIBUTOR

JOHN-MARK DE PALMA
PRODUCT MANAGER,
DIGITAL OPERATIONS
DESALES MEDIA GROUP

@demedievalist

John-Mark de Palma is the Product Manager, Digital Operations for DeSales Media Group where he manages day-to-day operations of the Parish Network and the Academy Network. With 11 years of experience in integrated media and in the non-profit sector, he has managed and designed content for the arts and for parishes. At Sacred Hearts – Saint Stephen Parish in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, he serves as the Integrated Media and Public Relations Associate.

Before joining DeSales, he co-founded Vasari Fine Art, worked as a disaster relief volunteer coordinator, a freelance writer, and taught at Brown University. de Palma holds an A.M. with Distinction from Brown University and a B.A. with Honors from CUNY, Queens College. He resides in Brooklyn and holds positions on the finance board and parish council at Sacred Hearts – Saint Stephen.



CONTRIBUTOR

CHARLIE HANGER
DIGITAL MEDIA
CONSULTANT

Charlie Hanger is a consultant who has worked on web development projects with DeSales Media Group over the past year and a half, including launching the Parish Network and redesigning websites for The Tablet, NET TV, CTN, Catholic Migration Services and the Diocese of Brooklyn. Charlie was the founding editor of Golf.com, which launched in 2007, and built the site into the largest independent golf site in the world. In his nearly seven years there, he oversaw all editorial coverage, edited some of the most prominent sports writers in the business, and was deeply involved in all technical and business matters related to the site.

From 1999-2006, he worked for The New York Times as an editor and Web producer, running online coverage for two Olympics and countless breaking news stories. He has a masters in journalism from the University of Missouri and a B.A. in English from Notre Dame. He lives in Maplewood, NJ, with his wife, Becky, and their two sons.



MODERATOR

REV. FR. TOMÁS DEL VALLE-REYES
 FOUNDER, DISCOVERING
 THE XXI CENTURY;
 AUTHOR, *SABÍAS QUE...*
 PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR,
LA TERTULIA
 RADIO PROGRAM

@PTomasDelValle

Rev. Fr. Tomás del Valle-Reyes is a priest, professor and journalist with an expertise in History and the biblical world. He led two radio stations in Puerto Rico and has been a columnist with *El Diario La Prensa* for over 14 years. Fr. Tomás is a radio and television correspondent in English and Spanish in the United States and Europe. He has produced and directed the radio program entitled *La Tertulia* and in October of 2001, founded *Discovering the 21st Century*.

Fr. Tomás collaborates with various print publications and radio stations both nationally and in Puerto Rico. A two time award-winning honoree with The Association of Entertainment Critics of New York (ACE) and the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada, Fr. Tomás also serves the community at St. Columba in New York City.

Rev. Fr. Tomás Del Valle-Reyes es un sacerdote, profesor y periodista con experiencia pericia en Historia y el mundo bíblico. Ha dirigido dos emisoras de radio en Puerto Rico y es columnista del El Diario La Prensa por más de 14 años. Pd. Tomás es un corresponsal de radio y televisión en inglés y español en EEUU y Europa. Es productor y conductor del programa de radio La Tertulia y en octubre de 2001 fundó Descubriendo el Siglo XXI. Pd. Tomás colabora con varios periódicos y emisoras nacionalmente y en Puerto Rico. Galardonado en dos ocasiones por la Asociación de Críticos de Arte de Nueva York (ACE) y por la Asociación Católica de Prensa de EEUU y Canadá, Rev. Tomás también sirve a la comunidad de San Colombo en la Ciudad de Nueva York.

Natasha Bisbal is the Manager of Hispanic Relations for DeSales Media Group where she manages the Hispanic efforts. Her responsibilities include community outreach to address the growing needs of Latinos in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

She is a columnist and key contributor to *Nuestra Voz*, the Spanish language newspaper of the diocese. She is also the host and producer of *Tu Fe Al Día*, an original NET TV Spanish program that seeks to strengthen the dignity and identity of Hispanic Catholics in Brooklyn and Queens by discussing issues of relevance from a faith based perspective.

She graduated from CUNY, The City College of New York where she studied Journalism and Communications with a concentration in Advertising and Public Relations. She received a Bachelor of Arts in 2009 and immediately began her career with the Diocese of Brooklyn in the Government Affairs and Public Policy Office.

Natasha Bisbal es Mánager de Relaciones Hispanas con DeSales Media Group, donde está a cargo de las iniciativas hispanas. Entre sus responsabilidades está la inclusión de la comunidad, respondiendo a las crecientes necesidades de los Latinos en Brooklyn y Queens.

Además, ella es columnista y cumple un rol clave en Nuestra Voz, el periódico hispano de la diócesis. Es la anfitriona y productora de Tu Fe Al Día, un programa original en español del canal diocesano NET TV, que busca fortalecer la dignidad e identidad de los hispanos católicos en la Diócesis de Brooklyn hablando sobre temas relevantes con una perspectiva basada en la fe.

Natasha se graduó de CUNY, The City College of New York donde estudió periodismo y comunicaciones con una concentración en publicidad y relaciones públicas. Recibió su título Bachelor of Arts en 2009 e inmediatamente inició su carrera en la oficina de Asuntos Gubernamentales y Políticas Públicas de la Diócesis de Brooklyn.



PANELIST

NATASHA BISBAL
 MANAGER OF
 HISPANIC RELATIONS,
 DESALES MEDIA GROUP
 HOST AND PRODUCER,
TU FE AL DÍA

@nbisbal



PANELIST

LUIS ALEJANDRO MEDINA

JOURNALIST,
WNJU TELEMUNDO 47;
AUTHOR, *MI LUCHA DE FE*
AND *CRÓNICAS CON JESÚS*

Luis Alejandro Medina is a national and international journalist with over 30 years experience.

During his extensive television career he has served as a Reporter, Executive Producer and Managing Editor. He specializes in the Vatican and has covered several Papal tours in addition to the conclave. Since 1995 he has been part of WNJU Telemundo 47 where he is a Reporter and substitute anchor.

He graduated in Philosophy at the Universidad de San Buenaventura in his native Colombia and then as a journalist from the Universidad Javeriana. He later obtained a Masters in Economics and recently received an honorary degree in Social Communication on behalf of the Universidad de Santo Tomás.

His work has been honored numerous times in Colombia. In the United States he is a six-time Emmy award winner from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in New York and was nominated in over 20 occasions.

For five years he has received the ACE Award for Best Hispanic Reporter in addition to various recognitions of behalf of the Senate, National Congress and authorities from New York and New Jersey.

During his career he has written two books, *Crónicas con Jesús* and *Mi Lucha de Fe*, published by the Universidad de Santo Tomás.

Luis Alejandro lives in New Jersey with his wife Soraya Botello, with whom he has two children, Edwin and María Camila. Now the center of his life is Adrian, his grandson of five years.

Luis Alejandro Medina es periodista y escritor, con más de 30 años de experiencia nacional e internacional. En su vasta carrera televisiva se ha desempeñado como Reportero, Productor Ejecutivo y Jefe de Redacción. Es especialista en temas del Vaticano y ha cubierto varias giras Papales, al igual que el cónclave. Desde 1995 ha formado parte de Telemundo 47, donde es reportero y presentador sustituto.

Se graduó de Filosofía en la Universidad de San Buenaventura en su país natal Colombia y luego de Periodista en la Universidad Javeriana, también de Colombia, donde además obtuvo un Magíster en Economía. Recientemente recibió el título honoris causa en Comunicación Social por parte de la Universidad Santo Tomás.

Su trabajo ha sido premiado en Colombia numerosas veces. En Estados Unidos, ha sido galardonado con 6 premios Emmys de la Academia de Artes y Ciencias de la Televisión en Nueva York, y ha recibido nominaciones en más de 20 ocasiones. Durante 5 años ha recibido el premio ACE como Mejor Reportero Hispano al igual de varios reconocimientos del Senado y del Congreso nacional, como también de autoridades de Nueva York y Nueva Jersey.

Durante su carrera ha escrito dos libros, Crónicas con Jesús y Mi Lucha de Fe, publicados por la Universidad Santo Tomás.

Luis Alejandro vive en Nueva Jersey junto a su esposa Soraya Botello, con quien tiene dos hijos; Edwin y María Camila. Ahora el centro de su vida es Adrián, su nieto de 5 años.

The American Bible Society (ABS) is an organization founded in the United States whose mission is to promote Sacred Scripture in all languages in an accessible and most economical format possible. Mario Paredes is the Director of the Department of Catholic Ministry with the American Bible Society.

Previously, he worked with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as the Director of Catholic Ministry for the Northeast. In addition, he was the Director of the first national Catholic newspaper, *El Visitante Dominical*, and Founder of the first Catholic newspaper in Puerto Rico entitled *El Visitante de Puerto Rico*. Today, Paredes is recognized as the Chairman Emeritus of the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL).

Paredes served as representative to President Ronald Reagan in the White House for Latin-American issues and was sent to a number of missions including Haiti, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

A Professor in philosophy, he studied at the Catholic University of Chile and at the Catholic University of Argentina. He completed his postgraduate in Philosophy and Education in the University of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. At the University of Loyola in Chicago he received his degree as Professor of Religious Education.

The American Bible Society (ABS) es una organización fundada en los Estados Unidos con el propósito de promover las Sagradas Escrituras en todas las lenguas, en un formato accesible y lo más económico posible. Mario Paredes es el Director del Departamento del Ministerio Católico de the American Bible Society.

Anteriormente trabajó para la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los EEUU como Director del Ministerio Católico para el Nordeste de los EEUU. También fue Director del primer periódico nacional católico, *El Visitante Dominical*, y Fundador del primer periódico católico de Puerto Rico, llamado *El Visitante de Puerto Rico*. Hoy, Paredes es reconocido como el Presidente Emérito del Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL).

Paredes sirvió como representante del Presidente Ronald Reagan en la Casa Blanca para asuntos latinoamericanos, y fue enviado a varias misiones a Haití, Nicaragua y El Salvador.

Profesor de filosofía, cursó sus estudios en la Universidad Católica de Chile y en la Universidad Católica de Argentina. Realizó su postgrado en Filosofía y Educación en la Universidad de Georgetown en Washington, D.C. En la Universidad de Loyola en Chicago, obtuvo su título de Profesor de Educación Religiosa.



PANELIST

MARIO J. PAREDES
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC
MINISTRY, ABS;
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS,
CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF
LATINO LEADERS (CALL)

 @mparedes63



CONTRIBUTOR

ED WILKINSON
EDITOR OF THE TABLET
NEWS DIRECTOR OF
NET TV

 @ewilkinson_ed

Ed Wilkinson has been the Editor of The Tablet, Brooklyn's diocesan newspaper, since June of 1985. He joined the staff in September, 1970, as a reporter. For 11 years, he wrote a weekly sports column and then served as News Editor from 1981 to 1985.

He has won several awards in the Catholic Press Association's annual newspaper contest, including Best New Story, Best Headline Writing, Best Photograph, and Best Youth Coverage.

His column, The Editor's Space, appears weekly in The Tablet, and he also can be seen on Currents, the daily Catholic news show on NET TV, when he conducts a Friday interview with the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn.

The most memorable event of his tenure as Editor was a personal meeting with John Paul II when the Pope visited New York in October, 1995.

Born in Greenpoint, he is a life-long resident of Brooklyn. He attended St. Alphonsus Elementary School; Cathedral Prep, Brooklyn; Cathedral College, Douglaston,

and studied Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

He has been honored by the Msgr. Ferris Life Center, the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, the Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee of Northeast Queens, the Boy Scouts of America, Arriba Juntos Youth Center, the Catholic Teachers Association, the Kings County Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Cathedral Prep Alumni Association. In 2000, he served as Chief Brehon of Catholic Charities' Great Irish Fair. In 2007, he was selected to be Grand Marshal of the Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Earlier this year, he received the Bridge to Life Award from the pro-life group of the same name, and he was honored at Brooklyn Borough Hall as the Irishman of the Year at a St. Patrick's Day breakfast.

When The Tablet was incorporated into the DeSales Media Group in 2011, he was named News Director, taking responsibility for Currents, as well as weekly publication of The Tablet.

Ed and his wife, Sheila, and their 16-year-old son, Edward Daniel, live in Our Lady of Angels parish, Bay Ridge.

THANK YOU

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Austen Ivereigh, Ph.D., Journalist and Author

The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, Ph.D., D.D.

Reverend Monsignor Kieran E. Harrington, Vicar for Communications

Art Dignam, CEO, DeSales Media Group

GUEST SPEAKERS

David Gibson, Author and Journalist, Religion News Service

John Thavis, Journalist and Author

Grant Gallicho, Associate Editor, Commonweal

Ed Wilkinson, Editor of The Tablet; News Director of NET TV

Donald Clemmer, Interim Director of Media Relations, USCCB

Angela Flood, Secretary for Communications, Archdiocese of Washington

Kenneth Gavin, Director of Communications, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Joseph Zwilling, Director of Communications, Archdiocese of New York

Rev. Tomás del Valle-Reyes, Founder, Discovering the 21st Century

Mario J. Paredes, Director of Catholic Ministries, American Bible Society

Luis Alejandro Medina, Author and Journalist, WNJU Telemundo 47

Charlie Hanger, Digital Media Consultant

DESALES EVENT TEAM

Natasha Bisbal

Kerry Burke

Christina Buzzetta

John-Mark de Palma

Rocío Fidalgo

Stefanie Gutierrez

Brendan Kerley

Christine Mohan Cawley

Theresia Nurtanio

Israel Ochoa

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Laura DePalma

Gabriela Flores

James Flores

Mike Geoghan

James Kim

Vincent LeVien

Robert Longo

Lorenzo Regalado

Fidel Sciortino

Ely Soriano

Craig Tubiolo

Ian West

EVENT PLANNING, DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Rachel Frydenlund

DeSALES
MEDIA GROUP

THE TABLET

 CURRENTS



NUESTRA VOZ



**WITH APPRECIATION FOR OUR
2015 WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY
SPONSORS**

GOLD

iHeart Media

SILVER

AgeWell New York

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens

New York Daily News

Northfield Bank

PROGRAM

Brady & Marshak, LLP

CEMUSA

C.J.M. Contracting Inc.

Institutional Commodity Services

KBM Construction

Martin B. Torre RA AIA

PPM Restoration

St. Francis College

Trinity Automotive Services

WOR

THE VOICE OF NEW YORK

710

WOR710.COM

**RADIO
HOME**
OF THE
Mets®

**LEN BERMAN &
TODD SCHNITT**
IN THE MORNING
6-10AM

@LENTODDWOR

"The family is a community which provides help,
which celebrates life and is fruitful."

*Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for
the 49th World Communications Day*



Proud partner of the Brooklyn Diocese
in celebrating the importance of family
and World Communications Day.

DAILY NEWS
NYDAILYNEWS.COM



Bring Your Health Plan Options Into Focus



**Learn about eligibility and enrollment in our
Medicare Advantage & Long Term Care Plans**

**Large Network of Physicians and Hospital Providers
Personal Care Managers • Coordinated Care**

866-586-8044

800-662-1220 (TTY/TDD)

agewellnewyork.com

Proud to Sponsor

The 24th Annual World Communications Day Media Conference
Supporting families within the community of the Diocese of Brooklyn

BM **BRADY & MARSHAK, LLP**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
156-36 Crossbay Blvd.
Howard Beach, NY 11414
718.738.8500



**Estate Planning & Elder Law
Wills, Trusts, Probate
Medical Planning & Medicaid Applications
Guardianship Matters, Real Estate Closings**

“Planning in Advance is the Key to Protecting the Value of Your Home and Savings”



Choosing Compassion: Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens

**Quality programs and services throughout
Brooklyn and Queens**

Behavioral Health Services

Early Childhood Services

Family Services

Housing Services

Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Older Adult Services

Parish and Community Services

and much more!

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens
191 Joralemon Street, 12 Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
www.ccbq.org

***"Each day, we all face the choice
to be Good Samaritans or to be
indifferent travelers passing by."***

– Pope Francis

The choices we make say a great deal about our beliefs and values. By supporting the more than 160 programs and services offered by Catholic Charities — by choosing compassion — you express your caring in so many ways.



Donate!

718-722-6202

www.ccbq.org/support-us

Volunteer!

718-722-6175

volunteer@ccbq.org

Connect With Us!



Follow us @CCBplusQ



Facebook.com/CCBplusQ



Instagram.com/CCBplusQ

Spend less on bank fees. More on your business.

Our business checking doesn't charge sneaky per check or monthly account analysis fees. And we didn't stop there. We also offer businesses free online cash management and online bill pay. Small business loans with fast, local decision-making. And a host of other banking services all created to help your business grow. At Northfield Bank, we figured the less you spend on bank fees, the more you can spend on your business.

Northfield
Bank

Member FDIC Equal Credit Opportunity

For Details
eNorthfield.com/business
or call (718) 448-1000





PPM Restoration

SPECIALIZING IN THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- ♦ Waterproofing
- ♦ Flat Roofing
- ♦ Spanish Tile Roofing
- ♦ Masonry Restoration
- ♦ Gutter Replacement
- ♦ Parapet Cladding
- ♦ Sidewalk Replacement
- ♦ Stucco
- ♦ Shingle & Slate Roofing
- ♦ Sheet Metal
- ♦ Copper Roofing
- ♦ Façade Cleaning
- ♦ Wrought Iron
- ♦ Stained Glass Wood Framing
- ♦ Ornamental Glass
- ♦ Painting
- ♦ Bathroom Renovations
- ♦ Handicap Accessibility
- ♦ Interior Renovations
- ♦ General Contracting

OUR LIST OF SATISFIED CUSTOMERS INCLUDES:

- ♦ Annunciation
- ♦ Christ the King, Springfield Gardens
- ♦ Our Lady of Angels, Brooklyn
- ♦ St. Agnes
- ♦ St. Sebastian
- ♦ St. Michael
- ♦ St. Augustine
- ♦ Angel Guardian/Mercy Sisters
- ♦ Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- ♦ St. Mary Star of the Sea
- ♦ St. Luke
- ♦ Our Lady of the Presentation
- ♦ St. Edmund
- ♦ St. Jerome

Peter McNamara

11 Seventh Street

Pelham, NY 10803

Office: 914-355-4690 Fax: 914-931-1636

Cell: 914-447-6271

Email: pmcnamara@parishmgt.com

Summer Sessions 2015

May 14 - 29 | June 1 - 25 | July 1 - 28 | Aug. 3 - 27



ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Online, Hybrid and Campus Courses

Accounting | Economics | Biology | Psychology | Marketing
Web Design | Glassblowing and More!

Easily accessible from all major subway lines:



Apply Now

sfc.edu/summersession



- CALL 718-276-8558**



(646) 794-2600 WWW.NYICS.ORG

HANDYMAN FREE ESTIMATES

- ## KITCHEN SPECIALISTS!

10% OFF
WITH AD
AT ESTIMATE

Trinity

Automotive Services

Sales • Service • Leasing
"The Total Service Specialist"



"We offer an exclusive program for the clergy, religious employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Rockville Centre and Archdiocese of New York"

Sal Ervolino
516.759.7043
servolino@trinityautomotive.com
Affiliated vendor of ICS

Martin B. Torre RA AIA

Registered Architect
N.Y. License No. 027770
Former Building Dept. Plan Examiner

20 years experience

646.257.9081
mbtorrearchitects@hotmail.com

Residential & Commercial Renovation/Extension
Zoning & Building Code Compliance
ECB & DOB Violation Resolution/Expediting

NEW

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
DAILY HEADLINES EMAIL



READ TODAY'S HEADLINES -
On your laptop
On your tablet
On your phone
On the go

Every weekday, The Tablet brings you Catholic news and opinion in Today's Headlines, an email newsletter with links to stories from our newspaper, NET TV and Currents. Plus Catholic headlines from around the Web.

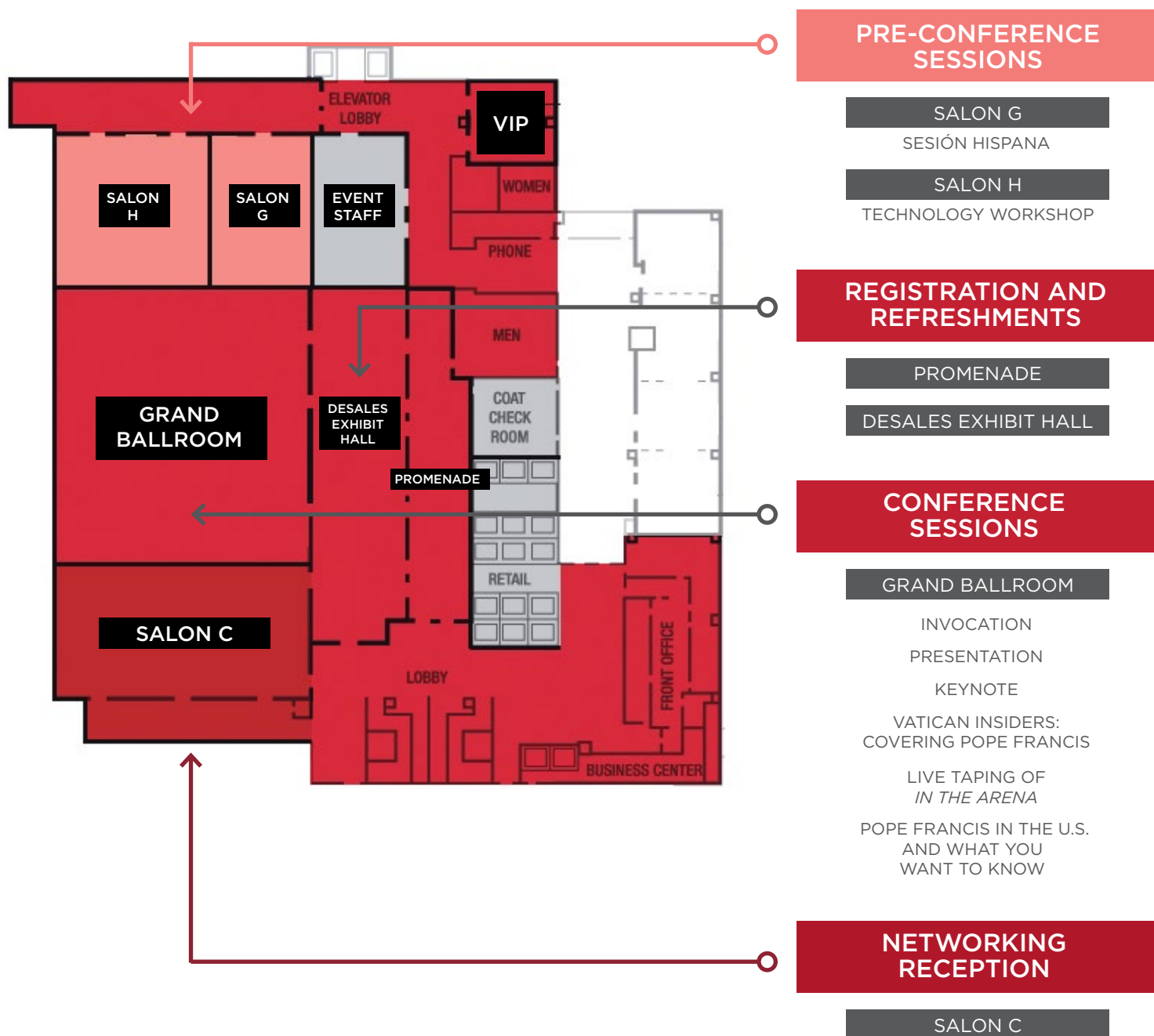
SIGN UP FOR FREE

www.thetablet.org/emailsignup

THE TABLET



VENUE INFORMATION



CONNECT WITH US

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org
FB: facebook.com/BrooklynDiocese
Twitter: @BrooklynDiocese
@dobpress

BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

FB: facebook.com/BishopDiMarzio
TW: @BpDiMarzio

DESALES MEDIA GROUP

www.desalesmedia.org
FB: facebook.com/DeSalesMediaGroup
TW: @DeSalesMedia

THE TABLET

www.thetablet.org
FB: facebook.com/thetablet
TW: @TabletNewspaper

NUESTRA VOZ

www.nuestra-voz.org
FB: facebook.com/NuestraVozDOB
TW: @NuestraVozDOB

NET TV

www.netny.tv
FB: facebook.com/NETTVny
TW: @NETnyTV

CURRENTS

www.currentsnny.tv
FB: facebook.com/CurrentsNY
TW: @currentsnny

CATHOLIC TELEMEDIA NETWORK (CTN)

www.ctnbq.org
FB: facebook.com/ctnbrooklyn
TW: @ctnbrooklyn

TU FE AL DÍA

www.netny.tv/tufealdia
FB: facebook.com/TuFealDia
TW: @TuFeAlDia

REELFAITH

www.netny.tv/reelfaith
FB: facebook.com/ReelFaithShow
TW: @ReelFaithShow



WIFI NETWORK

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY PASSWORD:
WCD2015

