

INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE

As the summer days wind down, August is the perfect time to explore the rich, theological thought of the saints. On FORMED, there are an abundance of resources designed to help prepare and inform readers desiring to understand the thought of these classic texts.

With the feast of St. Augustine approaching, FORMED is proud to offer a series that will help your parishioners come to know this great saint through his *Confessions*. In *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, a FORMED Now series, your parishioners will join patristic scholars Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Dr. John Sehorn of the Augustine Institute as they tackle this spiritual classic. Viewers will explore the richness of this incredible work as they learn about the culture and times that shaped the world St. Augustine lived in.

In this six-part study, viewers will discover who St. Augustine is and how this work is at the same time an autobiography, a story of intellectual conversion, and a work of prayer and scriptural interpretation. As each episode covers a different facet of his writing, viewers can follow along with the eBook of *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, which is also available on FORMED.

While it is a wonderful resource for individual study, this series is also a terrific opportunity to open the door for discourse and discussion at your parish. With each episode lasting about 20 minutes, this FORMED Now series can offer itself as a framework for organizing your own book study with parishioners to encourage spiritual growth and community within your flock.

The Confessions of St. Augustine is an incredible piece of literature that has influenced the fields of theology and philosophy through the generations. By assisting readers in their journey through the text, each person will deepen their understanding of man's relationship with God by coming to know the whole story surrounding this spiritual masterpiece.



HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

Encourage your parish to seek out the truths of the faith with these three highlights on FORMED:



Heresies

Throughout the centuries, heresies have remained a prominent part of our culture and an opponent to truth. Yet, because of them, the Church has clarified her teachings and doctrine. In this series, Dr. James Prothro and Dr. Chris Mooney delve into heresies and the Church's response to all of them. Learn about the historical context from which they emerged, the saints that fought against them, and the many ways they continue to plague our culture today.



Real + True

After understanding the lies of this world with *Heresies*, encounter the truths of the Church with Real + True. This series seeks to highlight how the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the faithful echo of a God who reveals himself to us and desires our response. Part of The Catechism Project, a global initiative sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor and under the patronage of the Holy See, each episode highlights one of the many truths of our faith and invites each viewer to respond to the God who calls them.

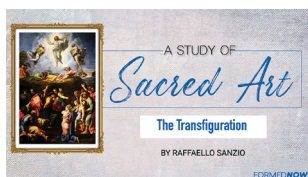


33 Days to Morning Glory

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. With this in mind, *33 Days to Morning Glory* is a fantastic way to encourage deeper Marian devotion in your parish. This series offers itself as a guide to group-based Marian consecration. Each episode follows the teachings of a different saint and their love for Our Lady as viewers give themselves to the heart of our Immaculate Mother.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

This August, help your parishioners dive into their faith and with these great resources on FORMED:



August 6: The Transfiguration of the Lord

***The Transfiguration* | Sacred Art**

As we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord on August 6, your parishioners can encounter this mystery anew with *The Transfiguration*. In this episode of FORMED's *Sacred Art* series, Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down to discuss the theological interpretations of Raffaello Sanzio's masterpiece *The Transfiguration* and how we can continue to find meaning in this magnificent work today.



August 11th: St. Clare

Clare and Francis

Unveil the story behind the remarkable friendship of two great saints: Clare and Francis. Shot on location in Italy, this film opens the door for viewers to witness how these saints have impacted the world even centuries after their deaths. This movie is perfect for a parish movie night or for watching from home.



August 22nd: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

***Mary, Mother of God* | Momenta Sacra**

In this premiere episode of *Momenta Sacra*, viewers encounter the beauty and humility of Our Lady as they see her story come to life. Designed to invite each person into a deeper yearning for prayer, your parishioners will witness the holy moments of the saints through this series.

CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

Eucharistic Miracles

The Second Vatican Council calls the Eucharist the “source and summit of the Christian faith.” Yet many Catholics do not understand the fullness of this great gift. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, nearly 70% of Catholics do not believe in the True Presence of Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity within the Eucharist.

Although this data is startling, the Eucharist is one of the greatest signs of the love Christ has for us. Through the Eucharist, we are united with him in an intimate and beautiful way. Christ continues to invite us to believe in the True Presence through countless Eucharistic miracles that have occurred over the centuries. These miracles are evidence of divine love and the truth of what we receive.

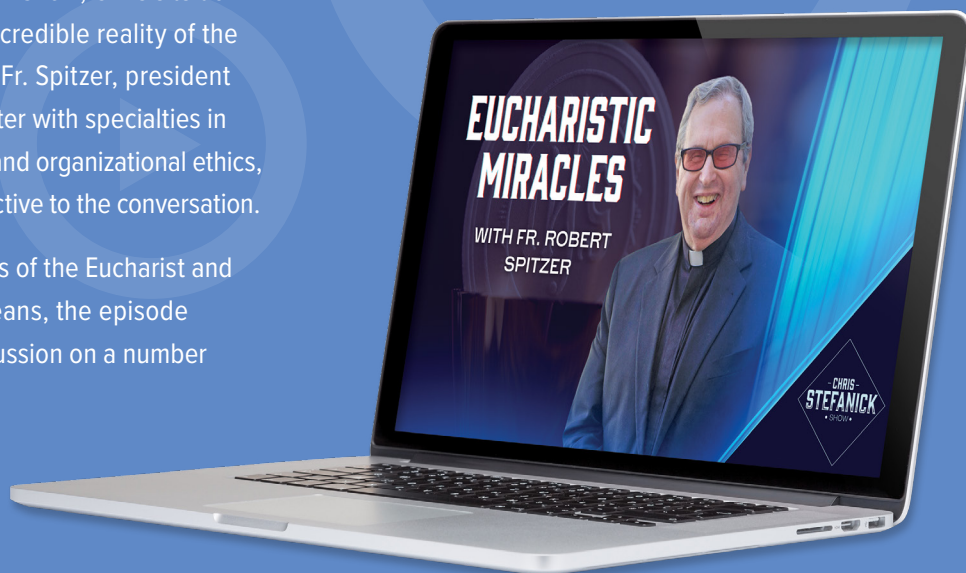
In a special episode of the *Chris Stefanick Show*, Chris sits down with Fr. Robert Spitzer to explore the incredible reality of the Eucharist through Eucharistic miracles. Fr. Spitzer, president of the Magis Center and the Spitzer Center with specialties in metaphysics, the philosophy of science, and organizational ethics, brings an informative and unique perspective to the conversation.

Beginning with covering the metaphysics of the Eucharist and exploring what “transubstantiation” means, the episode ultimately unfolds into an insightful discussion on a number

of Eucharistic miracles. These miracles reveal how Christ is truly present in the Eucharist and will encourage the faithful to know the Lord more in this great mystery.

As we enter the time for parishes to begin strengthening their Eucharistic devotion during this Eucharistic Revival, promoting resources like *The Incredible Eucharistic Miracles with Fr. Robert Spitzer* will be integral in reinvigorating your parishioners so that they may open their hearts and minds to meeting Christ in the Eucharist.

Whether you promote this through group study or for families to watch at home, this episode and many other resources on FORMED are a great start to inviting your flock to a deeper intimacy with Christ.



DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



Serenity Prayer

Written by American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, the Serenity Prayer helps us to rely on the Lord and place our trust in him. This short video offered on FORMED brings the prayer into focus and allows viewers to spend time dwelling on each word as they speak it within their hearts. It is a great prayer for the morning or to wrap up the day and can be a helpful reminder for each person as we continue to seek the Lord with everything we do.

FORMED®

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