



# Memo

**Date:** September 14, 2020  
**To:** All priests  
**From:** Monsignor Jim Schillinger, Director, Ongoing Formation of Priests  
**Re:** Save the date - Clergy Study Days

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Please see information on the next Clergy Study Days below.

**“Becoming a Parish of Fruitful Disciples” with Sherry Weddell**  
**(author of Forming Intentional Disciples)**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2020**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Presentation at the chancery (limited number of participants) AND virtual presentation**

In a context where:

- Religious affiliation continues to decline
- The “nones” are the fastest growing demographic among young people
- Barely 12 percent of Millennials are engaged in the life of the Church
- For every one adult convert who enters the Church, four drift away, either into secular humanism or the world of evangelical Christianity
- The number of Hispanics who identify as Catholics continues to shrink

...how to move parishes from a focus on maintenance of existing programs and structure to an approach where evangelization and the formation of life-long, fruitful disciples of the Lord is central to the mission of the parish. The November 19 clergy study day will give an opportunity to explore these issues with renowned author and speaker Sherry Weddell.

**Pastoral Strategies for Racial Healing in Our Communities**  
**Monday, February 15, 2021**  
**10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Virtual Presentation**

The Ministry of Justice and Peace and the Office of Intercultural Ministries will present a study day on Pastoral Strategies for Racial Healing in Our Communities. The goal is to provide priests with effective, concrete strategies and resources for promoting racial healing. We will engage the bishops' pastoral letter on racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, through the lenses of encounter, preaching and catechesis, as well as facilitate conversation on intercultural competencies and the implementation of anti-racist programming. In preparation for this study day, all priests will be asked to return a survey so that we can best address specific concerns and challenges. The survey will be sent out by mid-October.