

# Day One

## Catholic & Classical Homeschooling in Today's World



### Morning Keynote Speaker: Msgr. James Shea

123 A Change of the Ages with  
Msgr. James Shea



Msgr. James Shea, President of the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota discusses the ambient culture, the modern mind's romance with utopias, and the good news that this is an age where Kolbe families can shine.

Msgr. James Shea joins Bonnie and Steven to discuss the transition to adulthood and the adventures that transition brings. He also describes the apostolic moment in which we live, the words of encouragement he has to parents who feel shame or fear about their children leaving the Church, and some of the features of UMary that provide an accessible Catholic education with an entrepreneurial spirit.

### More by Msgr. Shea:

<https://kolbecast.podbean.com/e/224-msgr-james-shea-forming-apostolic-hearts/>

### Morning Breakout Sessions

#### Option 1: Ken and Kerri Davison

63 The Saints Speak for  
Themselves

Kolbe parents and Holy Heroes founders, Ken and Kerri Davison share wisdom on homeschooling while running a family business as well as on fostering strong, devout commitment to the sacraments and the saints.

This special episode of the Kolbecast was released on the Blessed Virgin Mary's birthday, September 8. They discuss how homeschooling parents have discretion to plan their weeks and lives based on what their families need rather than on what a school demands, and they encourage liturgical living through celebrations of baptismal days, confirmation days, and name days as well as birthdays. They also have insight into the passive and active listening involved in video and audio entertainment, how

important early formation is for children, and the challenge and joy of doing hard things. Finally, the Davisons share how homeschooling makes it easier to incorporate children into the running of the home since children can gain a greater appreciation of what really needs to be done throughout the day and can live lives that have far more dimensions than just schoolwork.

#### Option 2: Dr. Greg Popcak

255 Family Life as Liturgy with  
Dr. Greg Popcak



Host of EWTN's *More2Life* podcast, founder of CatholicCounselors.com, and developer of the CatholicHOM app Greg Popcak shares his wisdom to make your home into a living, vibrant domestic church.

"What does a domestic church spirituality even look like,"

Dr. Popcak asks, “that would treat family life—the craziness, the busyness, the scatteredness of family life—as a feature, not a bug, of Catholic spirituality?”

In this episode, Dr. Popcak reveals his insights from years of counseling homeschooling families and parents, including some common pitfalls to beware of; explains what an “emotional bank account” is, and how to make sure your children’s stay full; analyzes the scientific data on how to raise your children into faithful, Catholic adults; reveals where burnout comes from—and how to treat it; unpacks what we mean by a “domestic church,” and how you can make your home into one; and shares his advice for those interested in pursuing a counseling career.

Whether you’re a homeschooling parent looking to deepen your family connection and faith, or a student considering a future career in counseling, this episode has something for you.

### Option 3: Joseph Pearce

49 **Revealed Through Story with Joseph Pearce**



Author, professor, and speaker Joseph Pearce describes how God conveys the greatest lessons to us—theological, philosophical, moral, and historical—in terms of story and literature.

Ultimately, Joseph explains how to have an education in the humanities is to become more fully human.

#### More by Joseph Pearce:

<https://kolbecast.podbean.com/e/253-joseph-pearces-classic-literature-appetizers/>

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### Break: Meet Kolbe Parents

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164 **This Is Not a Kolbe Infomercial**

In this episode an experienced Kolbe parent named Lindsey, mother to four sons between eleventh grade and kindergarten, shares the reasons behind her loyalty and enthusiasm. Speaking from her decade of ups and downs (but mostly ups), she describes the pragmatic and profound benefits her family has seen from Kolbe, how she juggles schedules for students in multiple grades, and the factors involved in balancing schoolwork with athletics. Lindsey, Bonnie, and Steven also discuss hands-on tips for enrollment season and the beginning of the school year, as well the value of the sacrifice that homeschool parents make.

### 214 **A Long View**

As parents of five Kolbe alumni, Charlie and Dee-Dee Mihaliak have a wealth of experience with Kolbe and home education. They visit with Bonnie and Steven in this episode to talk about how homeschooling grew from a project to a lifestyle for their family. The Mihaliaks describe their delight at the dinner table conversations their grown children now have, give an unvarnished account of challenges they faced, and highlight the intergenerational dynamics that developed through the flexibility of defining your own family’s schedule.

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### Afternoon Breakout Sessions

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#### Option 1: Lisa Popcak

260 **Lisa Popcak on Flow & Connection through Learning**



Catholic podcaster and co-founder/vice-president of CatholicCounselors.com Lisa Popcak shares her wisdom on

homeschooling and raising children in the faith.

Lisa advocates for “flow” rather than structure in the homeschool day and paints a picture of what a rich—but achievable—prayer life looks like in a busy home. “We have to get away from the idea that our prayer life has to be rigorous,” Lisa says. “If our children are called to a rigorous monastic life, God will give them the grace for that. We have many saints who were . . . and many saints who went a different way.”

#### More by Lisa:

<https://kolbecast.podbean.com/e/261-lisa-popcak-make-it-about-relationship/>

### Option 2: Dr. Andrew Abela

#### 226 Cultivating Habits of Excellence with Andrew Abela



Founding dean of Catholic University of America business school, Forbes contributing writer and author of *Super Habits: The Universal System for a Successful Life*, Dr. Andrew Abela takes a new look at the classic virtues.

Do you want to build your own “super habits”? Dr. Andrew Abela promises that “super habits” are the secret to a successful—and happy—life. He reveals the three steps to building “super habits”; highlights the connection between neuroscience and virtue; argues that good ethics are the most effective business practices; and paints an entirely new picture of classic virtues and success. Stay tuned to the end to hear details about Dr. Abela’s book, *Super Habits: The Universal System for a Successful Life*.

### Option 3: Peter Atkinson

#### 141 From Homeschooling to The Night Train with Peter Atkinson of The Merry Beggars

Homeschool graduate and entertainment professional Peter Atkinson of Relevant Radio’s *The Merry Beggars*, discusses life from homeschooling to producing the beloved radio program.

Who am I? What is excellence? What am I called to do here? These are three foundational questions here at Kolbe. Peter shares how growing up homeschooled nurtured him in an atmosphere of creativity, discovery, and wonder; what his college transition was like; and how he lives out his wonder and love of education today as a young husband, father, and professional. Turning to his current projects with *The Merry Beggars*, Peter reflects on the danger of measuring success by external accomplishments, the unexpected road of divine providence, and his focus on

inspiring lives of virtue and showing families that virtue is lively.

### Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Patrick Reilly



#### 84 The Essence of Catholic Education with Patrick Reilly



President and founder of the Cardinal Newman Society, Patrick Reilly discusses education as a window into God’s mind and explores the state of Catholic education at the college level.

The fundamental question of defining education is one of our favorite and most frequent topics. Patrick proposes the idea of education as a window into God’s mind and explains how this perspective—along with a healthy dose of frustration—led him to look deeply at the state of Catholic education at the college level. He also elucidates some of the differences between Newman Guide schools and schools with Newman Centers (stay tuned for an upcoming episode on the latter).

#### More by Patrick Reilly:

<https://kolbecast.podbean.com/e/157-renewal-revival-variety-and-unity-with-patrick-reilly/>



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## At the Kolbe Table...

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### 215 New School Year Starter Kit

Just enrolled? Considering enrolling? Returning but feeling overwhelmed? This episode is for you. Dean of Admissions Jeanne Anne Ford and customer support supervisor Colleen Pilon share their go-to guidance on organization and inspiration for a new school year, from answering the top questions they get on repeat to tips and tricks they recommend on the regular. Together with Bonnie and Steven, they provide practical pointers on balancing structure and flexibility.

### 232 Part of the Family - Parents & Advisors as Partners

What exactly is a Kolbe advisor? Advisors Rylan Buchanan and Krysten Pizzurro join the Kolbecast to share an insider-look at how the academic advisor team collaborates with parents and students to meet their academic goals, from course selection to college planning. Rylan and Krysten talk about their backgrounds in homeschooling and their journeys to becoming Kolbe advisors; how the advisor role developed into what it is today; the services available to families; the questions everyone should ask their advisors; and some surprising ways your advisor might be able to help you in your homeschooling journey.

### 243 Drawing Distinctions - Classical Education, Liberal Arts, and Liberal Education

What is classical education, exactly? Join Steven and Bonnie as they delve into the founding principles of Kolbe Academy and reveal surprising facts about classical education, including why history is not part of the liberal arts; the differences between classical education, liberal arts, and liberal education; why classical programs reject textbooks; why no one can be classically educated without being a disciple; and so much more.

If you ever wondered about the why behind the Kolbe curriculum, or you just want to know more about classical education, this is the episode for you.



## The Kolbe Academy Table

[Click here to see the entire collection of Kolbe Academy Press titles](#)