

Losing Their Religion: Young Adults and Disaffiliation
Sunday, October 15 | 7:00 pm in the Parish Admin Building

Speaker: Dr. Donna Teevan

**Department Chair, Associate Professor, and Rev. Louis Gaffney Chair
Theology and Religious Studies Department | Seattle University**

Donna is a lifelong Catholic and has a PhD in Theology from the University of St. Michael's College (the Toronto School of Theology) and a BA and MA from the University of Notre Dame. She has been teaching college students since 1994 and has been teaching at Seattle University since 1997. Before doing her PhD, she taught at a Catholic high school in suburban Chicago.

Her interest in young adults and disaffiliation began with her experiences in the classroom. The Pacific Northwest has been called "the None Zone" because of the high numbers of people who check the box "none" when asked about their religion. In this talk, Donna will share what she has discovered about the generational aspects of secularization and why younger generations are leaving behind the religion of their upbringing. She will discuss general trends but will focus especially on young people who are leaving Catholicism not to join other churches but to become one of "the Nones." What are some of the factors behind this trend? What are some ideas about how to reverse this exodus? She will share not only what the research shows but also what she has learned from her students.

