Preconvention Institute
Thursday, November 6, 2014 (6.0 CEUs)
Full-day Session 9:00am-4:00pm

Dr. Fred DiBlasio
"Decision-based Forgiveness Intervention"

Abstract: Although an ancient and faith-based path to healing in a relationship, social workers seldom have a formal way to think about and use forgiveness as a therapeutic intervention. This session will present an overview of decision-based forgiveness and show how it has been effective in the presenter's practice for over thirty years. He will draw from actual case examples and research to show the benefits experienced by clients, and will demonstrate how a forgiveness intervention can lead to much quicker positive results in individual, couple and marital therapy.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:

- Articulate the definition of decision-based forgiveness in a way that sets the stage for client intervention.
- Utilize a forgiveness approach with clients that fully respects self-determination.
- Describe an overview of a step-by step model designed to bring about decision-based forgiveness.

Outline: Topics to be addressed and approximate timeframe

Primary Audience: Social workers and related professionals; social work students; clergy

Content Level: Basic/Intermediate

Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 6.0

Bio Information: Dr. Fred DiBlasio is full professor at the School of Social Work, University of Maryland and has been in academia since 1981. He has also worked directly with clients since 1975. He has published over 50 professional journal articles, chapters and other professional reports. He has been a presenter for CAPS, AACC and the AAMFT for the past three decades. Dr. DiBlasio is best known for his research and clinical practice in forgiveness and his work with personality disorders. He has appeared in national programs such as "20/20" and "Good Morning America" and other local programs.