

Our Guests and Speakers:

Hello! My name is **Mariel**, and I look forward to meeting you! I've enjoyed working in Youth and Young Adult Ministry within the Archdiocese of Toronto and the Salesians of St John Bosco for over a decade. I enjoy planning programs and events, including retreats and leadership workshops, as well as gathering for fellowship and engaging in healthy conversations about faith and theology. I love food, sports, travelling, coffee and Jesus. My true happy place is witnessing the Holy Spirit move the hearts of young people when they recognize Jesus' love for them... which I hope and pray will happen at BLAZE!



Darryl currently works as a high school teacher in Toronto teaching French, Math and Religious Education. Prior to teaching, Darryl has been involved in many ministries both local and international, including volunteering at Toronto parish. He has participated in VIDES which is the mission arm of the Salesians, a religious congregation focused on education and young people, by teaching English in Argentina and helping run summer programs in France. He has a passion for evangelizing to young people through activities and games, to explain the faith in an interactive way.

Bishop Michael Smolinski was born in Saskatoon and grew up attending Catholic schools in the city. After earning a Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan, he served as a youth pastoral coordinator before joining the Redemptorists. He was ordained a priest in 2003 and served in parish ministry and leadership roles across Canada, including as Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists. In 2024, he was made the Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon which oversees the Ukrainian Catholic Church all over Saskatchewan. His ministry as a bishop emphasizes openness, shared leadership, and building a welcoming Church for all.



I am **Fr. Ivan**, a married Ukrainian Catholic priest with four adult children and five grandchildren. I live in Saskatoon and serve God and the community of St. George Cathedral. I enjoy teaching and have a special interest in iconography. My form of multitasking is praying the Jesus Prayer while working on other things. I consider myself a lifelong learner, though I sometimes get frustrated with technology. I enjoy outdoor endurance activities such as biking, hiking, and swimming. Recently, I have taken up caring for houseplants, as they bring a touch of nature into my office.

Fr. John Puntino is a Salesian of St John Bosco priest who currently serves as local rector of the St Benedict Parish Etobicoke community and the Province Delegate for the Salesian Family and Cooperators of Canada. Fr John believes that every state of life is a vocation - a unique call to holiness. His own vocation was nurtured through joyful summer camp experiences where young people can be "young, happy, holy" leading to purposeful spiritual lives practicing St John Bosco's ultimate goal for young people - be good Christians and upright citizens.

