

Meet Our Presenters

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG



“Hope for the Future” - Curtis A. Martin

founded the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) in 1998. He holds a master's degree in Theology, and is the author of the best-selling books, Made for More and Making Missionary Disciples. Pope Francis appointed Curtis as a Consultant to the Section for the Fundamental Questions of Evangelization.

Curtis and his wife, Michaelann, live in Colorado and been blessed with nine children, and nine grandchildren....so far.

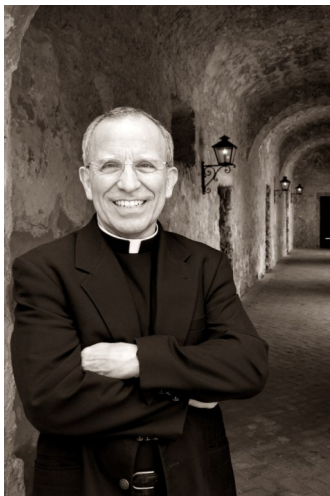


“Hope in the Gospel of Matthew” - Dr. John Bergsma

serves as Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville and V.P. of Mission at the St. Paul Center. He holds master's degrees in Divinity and Theology from Calvin Seminary, Grand Rapids, and served as a Protestant pastor for 4 years before entering the Catholic Church in 2001. Dr. Bergsma went on to earn his doctorate (Ph.D) in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, with specialization in the Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls, graduating with high honors in 2004.

Dr. Bergsma has become a sought-after speaker and author, especially for clergy conferences. He is the author of over 20 books on Scripture and the Catholic faith, including his 4-volume set of commentaries on the Sunday Mass readings, The Word of the Lord, and his most recent release, Jesus and the Jubilee: The Biblical Roots of the Year of God's Favor. John can be heard each week on the St. Paul Center's Letters from Home podcast and YouTube channel. He also hosts a weekly show with Dr. Scott Hahn titled: Word of the Lord, which reaches Catholics all around the world.

John and his wife Dawn have been married since 1993 and have eight children and three grandchildren (so far)!



“Hope for the Poor” - Fr. David Garcia

is a retired San Antonio priest of 49 years, well known as rector of historic San Fernando Cathedral (1995-2008) and director of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Old Spanish Missions (2008-2019). His work with both involved raising funds and restoring these historical treasures. He also served from 2008 to 2018 as Senior Advisor for Catholic Relief Services, helping U.S. clergy connect global solidarity and Catholic Social Teaching to their ministries. He received fellowships at both Harvard and Notre Dame Universities, as well as an Honorary Doctor of Pastoral Leadership at Oblate School of Theology. During his years of ministry, he served four parishes; Assumption Seminary; the Vocation Office; and directed the archdiocesan administrative services office while serving as Secretary to Archbishop Patrick Flores. Fr Garcia brings a wealth of theology, pastoral experience, civic engagement, and Hispanic tradition to his ministry. He published a book, Pandemic Preaching (2021), which presents his homilies during the first year of Covid.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Future Events

2026 Priests' Retreat

*“Face to Face Together Again
for the First Time:
Rediscovering God Again
in my Priesthood”*

Fr. Vincent Fortunato
January 19-23, 2026
Bethany Center

2026 Convocation for Priestly Renewal

*“Priestly Identity -
Son, Brother, and Father”*
Bishop Austin August Vetter
October 5-8, 2026
Bethany Center

2027 Priests' Retreat

“Mary, Companion of Priests”
Sr. Fidelis Marie Lanowich, O.S.B.
January 18-22, 2027
Bethany Center



DIOCESE OF
ST. PETERSBURG

For questions or assistance contact:

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2025 Convocation for Priestly Renewal

OCTOBER 6-9
BETHANY CENTER

Facilitated by the Priestly Growth
& Enrichment Commission



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Most of you who registered and paid for last year’s Convocation (which was cancelled due to inclement weather) did not request a refund. We have your payment and your room request/commuter status on file.

We are still requesting that you complete the registration form to the right and send it to us by September 17.

- MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025**

 - 3:00pm Check in at Bethany Center
 - 5:00pm Evening Prayer – Chapel
 - 6:00pm Dinner Buffet
 - 7:00pm Open Session with Bishop Parkes
 - 8:00pm Opening of the Bethany Inn
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025**

 - 8:00am Holy Hour (optional) - Chapel
 - 8:30am Breakfast
 - 9:45am Morning Prayer - Chapel
 - 10:30am-12:30pm Presentation: Curtis Martin
 - 12:45pm Lunch
 - 1:00pm PopStroke (optional)
 - 5:30pm Eucharistic Liturgy - Chapel
For Deceased Members of the Presbyterate
 - Group picture following Mass (outside of Chapel)
 - 6:30-7:00pm Pre-prandials
 - 7:00pm Dinner - Honoring New Members of the Presbyterate and Father Luis de Cancer Award
 - 8:30pm Hospitality at the Bethany Inn

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025**

 - 8:00am Holy Hour (optional) – Chapel
 - 8:30am Breakfast
 - 9:45am Morning Prayer – Chapel
 - 10:30am-12:30pm Presentation: Dr. John Bergsma
 - 12:45pm Lunch
 - 4:00-5:00pm Reconciliation - Chapel
 - 5:00pm International Rosary for Vocations - Chapel
 - 5:30pm Eucharistic Liturgy - Chapel
- For Vocations
 - 6:30-7:00pm Pre-prandials
 - 7:00pm Dinner
 - 8:00pm Hospitality at the Bethany Inn
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025**

 - 8:00am Holy Hour (optional) – Chapel
 - 8:30am Breakfast
 - 9:45am Eucharistic Liturgy – Chapel
 - 10:45am-12:30pm Presentation: Fr. David Garcia
 - 12:45pm Lunch and check out

Name _____ Parish _____

Special diet and/or needs _____

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE (Bethany Center is full):

- _____ I paid last year and did not request a refund; please use that same information.
- _____ I paid last year and did not request a refund; however, I am unable to make it this year.
- _____ **Springhill Suites** (\$1100 includes accommodations, all meals and seminars; just a couple of miles from the Bethany, includes breakfast at the hotel)
- _____ **Commuter** (\$825 includes all meals and seminars)
- _____ **Retired Incardinated** (Paid by the DOSP) ☐ Springhill Suites

MEALS: PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Please help us be *GOOD STEWARDS*. Indicate below the meals for which you will be present.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	

- ☐ ***Outing at “PopStroke” (optional) Tues, Oct 7, at 1:00pm**
- For more information, visit <https://popstroke.com/> *Lunch will be provided**

Please make check payable to **BETHANY CENTER**

Mail with Registration form in the enclosed envelope to:

CPR - ATTN: DANIELLE DEBRINO

BETHANY CENTER • 18150 BETHANY CENTER DR • LUTZ, FL 33558

IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Registration is due by **Wednesday, September 17**

REFUNDS: No refunds for cancellations after **Wednesday, September 17**