

# God Calls Me

## Miriam

### The Spiritual journey of a Jewish Christian

Miriam Stulberg- Madonna House  
Apostolate, Marian Centre,  
Edmonton

Miriam was raised outside of Detroit in a non-practising Jewish family. At Michigan State University, she majored in what she called "the meaning of life," graduating with a degree in humanities. Working for the Boston Welfare Department as a "completely untrained" social worker, she began to find guidance in the Gospels. God led her to the Madonna House community in Combermere, Ontario where she was baptized in 1969 and eventually joined, with lifelong promises of poverty, chastity and obedience. Miriam has served in Madonna House foundations in Canada, the U.S., France and Russia. Since 2008, she has been at Marian Centre here in Edmonton.



# I was born for You, Lord: What is your will for me?

## The Carmelite Nuns

During this talk some ways to discern God's will, and how to grow in our friendship and personal relationship with Christ will be presented. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

The Carmelites originated from a group of hermits on Mount Carmel, in the Holy Land.

Joyfully each sister has given her life completely to God and His Church, by the profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. As cloistered contemplative religious, they fulfill their apostolate of prayer within an enclosure. This allows them freedom of being totally focussed on God in silence and solitude within a community of intent on living the joy of the gospel, our beacon of light!



# Is it a sin not to believe in God?

Peter van Kampen

Assume that God is real. Suppose you're brought before his throne at the end of your life, and you are challenged to explain why you did not believe in Him. In your defense, you never found the arguments proving God's existence to be very compelling... would that stand up? If you had honestly sought him, but never found him, would he hold you accountable for that? What if you just never cared enough to look? Or what if you ignored the evidence on purpose, because for whatever reason you preferred to live as though there was no God?

Peter van Kampen is a Youth Ministry Coordinator, working in schools in Rocky Mountain House and Sylvan Lake. He is also the author of 2 books, *The Battle for Moriah* and *Live Simply*. Peter lives with his wife and 5 kids in a small home just outside of Rocky Mountain House.



# How sports are a pathway to God

Dr. Matthew Hoven

In an age of division and anxiety, how do we hold it together? Sports are one way to assist us in living a more authentically human, a more authentically Christian life.

Professor Matt Hoven is the Kule Chair in Catholic religious education here at St Joseph's College and lives in Edmonton with Crystal and their children. For fun during the pandemic, the family has a skating rink in the backyard and a luge track in the front yard. Otherwise, Dr Hoven is cooped up during these trying times!





# Experiencing God in the Unexpected

Friar Daniel Gurnick

"I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matt. 25:36)

We often experience God in unexpected people in unexpected moments. Friar Dan will share prison ministry experiences and how the unexpected nourishes our faith.

Friar Dan was ordained a priest in 2010, but his vocation did not surface very early in his life. Originally from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, in his early 30s, a priest's homily changed everything. "It deeply inspired me." At that exact moment, he knew. "The next day, I told my mother that I had felt God's call." It was 2002. During a trip to an orphanage in Peru with a friend he learned more about the Franciscans. After that experience, he felt that God was calling him to Franciscan life. It was the vow of poverty and the commitment to life in community that first attracted him.



# Our Friends: St. Kateri and the Saints

Fr. Glenn Macdonald, csb

Cultivating a relationship with the Saints is deeply meaningful but also very challenging. The Saints tend to use a mystical and symbolic language of love, to humbly draw attention to their presence and works, as they accompany us through life towards unity with the Trinity. Fr Glenn will share about his experience of St Kateri as a quiet and gentle bridge builder between The Church and First Nations Peoples. The broader goal of the presentation is to help you understand the mystical language of love, so that you can create an openness to the Saints and their care.

Fr. Glenn McDonald currently serves as pastor for the parishes of St. Alphonsus and St. Clare and is a division chaplain of Edmonton Catholic Schools.



**CRUNCH TALK #7**

---

# **LGBTQ+ and the Church**

**Dr. Mona- Lee Feehan**

**More info to come!**

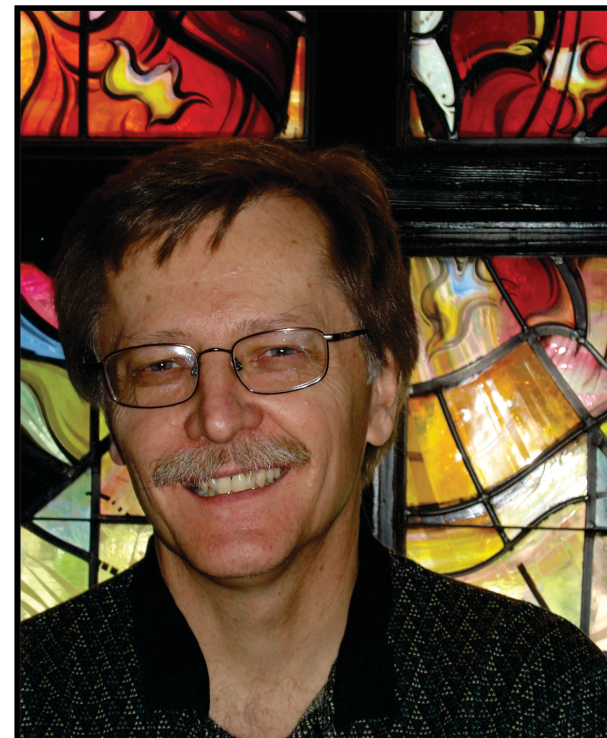




# The Religious Evolution of Darwin

Dr. Denis Lamoureux

In this presentation I will swim against the Dawkinsian tide in order to argue the novel thesis that “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled Christian theist.” Not to be misunderstood, it is clear that Darwin rejected Christianity as young adult, and there is no attempt to “Christianize” him. Instead, I will appeal to the Darwinian historical literature in order to glean theological insights that I believe inspire a conservative Christian approach to evolution.

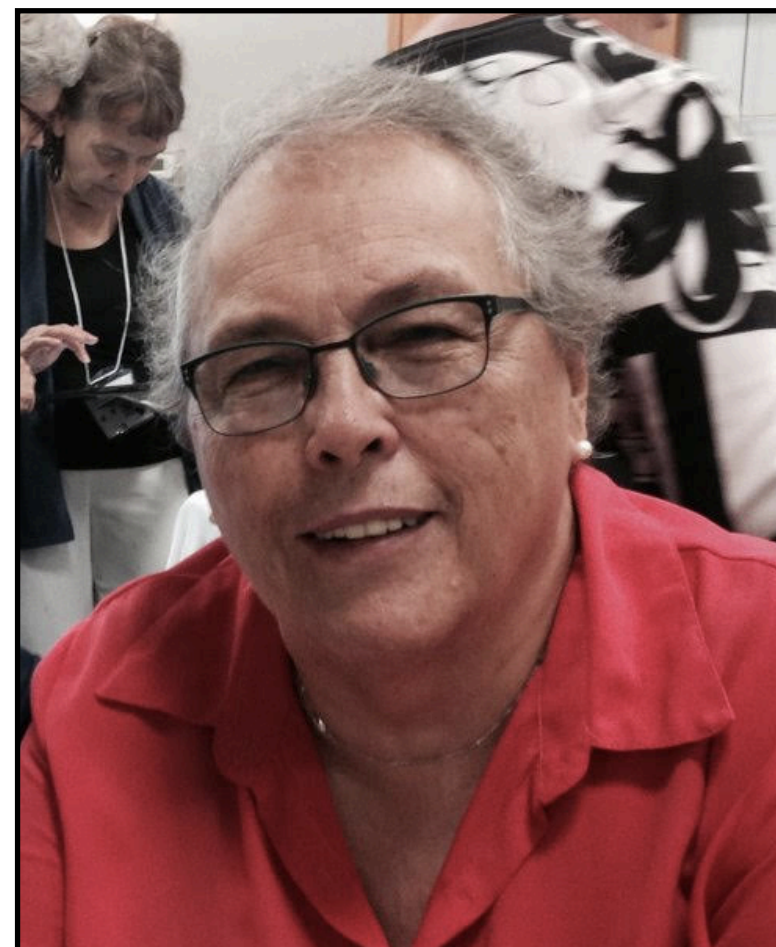




# Creation Then and Now

Sr. Audrey Gerwing, nds

**More info to come!**



# Unmasked: Freedom to Love

## Sisters of Life

What are the fears in the heart of a pregnant woman? What unleashes her freedom to love? The Sisters of Life speak about the response of accompaniment and solidarity in seeking her flourishing.

The Sisters of Life are a religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor who take a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. Immersed in Eucharistic prayer within a vibrant community life, their missions include caring for vulnerable pregnant women and their unborn children; inviting those wounded by abortion into the healing mercy of Jesus; fostering a Culture of Life through evangelization; retreat works; spiritual accompaniment of college students; and upholding the beauty of marriage and family life. ([www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org))



**Sr. Marie Veritas, SV** was born and raised in Alberta, Canada. Deeply moved by the beauty of the truth of God's love for the human person, and experiencing a profound call to consecration, she entered the Sisters of Life in 2010 after graduating from the University of Alberta. She professed her final vows in 2018, and currently serves as the community's director of evangelization, residing at St. Frances de Chantal Convent in the Bronx, NY.



**Sr. Beata Victoria, SV** was born and raised in Ontario, Canada. After graduating from the University of Ottawa (2010) and the University of King's College, Halifax (2011), she worked for the Church for a number of years. Her great heart for life and desire to point others to Christ's victory found its fulfillment in consecrated life. She entered the Sisters of Life in 2017 and professed her first vows in 2020. She currently lives at St. Frances de Chantal Convent in the Bronx, NY, where she serves in the community's mission of evangelization.

# How do I discern marriage?



Dr. Mona-Lee Feehan, Kevin Feehan

Dr. Mona-Lee Feehan and Justice Kevin Feehan have been facilitating marriage preparation programs as a couple for over 35 years, and working within the field of marriage enrichment together for three decades. Dr. Feehan has a BEd, MEd, MTh, and a Doctorate in Ministry and is the author of eleven books on marriage, relationship, and family. She teaches Human Sexuality and Marriage at St Joseph's College at the University of Alberta and serves as Campus Minister. She is the recipient of the Senate of Canada 150th Anniversary Medal for outstanding service in the area of Family and Relationships. Justice Feehan sits on the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, and has a long history of involvement with Catholic Education and numerous Catholic boards. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for his contributions to the law, Catholic Education, and social justice issues.

The Feehans' work with marriage preparation ranges from individual presentations, course facilitation, and program coordination to facilitator training, program development, and educational workshops. Together, they have been keynote speakers at conferences addressing marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, and family issues. They are honoured to be part of this speaker series and sharing their session with the participants.