

Darius Villalobos

Darius is the Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at the Archdiocese of Chicago. He has worked in ministry for over a decade as a parish youth minister, retreat leader, RCIA and Confirmation catechist, and liturgical musician. He enjoys exploring the intersection of faith in everyday life (especially in popular culture), enjoys to read and cook, and lives with his wife, Lissette, and their pet turtle in Logan Square.

FOMO: Why Commitment is Hard Today and How our Faith Can Help

Description: Why is it hard for us to commit? What are we afraid of? And why do we as a generation suffer from “FOMO”

(the fear of missing out)? This talk will explore all the areas of commitment in our lives: relationships, our time, our work, and more.

We'll explore what our faith says to us about strengthening our commitments and look at some practical ways we can better discern and follow through.

Beth Knobbe

Beth is an author and ministry professional based in Chicago. She earned her M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union and serves as a Relationship Manager with Catholic Relief Services. Beth is passionate about living the single vocation, and she is the author of two books “Finding My Voice: A Young Woman’s Perspective” and “Party of One: Living Single with Faith, Purpose, and Passion”.

Happily Ever After Begins Now

Description: Do you keep wondering when that “special someone” will come waltzing through the door? Having a successful relationship means more than finding the right person, it means being the right person. Beth Knobbe shares practical tips for using the single years for creating intentional relationships, discovering our true selves, growing in faith, and sharing our love. All great qualities for a match made in heaven! This event is designed for all singles, and couples, too!

Wayne Smith

Wayne is a convert to the Catholic Church who was raised as a Jew and then became a rebellious atheist for 35 years, especially during the 60’s and 70’s. As a photographer who was going blind, his life fell apart and he became suicidal. God was waiting for him at the bottom of his existence and He drew Wayne into the Catholic Church and a relationship with Jesus Christ in 1996. That began a new way of life and struggles against his old ways.

Rejection Secular Forces in Favor of God

Description: Looking at Church teaching in the light of Christ to allow God to define and guide my life with my consent. God respects our free will - and that is big!

Margaret Motto

Margaret is 28 years old and has several years of experience in ministry, service, and leadership. She graduated from the University of St. Francis with her Bachelors in Social Work and has a passion for working with at risk youth, devoting her career to making a positive impact in the foster care system. Margaret enjoys running, biking, cooking, dancing, and enjoying life with her family and friends.

Get the Heck Out!

Description: In this talk Margaret will focus on the importance of moving outward and seeking to be authentic, build authentic relationships with others, serve, and share our true selves with the world outside of the Church!