



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina Catechist Seminar - September 19th, 2026

Keynote Speakers



Archbishop V. James Weisgerber *Emeritus*, Ph.L., S.T.L. (St. Paul, Ott.); D.D. (St. John's College)

Perhaps it was preordained that Archbishop V. James Weisgerber would reach beyond the borders of the Saskatchewan village where he was born to make an impact on Canadian society. His compassion and courage to rebel against the status quo allowed him to go forth from Vibank, SK, to promote social justice and defend marginalized peoples.

He was ordained as a priest on June 1st, 1963, and in that time he has served numerous prairie communities and parishes, even serving as Dean of Arts at Notre Dame College in Wilcox, SK. In Regina, he worked in the Archbishop's Office as director of the pastoral and social justice offices and served as Rector of Holy Rosary Cathedral and Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish. At Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Fort Qu'Appelle, he led the pastoral ministry in the neighbouring First Nations' reserves. In 1990, he was elected General Secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), a position he held until his ordination as the Bishop of Saskatoon. He was appointed the fifth Bishop of Saskatoon by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, on March 7, 1996, and named the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg by Pope John Paul II on June 7, 2000. One of his first actions as Archbishop of Winnipeg was to establish Micah House on Main Street, a centre for the promotion of social justice.

Archbishop Weisgerber was instrumental in bridging the divide between the Catholic Church in Canada and Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, a divide which developed because of the abuse of Aboriginal Peoples in residential schools established by the Government of Canada and operated by the Roman Catholic Church. Archbishop Weisgerber worked tirelessly to bring about the meeting in Rome in April, 2009, when Pope Benedict XVI met with leaders of Canada's Aboriginal peoples at the Vatican to express his sorrow at the anguish caused by the conduct of some members of the Church.

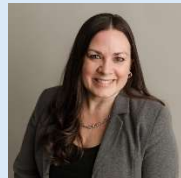
Archbishop Weisgerber was awarded the Notre Dame Medal of Honour in 1994 and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2005. He attended St. Peter's College at Muenster and then St. Paul's University in Ottawa. May 2013, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba for his visionary commitment to social change and justice. In 2013, he received the Order of Canada.



Dr. Brett Salkeld, Ph.D. - Theologian, Professor, Director of Deaconate Formation & Author

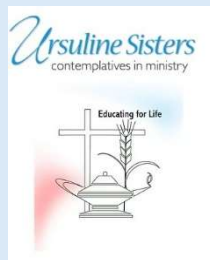
Dr. Brett Salkeld (pronounced like the past tense of the imaginary verb “to sockle”) is Archdiocesan Theologian for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina, where he is responsible for deacon formation. Dr. Salkeld is the author *Can Catholics and Evangelicals Agree about Purgatory and the Last Judgment?*, *How Far Can We Go? A Catholic Guide to Sex and Dating* (with Leah Perrault), *Transubstantiation: Theology, History, and Christian Unity* and, most recently, *Educating for Eternity: A Teacher’s Companion to Making Every Class Catholic*. His work has been featured on *Church Life Journal*, *Word on Fire*, *Crux*, *Busted Halo*, and more. Brett cohosts the Archdiocese of Regina's podcast, *Thinking Faith!* with Deacon Eric Gurash. They have produced hundreds of episodes, and they are available wherever you get your podcasts.

In his spare time, Brett sings in the Catholic cover band, Sed Contra. Brett was baptized in St. Wenceslaus Parish in Gerald, Saskatchewan, where he grew up. He and his wife, Flannery, live with their seven children in Regina. She did not let him name any of them “Wenceslaus.”



Lisa Polk – Director of Pastoral Services

Lisa Polk has been with the Archdiocese of Regina since 2018 as the Director of Pastoral Services. She worked in parish ministry for 10 ½ years before that in various roles, including event planning, caretaker/custodian, sacrament preparation, and pastoral assistant. Lisa is passionate about leadership and encouraging others in their own leadership and places of influence, especially other women. Lisa has been married to her husband, Arron, for 33 years, and they have two adult daughters. Lisa enjoys being active - walking, running, golfing, line-dancing, and going to the gym are at the top of the list. She also loves to read and has a book reading goal for the year that she is on track to reach. Being a transplant to Saskatchewan after growing up on the West Coast, Lisa appreciates the beauty of the fullness of the four seasons (although not completely sold on winter). She has also been convinced that green is a winning colour 😊



With Special Thanks to the Ursuline Sisters' Legacy Gift.