

Very Reverend Dr. Joseph F. Purpura



**Chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
&
Interim Pastor of St. George Orthodox Church of Montreal**

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Fr. Joseph Purpura chairs the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries for the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, creating and implementing youth training programs across the United States and Canada. He has trained adult youth directors for over twenty-three years for the Orthodox Christian Church. Fr. Joseph completed his doctoral studies at Pittsburgh Theological School with a concentration in Youth Training. His Doctoral Project is titled; "Moral and Ethical Issues Confronting Orthodox Youth across North America."

As Chairman of the [Department of Youth and Parishes Ministries](#), he develops, organizes, as well as manages a number of ministries for the teens across North America, and oversees the North American and Diocesan Youth Directors, Spiritual Advisors and Teen leaders of SOYO. As Chairman of the Youth Department, he supports and integrates the whole spectrum of archdiocesan programs for youth, including the Camping Program, Teen SOYO, and Campus Ministry. Fr. Joseph began developing future Church leaders as Founder of the SOYO Leadership Training Program, now in its sixth year. He maintains a cache of youth ministry related data and resources, overseeing numerous programs such as the Bible Bowl and the Oratorical Festival and he provides youth and parish ministry consultation for youth leaders and pastors across the U.S. and Canada.

Fr. Joseph has held numerous appointments over the past 35 years as Orthodox Camp Director, Spiritual Advisor to parish, diocesan, and archdiocesan level teen programs, as well as three Pastoral positions. He has travelled extensively to train clergy, adult youth workers, spiritual advisors, lay advisors, and parents to work with youth. Fr. Joseph has developed numerous parent and youth spiritual initiatives and humanitarian programs. He is well known for his efforts in training youth to become strong Orthodox Christian leaders. His goal is to raise generations of disciples and leaders. He served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Francis Maria Foundation for Justice and Peace, currently overseeing its Scholarship Program for College Youth through the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. He is a Youth Ministry Consultant for other Christian jurisdictions and denominations. In addition, Fr. Joseph is the Facilitator of the Committee for Youth for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.