



INSTITUTE FOR LAY FORMATION



Spiritual Directors

2022-2023

For LEM and M.A.P.S. Students

Spiritual Directors International offers the image of three chairs as a visual reminder of who is present during spiritual direction. In one chair a seeker sits, desiring a deeper relationship with God. In a second chair, a spiritual director listens, inquires, and holds the space for the seeker to encounter the true Spiritual Director in the third chair.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS 2022-23

The “match” of a spiritual director and directee is very personal. You want to interview a spiritual director to get a feel for who they are, their level of experience, their training, etc.

Some questions you might want to consider are:

- 1. What spiritual formation and theological education do you have in spiritual direction?*
- 2. What is your experience as a spiritual director? How many years?*
- 3. How do you continue in your education and supervision for spiritual direction ministry?*
- 4. What type of engagement agreement will we establish to clarify roles and responsibilities in our spiritual direction relationship?*

Please note: The Institute for Lay Formation is making this information available to students as an aid in their search for a spiritual director. The names of the people in this booklet should not be perceived as a recommendation on the part of the Institute for any one of these spiritual directors over any others. The Institute does affirm these are Catholic spiritual directors which is a requirement for the LEM program. It is up to the student to ascertain as to any stipend for which a director may ask.

Kathy Andrews



Kathy received her training as a spiritual director from the Spiritual Guidance Training Program at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin. She also holds a certificate from Institute for Pastoral Leadership’s Lay Leadership program and a four-year certificate of completion from Chicago Catholic Scripture School in Old and New Testament study. Her studies and experience have led her to recognize sacred blessing in the shared experience of walking with, and listening to, others as they explore their faith experiences, finding God working in the ordinariness of daily life. Kathy and her husband have 2 adult children and are actively involved in the lives of their 5 grandchildren. She can meet with people online or in person be reached by phone or text at (847) 217-3106 or by e-mail at kathyandrews@att.net.

Deacon Steve Baldasti



Steve holds a B.A. in Accounting which he received in 1987. He was ordained as a Permanent Deacon in 2001. Steve received his certification for spiritual direction at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in 2005. Steve has had many faith experiences in his life. He has been sober for 35 years and assisted in the care of his parents in the last years of their lives. He looks at the life of St. Paul and sees many similarities in his own - struggles but always aware of God’s presence in his life. God’s love has opened his heart and allows him to be open to his will. Deacon Steve’s contact information is: Hm. Phone: (847) 934- 7533, Cell: (708) 278 – 1151, or email at: bjunctionb@hotmail.com

Fr. Thomas Conde



Fr. Thomas holds a variety of degrees which include a B.S., MBA, M.Div., and a STB. He is currently the pastor of St. Christina Parish in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago. Before entering the seminary, he worked for a major pharmaceutical company at which time he earned his MBA. Fr. Thomas has journeyed with many aspiring pastoral ministers over the past 20 years. He can be reached at: Phone: (773)-779-7181 or by email at: tconde@archchicago.org

Catherine Crino



Catherine was born in Tucson, Arizona, and raised there and in Los Angeles. She has lived in Chicago most of her adult life, working in parish ministry, serving as a pastoral associate and director of religious education. She also has served as a Field Delegate for the Marriage Tribunal for several years. Catherine's spiritual interests lie in Ignatian Spirituality. She first encountered the form at Weston Jesuit and has continued to nurture her spiritual practice through retreats and her own study over the years, and becoming a certified spiritual director. Catherine's contact information is: Phone: (312) 613-9769 or by email at crrino@aol.com

Fr. Ramil E. Fajardo



Fr. Ramil holds a B.A. in history from the University of Illinois (Chicago), M.Div./STB from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein, IL) and a MCL/JCL from St. Paul University (Ottawa, Ontario). Fr. Ramil was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2004, assigned to St. Clement Parish in Lincoln Park for six years, before being sent by the Cardinal to study Canon Law. On his return to Chicago in 2013, he has been at the Tribunal, with residence and ministry at Holy Name Cathedral. He is available as a spiritual director as need. His contact information is: Office phone: (313) 534-5377 or by email at: rfajardo@archchicago.org

Emilia Ferlita (Mimi)



Mimi Ferlita (OFS) received her spiritual direction certificate from The Institute of Spiritual Direction in Chicago. She holds three leadership certificates from Loyola of New Orleans in Spirituality, Pastoral Leadership and Spiritual Formation. She is a secular Franciscan for 11 years and has studied and trained in Ignatian Spirituality from Loyola (Chicago) for the past seven years. She has served on staff for seven years as Associate Director of Spirituality, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministries. Mimi also has national and international experience in marketplace leadership, offering workshops and conference lectures in business and personal leadership and God centered self-development. She has mentored and lead ecumenical secular leadership teams in the marketplace and Catholic ministry and retreat teams for

over more than 25 years. She currently conducts scheduled spiritual direction session in person and, when appropriate, on Zoom. To contact Mimi: Text or call (847) 962-5992 or email mimiferlita@gmail.com

Jennifer Grant, M.Ed., MA



Jennifer has a Master's Degree in Spirituality from Loyola University with a specialization in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. She is currently leading retreatants through the 19th annotation with both Loyola University and the Ignatian Associates. Her office is located at St. Francis Xavier parish in Wilmette, IL. She also leads grief support groups and retreats at Siena Center in Racine, WI. She can be reached at: (224) 522-1128 or jenn.grant5@gmail.com

Sr. Gloria Haagensen, r.c.

Sr. Gloria has a B.A. in Sociology and a M.A. in Religion and Education. She received her spiritual direction training at the Cenacle Center. Sr. Haagensen is a Cenacle Sister. She has been involved in planning and giving retreats and doing spiritual direction throughout the U.S. and Canada and one year in Ireland. She has taught spiritual direction classes and supervised those training to be a spiritual director. She has also lived and worked in the Englewood neighborhood in Chicago. Sr. Gloria can be reached at: Phone: (773)528-6300 or by email at: gloriahrc@hotmail.com

Sr. Leanne Hartmann, CSSF



Sister Leanne has been a member of the Felician Sisters since 1968 and has taught in both elementary and high schools and worked as Treasurer / Finance Officer at various ministries. Over the years she has been active in planning and giving retreats for students, sisters, associates, and women's groups. She has personally participated in spiritual direction since 1978 and directed retreats since 1982. For her, being a companion to someone on a spiritual journey is both an honor and a personal blessing. Sister is available Weekday afternoons/evening with some Saturdays. Sr. Leanne can be reached at: Phone: (773) 619-6712 or by email: slhartmann@feliciansisters.org

Nancy Hoel



Mrs. Hoel holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, IL. She has over 30 years of experience as a spiritual director. Nancy considers it a privilege to listen to people's sacred stories, and she absolutely loves companioning people on their faith journey. Over the years she has directed people from many walks of life – women and men; clergy, women religious, and lay people; Catholics and non-Catholics; different races. Nancy has also directed Aspirant candidates, and wives for the Diaconate

program. She has also been a spiritual director for the LEM program. Nancy also leads retreats and facilitates mornings/evenings of reflection and serves as spiritual director for several parish at-home retreats. Nancy is married and has two grown children and two grandchildren. Besides being fluent in French, she loves to read, crochet, play the piano, take walks and bike, garden, and eat dark chocolate. Many enjoy her creativity and sense of humor. Nancy's contact information is: Phone: (630) 279-8510 or by email at: nancyhoel@comcast.net

Sr. Janice Keenan, OSF



Sr. Janice was trained in the Franciscan Internship Program for Spiritual Direction in Cincinnati, OH in 1990 and has served as Retreat Program Manager and a spiritual director for the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, IL since August 2015. She is a Sister of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception of West Peoria, IL and her ministries have included being Assistant Spiritual Director for TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) and Cursillo retreat programs in the Peoria diocese, campus minister at University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and Newman Center Director at Western Illinois University. Macomb. Over the years she has directed people of different ages, backgrounds, and faith traditions. She has also given days of reflection/retreats for parishioners, religious communities, leadership teams and lay associates. She is a member of Spiritual Directors International and the Chicago Area Spiritual Directors group. She is usually available from 9am-4:30 pm, Monday – Friday and can do some evenings and weekends. Sr. Janice can be reached at (815) 469-4883 or <mailto:Janice.keenan@fssh.net>.

Mary Kelly



Mary holds a M.A. in Psychology, a M.A. in Spiritual Studies and is currently working on her Doctoral degree in holistic theology. She received her spiritual director certification at Loyola University. Her path has led her studies and work in the areas of Spiritual Direction, Clinical Pastoral Education, life transition research and counseling, and devoted work in the facilitation of spiritually based retreats, presentations, and workshops. Mary's contact information is: Phone: (773) 544-2940 or by email: mbkelly@nl.edu or Soulfriends2@gmail.com

Maureen Kuhn



For the last 10 years Mary has been appointed by the Cardinal to be a Spiritual Director for the Deacon's wives' – those in the Aspirancy Program. She has also been seeing directees monthly since 1996. Maureen and her husband graduated from IPS in 1989 and were Pastoral Associates for five years in Wisconsin. Mary is also a certified Pastoral Associate in the Archdiocese of Chicago. You can reach Maureen by cell phone at (847) 331-4383.

Sr. Valerie Kulbacki, SSJ - TOSF



Sr. Valerie Kulbacki, SSJ-TOSF, is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. She received her Certificate in Spiritual Companionship from the Diocese of Joliet, and her Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling. She has specialized in grief work surrounding death, divorce, and other life-changing events, also serving those struggling with issues of co-dependency, addiction, and life situations which compromise one's spiritual and emotional well-being.

She currently serves as the Director of Care Ministries for St. Raymond de Penafort parish in Mount Prospect. You can contact Sister by email at valerie.kulbacki@st-raymond.org

Sr. Mary Jane Laffan, r.c.

Sr. Mary Jane has a M.A. in Humanities and received spiritual direction training through the Shalem Spiritual Guidance Program. She is a Sister of the Cenacle community and currently missions to the Chicago Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center. Her ministry has included facilitating retreats, days of prayer, offering spiritual direction to people who are searching for a deeper relationship with God. She has also spent several years on the General Council in Rome. In meetings with her directees, the focus has been on the many ways God may be present in both their life and prayer. Sr. Mary Jane can be reached at: Phone: (773) 528-6300 or by email at: srmaryjanerc@yahoo.com

Sr. Jean Okroi, IBVM



Sr. Jean holds a BA, MA, and a D.Min. She received her Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the program at San Pedro Center, Orlando, FL. The program originated from the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation. She is also well versed in Ignatian Spirituality. Jean keeps current by reading and doing online courses with contemporary theologians. For the past 31 years, she has companioned those searching for a deeper relationship with God - laity, those in religious formation and the marginalized members of our society. Sr. Jean can

be reached at: Phone: (630) 224-8032 or by email at: jeanm.okroi@gmail.com

Sr. Gemma Pepera



Sr. Gemma holds a M.Ed., a Guidance and Counseling certification and a M.A. in Formative Spirituality. Sr. Gemma has been a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth for 63 years. She was a director of formation for their candidates and Sisters on a variety of levels. She was also a missionary in the Philippines for 14 years. She does spiritual direction and currently serves as the interim coordinator of Mission and Ministry at Resurrection University part-time. Her contact information is:

Phone: (847) 691-7286 or by email at: gemmapepera@gmail.com

Sr. Mary Lou Pleitner, CSJ



Sr. Mary Lou has a B.A. from Dominican University and an M.A. from Northeastern University. She received her spiritual direction certification through the Institute for Spiritual Companionship through Loyola University. She is a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph in La Grange Park, IL. She has been doing spiritual direction with deacon's wives in the Archdiocese since 2002. Sr. Mary Lou can be reached at: Phone: (847) 347-8516 or by email at: mlpleitner@sbcglobal.net

Fr. Richard Prendergast



Fr. Richard holds a M.Div., S.T.L., and M.A.S and received his spiritual direction certification from the University of San Francisco. He is currently the pastor of St. Gertrude parish in Chicago. Fr. Rich is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and has always been involved in Pastoral Ministry. He is currently in his sixth year as pastor at St. Gertrude. He was ordained in 1979. He completed a Master's degree in Applied Spirituality at the University of San Francisco and has been a spiritual director for many years for the Aspirancy Program for the Diaconate and currently provides spiritual direction for several ordained deacons. Fr. Richard can be reached at: Phone: (708) 417-2670 or by email at: rp119@mac.com

Dr. Catherine Sims



Catherine holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake. Her certificate in Spiritual Direction is from the Institute for Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago. Catherine has served the Church in Chicago in many capacities: Liturgy, adult faith formation, spiritual direction, and ministry formation. She is a retired Associate Director with the Institute for Pastoral Leadership at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. Catherine and her husband Howard live in Aurora, IL. She offers spiritual direction via Teams/Google Meet/Zoom and in person. Her contact information is: (847) 727-5207 or catherinesimsdmin@gmail.com.

Sr. Kristine Vorenkamp



Sr. Kristine holds a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, New Orleans. She received her spiritual direction certificate from the Claret Center, Chicago, IL. Sr. Kristine has been a Sister of the Living Word for fifty years. In the past, she has been an elementary teacher and a parish minister focusing on religious education. She was also a formation director for her community and is beginning her tenth and last year in Congregational Leadership for her community. She also has more than 25 years in experience ministering to the Hispanic community. Accompanying others in the new life that Christ gives as the Spirit leads today through a listening presence is a gift she is grateful to share. She can be reached at: Cell phone: (224)-944-7412 or by email at kvorenkamp@slw.org

Deacon Greg Webster



Deacon Greg serves at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Old Mill Creek, Illinois. He completed the four-year certificate spiritual direction formation program in the Ignatian tradition at Fairfield University. During this time, Greg also completed D.Bioethics degree in Catholic/Research Ethics from Loyola University of Chicago. He is looking forward to journeying with others in spiritual direction and bioethics consultations. Greg can be reached at: Phone: (517) 258-1463 or by e-mail at brotherinthestole@gmail.com

Claret Center Spiritual Directors

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www.claretcenter.org/about-us/our-staff/

Sr. Helen Cahill, OP



Sr. Cahill holds a MA, D.Min, and is a Dominican Sister of Peace and an experienced Spiritual Director. She holds a Master's degree in Theological Studies and a Doctor of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union. Before joining the staff at Claret Center, Helen spent a number of years in leadership in her community. Helen's ministry includes giving retreats, doing group supervision for formation personnel, and giving workshops on "The Spirituality of Power" and other topics.

Carol Dwyer, SSND MA, CAD



Carol is a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and is a certified Addictions Counselor for the state of Illinois. She earned her MA in Pastoral Ministry from Fairfield University in Connecticut. Carol is fluent in Spanish and looks forward to the possibility of being able to use it in her ministry of Spiritual Direction here at Claret.

Sr. Pauline La Mothe, OP



Sr. Pauline holds a M.Ed., D.Min and is a Dominican Sister of Peace and a Spiritual Director. She received her Master's Degree and her CAGS in Psychology from Boston College and her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Louisville Seminary. Pauline did her Spiritual Direction Internship at Claret Center. She taught school for many years, was in leadership in her Congregation and has worked with the homeless population in Boston, Massachusetts.

Beth Saner



Beth holds her Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies degree from Catholic Theological Union where her focus was the spiritual journey. She trained as a spiritual director in the Spiritual direction internship at Claret. Beth now co-facilitates this internship at Claret. She also serves as a companion for those desiring someone to walk the spiritual journey with them.

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Jill Bates



Jill Bates, D. Min. is an experienced presenter in the areas of Women's Spirituality and Lay Ministry. Jill earned her Doctor of Ministry degree in ecumenical studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation and a Master of Pastoral Studies degree in spirituality from Loyola University. Her goal as a spiritual director is to companion others on their journey towards a life lived peacefully and abundantly in body, mind, soul, and spirit. She believes that we connect with God when we are open and receptive. Spiritual direction affords us that opportunity. During her career she has been a Director of Adult Faith Formation, a chaplain, and a Coordinator of Hospital Catholic Ministries. Jill has worked extensively in ministries for caregivers, women's retreats and companioning clergy of many denominations on their pastoral journeys.

Fr. Kurt Boras



Fr. Kurt D. Boras is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, ordained at Holy Name Cathedral, by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin on May 24, 1986. Fr. Kurt has done graduate studies in the fields of theology, clinical psychology, and spiritual direction. He has been a parish priest, a Mission speaker, retreat director, instructor in counseling psychology, a therapist, and a Spiritual Director. While on the faculty of the University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary Mundelein, Illinois, from 1991-1997, Fr. Kurt was the Director of Psychological Services and a Spiritual Director. From 1998-2001, he was an elected member of the Priests Personnel Board of the Archdiocese of Chicago. His own spiritual journey and interests include Ignatian spirituality, 12-step work, sports, and spirituality. From 2010 until the present, Fr. Kurt currently serves as the Vicar for Priests for the Archdiocese. Contact Fr. Boras at (773) 405-9368.

Fr. Tom Borkowski



Fr. Tom Borkowski is a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, Missouri and is involved in spiritual direction, retreat work, adult religious education, and faith formation. His training in spiritual guidance was at the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation. Fr. Tom holds a Master of Education in Special Education from the University of Missouri - Columbia, a Master of Divinity from the Pontifical College Josephinum, and post graduate studies in Carmelite spirituality and contemplative prayer.

Linda Brinkman



Linda Brinkman has a Master's in Social Work and is completing her doctoral studies in Adult Education. Linda has over 30 years ministry and counseling experience through churches and social service agencies. Linda said, "My passion is helping you find the full life that God has intended for you through spiritual direction."

Christine Grano



Christine Grano received her Spiritual Direction Certificate from the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation. Trained in Christian Lay Counseling & Inner Healing Prayer, Chris is also an accomplished musician and singer. Chris co-leads and leads women's retreats & offers a variety of programs in spirituality. Married and the mother of two adult children, Chris holds a B.S. from the University of Illinois. Chris' faith life and ministry is deeply rooted in 12 Step Spirituality.

Chris Hannigan - Wiehn



Chris Hannigan-Wiehn is a Lay Franciscan Associate who holds a certificate in spiritual direction from the Claret Center, and Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University. A graduate of the Diocese of Joliet New Wine Program, Chris is currently attending Catholic Theological Union. An experienced spiritual director, Chris specializes in women's spirituality and issues of grief and addiction.

John Holmes



John Holmes holds a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction in Tucson, Arizona. John also holds a certificate from the Called and Gifted Lay Ministry Program of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He specializes in contemplative prayer practices that foster healing and spiritual wholeness. John's life experience as husband of 44 years, father of three boys, and grandfather of five, and a Viet Nam veteran, and Leukemia survivor, has drawn him into service as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Northwest Community Hospital, and involvement in Cursillo and Christ Renews His Parish movements.

Dr. Barbara Jarvis-Pauls



Dr. Barbara Jarvis-Pauls is a Pastoral Counselor and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, received her Master in Counseling Psychology from Lewis University and her Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Graduate Theological Foundation. Barb has extensive experience in grief counseling and bereavement. She is also experienced in working with individuals in transition who are coping with issues of death, divorce, single parenting, remarriage, stepfamilies, and annulment advocacy. Dr. Jarvis-Pauls is a member of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers, Illinois Counseling Association, and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Dr. Pauls also offers Marriage Preparation and Marriage Enrichment Programs. Trained in FOCCUS and PREPARE/ENRICH marriage inventories, Dr. Paul's administers assessment to identify areas of strengths and stressors in the couple relationship. Integrating faith and spirituality with a person's social, emotional, and relational experience is central to Dr. Paul's approach with consulting, counseling, and spiritual direction.

Marilyn Kortendick



Marilyn Kortendick received her spiritual direction training through the Institute of Spiritual Leadership (ISL) which was part of her Master's degree from Loyola University – Chicago. Marilyn's undergraduate degree is in Pastoral Studies from Dominican University, and she also received her certification in Pastoral Life and Admin. through Loyola University - New Orleans. In spiritual direction, some of the specialized tools Marilyn offers to help you discover and listen to your inner wisdom, God, speaking to you are Focusing Work and Dreamwork. Marilyn has volunteered and/or worked in a church setting for over 20 years. She is also an approved and trained Eponaquest Instructor, working with horses (her second love) to help you learn more about yourself, as they are true mirrors of us, the human. Marilyn specializes in assisting you in both spiritual and personal development.

JoAnne McElroy



JoAnne McElroy is a spiritual director who enters the personal encounter of spiritual direction with earnest care, intention, and deep listening. JoAnne holds a Master of Arts in Spirituality from the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University along with a postgraduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction. She came to spiritual direction through the questions that rose within and her desire to listen more deeply to God's actions in the stories of her life. Her life experiences as mother, grandmother, life coach, teacher and leader allow her to walk with those seeking to make connections in their lives. She feels alive and delights with her grandchildren, in nature and exploring the arts and dreams. JoAnne is an imaginative retreat leader and presenter. She is currently on the Board of the Chicago Area Spiritual Directors.

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