

INSTRUCTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Spring 2018

WILLIAM BEAUDIN, O.F.M. has been a Franciscan since 1977. After earning a master of divinity degree from Weston School of Theology, he was ordained a priest in St. Francis of Assisi Church in 1981. His 37 years of pastoral ministry have included stints in urban parishes, retreat work, graduate studies in music, campus chaplaincy, college teaching, communications, and administration. He is currently assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Church where he is the director of the Adult Education Center.

DENISE DE VITO earned her undergraduate degree in anthropology and the classics, a master of science degree from Hunter College, and a second master's in education administration from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs. She has also completed post-graduate studies at New York University. Ms. De Vito has been an educator with the New York City Department of Education, an adjunct instructor for the Department's professional studies program, and an adjunct professor of history at St. John's University. She has taught a range of courses on the history and culture of women saints, women in the bible, and other women of the ancient world for St. Francis of Assisi's Adult Education Center.

MARY J. GENNUSO, Ph.D. has taught classes in philosophy and religion on both the East and West Coasts, in colleges as well as in parishes. She has offered courses on women doctors of the Church, Carmelite saints and mystics, women saints and the devotions associated with many of them, Marian apparitions, and systematic theology. Among the topics of reflection days she has conducted are the theology of hope and the life and work of St. Edith Stein.

FRANCIS J. GREENE, Ph.D. is professor emeritus in the department of foreign languages, fine arts, and international cultural studies at St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights. He received his bachelor's from St. Peter's College and his master's and doctorate from Rutgers University. He served as chair of his department for three decades during which time he established the major in international cultural studies. He was the first director of the college honors program and has moderated the Duns Scotus Honor Society for over 30 years. He was chosen "Outstanding Professor in New York State" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

CHRISTA M. GESZTESI, M.Ed. is a licensed education kinesiology instructor and tenured public school teacher. She is also certified in formative spirituality—an anthropology and theology of adult faith formation founded by Fr. Adrian van Kaam, CSSp. Through her private practice, *Intelligent Connections*, Christa has spent the past eight years facilitating private and group sessions that help men and women overcome the challenges of stress and anxiety. Today, she dedicates herself to educating and empowering adults to use simple physical and spiritual practices to improve their overall well-being and realize their full potential while serving God and one another.

BRIAN JORDAN, O.M.G., D. Min. is a Franciscan Friar of Holy Name Province. He ministers among labor unions in New York City and among his academic degrees, he holds a master's degree in industrial/labor relations from Cornell University. He is an author of two books and has written many articles concerning the Catholic Church and labor unions. He recently completed seven years as a chaplain at Sr. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York where he helped organized workshops on the Care of Creation with a special emphasis on Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si-In Praise of."

EDWARD KENT, O.S.F. earned his master's degree from St. John's University, and taught in the English departments of St. Francis Prep and St. Francis College for over 30 years. He has received three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his research on James Joyce and William Butler Yeats, on whose works Br. Edward has lectured widely.

FRAN McMANUS, R.S.M., a published poet and playwright, is a member of the Dramatists Guild and adjunct instructor in English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. A Sister of Mercy, Fran holds an M.A. in humanities and an M.A. in English/Creative Writing. Her most recent publications include the prose work, *Coffee with Mary*, published by St. Anthony's Guild, and "After-Hours Prayer," published in the 2018 edition of *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*.

JOSEPH NUZZI, M.A. is the director of evangelization for St. Francis of Assisi Parish where, among his other duties, he prepares candidates for baptism and confirmation in the R.C.I.A. program. Joe has his undergraduate degree in philosophy and theology from Villanova University and his M.A. in biblical studies from the University of Notre Dame. He has taught a variety of courses on various books of the bible ranging from Genesis to the Book of Revelation.

TERESITA T. PIA is a certified dietitian-nutritionist and holds an M.A. in nutrition from New York University. She worked extensively, both clinically and through workshops, in implementing programs for health and nutrition in hospitals, colleges, and the public sector. Since her retirement, she has dedicated herself to advancing the spiritual well-being of her parish community both through her ministerial activities and by conducting seminars and days of recollection on centering prayer and *lectio divina*, an ancient form of meditating on the Sacred Scriptures.

CHARLES POWELL is a lifelong classical music enthusiast. He had opportunities to advise professional singers and musicians, as well as the general public. Originally from Dublin, Ireland, I started giving lectures on opera singers. Recently he has given a lecture on John McCormack and the phonograph at the Annual James Joyce Bloomsday Festival. He also has an encyclopedic knowledge of recorded music.