

INSTRUCTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Fall 2023

Fr. ANTHONY CIORRA, Ph.D. has graduate degrees in theology, psychology and spirituality. He has written and spoken on multiple topics and themes in theology and spirituality. He has served in the parish ministry, education, and formation work. He gives talks and retreats throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. He is involved in the dialogue among Jews, Christian and Muslims

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 postgraduate 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.

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*.

WILLIAM MULLIGAN has been to animate the connections we share through many different artistic genres. He developed a love of music while singing with the boy choir at his church in Florida. And throughout his life his family has encouraged his growth as both a musician and an actor. Liam is an active performer, having been acclaimed for his honest and humorous characterizations in both opera and musical theater. He has served the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi as a cantor since 2007. He studied music at the Florida State University, and theology at Saint Meinrad College in Indiana and Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida. He currently serves on the faculty of Manhattan College.

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.

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.

PAUL SANSONE M.A., studied Scripture at The Catholic University of America (Washington, DC) and has been active in adult education and formation for many years.

LISA TAGLIAFERRI, Ph.D. is an interdisciplinary researcher and educator in the humanities and technology, with a focus on digital humanities, 14th-century Italian literature, and pedagogy. Lisa has held research positions at MIT and Harvard University's Villa I Tatti, and holds a PhD from the City University of New York. Lisa has taught at several universities, most recently a graduate seminar for the Italian department at Rutgers University.