

Church of St. Francis of Assisi Adult Education
INSTRUCTORS' BIOGRAPHIES
Fall 2024

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*.

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, he 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.

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.

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.

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.