

INSTRUCTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Spring 2025

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, M.S., M.S. Ed. 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 at various universities for many years in both philosophy and theology, as well as here at St. Francis, and has presented at major conferences both locally and internationally and published in philosophy and religion. Her interests and courses have been on: John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, Catherine of Siena, Marian Apparitions, Icons, Biblical Themes and Gospel Parallels, Contemporary Theology, and Philosophy of Religion.

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*.