

Local Catholic Spiritual Directors

with Short Bios

For complete list of Spiritual Directors from Spiritual Directors International see sdiworld.org

NOTE: This is NOT an official list approved by the Diocese of Camden, but rather a non-exhaustive directory of individuals who fulfill the following criteria: they have completed Spiritual Direction Formation Programs, indicate that they are in direction themselves and that they are in peer supervision.

Sister Josephine Aparo, MPF

312 West Upper Ferry Road, Trenton, NJ 08628

(609) 882-2766 sisterjo@comcast.net

Sr. Josephine Aparo, a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini since 1960, received her BA in Mathematics from St. Elizabeth's College, Convent Station and her MA in Mathematics from Trenton State College. Sister taught Mathematics and Religion in junior high and high school for twelve years. In addition to attending workshops in Spirituality and spending one year in a Poor Clare Monastery, Sr. Josephine participated in a continuing internship program in Retreat Ministry and Spiritual Direction under the direction of Rev. Charles Trundle, S.J., Scranton University. Sr. Josephine has been involved in retreat ministry for 40 years and is presently stationed at Morning Star House of Prayer on the grounds of Villa Victoria Academy in West Trenton.

Sister Carol Beevers, SSJ

Holy Saviour Convent, 30 Emerald Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108

(239) 691-2835 srcarolbeevers@gmail.com

Carol Beevers, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, has been involved in spiritual ministry since 1985. She has a Master's Degrees in Social Work from Catholic University and in Holistic Spirituality and Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College and believes in a holistic approach to personal and spiritual growth. Her ministry experiences include: education, marriage and family therapy, parish ministry and retreat house ministry. Presently, Carol ministers as a spiritual director and retreat director as well as a supervisor for spiritual directors.

Kathleen Brewer

St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, 200 W. Tuckahoe Road, Marmora, NJ 08230

(609) 602-8420 Kathy.brewer@gmail.com

Kathleen Brewer was trained by the An Croi School of Spiritual Direction. It is a creative and contemplative approach to the practice of Holy Listening. Kathleen has served her parish as Eucharistic Minister and religious education teacher. She is a retired educator from both the public and Catholic Schools. Kathleen taught grades K through college during her career of 35 years. She has been trained in grief counseling and hospice support for caretakers.

Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM

St. Thomas More Parish, 1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

(856) 424-3212 (609) 320-3709 Annbyrne46@aol.com

Sister Ann Byrnes is a Sister of Mercy. She has a Masters in Theology from Notre Dame University and a Masters in Holistic Spirituality/Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College. Sister has been offering Spiritual Direction since 1995. Sister Ann served her religious community as a Formation Director from 2001 to 2006. She is currently the Pastoral Associate at St. Thomas More Parish in Cherry Hill.

Sister Dolores Clerico, SSJ

Catholic Community of Christ Our Light, 402 N. Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
(609) 330-4402 dclerico@gmail.com

Sister Dolores is a Sister of Saint Joseph. Her educational background includes a Master's Degree in Theology from St. Michael College, Vermont and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College. Her ministry experiences in parish, diocesan, and congregational arenas include education, parish ministry, family ministry, ministry formation, retreats, spiritual direction, and administration. Currently, Sister Dolores serves as a speaker, consultant, retreat director, and spiritual director.

Deacon Michael A. D'Ariano

Deptford, NJ
(856) 430-8668
michael@darcomllc.org

Deacon Michael is married, has four children and eight grandchildren. Currently he holds a MS in Pastoral Counseling/ Spiritual Direction from Neumann University. He was ordained as a minister in the Protestant tradition in July 1981. At age fifty, he converted to Catholicism and was ordained as a permanent deacon in June of 2005 and is assigned to Holy Angles Parish in Woodbury, NJ. He also works with Deeper Dimensions family support group at St Margaret's Church with families suffering from drug abuse. His pastoral paradigm is based on Matt 11:28-30 where Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Carmen M. Díaz

Mays Landing, NJ
(609) 442-1733 cmariadiaz@msn.com

Carmen received her certification in Spiritual Direction from the Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spirituality, in affiliation with Franciscan University of Steubenville, in 2014. She also has a second certification from the Oblates of the Virgin Mary (May 2017) and is working on full certification as a director of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. She has been active in various ministries in the Church, including youth ministry, social justice, and music ministry. She is a member of the Church of St. Bridget in Glassboro. Her full time occupation is as a Principal Software Engineer, and although she enjoys being an engineer, she enjoys helping others get closer to the Lord even more. Please feel free to contact her via email or phone for an initial interview. Carmen is available for spiritual direction in both Spanish and English.

Carmen recibió su certificación en la dirección espiritual de la Escuela de Espiritualidad del Cenáculo de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, en afiliación con la Universidad Franciscana de Steubenville, en el 2014. También ha recibido una segunda certificación de los Oblatos de la Virgen Maria (Mayo 2017) y está trabajando en recibir la certificación completa como directora de los Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio de Loyola. Ella ha estado activa en varios ministerios de la Iglesia, que incluye el ministerio de jóvenes, justicia social, y el ministerio de música. Ella es miembro de la Iglesia de Santa Brígida en Glassboro. Ella trabaja a tiempo completo como Ingeniera Principal de Software, y aunque ella disfruta siendo una ingeniera, ella disfruta aún más ayudar a otros acercarse al Señor. Siéntese libre en contactarla por teléfono o por correo electrónico para una entrevista inicial. Carmen está disponible para la dirección espiritual en español y en inglés.

Kathleen L. Egan, PhD

Ocean City, New Jersey

(215)-694-4651_ klegan.chaplain@gmail.com

Kathy received her certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Upper Room in Neptune, NJ in 2016. She was certified as a health care chaplain in 2008 and served in hospital and hospice settings in Philadelphia before retirement. Kathy had previously earned her doctorate in Health Professions Education at the University of Pennsylvania (1986) and worked for many years in medical and nursing education. She continues to have a strong interest in spiritual care of the elderly and spirituality in health care and occasionally talks with nursing and geriatric medicine students on these topics. Kathy has practiced Centering Prayer for many years and is grounded in Franciscan as well as Benedictine spirituality. Kathy currently meets with people for spiritual direction at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church of Resurrection parish in Marmora and St. Francis of Assisi parish on Long Beach Island NJ.

Suzy R. Eyler

Cherry Hill, NJ

(609) 254-1788 eylersuzy@gmail.com

Suzy has a Master's degree in Theology from the University of Dayton and earned a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Neumann University. She currently meets with directees at Christ Our Light Parish in Cherry Hill, NJ and can also meet in her home in Deptford, NJ. Appointments are typically in the afternoon on weekdays and on Saturday mornings. Her long-time interest is in all matters that promote human dignity which has been nourished by many years in Catholic education. She is recently retired from teaching high school Religious Studies. Suzy is privileged to share the spiritual journey of those she meets.

Debra Ann Gebbia

53 Kings Highway, W, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

C (856) 571-3253 H (856) 795-0921 Debra.Gebbia@gmail.com

Debra holds M.S. in Pastoral Care and Counseling with a concentration in spiritual direction. Her ongoing formation includes workshops in art journaling, dreams, loss and grief, depression, Christian mysticism and working with victims of sexual abuse. Debra is a member and presenter for "Women of the Well" where she has conducted days of prayer and ritual for women of all faiths.

Madalyn (Madge) Hempsey

1140 Lawnton Ave, West Deptford, NJ 08096

H (856) 848-5346 C (856) 430-8888 humorme3@verizon.net

Madalyn is a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Camden. She is the widowed mother of three and grandmother of 15 children. She believes that the spiritual journey is the best trip we take in life and she enjoys sharing this journey with others on the path. Madalyn was formed as a spiritual director through the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Direction in Bethesda, MD and completed the course in 2000. She continues to learn and grow in the ministry of Spiritual Direction. As a "Midwife To The Soul", Twelve Step Spirituality, especially step 11, has been a major factor in her life for more than 30 years. For the past 15 years she has given retreats at the Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, for women and special retreats for widows. Her latest interest is being in connection with those entering and/or experiencing the elder phases of life and the doors opened from that experience. She feels that God has something more for her to do and is keeping an open mind.

Marylou Jacoby

Neptune, NJ

(609) 698-8482; maryloujacoby13@gmail.com

Marylou received her certificate in Spiritual Direction in 1998 from The Upper Room Spiritual Center, Neptune, NJ and retreat director certification in 2002. She is currently a team member for Rachel Vineyard Retreats. Marylou serves as Spiritual Director at The Upper Room Spiritual Center, Neptune, NJ.

Catherine G. Johnson

1240 Folkestone Way, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

(856) 220-0171; cjohnson@christourlight.net

Cathy is the Pastoral Associate for Lifelong Faith Formation at the Catholic Community of Christ Our Light and a founding co-director of Heartful Ministries, an organization providing liturgical and spiritual formation to faith communities. She holds a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Villanova University, and Master of Science in Pastoral Care and Counseling (Spiritual Direction) from Neumann University. Her ministry and professional experience also includes national speaking engagements, teaching and campus ministry, directing music ministry, and coaching several different sports. She co-authored a book of prayer services and several lectionary based resources. She is happily married to her husband, Paul, also a music minister.

Lillian Maldonado-Cilento

Toms River, NJ

H (732) 929-8734: .C (848) 333-8659 cilento2001@verizon.net

Lillian is a certified Spiritual Director, a graduate of the "Cenacle of Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spirituality" in affiliation with the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. She was Commissioned as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Diocese of Trenton in 2008 and has an MA in Theology from Georgian Court University. She is part of the teaching team for Lab 1 Communication Skills in the Diocese of Trenton. Lillian is a member of St. Justin Parish where she serves as a lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and is part of the RCIA team. She works at St. Joseph Parish in Toms River in the parish office. With her experience as a Physician Assistant, she also works with the elderly managing their health

care issues, while at the same time nurturing their spiritual well-being. Married for more than 30 years, she has 3 adult children.

Sister Mary J. McGarrity, IHM

Runnemedede, NJ

(856) 939-5508, smary1@hotmail.com

Sr. Mary, is currently the Bishop's Delegate for Women Religious for the Diocese of Camden. Over the years, she has served as a secondary school teacher and school minister in various high schools in Pennsylvania, Florida, Chile and Peru. Sister Mary received her B.A. from Immaculata University, her Master from Villanova University, studied spirituality at Duquesne University and received a Post Graduate Certificate in Church Leadership/Spirituality from Boston College. Before it closed, Sister ministered in New Jersey at the Pius X Retreat Center where she gave retreats and accompanied others on their spiritual journey. Sister is a member of Spiritual Directors International.

Sister Claire McNichol, SSJ

Holy Savior Convent, 30 Emerald Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108

(856) 240-1775 or cmcnicholssj@yahoo.com

Sister Claire, a Sister of Saint Joseph, is certified in Spiritual Direction and Directed Prayer Retreats by the SSJ Center for Spirituality, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. She is also a supervisor for spiritual directors and a Certified Mid-Life Directions Consultant. Sr. Claire is presently a Pastoral Associate for Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Westmont/Collingswood, NJ.

Sister Maria Metzger, SSJ

516 Lafayette and Ocean Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

W (609) 884-5312 ext 109, smariassj@gmail.com

Maria Metzger is a Sister of St Joseph of Chestnut Hill. She holds a Masters in Theology from Saint Louis University and a Masters in Spirituality and Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College. Maria has ministered as a teacher, Director of Religious Education, a Pastoral Associate and in Retreat House ministry. Presently, Maria is the Pastoral Associate for Lifelong Formation at Star of the Sea in Cape May.

Marie Mitarotondo

Seeking the Holy Spiritual Direction

(856) 685-9320 or SHSpirDir@gmail.com

Marie Mitarotondo is a certified Spiritual Director with over 30 years of experience in various ministries, including campus and parish work, ecumenical collaboration, social justice issues, end of life concerns, and bereavement support. In 2014, her desire to return to Spiritual Direction was confirmed by an invitation to collaborate with the Wellness Center at what is now Virtua at Lourdes.

Marie has a special interest in recognizing the Holy in all circumstances, nurturing the creative spark, and helping to heal those suffering grief and loss. Marie is also certified to teach the Grief Recovery Method(TM), an educational process through which the broken-hearted can complete their grief and move

forward with peace and joy. She is available for retreats and days of recollection. Located in South Jersey, Marie is married with four young adult children, and is comfortable meeting with seekers of any faith tradition or with no religious affiliation. Marie invites you to come seek the Holy!

Sandy Mullarky, RN, MA

Church of St. Anselm, 1028 Wayside Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(732) 493-4411 x102

or

Church of Epiphany, 615 Thiele Road, Brick Town, NJ 08724
(732) 458-0220 or sandramull@comcast.net

Sandy is Pastoral Associate for the Church of St. Anselm, and Coordinator of Parish Wellness and past DRE for the Church of Epiphany. She holds an MA in Holistic Health and an MA in Theology from Georgian Court University. She was Commissioned as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Diocese of Trenton in 2004, and is a Spiritual Director with certification from the Upper Room Spiritual Center in Neptune. She has ministered within the Church for over 25 years. She is a Secular Franciscan and retired school nurse. Sandy is married 47 years with 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren. Sandy offers Spiritual Direction in Tinton Falls.

Bruno Multari

Bayville, NJ
(732) 232-4193 or bmultari@aol.com

Bruno received his certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Upper Room Spiritual Center in Neptune. He is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Bayville. There, he has served in various ministries for more than 45 years, including parish council, stewardship, evangelization, lecturing, RCIA, and the Landings program for returning Catholics. Bruno was Commissioned as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Diocese of Trenton in 2006 and has an MA in Theology from Georgian Court University. Bruno is married, father of two, and grandfather. He has worked for over 40 years as a speech/language pathologist.

Marian L. Repice

St. Pius X Parish 300 W. Lacey Road Forked River, NJ 08731
(609) 971-7452 marianrep@comcast.net Parish office: 609-693-5107

Marian holds a diocesan certificate in Spiritual Direction through Francis House of Prayer, Westampton, NJ. She has been involved in numerous parish ministries and is an experienced spiritual director. Daytime appointments are available at several locations; please call the direct number or send an email for fastest response.

Deanna V. Sass, M.A.

20 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ
C (609) 213-6975 or JourneyWithYou@aol.com

Deanna Sass serves as Director of Pastoral Care in the Diocese of Trenton. She is certified in Spiritual Direction, Ignatian Retreats, Supervision of Spiritual Directors, Chaplaincy (CPE), Grief and Bereavement, and the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. She is a NJ state licensed counselor/psychotherapist and a National Certified Counselor, in addition to her training in Spiritual Direction. Deanna has ministered in the Church for more than 30 years, including having co-founded and administrated the *Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry* and has held numerous parish, hospital and Catholic school posts. She holds a BA in

Theology, an MA in Pastoral Ministry/Pastoral Counseling and an MA in Clinical Counseling-Psychology. Married for 38 years and the mother of five young adults, she is also the grandma of a beautiful little grandson. Deanna practices a contemplative style of Spiritual Direction in which she helps directees notice the presence of God in all aspects of life and accompanies them as they discern how they will respond to God's unconditional love. She sees directees, and counseling clients (but does not offer both to the same person) by appointment, at her office in downtown Princeton.

Mary Anne B. Serra BA, MS RN

Vineland area

(856) 981-6338 or mabs0960@gmail.com

Mary Anne completed her studies in spiritual direction at Neumann University with an MS in Pastoral Care & Counseling/Spiritual Direction in May of 2012. Her journey to this vocation began soon after she became an RN and found that healing a person's body was only part of what God was calling her to do. Through diverse experiences - accompanying people through loss and grief in hospice, and hope and healing for those dealing with post abortion syndrome as Project Rachel outreach coordinator – Mary Anne has been privileged to witness God's grace and mercy in action. Currently she is developing a program titled Living the Mysteries to integrate the body, mind and spirit through the Rosary. She is open to inquiries from those seeking a spiritual director. She can be contacted via email or cell phone. She is centrally located in the Vineland area. Mary Anne is open to working with a group of 3-4 directees for group direction, and has weekend and evening availability.

Sister Marcy Springer, SSJ

Francis House of Prayer, 84 Walnford Road, Allentown, NJ 08501

(609) 877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Sister Marcy Springer has served as a Spiritual Director for more than twenty-five years and has formed and supervised Spiritual Directors for over 15 years. She is Director of Francis House of Prayer.

Patricia Stephens

155 Cherry Street, Long Branch, NJ 07740.

(732) 728-0221 or patstephens@comcast.net

Patricia has worked as a Catholic and public school teacher for over 30 years. She has also been a Religious Education Director in three parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark: Saints Peter and Paul in Hoboken, Saint John Nepomucene in Guttenberg, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lyndhurst. Pat is a large group retreat presenter, a Spiritual Director, and visits parishes to give talks on various spiritual topics. She is currently on staff at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Staten Island, NY.

Deacon Michael Taylor

St Joseph Parish, 685 Hooper Ave, Toms River NJ 08753

mikelt5@comcast.net or cell (732) 330-4542

Deacon Michael was ordained a permanent deacon in 1978 for the Archdiocese of Newark NJ. He incardinated in Trenton NJ Diocese in 1999. After being in spiritual direction for all of his ministry he answered a call "to see what it was like in the 'other chair'". He holds a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Francis House of Prayer, Rancocas NJ and continues ongoing spiritual formation at Francis House of Prayer since his commissioning in September 2012.

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