



# *Spiritual Companions/ Spiritual Directors at* MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

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## *searching*

Are you searching for a Spiritual Companion/Spiritual Director? We've compiled this list of persons available through Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, both those on our full-time staff and those who serve as adjunct companions/directors.

## *availability*

Most of these companions/directors are available in-person or by Zoom, and some are also available by phone. Their available meeting days/times vary.

## *welcome*

These companions/directors indicate a denomination or church affiliation in which they are rooted. This was, or continues to be, part of their spiritual and theological development. However, they warmly welcome all seekers, with or without a connection to any tradition.

## *connecting*

Go to [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org), choose "Take Time for You" on the navigation bar, then choose "Spiritual Companionship/Direction" from the pull-down menu. You will find the list of companions/directors with a link to each person. Click on the name you prefer and send your request for an initial session/information. The companion/director will respond to your request.



## MARY LOU BENNETT, PH.D.

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Institute for Spiritual Leadership, Chicago

**Experience:** 20 years in doing spiritual direction

**Reflection:** It is a gift and a privilege to companion seekers in their relationship with God. I find great joy and deepened faith as each of us is on the way, trying to know, love and serve our Maker.

## ANN BIRA

**Tradition:** Raised Roman Catholic, but seek to find God in all things and all things in God. I am open to working with anyone interested in deepening their relationship with the Divine, however they define it.

**Certification:** Spiritual Guidance Training Program at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin

**Experience:** My certification is in spiritual guidance. However, I also have 37 years of experience as a physical therapist and have served as a companion to those who are dying.

**Reflection:** During the Covid pandemic, I saw the isolation and suffering of many of my patients and their families. I felt called to be a listening presence to those who were needing consolation and reassurance. That has led me to the ministry of spiritual companioning/direction.



## GENNY BOEHMER

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Emmaus Way Spiritual Direction Training Program, 1983. Corporate Ministry Program, St. Louis University, 1983-1984. Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies, Loyola, New Orleans, 1993. N.A.C.C. certified chaplain, 1986-2006.

**Experience:** I've been a spiritual director for 29 years.

**Reflection:** My greatest joy in life is sharing with others the Good News of Jesus and how it impacts our daily lives. I love walking with people on their spiritual path and helping them to discern the direction in which God is leading them. In my opinion, spiritual direction brings to life Jesus' words: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst." What can be better than this!



## M. AGNES BRUEGGEN, RSM

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Ministry Training Services, Denver, Colorado; Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola, Chicago; Member of Spiritual Directors International.

**Experience:** 35 years' experience as a spiritual companion and retreat director

**Reflection:** It is a privilege to walk with folks who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Holy One as well as deeper meaning for their human journey. My special interests include finding God's mercy in ordinary, daily living; care of Earth/creation spirituality, and the challenges/ blessings of aging gracefully.

## ROBERT (ROBBY) COLLINGWOOD

**Tradition:** I am an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. My spiritual spheres include: Christianity, Interfaith, Inter-spiritual, Spiritual but Not Religious, and Spiritual Independent.

**Certification:** Spiritual Guidance Training Program at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

**Experience:** Ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for more than 40 years. I served over 30 years as Chief of Chaplain Service at the St. Louis Veteran's Administration (VA) Medical Center working with veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), moral injury, mental health issues and addiction. My focus areas include: addiction, alcoholism, codependency, couples/families, divorced/widowed, elderly/mature, grief and loss, healthcare, mental health/depression.

**Reflection:** My mission is to offer to walk with individuals, open to the Spirit, listening with my heart, discerning with my mind, raising their awareness of how the Sacred is manifested in their lives and how they may choose to respond.



## KATHLEEN GERATY DAVIS

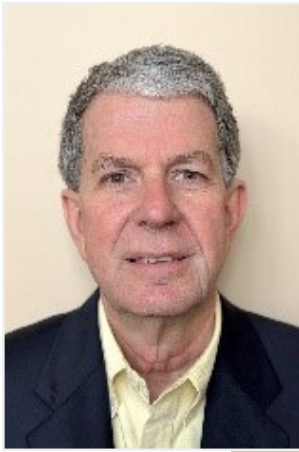
**Tradition:** Has roots in the Catholic tradition and honors the wisdom found in multiple traditions

**Certification:** Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Aquinas Institute of Theology and Masters of Pastoral Studies

**Experience:** Ten years of experience as a director and retreat leader

**Reflection:** I'm a passionate listener and grateful to walk with others on their unique spiritual path. I find joy helping others go deep within to discover their innate goodness and eternal connection to the Source of all life and love.





## BOB HOFFMAN

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Master's Degree and Spiritual Direction Certificate from Aquinas Institute of Theology

**Experience:** 8 years as a spiritual director, Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, 12-Step

**Reflection:** Journeying with others as they grow in relationship with God is a privilege I never take for granted. Whether walking through awe and amazement or through pain, grief, and suffering, it is a blessed and contemplative journey.

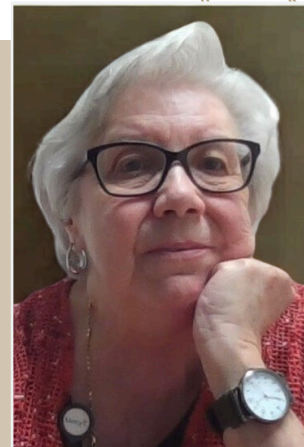
## JOANNE JONES, RSM, PH.D

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic and Ecumenical

**Certification:** Graduated from the Jesuit Institute of Spirituality and Group Prayer, Berkeley, CA 1976. MA from Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, 1978. Certifications as Member of the Jungian Seminar in PA. '83-'78 and the Jungian Seminar in CA. '78-'75. Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania University School of Education: Culture and Learning in the Workplace, 1985.

**Experience:** Spiritual Director at San Alfonso Retreat Center in NJ . Curriculum Planner/Presenter with CPE Programs for SE Michigan Chaplain Association.

**Reflection:** It has been my honor to walk with individuals and groups who are in the crossroads of life and their inner urgings to go deeper. I hold each person's approach to God as unique and yet a call to oneness.



## MARIAN LOVE

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Graduate Spiritual Direction Certificate from Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO. Trained in Ignatian Spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

**Experience:** 25+ years of spiritual direction, retreat work, and adult faith formation programs

**Reflection:** I am passionate about helping seekers discover God within themselves and their life experiences. I offer my gifts of deep listening, discernment, and gentle presence.





## LEE ANN MCNALLY, RSM

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Certification in Spiritual Direction from Franciscan Center of Spirituality, Portland, OR, 2024

**Experience:** Certified as a Director, 2 years – as a Spiritual Companion, 35 years

**Reflection:** My ministry experiences have been very diverse – teaching, parish ministry, adult faith development, fifteen years as chaplain in jail and state prison, facilitation of grief groups and groups working with addictive behaviors. God has given me great graces and is now inviting me to give back what I have learned and received.

## SALLY MACKE

**Tradition:** Episcopalian

**Certification:** Certificate in Spiritual Direction, Aquinas Institute of Theology.

**Experience:** I have been offering spiritual direction for 20 years.

**Reflection:** I enjoy offering spiritual direction because helping people deepen their relationship with God is incredibly rewarding as it helps them recognize how much God loves them.



## PRISCILLA MORENO, RSM

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Certification in Spiritual Direction from Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, 2002.

**Experience:** 18 years. Currently available only for persons who are Spanish-speaking.

**Reflection:** It's a privilege and a grace to journey with another who is seeking God in their life. To listen and pray with someone is also a gift to me. Cultural sensitivity is an important part of spiritual direction. I bring the uniqueness of being bilingual to this ministry.



## RITA O'DEA

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Certification in Spiritual Direction from Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA, 2000. Member of Spiritual Directors International.

**Experience:** I've worked in spiritual direction and retreat ministry since 1983 and have served on the Mercy Center Spirituality Team since 2001.

**Reflection:** I treasure the ministry of walking with others as they deepen their relationship to the Holy One and discover how love, affirmation, and mercy flow ceaseless toward them as they journey.

## KRISSI VANDAGRIFF, MSW

**Tradition:** Cooperative Baptist

**Certification:** Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Haden Institute since 2023, certified Enneagram Applications Professional through the Georgia chapter of the International Enneagram Association since 2019.

**Experience:** 2 years in spiritual direction, 5 years as an Enneagram Applications Professional

**Reflection:** Combining my clinical training with the Enneagram and spiritual formation, I enjoy exploring how our Enneagram type influences how we see and understand ourselves and how we grow into who God has made us. I like to bring the whole person into spiritual direction, acknowledging how our heads, hearts and bodies can teach us about where we see God moving in our lives.



## DANIELLE WITT, SSND

**Tradition:** Roman Catholic

**Certification:** Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Spiritual Direction Practicum 1990-92, Louisville, KY.

**Experience:** Over 30 years in doing spiritual direction--13 years at Bethany Spring Retreat House in KY and 15 years at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA and presently at Mercy Retreat and Conference Center.

**Reflection:** I love companioning people on their spiritual journey and feel so honored by their openness and trust. It is always a sacred time to recognize the presence and action of the Spirit in a person's life.