

Marita Ann Parker

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Education

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Ph.D., Systematic Theology (finished all-but-dissertation, December 2019)

Comprehensive Examination: Passed January 16, 2019

Working Dissertation Title: “Family, Become What You Are: Forming Missionary Disciples through Evangelizing, Family-Centered Catechesis”

Awarded full doctoral scholarship and teaching assistantship, 2008-2011

Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA

M.A., Systematic Theology, *Magna Cum Laude*

Minor Area: Sacred Scripture

Comprehensive Examination: Passed with High Honors on April 12, 2007

Graduated: May 2007

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA

B.A., Catholic Theology, *Summa Cum Laude*

Minor: Vocal Performance

Graduated: May 2004

Pastoral Leadership Experience

Catholic Partner Parishes of Saint James & Saint Katharine Drexel, Washington County, PA

Director of Discipleship Formation, January 2024 – Present

- Create core teams to help with pre-evangelization efforts, small group facilitation, and discipleship mentoring.
- Direct the family catechesis program and integrate evangelical ministries into the curriculum.
- Collaborate with the catechetical administrator/s to coordinate sacramental preparation years for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Establish accompaniment/mentoring training for parishioners.
- Work with outside evangelization groups to offer ongoing discipleship training.
- Design a strategy to evangelize and engage every new member of the parish that registers.
- Develop a yearly plan to offer “encountering” programs such as Christlife, Alpha, and The Way (Preambula) at both parishes.
- Coordinate with those in OCIA to continue ongoing formation after full initiation into the faith.
- Promote Gospel values and growth in holiness, collaboration, and mutuality in mission and ministry.

Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Consultant in Support of Local Evangelization (Remote, Independent Contractor), August 2019 – December 2023

- Directed the Leaven Initiative, a grant-funded project to continue the “Ignite!” phase of the diocesan School of Missionary Discipleship, which aimed to expand accessibility to kerygmatic experiences such as *Alpha* and *ChristLife* in parishes, schools, and colleges/universities to foster conversion and spiritual growth throughout the diocese.
 - Re-engaged parishes (pastors/administrators, team leaders) previously awarded grant monies through the diocesan School of Missionary Discipleship whose services had not been completed.
 - Accompanied pastors/administrators and lay leaders from initial inquiry through the delivery of *Alpha* or *ChristLife*.
 - Oversaw the Leaven Initiative grant application process, including pre- and post-award consultation, budget, and data management.
 - Served as liaison between the Diocese of Pittsburgh and *ChristLife* and *Alpha USA* national leaders.
 - Developed and facilitated virtual opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic to engage current and potential parish leaders/teams, including inspirational webinars, *Alpha* online training, a diocesan-wide *Alpha* online experience, *How to Run ChristLife Online* webinar, and *Alpha Youth* online summer series.
 - Served as diocesan project leader for *Revive Us, O Lord*, a yearlong partnership with the *ChristLife* national team to raise up and equip parish leaders/teams to deliver the *ChristLife* evangelization process locally.
 - Coordinated diocesan *ChristLife* training conferences for lay leaders drawing national attendance in December 2021, June 2022, and November 2023.
 - Identified and invited key *ChristLife* practitioners into a process of leadership formation to prepare them to sustain the diocesan *ChristLife* network beyond the Leaven Initiative.
 - Brainstormed and implemented ways to unite child formation programs with parental evangelization outreaches in parishes and schools.
 - Advertised and promoted Leaven evangelization opportunities throughout the diocese.
 - Maintained and managed financial records for project activity, including review of scholarship requests and preparation of check requisitions for parish and vendor reimbursements.
 - Co-wrote the 2023 Leaven Initiative grant extension request/report and co-presented on the fruits of Leaven to the *Campaign for the Church Alive!* board of directors.
 - Collaborated with other departments within the (former) Secretariat for Evangelization and Catholic Education, the current Secretariat for Formation, and, occasionally, the Secretariat for Parish Services.

Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA

Master Catechist, June 2015 – April 2019

- Taught catechetical certification courses, particularly Morality and Sacraments, to parish catechetical leaders and Catholic school teachers.
- Completed mentor training through the Catechetical Institute of Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Bentleyville, PA

Director of Faith Formation, September 2016 – August 2019

- Developed monthly *Living in Faith Together* intergenerational faith formation curriculum and oversaw the implementation thereof for all parishioners, particularly families with children in grades Kindergarten through eight, with the goal of forming missionary disciples.
- Administered sacramental preparation programs for First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Planned and led parent (and in the case of Confirmation, sponsor) sessions for these sacraments.
- Served as a member of a District Confirmation Collaboration Planning Team and coordinated collaborative events for Confirmation candidates from six parishes within the region including a beginning-of-year “Meet and Greet,” Confirmation retreat, and Evening of Reflection for Confirmation candidates and sponsors. Mentored student leaders who participated in the Confirmation student collaborative.
- Recruited and led the *Living in Faith Together* Formation Team of adult volunteers. Provided on-going formation for catechists.
- Facilitated adult faith formation opportunities (e.g. Scripture studies on the Infancy Narratives during Advent and the Passion and Resurrection Narratives during Lent and Easter). Offer reflections during parish Lenten Renewal (e.g. 2017 Parish Renewal theme: “Lent Through the Heart of Saint Katharine Drexel.”)
- Developed curriculum for home-based catechesis to support parents in their role as primary educators of the faith.
- Developed and coordinated high school youth ministry program.
- Organized Children’s Liturgy of the Word for multiple parish church sites.
- Directed youth ministry *Living Stations of the Cross* (established Lent 2017), Advent Lessons and Carols, and Lenten Tenebrae.
- Coordinated RCIA program, including oversight of RCIC for children of catechetical age and their parents.
- Organized summer Vacation Bible School.
- Continued to serve as a regional representative on the Diocesan Catechetical Leadership Committee.

Saint Ann Roman Catholic Church, Waynesburg, PA

Director of Religious Education, June 2013 – August 2016

- Administered the CCD program for approximately 70 students in Kindergarten through grade eight, incorporating prayer services and mini-retreat opportunities for various grade levels throughout the year.
- Administered sacramental preparation program for First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Planned and led parent sessions for these sacraments.
- Led a team of ten CCD catechists and four to eight high school catechetical aides.
- Established a framework for adult faith formation which include book studies, Bible studies, and other faith enrichment opportunities.
- Served on RCIA team as a catechist.
- Worked with Music Minister and Liturgy Committee to organize monthly Children's Masses.
- Organized and directed children’s Nativity and Passion Plays.
- Organized and directed summer Vacation Bible School.
- Served as Lay District Director on the Diocesan Catechetical Leadership Committee.

Teaching Experience

Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA

Lecturer in Moral Theology, January 2013 – May 2023

Duquesne University, Department of Theology, Pittsburgh, PA

Lecturer of Theology, August 2013 – May 2014

Saint Vincent College, Theology Department, Latrobe, PA

Lecturer of Theology, August 2007 – May 2014

Saint Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, Morgantown, WV

Instructor of Middle School Religion and Coordinator of Campus Ministries, 2011 – 2012

Duquesne University, Department of Theology, Pittsburgh, PA

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, 2008 – 2011

Geibel Catholic Middle – High School, Connellsville, PA

Instructor of Religion and Director of Campus Ministry, 2006 – 2007*

*This position was eliminated after one year due to budget cuts.

Courses Taught

Saint Vincent Seminary

TH 621 Introduction to Catholic Morality

Duquesne University

UCOR 141 Biblical and Historical Perspectives

UCOR 152 Theological Ethics (Teaching Assistant to Dr. Anna Floerke Scheid and Dr. Daniel Scheid)

THEO 280 Faith and Reason

Saint Vincent College

RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning

TH 119 First Theology

TH 340 Basics of Catholic Faith

Saint Francis de Sales Central Catholic School

6th Grade Religion - The Old Testament

7th Grade Religion - The New Testament

8th Grade Religion - Church History

Religion Elective - Ethics

Geibel Catholic Middle-High School

9th Grade Religion - Catholic Faith and Sacraments

Academic Honors and Awards

Full Doctoral Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship, Duquesne University, 2008 – 2011

Grace and Herb Boyer Academic and Leadership Scholarship, Saint Vincent College, 2000 – 2004

Saint Vincent College Leadership Grant, 2000 – 2004

Additional Certifications and Training

MPACT Training Pilot. Human Formation Coalition. February – April 2021.

APEST and StrengthsFinder Coach Training. Human Formation Coalition. January – February 2021.

Human Formation Leadership Circle Training. Human Formation Coalition. December 2020 – June 2021.

Alpha Host and Helper Training. Diocese of Pittsburgh. May 2020.

ChristLife “Let Down Your Nets” Regional Training Conference. Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe, PA. October 2019.

Franciscan University of Steubenville Catechetical Institute Mentor Training. Diocese of Pittsburgh. April 2019.

Lay Ecclesial Minister Leadership and Evangelization Collaborative Year I Certification. Diocese of Pittsburgh, Institute for Pastoral Leadership. September 2017 – May 2018.

First Course: An Introduction in Leadership Development. Diocese of Pittsburgh, Institute for Pastoral Leadership. Spring 2017.

ChristLife Discovering Christ Training. Diocese of Pittsburgh. July 2016.

Presentations

“*Revive Us, Lord: A Lenten Renewal of Eucharistic Spirituality.*” Talk given at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish and Saint James Parish Meager Meals. March 5, 2024 and March 13, 2024.

“You Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.” Retreat Presentation to 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates of Saint Matthias Parish. February 27, 2021.

“Virtues, Gifts, and You.” Retreat Presentation to 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates of Saint Matthias Parish. February 22, 2020.

“Theology of the Body.” Diocese of Pittsburgh Summer Catechetical Institute, Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School. June 21-24, 2016.

Catholic Bioethics Roundtable on Regenerative Medicine, Diocese of Pittsburgh Workshop for Elementary and Secondary Science Teachers, Oakland Catholic High School. April 2016.

“A Sacred and Solemn Commitment: An Examination of Marriage and the Family in the Roman Catholic and Hindu Traditions.” Engaging Particularities VII: New Directions in Comparative Theology, Interreligious Dialogue, Missiology, and Theology of Religions, Boston College. March 2009.

Personal Details and Affiliations

Married to Dan Parker since June 4, 2016, mother to Daniel John (5) and Henry Patrick (3)

Member of Saint Matthias Parish, Greene County, PA

Member of Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), April 2019 – Present

Pittsburgh Diocesan Choir, September 2015 – March 2020

Choral Scholar Section Leader, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, PA, 2007 – 2014

Cantor/vocal soloist, 2002 – Present