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Contributor Bios

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Contributor Biographies

FATHER THÔNG K. TRẦN

Thông K. Trần is a priest of Ba Ria diocese, Vietnam. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and has two years of experience working in the game industry before he became a seminarian. After seven years of philosophical and theological formation for the diocesan priesthood, he was ordained in 2021 and sent to Saint John's University for further studies. Here, he is currently pursuing the Master of Theological Studies, focusing on Scripture. He enjoys music and computer programming, but he works hard for theology.

HENRY O. WIDDICOMBE

Henry Widdicombe was born in northern Idaho, grew up in southern California, and attended undergrad in eastern Washington. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, in Philosophy, from Gonzaga University and is an avid fan of their basketball team. He is currently studying for the Master of Theological Studies, concentrating in Systematics. He is hoping to pursue doctoral studies in systematics and his main interests are sacramental theology, the work of Bernard Lonergan, and the Catholic Worker Movement.

BROTHER DAVID ALLEN, OSB

Dave Allen, a Minnesota native, is a monk at Saint John's Abbey. He graduated from Saint John's University majoring in Theology and Environmental Studies. He currently is in his final year in the Master of Divinity and priestly ordination program. He enjoys connecting with people, Dutch bird dogs, travel, and all things Star Wars.

MARY L. PARKS

Mary L. Parks earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts in Management from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity while serving as a chaplain in Duluth, Minnesota. Her interests include practical theology and pastoral communication of church teaching.

SISTER JACQUELINE SANCHEZ-SMALL, OSB

Jacqueline Sanchez-Small is a Benedictine Sister of Erie. She graduated from Swarthmore College with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology, later earning a Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work at Rutgers School of Social Work. In her ministry at Benetvision, Jacqueline works to make contemporary feminist spirituality broadly available. She serves on the Steering Committee of Benedictines for Peace and on her community's Care for the Earth team. She is working toward a Master of Theological Studies in monastic studies.

MAGGIE NADALIN

Maggie Nadalin (she/her) is the Director of Music and Communications at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Solon, Ohio, a parish of the Diocese of Cleveland. Undergraduate studies include college seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum and organ performance and sacred music studies at Westminster Choir College and Capital University. She is currently studying for the Master of Theological Studies, concentrating in liturgy.

KELLY OLSON

Kelly Olson is a practicing Physician Assistant in Cardiothoracic Surgery in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University before moving to northern California to serve the un- and underinsured populations in a healthcare capacity. She returned to the Midwest to be near family and resides in the Mississippi River valley with her husband and three kids. She and her family strive to serve their community by catering to the needs of health and wellness in diverse capacities.

SISTER HANG T.H. NGUYEN, OP

Hang T.H. Nguyen is a Dominican from Vietnam. She is currently studying for the Master of Theological Studies at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. Her dream is to minister to the youth for the sake of their spiritual life through theological education.

PETER TRAN

Peter Tran was born and raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and later his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota. He has worked in both hospice and home care for the past two decades. He is currently a deacon candidate for the Saint Cloud Diocese and is studying for the Master of Arts in Ministry. Peter is a husband and a father of six with various interests ranging from philosophy, to football, to the Lord of the Rings.

ANNE CAHILL

Anne is married and the mother of two adult children. She has held careers in clinical social work and medical technology. Anne and her husband lived in Hong Kong for twelve years, following her husband's overseas job assignment. There she became a dedicated volunteer, which she continues locally today. Currently, Anne is a student at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary pursuing her certification in spiritual direction. She resides in Northern Kentucky with her husband and their large pet cat.

CARRIE O'NEIL-SMITH

Carrie O'Neil-Smith is a Lay Associate at Mount Saint Mary's Abbey in Wrentham, Massachusetts where she enjoys communal lectio divina experiences with the Sisters and other Lay Associates. She is a candidate for the Master of Arts in Theology.

BROTHER DENYS JANIGA, OSB

Denys Janiga is a Benedictine monk who was born in southern Ontario and has lived in four provinces and one territory in Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Trent University, a Master in Environmental Studies from York University, and a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration from Ryerson University. Before entering monastic life, his professional experience included developmental disabilities, social policy, and labor relations.

GILBERT PEREZ

Gilbert Perez was born in Houston, Texas, and is currently attending Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He is studying theology with a minor in philosophy, has been accepted to the School of Theology, and is interested in spiritual theology.

KATHERYN WETHLI

Katie Wethli was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., completing her Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance in the spring of 2020. She is currently studying Liturgical Music with a concentration in Vocal and Choral Music. Outside of her interest in music, she enjoys creating art and media for the purposes of ministry.

JOSEPH PENNY

Joe Penny grew up as a second-generation immigrant in southern California and traces his roots back to San José, Costa Rica. He's a recent graduate from Saint John's University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in theology. He is currently working on a Master of Divinity at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. His interests include jazz theology, liberation theology, and ecclesiology.

ANDREW BANACOS

Drew Banacos was born in southern California and grew up in southwest Florida and southern Alabama. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. He is currently completing the Master of Theology program at Saint John's. His current research interests are systematics and spirituality of vocation.

LYDIA MATTERN

Lydia Mattern is a sophomore at the College of Saint Benedict from Fargo, North Dakota. She is working toward a major in Theology as well as minors in Communications and Sociology. She is very involved on campus and loves being a Bennie! Lydia believes one can change the world over a cup of coffee, is very passionate about social justice, and continues to seek ways to grow in her Catholic faith.

COLEMAN S. KIMBROUGH

Coleman Kimbrough is a first-year student studying for the Master of Theological Studies, concentrating in the History of Christianity. He grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and completed his undergrad degree in Political Science and Philosophy at Mississippi State University in 2013. He went on to attend the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphries School of Law, obtaining his JD in 2016; he practiced law for six years in an in-house counsel role in the area of estate planning and trust law. Coleman is particularly interested in the early Church, especially the development of doctrine and the social, political, and philosophical contexts of the Mediterranean world in the first six centuries CE.

ANDRENIQUE ROLLE

Andrenique Da'nya Rolle is a Senior at the College of Saint Benedict majoring in Theology with a minor in pre-Medicine. She is an active member of the campus community and is passionate about advocating for students.