

## Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

### Leadership Experiences

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*September 2015 – present*

**Religious Education Consultant** - Saint Bridget Chinese Catholic Parish, Los Angeles, CA

- Designs, develops, directs, and evaluates a total parish catechetical program
- Provides leadership to assist catechists in building a solid foundation for adult spirituality
- Designs catechetical programs which meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital learner of the parish community
- Recruits, trains, supervises, and evaluates catechists and support volunteers
- Maintains relationship with pastor, parish councils, catechetical staff, and Diocesan Office of Religious Education

*January 2015 – present*

**Facilitator** – Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, University of Dayton, OH

- Assists online learners to become fully engaged in all discussion board posts and all other assignments with outstanding ability to present new thoughts or ideas from previous knowledge with understanding and depth
- Provides feedback to draw excellent quality and quantity of the comprehension of content
- Participates in a network of dioceses for strengthening the offering of e-learning for ministry in the international level
- Support a new initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere via the internet

*September 2012 – present*

**Campus Ministry for Graduate Students** - Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

- Collaborates between graduate students, staffs and faculties
- Directs Spiritual Direction/ Spiritual companionship
- Provides eGroup-Spiritual direction for our Graduate students (45 participants each week from the School of Education for three years)
- Creates and facilitates weekly and annual programming for LMU graduate students centered in spirituality, community and service, such as Sharing of the Heart, Bible Study, Dinner Connection and social)
- Offers two annual one-day retreats for graduate students, and annual 5-day silent retreat

*January 2014 – present*

**Spiritual Director / coordinator for Graduate and Undergraduate students**

**5-day Silent Retreat coordinator**

*September 2011 – present*

**Resident Minister** - Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

- Promotes an atmosphere in the living area consistent with the mission of the University
- Provides companionship to students with spiritual, personal, and academic concerns.
- Provides opportunities for values clarification for students
- Serves as an adult role model for students in the residence
- Participates actively in developing a sense of community within the Student Housing program

*August 2003 to 2009*

**Director of Religious Education** - Saint John Neumann Parish, Irvine, CA

- Oversaw 530 participants, including pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, volunteers, office staff and parents
- Mentored and instructed 25 catechists and 4 master catechists for their certifications
- Developed curricula for all religious education classes
- Conducted teachers' training each year in addition to parents' meetings
- Referred families to social services as needed

Led pilgrimages – France, Germany, Holland, Holy Land, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Rome, Spain (2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022)

Service trips with university students – Ecuador, Guatemala, Vietnam (2017, 2018, 2019)

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### Teaching Experience

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*September 2023*

**Course Instructor** – Spring 2023 New Student Orientation, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

- Includes 10 classes with 2 classes (50 students and 20 students)
- Promote innovative programs and events that develop an enlivened and engaged campus community
- Guide students through a process of reflection, self-discovery and character development.
- Foster students' respect for each other in an intercultural community.
- Promote the integration of body, mind and spirit

*September 2012 – 2015*

**Course Instructor** – Theology of Ignatian Leadership (THST 298), Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

- Co-taught all sections with approximately 8 – 12 students
- This course is designed for student leaders to explore the spiritual and pedagogical insights of the rich histories of the Society of Jesus and the other religious congregations, to evaluate contemporary models of service and leadership, and to assist students to articulate their own experience of Catholic higher education

*September 2004 – 2019*

**Course Instructor** – Catechist Methodology Certification Course (Methods 100), Diocese of Orange

- Includes 15 hours of training with approximately 10- 54 students
- This course is designed for catechists and parish ministers in order to provide foundation for effectively sharing their faith and catholic teachings at their ministries, including lesson planning, curriculum, classroom management, human development, learning style theories, and prayers
- This course has also been requested and taught at various parishes in other areas of California, USA, Toronto and Alberta, Canada

*Catechist Formation*

- Advent Retreat, Saint John Neumann Parish, Irvine, Orange, CA, 2024
- Advent Retreat, Saint Thomas Chinese Catholic Community, Alhambra, Los Angeles, CA, 2023
- Saint Thomas Catholic Church, Alhambra, Los Angeles, CA, 2020/2021
- Annual Family Advent and Lenten Retreat at Saint Bridget Chinese Catholic Church, California since 2015 to present
- Youth Retreat, Parish Retreat and Catechist Methodology Certification Course was taught at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Calgary, Canada in 2007
- Catechist Methodology Certification Course and additional course were requested and completed at Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish in Ontario, California in September 2012, August 2013 and 2018
- Catechist Formation in Tijuana, Mexico (Catechist Methodology Certification Course was requested and will be taught in the near future)

### Professional Organization Involvement

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August 2022 - present

**Intern Board Member** – Saint Joseph Hospital, Orange, CA

January 2013

**Spiritual Direction** – California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

- journey with directees as they deepen their relationship with God

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January 2008 – present

**Mentor and Interpreter** – CSP Victim – Human Trafficking Program, Orange, CA

- Translating
- Referring volunteers
- Educating
- Personal guidance
- Listening

November 2007 – 2013, 2016 - 2023

**Board Member** - The United States Catholic China Association, Berkeley, CA

January 2011

**Coordinator of Cardinal Mahony – Matteo Ricci Award Dinner**

The United States Catholic China Bureau and Chinese Catholic Communities of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles - Profit: \$16,000

- Developed and networked with seven major Chinese Parishes across California and China Bureau
- Worked collaboratively with Cardinal’s Office, China Bureau Team, Media, Pastors, parish leaders, and restaurant
- Communicated with 25 leaders by emails and Skype meetings
- Coordinated and promoted event publications, advertisement, and printing
- Planned and implemented event from beginning to end, including making the center pieces.

### Education

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<i>Graduated May, 2012</i> <b>Master of Arts, Pastoral Theology</b>	Loyola Mary Mount University	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Graduated July, 2011</i> <b>Master of Arts, Learning Technologies</b>	Pepperdine University	Malibu, CA
<i>Graduated May, 2003</i> <b>Master of Sciences, Family Studies</b>	California State University Northridge	Northridge, CA

### Core Competencies

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The academic works at Loyola Marymount University enhanced the foundation of my faith and provided me with additional insights. The interfaith dialogue among people who have different religious traditions, spiritual orientations, and/ or humanistic beliefs opened my heart for growth, unity, and reconciliation. This continuing education broadens my perception in the areas of critical thinking, questioning my skepticism, and applying knowledge in ministries.

The exploration at Pepperdine University refreshed my body and soul. The course was intense and challenging, but the rewards were countless and hopeful. “Learning Technologies” helped to transform me into a 21st century thinker, learner, and leader. The process of completing my Action Research, e-group spiritual direction, helped me to synthesize my values of education, spirituality and technology; combining these three elements has contributed to my strong methodology as an educator.

The experience at California State University, Northridge provided me with an in-depth study of the different stages of human development. This knowledge helps me to understand better the people that I serve, and it increases the effectiveness of my communication skills as a leader. To pursue my passion of love and service, I chose the following thesis: *The Efficacy and Development of Videos Used to Enhance the Religious Education of Hearing-Impaired School-Age Children.*

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### Certification and Training

September 4, 2022	Dayton University	Online
<b>An Introduction to Catholic Doctrine on the Blessed Virgin Mary – Pilot</b>		
May 16, 2022	Loyola Marymount University	Online
<b>Documentary Production for non-majors</b> with average grade of a 98.5%		
May 2022	LinkedIn Learning	Online
<b>Critical Thinking for More Effective Communication</b>		
<b>Dealing with Difficult People in Your Office</b>		
<b>Embracing Conflict as a Gift</b>		
<b>How to Manage Feeling Overwhelmed</b>		
<b>Increasing Confidence by Increasing Self-Awareness</b>		
July 8, 2021	University of California, Irvine	Online
<b>Types of Conflict</b>		
July 1, 2021	John Hopkins University	Online
<b>International Travel preparation, Safety, &amp; Wellness</b>		
June 5, 2020	LinkedIn Learning	Online
<b>Managing Generation Z</b>		
July 23, 2020	University of Illinois	Online
<b>Race and Cultural Diversity in American Life and History</b>		
December 15, 2016	University of Dayton	Online
<b>Guidelines for Refreshing Our Facilitating Skills</b>		
April 16, 2014	University of Dayton	Online
<b>Role and Ministry of Online Facilitators</b>		
December 30, 2014	University of Dayton	Online
<b>Digital Discipleship Boot Camp</b>		
February 27 - June 2012	Comprehensive Consulting Services	Orange, CA
<b>Conversational Approach to Relational Effectiveness (78 Hours)</b>		
September 10 – February 2, 2013	Comprehensive Consulting Services	Orange, CA
<b>Conversational Approach to Relational Effectiveness (102 Hours)</b>		
September 2008 - June, 2010	Sisters of St Joseph of Orange Loyola Marymount University	Orange, CA Orange, CA
<b>Art of Spiritual Direction</b>		
October 7, 2008	Pauline Center for Media Studies	Los Angeles, CA
<b>Master Teacher in Media Literacy Education</b>		

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April 30, 2007  
**Digital Catechesis**

University of Dayton

Online

August 28, 2006  
**Human Trafficking Training**

New York Asian Women's Center

New York

### Presentations and Research

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September 2018

**Published**

Spiritual Exercise Book – *Sharing of the Heart*, Amazon

January 2013

**Published**

Article - eGroup-Spiritual Direction Project, *Orange County Catholic* (p.5), CA

July 2013

**Published**

Article - eGroup-Spiritual Direction, *Theological Journal*, Los Angeles, CA

2004 –present

**Guest Speaker**

- Saint Agnes Kouying Tsao Catholic Church, Markham, Ontario, Canada, 2015, 2017-2020
- Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program, Loyola Institute for Spirituality, Orange, CA, 2014 - 2016
- The Art of Spiritual Direction, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange, CA, 2013
- The Holy Spirit and Mary, Catechist Formation Course - Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA, 2013
- Lecture, Notre Dame Parish, Hong Kong, China, 2013

Fall 2008

**Speaker** - Mini Congress in the Diocese of Orange, CA

### Skills

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**Facilitator**, completed 180 hours of continuing education for participating in *Conversational Approach to Relational Effectiveness* (CARE) Program 2012-present

Proficient in speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin, Cantonese, and English

Proficient in Macintosh, Web 2.0 and Windows operating System

Proficient in Keynote, Pages, iWeb, iTune, iPhoto

Proficient in Microsoft Office, i.e., Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Explorer

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### References

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