

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

Leadership Experiences

September 2015 – present

Religious Education Consultant - Saint Bridget Chinese Catholic Parish, 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 21st century digital learner of the parish community
- Recruits, trains, supervises, and evaluates catechists and support volunteers
- Maintains relationship with pastor, parish counsels, 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

(Facilitated: Chronic Illness: Mental Illness, Grief, Trauma Support and Counselling. Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists. Vocation to Ministry. Marianist Studies: Prayer. Introduction to Christian Morality. Sacraments. Sacrament B. Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life. Basic Catechist Formation: Seminar. Our Hearts were Burning. Faith and Human Development B. Image of Jesus. Introduction to Prayer B. Overview of the GDC and NDC. Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling.)

September 2012 – present

Campus Ministry for Graduate Students and coordinator of Spiritual Direction - Loyola Marymount University, 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

September 2011 – present

Resident Minister - Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

- To promote an atmosphere in the living area consistent with the mission of the University
- To provide companionship to students with spiritual, personal, and academic concerns.
- To provide opportunities for values clarification for students
- To serve as an adult role model for students in the residence
- To participate 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 8th grade students, volunteers, office staff and parents
- Mentored and instructed 25 catechists and 4 master catechists for their certifications

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

- Developed curriculums for all religious education classes
- Conducted parents' meetings, over 200 parents' interviews, and teachers' training each year
- Referred families to social services as needed

Led pilgrimages – France, Germany, Holland, Holy Land, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Rome, Spain, Bosnia (2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

Service trips with university students – Navajo Nation: AZ, USA, Ecuador, Guatemala, Vietnam (2017, 2018, 2019, 2023)

Teaching Experience

August 2023 – present

LMU Orientation Instructor – This introduction to LMU for Freshman and Transfer forums provide key information to assist students with making a successful transition to LMU.

- Facilitate specific course content, including instruction, discussion, and applied learning activities.
- Content from ORNT 1000/2000 includes LMU and Mission, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Sexual & Interpersonal Misconduct, Emotional Mental Well-Being, Core Curriculum, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Interfaith, and Bystander Intervention

September 2012 – 2015

Course Instructor – Theology of Ignatian Leadership (THST 298), Loyola Mary Mount University

- 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

- Saint Thomas Catholic Church, Alhambra, Los Angeles, CA, 2020
- 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)

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

Professional Organization Involvement

January 2023 – 2025

Intern Board Member – Providence Saint Joseph Hospital Orange, Orange County, CA

September 2021

CSJ Finance Committee - 480 S Batavia, Orange, CA

January 2013

Spiritual Direction – California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

- journey with directees as they deepen their relationship with God

January 2008 – present

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

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

November 2007 – 2013, 2016 -present

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

Candidate, 2026 - 2028

Master of Theological Studies

Santa Clara Jesuit School
of Theology

Berkeley, CA

Graduated May, 2012

Master of Arts, Pastoral Theology

Loyola Mary Mount University

Los Angeles, CA

Graduated July, 2011

Master of Arts, Learning Technologies

Pepperdine University

Malibu, CA

Graduated May, 2003

Master of Sciences, Family Studies

California State University Northridge

Northridge, CA

Core Competencies

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

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

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 better understand 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.*

Certification

Present, 2026 The Art of Listening: Foundations of Conversation in the Spirit	Santa Clara University	Online
October 2025 Key Topics of the Synod's final Doc XVI Ordinary General assembly of the Synod of Bishop	Santa Clara University	Online
November 21, 2026 Collaborative Leadership Development Program	Leadership Collaborative (100 religious congregations)	Online
July 2021 International Travel Preparation, Safety & Wellness	Johns Hopkins University	Online
July 8, 2021 Types of Conflict	UCI Division of Continuing Edu	Online
June 5, 2020 Managing Generation Z	LinkedIn Learning	Online
July 23, 2020 Race and Cultural Diversity in American Life and History	University of Illinois	Online
December 15, 2016 Guidelines for Refreshing Our Facilitating Skills	University of Dayton	Online
April 16, 2014 Role and Ministry of Online Facilitators	University of Dayton	Online

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

December 30, 2014 Digital Discipleship Boot Camp	University of Dayton	Online
February 27 - June 2012 Conversational Approach to Relational Effectiveness (78 Hours)	Sisters of St Joseph of Orange	Orange, CA
September 10 – February 2, 2013 Conversational Approach to Relational Effectiveness (102 Hours)	Sisters of St Joseph of Orange	Orange, CA
September 2008 - June, 2010 Art of Spiritual Direction	Sisters of St Joseph of Orange	Orange, CA
September 2008 - June, 2010 Art of Spiritual Direction	Loyola Marymount University	Orange, CA
October 7, 2008 Master Teacher in Media Literacy Education	Pauline Center for Media Studies	Los Angeles, CA
April 30, 2007 Digital Catechesis	University of Dayton	Online
August 28, 2006 Human Trafficking Training	New York Asian Women's Center	New York
November 6, 2004 ProLiteracy America Volunteer Tutor Training	ProLiteracy America	Orange, CA

Presentations and Research

August 2025

Published

Say Something Theological – The Student Journal of Theological Studies Volume 8, Issue 1 (2025)
The End of Faith, The Beginning of Glory: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/saysomethingtheological/>

September 2018

Published

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

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

Maria Lai, CSJ 黎潔雲修女

- 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

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

References

Daniel Smith-Christopher, Ph.D.

Professor

Daniel.Smith-Christopher@lmu.edu

310-698-2112

Margaret Riel, Ph.D.

Professor

Margaret.riel@pepperdine.edu

Rach Neal, PhD, CSP, CRIS

Professor / Safety Director

Compass Datacenters

rneal@compassdatacenters.com

214-984-8989

Doris Kim

Senior People Business Partner

Belkin Consumer Electronics Company

miksirod@gmail.com

323-533-1140