



SHANNON WIMP SCHMIDT

Shannon Wimp Schmidt currently works as the Content Director for the TENx10 Collaboration, an ecumenical collaboration of over 200 partners across the U.S. TENx10's mission is to make faith matter more to ten million young people in the next ten years, so the Church can stem the tide of youth disaffiliation from Christianity. As Content Director, Shannon oversees the production of all resources and training products for ministry and organizational leaders to help implement relational discipleship and accompaniment as the primary posture for ministry.

Shannon is also a founding member on the Board of Directors for Catholics United for Black Lives (CUBL), a faith-based not-for-profit working for racial justice. With CUBL, Shannon has served previously as Treasurer and Director of Communications. She is also member of the advisory board for EQ Saints, an Youth Ministry resource and training company which seeks to equip leaders for evangelization and accompaniment with young people.

A 20 year veteran of pastoral ministry and former Director of Vicariate Renewal for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Shannon sees evangelization as the daily work of every member of the church and the work of mission as an essential task of the universal church. She attempts to contribute to this essential task through her freelance work as a writer, award-winning author, speaker, and podcaster.

Shannon holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union. She is an active member of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry as well as her parish choir. She lives in Chicagoland with her husband, Eric, a Catholic school principal, and their four children.



JENNA RUMMELHART

Jenna Rummelhart is a nonprofit and philanthropic strategist with more than a decade of leadership experience in cross-sector program development, people management, and fundraising. She currently serves as Director of Operations at the Archdiocese of Chicago Pastoral Center, where she oversees strategic planning and operational administration across 21 ministries, stewarding a multimillion-dollar budget and leading a team of more than 60 mission-driven professionals.

Jenna's expertise spans strategic advisory, equity-centered program design, governance, and fundraising strategy. She is passionate about helping organizations maximize resources, strengthen operational systems, and build sustainable philanthropic models—particularly during periods of change, growth, or transformation.

Outside of work, Jenna stays deeply engaged in Chicago's civic community. She is an active member of the Service Club of Chicago and a committed volunteer to causes that support families and children. Jenna holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's in Marketing from DePaul University.

She is also the proud mom of two energetic girls (and one equally spirited dog), which ensures she brings both empathy and humor into every leadership space she's in.



DCN. MATTHEW HALBACH, PHD

I bring a distinguished blend of academic expertise and hands-on ministry to the United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA). Holding a PhD in Catechetics from The Catholic University of America (2014), I have authored works like *They Saw Through God's Eyes: An Invitation from Mary and the Saints*, which invites readers to embrace mercy and accompaniment—core tenets of USCMA's mission to embody God's love through intercultural encounter and solidarity. I was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Des Moines in 2018, and currently serve as the director of deacon formation—leading retreats, workshops, and spiritual development for candidates and ordained deacons, helping to foster an identity of deacon as servant and social advocate.

With over 15 years of executive experience in Catholic publishing and education, including roles at William H. Sadlier, Inc., and as the former President and Publisher of Franciscan Media, I have driven innovative strategies for faith enrichment and evangelization, aligning organizational missions with prophetic works of mercy. As a national speaker and consultant on evangelization, catechesis, and missionary discipleship, I promote intercultural dialogue and social transformation, directly supporting USCMA's vision of networking faith leaders to proclaim the Gospel amid global challenges.



FRIAR PAUL LININGER, OFM CONV., PH.D.

Prior to being elected as the Our Lady of Angels Province JPIC Director in July 2022, Fr. Paul was assigned as Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Burlington, NC, for eight years. This assignment was made shortly after two of the Conventual Provinces (Immaculate Conception & St. Anthony Provinces) voted to become a new province entity with a rich history of community and ministry.

Blessed Sacrament Church is the western most parish in the Diocese of Raleigh, NC, buttressing the Charlotte Diocese. The parish encompasses two counties (Alamance & Caswell counties). Given the original low percentages of Catholics in North Carolina, the presence of Catholic facilities has taken a long time to take root and grow. And now is growing by leaps and bounds. Blessed Sacrament's faith community consists of several thousand registered families and an equal number of non-registered families. It is a very active engaged community. Located in central North Carolina, the ministries are bilingual (and sometimes trilingual) and include a variety of outreach programs begun in the last eight years to aid residents as well as new arrivals.

Outreach services are available to anyone regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. And are inclusive of a host of ministries: emergency food service for those experiencing immediate food insecurity; access to the food pantry major distribution for anyone in need; ESL classes (English as a Second Language) located in a safe-environment; a Faith Action ID Card Program initially supported through grants from the Conventual Franciscan Provinces for those lacking a state or federal ID card; potential enrollment in an ecumenical, integrated, fully accredited STEM Certified School (only Catholic School in the Southeastern USA) with a focus on educational advancement for the underserved in the local community, especially Hispanic children and other low income families; and for volunteers and/or anyone wishing to become more involved, a SSL program (Spanish as a Second Language) is made available. This list is but a sampling of the Franciscan Friars and parishioners' efforts to create a place of welcome and community in response to the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

The ministry's greatest challenge is being able to hold the tension of the diverse body of peoples that constitute such a large body of parishioners, i.e., local civil authorities & governments, anti-Catholic environment, cultural prejudice, racism, poverty, and political polarization and discord.

In August 2011 prior to being assigned to Burlington, NC, Fr. Paul served as the Pastor of St. Bonaventure Parish, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. One of the unique attributes of this Conventual Franciscan Parish is that it is fully owned by the friars of Our Lady of Angels Province. This canonical status allowed for introduction and participation in a host of apostolic endeavors in the larger North York community. Most of which involved in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation with other religious communities of women and men.

Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., served for six years beginning in 2005, as the Executive Director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM). In this capacity and on behalf of the Conference, he represented all the Pontifical Religious Institutes of Men in the United States – Jesuits, Franciscans, Benedictines, Dominicans, etc. – in their dealings with the Vatican, the USCCB and other Bishops & Religious' Conferences throughout the world. He regularly attended meetings at the Vatican with various pontifical dicastery officials. As the Vatican-sanctioned national representative body for the leadership of men in religious and apostolic communities in the United States, CMSM serves the leadership (consisting of the Major Superiors and their religious communities of religious priests and brothers).

Beginning in 1997, Fr. Paul, served in the elected province leadership of Immaculate Conception Province as the elected Province Treasurer and Trustee. During the same period of time, as a licensed clinical counselor, he was involved as a facilitator, teacher and therapist both in the public and private sector. He also served as a facilitator and speaker for many organizations, including the National Federation of Priests Councils, Chicago, Illinois. Likewise, he continued as a member of several boards of directors for other religious institutes and his own religious community, such as the Franciscan Heights Housing Project sponsored by the friars in collaboration with the Diocese of Albany, New York.

As a clinical psychologist, Fr. Paul served on the faculties of several universities and colleges, including Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the Department of Medical Psychiatry, Baltimore, MD. Where he taught medical interns concerning various alcoholism, drug addiction as well as sexual abuse disorders. At the time, he was also the clinical director of several Johns Hopkins' psychiatric clinics and treatment centers in Baltimore, MD, i.e., a program for 350 heroin addicts, another for 150 cocaine addicts, a pregnancy program for women addicts, and another for 100 adolescents – all with chemical substance disorders prior to the age of 11 yrs. old. His work also involved several research projects conducted by Johns Hopkins University under the auspices of the School of Medicine.

Blessed with a history of varied ministerial service opportunities, Fr. Paul served as the post-novitiate formation director for his Conventual Franciscan Community in Washington, DC, prior to being elected as the Immaculate Conception Province Treasurer.

Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., holds a Doctorate and Master's Degrees in Psychology and Counseling from Loyola University as well as a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees - St. Anthony-on-Hudson in conjunction with New York State University. He holds several undergraduate degrees from various universities. He joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual of Immaculate Conception Province in the 70's and the rest became history...