

Rev Dr Francesca Debora Nuzzolese

Pastoral Theologian, Psychotherapist, Trauma Care Consultant, Scholar-Writer

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Education

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY | MAY 2005 | COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - USA

- Practical Theology Department. General research theme: Pastoral Care and Counseling with Vulnerable Women

MASTER OF THEOLOGY | NOVEMBER 1997 | MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY – AUSTRALIA

- Pastoral Counseling. General research theme: Spiritual Dimensions of Severe Mental Illness

BACHELOR OF DIVINITY | APRIL 1994 | INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - SWITZERLAND

- Majors: Church History and Pastoral Theology

DIPLOMA IN CLASSICAL STUDIES | JUNE 1989 | LICEO CLASSICO CAGNAZZI – ITALY

- Majors: Latin and Greek Language, Literature and Philosophy

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- The Guild for Spiritual Guidance, Diploma in Spiritual Direction (New York, USA)
- Cambridge Language School, First Certificate of English (London, England)
- Clinical Pastoral Education, 3 units of CPE, and one year Residency (Melbourne, Australia and Atlanta, USA)
- Melbourne School of Psychodrama, Basic Level of Theory and Facilitation Skills (Melbourne, Australia)
- Cuahnahuac Instituto de Lenguas y Cultura, Normal Intensive Program in the Spanish Language (Cuernavaca, Mexico)
- The Landmark Education: Forum, Advanced Course, and Introduction Leader Program (Philadelphia, USA)

Ordination

WORD AND SACRAMENT | MAY 2000 | DRUID HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, COOPERATIVE OF BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

- Special Appointments: Pastoral Care, Counseling and Spiritual Care of Individuals and Congregations

Skills

COUNSELING

- My clinical formation is in depth-psychology and psychodynamic psychotherapy. I have extensive experience working with women and couples, as well as facilitating therapy groups, with particular expertise in bereavement, sexual trauma, and vocational transitions. Two decades of work with deeply vulnerable individuals and communities, in cross-cultural contexts, has led me to develop a particular psycho-spiritual approach to care and counseling. My *just care* approach is steeped in compassionate, contemplative listening, with particular attention to issues of systemic oppression, intergenerational transmission of trauma and moral injury. My latest involvement in therapeutic practice has been in global contexts, particularly with anti-trafficking practitioners, advocates and activists, who suffer from burnout, compassion fatigue, secondary and vicarious trauma, and spiritual despair.

SPIRITUAL AND VOCATIONAL COACH

- My work as a spiritual and vocational guide is grounded in contemplative spiritual practices (both Christian and of other religious heritage), with the intent of **surfacing others'** deeper longings, struggles, and **life-searches**, in the post-modern context. My particular invitation is to access one's inner core longings with a posture of humility and trust, using creative means such as music, nature, movement, dreams, silence, rituals and various forms of art, in the pursuit of new vocational paths and callings. I work mostly with individuals and small groups, but I am gradually extending my work to larger entities, such as church communities and faith-based organizations, which are interested in discerning new directions for their ministry; and which seek to respond to new (and challenging) needs in their midst (i.e. becoming sanctuaries for refugees and undocumented migrants; creating space for hospitality to refugee families, etc.)

TEACHING AND TRAINING

- I have been in the teaching profession for 15 years, always in cross-cultural contexts, with highly positive reviews from students inside and outside the academy. My pedagogical model is grounded in the work of Paulo Freire (*Pedagogy of the Oppressed*), with a critical emphasis on co-creating a transformative learning environment, where theory and practice are mutually informing, and matters of faith and religious practice are never separated from issues of justice and collective accountability.
- In the context of professional development and ongoing clinical education, I offer training, supervision and trauma care education, particularly to mental health and pastoral care professionals. My particular strength is in engaging trainees at their deepest core of being, ensuring that their professional work is grounded in their own personal and spiritual health. Some of the work I have done internationally involves training in trauma care, with the intent of supporting practitioners and activists, who are first respondents to victims of dislocation and sex and labor exploitation
- My consulting work occurs within the contexts of the academy, supporting the construction of innovative educational programs, and with NGOs, helping them envision and implement sustainable practices of care. Using coaching skills, I seek to facilitate growth and thriving, both for individuals and institutions, in a mutually enhancing way.

Work Experience

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING | METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO | 2017-2019

- Courses – Introduction to Pastoral Care, Congregational Care, Theories of Psychotherapy and Counseling, Family System Theory and Therapeutic Application, Group Theory and Therapy, Life Planning and Career Development, Research Methods in the Social Sciences, Integration of Spirituality and Pastoral Care.

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING MINISTRY DIRECTOR | METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO | 2018-2019

- Concurrent with teaching. Responsible for the administrative, academic and supervisory oversight of students in their process of counseling education, internship placement, and formation.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND PASTORAL CARE | PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, EASTER UNIVERSITY | 2005-2016

- Courses – Spiritual Foundations for Pastoral Practice, Pastoral Care of the Urban Context, Pastoral Care in Crisis and Conflict, Theology and Mysticism in Julian of Norwich, Pastoral Care in Grief and Loss, Psychology of Adult Development, Theological Reflections on the Human Predicament, Pastoral Engagement of Human Sexuality, A Theo-Ethical Response to Trafficking and other Atrocities, Cultivating Spiritual Character in Interfaith Contexts, Understanding and Managing Complex Trauma, Pastoral Care and Trauma Care, Just Care: Justice Issues and Pastoral Care.

VISITING PROFESSOR | MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY | 2007, 2012

- Courses taught include Engaging Grief and Loss, Spiritual Foundations for Pastoral Leadership.

BOARDS | OHIOHEALTH AND WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL SYSTEMS, PASTORAL ADVISORY GROUP | 2017-2019

- This group monitors the hospital chaplaincy network in the central Ohio Hospital System, oversees clinical pastoral education training, processes legal issues arising, and provides assessments and reports for national reaccreditation.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP | BAPTIST CHURCH, EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 1992-2016

- **Theologian in Residence**, Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, USA (2011-2016). Responsible for the theological education for the congregation, with emphasis on connecting theology, politics, and culture.
- **Pastoral Care Minister** (internship), Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, USA (2000-2003). Responsible for pastoral care education and spiritual formation of the congregation, offering spiritual retreats and facilitating spiritual formation groups.
- **Minister** (solo), St Mark Community Church, Melbourne, Australia (1995-1997), part-time. Responsible for worship, theological education, and for the pastoral and spiritual needs of the congregation, which included individuals and couples suffering with schizophrenia.
- **Pastoral Care Minister** (internship), Istituto G. B. Taylor (Institute for orphans and elderly people, run by the Italian Baptist Union), Rome, Italy (1991). Responsible for the pastoral and spiritual needs of the elderly guests.
- **Minister** (solo), Chiesa Evangelica Battista di Zurigo, Zurich (1992-1994). Responsible for worship and congregational care, mostly within a community of immigrants, from Italy and other parts of Europe.

PASTORAL COUNSELING, CHAPLAINCY AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION | 1996-2019

- **Pastoral Counselor**, International Alliance on Prostitution International Conference, Greenlake, WI, USA (2011, 2014, 2017). Offering individual pastoral counseling and workshops on self-care for anti-trafficking NGO leaders, practitioners, activists, and advocates.
- **Spiritual Director**, Oriented to Love (a program of Evangelicals for Social Action), Philadelphia, PA, USA (2013-present). Responsible for the individual and collective spiritual

care of dialogue participants. Dialogues are framed around the issue of human sexuality and are intended for individuals across the spectrum in terms of their theological, cultural and personal beliefs.

- **Pastoral Counselor and Spiritual Director**, Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, USA (2012-2016). Responsible for the therapeutic and spiritual needs of members of the congregation, facilitating yearly congregational Spiritual retreats, and offering spiritual formation seminars.
- **Pastoral Counselor**, Media Presbyterian Church, Media, USA (2008-2010). Responsible for the therapeutic and spiritual needs of members of the congregation and of people in the community.
- **Pastoral Counselor** (resident), Care and Counseling Center of Georgia, Atlanta, GA, USA (2002-2005). Offering counseling to individuals and couples from the lower socioeconomic classes, engaging issues of chronic injustice, displacement and labor exploitation.
- **Chaplain** (resident), Peachtree Hospice and Gwinnett Medical Center, Atlanta, GA, USA (1999-2000). Responsible for the care of patients at the end of their lives as well as for their bereaved families; conducting funerals and chapel services for patients, medical and administrative staff in a large medical facility.
- **Pastoral Counselor** (resident), Village Well Counseling Center, Melbourne, Australia (1995-1997). Working primarily with women impacted by domestic violence and individuals with severe mental illness.
- **Chaplain** (resident), Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Melbourne, Australia (1997). Responsible for the spiritual care of patients and their families in the palliative care unit.

CONSULTATIONS | ORGANIZATIONS, THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS, AND CHURCHES | 2008-PRESENT

- Among numerous consultations on sustainable ministry and responses to trauma, particularly noteworthy were: Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church (USA), World Hope International (Sierra Leone), Lexington Theological Seminary (USA), Caring Hands (India), Elijah Counseling and Training Center (Nepal), Muslim Family Center (USA), Deborah's House (Mexico), The Baptist World Alliance (Thailand, South Africa).

Selected Publications and Presentations

BOOKS | ARTICLES – 1997-PRESENT

- "Caring for Victims of Human Trafficking: a contemporary example of *emancipation*." Chapter contribution in *Women with 20/20 Vision*. Jeanne Stevenson Moessner & Theresa Snorton, Eds. Fortress Press, 2020.
- *The World as a Trauma Zone: a psychospiritual perspective on the state of the world*. Book manuscript in progress.
- "*The Rehumanization Project: a theo-ethical response to contemporary expressions of dehumanization*." Chapter contribution in *Religion, Violence and Human Rights*, R. Braga and W. Pereira Rosa, Eds. Unida Press, 2019. (Published in Portuguese, available in English)
- *Lifeline: a play about human trafficking and the long road to healing*. Written and produced in Philadelphia, 2014.
- *Just Care: Pastoral Counseling with socioeconomically vulnerable women*. Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012.
- "Just Care: pastoral counseling in the sub-cultures of poverty." Chapter contribution in *Women out of Order: Women in cross-cultural experience*, Jeanne Stevenson Moessner & Theresa Snorton, Eds. Fortress Press, 2009.
- Other publications and numerous book reviews appear in *The Australian Baptist Witness*, *The Journal of Pastoral Psychology*, *the Journal of Pastoral Psychology* and *Prism Magazine*.

ACADEMIC SEMINARS AND LECTURES | 2000-2019

- Over thirty lectures, including topics on Spirituality and Social Justice, Reconciliation, Approaches to Prayer, Theology of Mission, Peace and Justice, Pastoral and Mystical Theology, Re-humanization, Trauma Care, Human (sex and labor) Trafficking, Immigration and Dislocation, Cross-cultural Counseling and Education, and the Global Trauma Zone.

Research Grants

- Wabash Grant for Pre-Tenure Faculty (2006)
- Summer Research Grant, Methodist Theological School in Ohio (2018)

Languages

- English, Italian, Spanish – fluent in comprehension and communication
- Classical Latin and Greek – reading and comprehension

Professional Associations

Spiritual Directors International (SDI)

American Academy of Religious (AAR)

Society of Pastoral Theology (SPT)

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)

Additional details regarding lectures, publications, and service to the community available upon request.