

Denise S. Dunn
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10 Old Violet Avenue
Hyde Park, NY 12538



Education Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology – 1980
State University of New York at Albany

Employment Mother - 1988 onward
(Opened a world of opportunities to learn, love, serve.)

Mid-Hudson Addictions Recovery Center – Chemical Dependency Crisis Center
Began as a volunteer in 1989. Employed consistently from 2006–2020 (Retired)

Assistant Director of Personnel
State University of New York at New Paltz
1986-1988

Assistant Director of Administrative Services
State University of New York at New Paltz
1985-1986

Assistant to the Dean, School of Education 1982-1985
State University of New York at Albany
1982-1985

Awards Spirit of Holy Trinity Award – 1990
Earline Patrice Community Service Award – 1991
St. Joseph's Fellowship (Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter) Certificate of Appreciation – 2018

Certifications Certificate of Advanced Bible Study - 2020
New York Catholic Bible School

Salesian Experience

Cooperator since May 22, 1999
Local Center Council 1999–present
Provincial Council 1999–2005
Provincial Council 2021-present

- served as Secretary on Local and Provincial levels
- assisted in Provincial Archives (2001- 2005, 2021-present)
- helped organize Cooperators' Regional Congress of English Speaking World (2001)
- worked with CPC to host annual retreats (2000–2005)
- worked with CPC Provincial to collate Units' proposals for changes in the RAL
- represented Province at World Congress in Rome (2006)
- organized Formation Days with Unit and CPC (2000–2005)
- presented at various Formation Days and Salesian gatherings (2002-2023)
- served on Marian Day preparation team (2020-2023)
- assisted with Salesian Family Day (2021, 2022)

Community/Church Involvement

- assisted with Baptismal Team at Holy Trinity Parish (1990-2013)
- costumed saints and nativity characters at Holy Trinity School (1997–2019, 2021-2023)
- coordinated Live Stations of the Cross Holy Trinity Church (2000-2024)
- organized service project for teens (Tot Lot, clothing drives, clean-ups, food banks 2000-2019)
- taught religious education classes (2012-2017, 2022-2024)
- facilitated small groups for teens and for adults in Discovering Christ (2012–2018)
- taught RCIA for teens (2013–2015)
- served as 4H Project Leader Focus: record books, community service (2014-present)
- assist 4H Special Needs Program (2021) – guiding a 4H teen mentoring youth with disabilities

The “Yes” of the Promise has afforded me many of what I call God’s Surprises:

- accompanied foster families through many challenges in homes and public sphere
- worked with an immigrant family to obtain legal status (All are now citizens!)
- supported a mentally ill woman; helped her maintain a healthy relationship with her children who had been adopted by another family, assisted those children practically and emotionally when their mother succumbed to COVID
- tutored a teen with learning disabilities who graduated and now has his own business
- mentored and “grandmothered” a boy with developmental disabilities who is now a Marine

Qualifications

When requesting to serve on the Provincial Council in 2021, I wrote:

My greatest qualification is my desire to love and serve God. In trying to prepare the vitae, I felt inadequate and a bit embarrassed. My technical skills are fairly limited. I do not fluently speak any language but English. By God’s Grace, I do however have the capacity to walk with others through sorrow, to listen and seek solutions to problems, to work well with others, and to persevere over the long haul. Many of my volunteer activities in and out of Church, including “God’s Surprises”, lasted for years; some for decades.

Now, I can say that my tech skills have improved a little thanks to the patience and support of my fellow Provincial Councilors. But, my heart has remained the same. I will share the only hope that I had when I was a little girl. I did not feel very special but I prayed that I could help just one person. In that way, I would make God’s effort to create me worth His while. As I look back, I see that in His Mercy, He has sent many people into my life and I have done the best I could to honor His gift.

So, again:

***I come before you with a mother’s heart and a servant’s hands.
I submit both in hope that they may be of service to God through our Association.***