

Sister Gilchrist Cottrill, CE
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Sister Gilchrist Cottrill, CE

Objectives

Leadership roles in education and administration in respect to persons with disabilities and their families.

Leadership roles in regard to consecrated life within a newly founded community.

Experience

2000-2009

**Foundress and Superior of The Community of The Epiphany,
Diocese of Venice in Florida**

2002-2006 Ave Maria University Naples, Florida
Program Director for Masters Program in Exceptional Student Education

- **Designed and directed Florida State approved and licensed courses for MA in ESE**
- **Instructor for courses in MA in ESE**
- **Consultant for students with learning disabilities on campus at Ave Maria University**

2004-2009 Ave Maria Preparatory School Sarasota, Florida
Director

- **Designed and directed school for students with special learning needs/ grades 5-12**
- **Teacher education and administration of the above**
- **Curriculum development, admission and assessment for students**

1994-2003 Diocese of Venice in Florida Venice, Florida
Director of Special Education

- **Designed and directed ESE inclusion program for 12 Catholic Schools**
- **Designed and directed public-private partnerships with State of Florida with 20 public schools and 12 Catholic schools for inclusion practices in respect to special learning**

needs

- **Designed and directed two schools for students with special learning needs: One in Sarasota, Florida and one in Fort Myers, Florida.**
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1994-2000

Member of State Advisory Board for Exceptional Student Education

- **Advised in respect to parent advocacy issues**
- **Helped shape McKay Scholarship legislation which provides for students with disabilities in Florida schools who wish to attend private schools.**
- **Advised in respect to support of families in respect to students with disabilities**

1996-1999

- **President of Florida Learning Disability Association**

1968-1994

- **Grades 5-12**
- **Regular and Special Education**
Diocese of Cleveland and Youngstown

1979-1988

Designed and Directed Diocesan Religious Education Program for State Institution for Persons with Disabilities: (Warrensville Cente, Cleveland, Ohio)

1988-1991

Visitation and Religious Education In Upper Pinellas County Group Group Homes

1979-1991

Designed and Directed Retreats For Persons with Disabilities in Diocese of St. Petersburg

Education

1965-1971

Notre Dame College

Cleveland, Ohio

- **B. A. in Secondary and Exceptional**

Education

- **Certifications in Mental Retardation, Learning Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, Secondary English and Elementary Education**
- **1979-1985 St. Thomas University Rome, Italy**
- **M.A. in Catechesis (Virginia Campus)**
- **Dissertation: “Catechesis of the Learning Disabled Child.”**
- **1988-1992 Cardinal Stritch University Milwaukee, WI**
- **M. A. in Varying Exceptionalities**
- **Dissertation: “Reduction of Self-Stimulatory Behaviors in Children with Autism.”**

Interests

Poetry composition, religious education, outdoor recreation and St. John of the Cross spirituality

Accomplishments

Presentations and consultation at the following in respect to inclusion practices in regular education and catechesis:

- **National Catholic Education Association Annual International Conference: 1992-2007**
- **International Learning Disability Conferences**
- **National Mathematics Conferences**
- **State and Regional Learning Disability Conferences**
- **Ministry of Education of Japan**
- **National Catechetical Conferences**
- **Assisted 22 Catholic dioceses nationwide**
- **Assisted 900 schools nationwide**
- **Franciscan University of Stuebenville**
- **Notre Dame College of Ohio (Adjunct Professor 1999-2007 Summer Program)**
- **Publications**
- **Dreams Are Free Toolkits (CD's) for strategies for students, parents and**

teachers in respect to learning disabilities

- **“The Teacher Catechist,” Strained Forward, 1984**
- **“Inclusion in Regular Education.” Momentum, 1995**
- **“Dreams Are Free Program,” Catholic Teacher, 1997**
- **“Language of Celebration,” NAIM, 1988**

References

Governor Jeb Bush

Former Senate President John McKay

State Attorney Joseph D’Alessandro, Fort Myers

Assistant Superintendent of Sarasota County Schools: Michael McHugh

Nicholas Healey, President of Ave Maria University

Jack Sites, Senior Vice President of Ave Maria University

Father Patrick Wilson, St. Martha Parish

Debra Jacobs, Selby Foundation of Sarasota

Wendy Hopkins, Community Foundation of Sarasota

Eric Tridas, MD (Director of Tridas Developmental Center, Tampa)

Mel Levine, MD, (Director of All Kinds of Minds Institute, Chapel Hill, NC)

Elmer Kadison, MD (The Thinking Center, Sarasota)

Timothy Hallinan, PhD (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)