

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

2000-2018

Foundress and Superior of the Epiphany Community,

A non-juridical community of sisters and lay persons of varying abilities supporting students and families marginalized by disability and imprisonment.

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**

2004-2018 Ave Maria Preparatory School Sarasota, Florida

Director

- **Designed and directed school for students with special learning needs/ grades 5-12**
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- **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 three schools for students with special learning needs: One in Sarasota, Florida and one in Fort Myers, Florida, One in Bradenton, 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 Center, 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

- **B. A. in Secondary and Exceptional Education**
- **Certifications in Mental Retardation, Learning Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, Secondary English and Elementary Education**

- **M.A. in Catechesis: St. Thomas Aquinas University Rome, Italy**
Dissertation: “Catechesis of the Learning Disabled Child.”
- **M.A. in Varying Exceptionalities. 1988-1992**
Cardinal Stritch University Milwaukee, WI
Dissertation: “Reduction of Self-Stimulatory Behaviors in Children with Autism

AWARDS:

- **Inductee in “Hall of Fame of Catholic Educators,” 2011**
- **“Distinguished Educator Award,” Association of Independent Schools of Florida. 02/22/2018.**
- **Educator of the Year: Learning Disability Association of Florida, 1994**
- **“President’s Award,” National Apostolate of Inclusion Ministry, 1996**

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: 1992-2010**
- **International Learning Disability Conferences**
- **National Mathematics Conferences**
- **International Dyslexia Conferences**
- **State and Regional Learning Disability Conferences**
- **Ministry of Education of Japan**
- **Diocesan Schools in San Juan, Puerto Rico**
- **National Catechetical Conferences**
- **Assisted 22 Catholic dioceses nationwide**
- **Assisted 900 schools nationwide with inclusionary practices for students with disabilities**
- **Franciscan University of Steubenville: Presentation**

on “Sacramental Presentation for students with disabilities.” Yearly.

- **Notre Dame College of Ohio (Adjunct Professor 1999-2010 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**
- **“Executive Function in the Classroom,” Dallas Branch of IDA journal, 2013**
- **Current programs in process of patenting and copyright:**
 - **“AMUP for Autism”**
 - **“Executive Function Strategies for students.”**
 - **“Neuro-Impact Pet Therapy”**

References

Governor Jeb Bush

Former Florida Senate President John McKay

State Attorney Joseph D’Alessandro, Fort Myers

Former Assistant Superintendent of Sarasota County Schools: Michael McHugh

Nicholas Healey, Former President of Ave Maria University

Jack Sites, Senior Vice President of Ave Maria University

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

Elmer Kadison, MD (The Thinking Center, Sarasota)

Timothy Hallinan, PhD (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)

Reverend Bernard Evanoski, Pastor of Holy Cross Church in Palmetto, Florida

Reverend Clyde Ozimowski. Ocarm, Nikomis, Florida

George Carlo, PhD