

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
MAUREEN R. O'BRIEN, PH.D.**

Associate Professor of Theology and Director of Pastoral Ministry  
Department of Theology, Duquesne University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282  
Phone: 412-396-6528  
E-mail: [obrien@duq.edu](mailto:obrien@duq.edu)

**EDUCATION**

- 1990            Ph.D., Religion and Education  
                  Boston College  
                  Dissertation: "Religious Education and the Public: The Contribution of *The Challenge of Peace*"
- 1982            M.A., Pastoral Ministry  
                  Boston College
- 1979            B.A., Theology  
                  University of Notre Dame

**POSITIONS HELD**

- 2005--        Associate Professor of Theology and Director of Pastoral Ministry  
                  Duquesne University
- 1997-2005    Assistant Professor of Theology and Director of Pastoral Ministry  
                  Duquesne University
- 1988-97      Associate Director for Academic Affairs; 1990-97, Adjunct Assistant Professor of  
                  Theology and Religious Education  
                  Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, Boston College
- 1982-85      Outreach Ministries Coordinator  
                  St. John the Baptist Church, Peabody, Massachusetts
- 1979-81      Religious Education Coordinator  
                  St. Joseph Church, Dalton, Georgia

**SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Publications**

- "Practicing in the Presence of Mystery: Responses to the Divine in Practical Theology and Religious Education." *Religious Education* 105/4 (2010): 358-373.
- "Reconciling Identity: Emerging Convictions in Religious Education and Practical Theology." *Religious Education* 104/3 (May-June 2009): 233-238.

"A Continuing Dance." *Religious Education* 103/2 (2008): 142-43.

"A Study of Ministerial Identity and Theological Reflection among Lay Ecclesial Ministers." *International Journal of Practical Theology* 11/2 (2007): 212-233.

"A Meal on the Shore: John 21 as Resource for Theological Reflection in Ministry." *New Theology Review* 20/3 (August 2007): 68-77.

Entry, "Maria Harris." *Christian Educators of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, [http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/view.cfm?n=maria\\_harris](http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/educators/view.cfm?n=maria_harris) (2006).

"Practicing New Convergences: The REA and *Religious Education* into the Next Century." *Religious Education* 100 (Fall 2005): 366-369.

"Education As Ascetic Practice: Teaching Theology in a Post-9/11 Context." *Horizons* 31 (Fall 2004): 355-374.

Review of Bernard J. Lee and Michael A. Cowan, *Gathered and Sent: The Mission of Small Church Communities Today*. *Horizons* 31 (Fall 2004): 454-455.

*Theological Reflection for Transformation*, with Dianne Bergant et al. Center for the Study of Religious Life, 2004.

"Women and Papal Teaching." *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Thomson/Gale; Washington, D.C.: In association with the Catholic University of America, 2003: vol. 14, 823-28.

"Lay Ministry in the United States and the Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry." *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture* 37/2 (Spring 2002): 111-20.

"Disciplined Conversations, Faithful Practices: Practical Theology and the Education of Lay Ecclesial Ministers." *Religious Education as Practical Theology*, eds. Bert Roebben and Michael Warren. Leuven: Peeters Publishing, September 2001, 275-308.

"Interprofessional Education in Theology and Social Work: Postmodern and Practical Theological Dimensions," with Hugo Kamyra. *Teaching Theology and Religion* 3 (February 2000): 20-32.

"Theology That Is Practical: The Model for the Next Millennium." *Theological Explorations* 1 (27 June 1999): <http://www.duq.edu/liberalarts/gradtheology/obrien2.html>

"Practical Theology and Postmodern Religious Education." *Religious Education* 94 (Summer 1999): 313-28.

“How We Are Together: Educating for Group Self-Understanding in the Congregation.”  
*Religious Education* 92 (Summer 1997): 315-21.

“The Public Church as a Model for Religious Education.” *Religious Education* 88  
(Summer 1993): 394-414.

“Christians and the Public: A Challenge for Religious Education” (two-part essay).  
*Professional Approaches for Christian Educators* (1993-94).

Review of Allen J. Moore, ed., *Religious Education As Social Transformation*. *Religious Education* 86 (Summer 1991): 479-80.

### **Leadership of National Organizations**

- 2010-11 Past-President: Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education (REA:APPRRE)
- 2009-10 President: Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education (REA:APPRRE)
- 2008-09 President-Elect/Program Chair: Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education (REA:APPRRE)
- 2004 Chair: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA)
- 2000-01 President: Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry (AGPIM)

### **National Awards**

- 2009 Called and Gifted Award, Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry

### **Research Grants**

- 2010-12 Duquesne University Faculty Development Fund: grant for the research project, “Emerging from the Vineyard: A Collaborative Theological Research and Writing Project with Catholic Lay Ministers”
- 2002-03 Duquesne University/McAnulty College of Liberal Arts Distribution Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities: A Qualitative Research Study of Theological Reflection among Lay Ecclesial Ministers (with later funding from the Wimmer Foundation)

**Presentations at Academic and Professional Events (selective listing)**

“Practicing in the Presence of Mystery: Responses to the Divine in Practical Theology and Religious Education.” Presidential Address, Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education Annual Meeting, Dallas, 24 November 2009.

“Panel Response to Richard Osmer’s *Practical Theology: An Introduction*.” Annual Conference, Practical Theology Group, Catholic Theological Society of America, 5 June 2009.

“A Qualitative Study of Lay Ecclesial Ministers” presentation and use of the article “Disciplined Conversations, Faithful Practices” by the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Symposium, St. John’s University, 31 July-3 August 2007.

“‘Margins’ and ‘Centers’ as Theological Constructs: Learning and Borrowing from Asian Sources to Illuminate Lay Ministry.” Annual Conference, College Theology Society, June 2007.

“Lay Ecclesial Ministry in the U.S. Church Today: Dialogues, Ambiguities and Opportunities.” Annual Conference, Catholic Theological Society of America, June 2006.

“Divine and Human Agency in the Narratives of Lay Ecclesial Ministers.” Annual Conference, College Theology Society, June 2004.

“Pastoral Theology and the Future of Lay Ecclesial Ministry.” Keynote Presentation, Pastoral Institute, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, July 2003.

“Theological Reflection and the Spirituality of Lay Ecclesial Ministers.” Annual Conference, College Theology Society, June 2003.

“The Ecology of the Learner.” Annual In-service for Religious Education Professionals, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, 29 August 2002.

“Graduate Ministry Education as a Bridge between Church and Academy” (with Bernard J. Lee). Breakout Session, Annual Conference, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, 28 January 2001.

“Practical Theology and the Languages for Communal and Public Discourse.” Annual Conference, Catholic Theological Society of America, Practical Theology Group, 9 June 2000.

Panel Response to Plenary Session. Presented at the annual conference of the National Association for Lay Ministry, May 2000.

“The Pedagogy of Practical Theology and Implications for the Education and Ministerial Practice of Ecclesial Lay Ministers.” Annual Conference, Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, November 1999.

## **SERVICE**

### **Scholarly Peer Reviewer**

2002-04 Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education  
Committee member for peer review of academic papers submitted for annual journal publication, *Religious Education*.

### **Scholarly Consultant/Reviewer**

I have been invited to serve as external reviewer/consultant for graduate programs at Fordham University and Santa Clara University (2010 and 2011, respectively). I have also been invited to serve as an outsider reviewer of a faculty member for promotion and tenure at another university (2011).

### **National Professional Service**

1999-2004 Board of Directors  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation

1998-- Accreditation Site Reviewer  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation: chair for 4 site reviews, team member for 1 site review

Professional Consultation: Symposium on the Spiritual Practices of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, St. Meinrad School of Theology, Indianapolis, March 2001.

Professional Consultation: Spiritual Formation of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Lay Ministry Project, October 2000.

Reviewer: *Competency Based Ministry Assessment Tool: A Resource for Ministry Formation Directors*, National Association for Lay Ministry, December 1999.

Panel Presentation: “Practical Theology Dimensions in Graduate Ministry Programs.” Annual Meeting, Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry, February 1999.

Chair: Doctoral Award Review Committee, Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education (APRRE), 1993-96.

### **Local Professional Service (selective listing)**

Keynote Speaker: “Evangelization: Theological Dimensions and the Ministries of Preaching and Catechetics.” Clergy Day, Duquesne University, June 2007.

Co-Presenter: "Making Congregations More Faithful and Friendly for People with Disabilities." Leadership Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, June 2006.

Presenter: "John 21 and Spiritual Nourishment for Ministry." Annual Day of Reflection for Pastoral Associates, Diocese of Pittsburgh, May 2004.

Address: "Sowers of God's Peace." Annual Professional In-service Day for Religious Educators, Butler Deanery, Diocese of Pittsburgh, 10 September 2003.

Workshop Presentation: "The Pedagogy of the Faith: Elements of Methodology." In-service for Religious Educators in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, November 1999.

Seminar: "Emerging Parish Ministers and Ministries." Clergy Day, sponsored by Theology Department, Duquesne University, October 1998.

Seminar: "Sharing Faith in Ministry." Clergy Day, sponsored by Theology Department, Duquesne University, October 1997.

**University and College Service (McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts; selective listing)**

Member: Institutional Review Board, Duquesne University (alternate IRB protocol reviewer for McAnulty College), 2009—

Member: Internal Advisory Board, Duquesne University Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought, 2008-11

Coordinator: Multicultural Faculty Education Committee sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence: Fall 2007--2008

Member: Bishop's Academic Council (appointed by Duquesne Univ. President), 2004--

Co-Presenter: "Focus Groups in Qualitative Research: Presumptions and Strategies" Seminar, Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research, Duquesne University, 22 September 2005.

Organizer and Moderator: "Ethical, Methodological and Regulatory Dimensions of Human Subject Research." Panel sponsored by Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research (CIQR), 27 February 2003.

**Professional Memberships**

2000--	Association of Practical Theology
1988--	Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry
2000--	Catholic Theological Society of America
1997--	College Theology Society
1985--	Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education