

Kathleen “Kathy” Garske was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She attended Catholic elementary and high school and continued her education at an all girl’s Catholic college. Kathy graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and received her Master’s Degree from Old Dominion University in Public Administration.

After graduating from college Kathy moved overseas: England for 2 years, Okinawa for 4 years and Germany for 8 years, where she taught for the Department of Defense Overseas Schools. On returning to the United States she settled in Newport News, Virginia and became the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond where she served the refugee community. Her passion for social justice led her to the International Catholic Migration Commission where she accepted a position at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan, Philippines. Kathy served as the Staff Development and Training officer, managing a staff of over 900.

Upon returning to the states she went into financial services where she built and serviced a client base. She then returned to social justice and non-profits as the Coordinator for Volunteer Emergency Families for Children where she recruited and trained families to provide emergency shelter for abused/neglected children in crisis.

In 2002 Kathy moved to Florida to be closer to family, and continued working with youth at a university outreach program. In March of 2010 she moved to the Jacksonville area.

Kathy’s faith formation is diverse. Amidst varied other programs, she participates in Bible studies, takes classes on the Holy Spirit, “Life in the Spirit Seminars”. She has acted as an RCIA sponsor several times and participated in many other parish sponsored classes and activities for spiritual growth.

Kathy is part of the charismatic movement and part of the first group to be trained for the healing ministry that provides individual healing prayer twice a month at alternating churches. She is very involved in social justice activities, has participated in “Just Faith”, “Just Matters”, migrant ministry and other programs. Upon coming to the Jacksonville area she continues to be active in the Justice and Peace ministries, volunteers at the Orange Park Soup Kitchen, Mercy Network, Sulzbacher homeless shelter, human trafficking awareness, and writes grants for the Way Free Medical Clinic.

God has led her to Our Lady of Good Counsel to serve as the Coordinator of Religious Education.