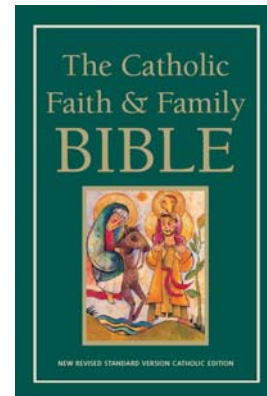


# Meet the Authors!

Spearheaded by the **Center for Ministry Development**, the *Catholic Faith & Family Bible* was developed by a trusted team of people known for their involvement in ministry with families, and is a collaborative project with **Our Sunday Visitor**, and **HarperCollins Publishers**.

Many people had a hand in the writing, editing, and reviewing of *The Catholic Faith & Family Bible*, all with the same goal of creating a Bible that helps Catholic families of all ages and stages grow in faith as they engage in family faith conversations, family ritual and devotion, and family outreach and service.

We'd like to introduce you to those who contributed to this project.



**Alejandro Aguilera-Titus** wrote text articles that reflect the Latino perspective of Catholic family living.

*Writing for the Catholic Faith & Family Bible gave me the space to pray and reflect the Word on a daily basis. It also gave me the opportunity to make connections between faith and life in concrete and yet profound ways. As I worked on the articles, I gained new insights about the richness and wisdom of the Scriptures and how the Word connects with our Catholic tradition and the daily living out of our Faith in my family and beyond.*

Alejandro Aguilera-Titus has twenty five years of experience in ministry with emphasis on leadership development and faith formation. He is a nationally known speaker and writer highly regarded for his practical application of theological thought to ministry in culturally diverse settings. Alejandro holds a M.A. in Theology from the University of Portland and is a Doctor in Ministry Candidate at Barry University. He currently works at the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB.



**Tom East** wrote text articles on the tasks of family living and provided editorial review for the entire project.

*Being part of the writing team for this project was an honor and truly a holy experience. As I researched, reflected and wrote the articles, I kept picturing families gathering at home and in the parish to open the Word. I really enjoyed the chance to go home and share the Scriptures and involve my children in helping create the articles as part of my writing process.*

Tom is the Director of the Center for Ministry Development, Project Coordinator for Youth Ministry Services, and Coordinator of the Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies. Tom holds a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Previously, Tom was the Director of Youth Ministry and the Associate Director of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Tom has served as editor and author for numerous publications including pertaining to youth ministry and faith formation.



**Ann Marie Eckert** authored many of the New Testament text articles relating spirituality and everyday living.

*Writing for the Bible was a very prayerful experience for me. I was surprised by how much I learned in the process of studying and reflecting on a specific passage. I remembering writing a particular text article that seemed fine until a day or two later when I was with my whole extended family, with kids running around and multiple conversations all happening at once. When I went back to that passage, I found a whole new understanding of it.*

Ann Marie Eckert is a Coordinator of Youth Ministry Services for the Center for Ministry Development. She has contributed to a number of books, articles, and ministry resources, and travels extensively doing workshops and

training programs for youth and adults. Ann Marie previously held the position of Associate Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and Assistant Director of the Youth Department in the Diocese of Buffalo.



**Leif Kehrwald** served as general editor of the Catholic Faith & Family Bible project, and wrote text articles on tasks of family living and Old Testament themes.

*The Catholic Faith & Family Bible is a dream come true! It is the most exciting project I have ever worked on. No project has taught me more, inspired me more, or put me in collaboration with such talented and passionate colleagues, all singularly focused on the same goal: to bring the word of God into the homes of Catholic families. The dream continues!*

Leif Kehrwald has worked in family ministry and faith formation on the local, regional, and national levels for more than thirty years. Currently he serves as a Project Coordinator for Lifelong Faith Formation for the Center for Ministry Development. Leif has published several books and numerous articles on family life, family ministry, marriage, and youth ministry.



**Sean Lansing** wrote text articles pertaining to Catholic social teaching and justice concerns.

*While writing for the Catholic Faith & Family Bible, I fell more deeply in love with the Word of God. Each text article felt like an opportunity to learn and grow in my own faith in God and my understanding of scripture. My prayer is that this Bible helps families at all stages grow more deeply in love with Scripture and more profoundly aware of how much God loves them.*

Sean Lansing recently left his position as a Project Coordinator for Youth Ministry Services for the Center for Ministry Development. His primary responsibility included coordinating Young Neighbors in Action, a national week-long service learning experience for high school youth. Sean has been selected as the new Director of Tomorrow's Present, a youth leadership development program of Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI.



**Andrew Lyke** wrote the text articles that reflect the experience of African Americans.

*Reflecting on the various texts privately and with family, friends and colleagues, praying for guidance, and listening to the whispers of the Holy Spirit made writing for the Catholic Faith and Family Bible a very spiritually enriching experience. I discovered much from this project and my faith runs deeper as a result.*

Andrew Lyke is the Executive Director of Arusi Network, Inc., a not for profit that focuses on the encouragement, support, and protection of marriage among African Americans. With his wife, Terri, he has pioneered Catholic marriage ministry with African Americans since 1981. The Lykes are founders of the Arusi Marriage Retreat, which has enriched marriages nationwide.



**Mariette Martineau** authored the "Meet the People" text articles of the Old Testament.

*Writing the "Meet the People" text articles was a neat way to remember all the people who really make up biblical history and hence reveal to us God's faithfulness with his people. On a personal level it was an opportunity to renew my acquaintance with these people, and deepen my own relationship with God.*

Mariette Martineau, wife and a mother of three, is a writer, teacher, and passionate advocate of faith formation that engages the individual and the home. Mariette holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies (Loyola) and a Bachelor of Education (Lakehead). She resides with her family in Kenora, ON, Canada.



**Jim Merhaut** wrote a host of spirituality text articles in both the Old and New Testaments.

*I was honored and challenged to be a part of a project that will benefit Catholic families as they share the mystery of the Bible at home. This project had a different spiritual tone for me because of the scriptural context. I was a bit awestruck when I thought about my thoughts being printed on the same pages as inspired scriptural text. I was comforted by the awareness that we had outstanding editors. Humbling is the word that really captures my experience of writing for the Catholic Faith & Family Bible.*

Jim Merhaut is the author of the award-winning book, *Your Catholic Family: Simple Ways to Share the Faith at Home*. He has also authored or co-authored several other books on faith and family topics. Jim is a regular contributor to faith formation websites of the Center for Ministry Development, and he has contributed articles to the *Lifelong Faith* journal. He currently serves as the President of Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA. Jim and his wife, Debbie, have five children and live in Canfield, Ohio.



**Fr. Michael Montoya** teamed with Fr. Melanio Viuya to write text articles with an Asian perspective.

*Writing for this Bible has been a privilege and a blessing... A privileged time indeed and a grace-filled experience to see my own story as a Filipino immigrant and the story of the Asian immigrant people to the U.S. reflected, spoken, and challenged by THE Story. The Word of God is indeed alive in my story and the story of my people!*

Rev. Michael Montoya, MJ is the first Asian American Executive Director of the United States Catholic Mission Association. Fr. Montoya is a co-founder of the Missionaries of Jesus, an international religious missionary institute of priests and brothers. As an Asian immigrant, Fr. Montoya has worked for more than 15 years in multicultural and cross-cultural settings in the United States.



**Margie Ralph** authored all the book and section introductions.

*Since I am a parent and grandparent, I found the experience of contributing to the Catholic Faith and Family Bible both challenging and satisfying. As I wrote the section and book introductions, I tried always to keep in mind the goal of empowering parents to share Scripture with their children in age appropriate ways."*

Margaret Nutting Ralph, Ph.D. is a teacher, having taught grade school, high school, college, graduate school, and adult education groups throughout the country. Dr. Ralph is the author of twelve books on Scripture, including Paulist Press' bestseller, *And God Said What?*



**John Roberto** wrote the text articles that pertain directly to Catholic life and practice.

*It was a great experience personally to write the Catholic faith and practice articles—to explore the richness of the Biblical teaching for our lives today as Catholics and to help people see how Catholic teachings and practices are grounded in the Scriptures. It was also a great learning experience to spend time reflecting on the Bible's message for today and how to share that message with families. It is my hope and prayer that the Catholic Faith and Family Bible will inspire families today to grow more deeply in love with God and express that love in serving God and neighbor each day.*

John Roberto is president of LifelongFaith Associates and editor of the journal *Lifelong Faith*. He is the project coordinator for the Faith Formation 2020 Project. John works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, manages the LifelongFaith.com website, and has authored books and program manuals in youth ministry, family ministry, and intergenerational faith formation.



**Cheryl Tholcke** wrote text articles on prayer and spirituality and on difficult Bible questions.

*I offered to write on the 'difficult' Bible passages because I wanted to be challenged to learn something new. I thoroughly enjoyed the process of researching the meaning behind these passages and making them applicable for life today. There were many 'aha' moments! It was an honor to work on this project and to play a part in bringing God's word closer to the lives of Catholic families.*

Cheryl is a Coordinator of Youth Ministry Services and Project Coordinator for Youth Ministry Access for the Center for Ministry Development. She also serves as webmaster and helps coordinate the Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies Program. Cheryl has authored/contributed to several books and is a frequent author for Youth Ministry Access. She holds a Master of Pastoral Studies degree from Loyola University New Orleans. Before coming to work for CMD, Cheryl was Associate Director of Catholic Social Service of Sacramento and Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Sacramento.



**Joan Weber** wrote many text articles pertaining to Catholic social teaching, difficult Bible questions, and various other topics.

*Writing text articles for the Catholic Faith and Family Bible was a humbling, inspiring, and transformative experience for me. Immersing myself in God's Word day after day opened me to the power of that Word to change my own life and the lives of others. I will never be the same.*

Joan Weber is a Coordinator of Lifelong Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry Services at the Center for Ministry Development. She does training for parishes and dioceses in catechesis, justice and service, and ministry, and has co-authored books and catechetical materials in lifelong faith formation. She is a former Catholic high school theology teacher and campus minister.