

Hello, my name is **Beata Bosak**, and I am the new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation at the united parish of Saints Thomas Becket and Alphonsus Liguori.

I am very happy to be here with all of you. I have always had a passion for working with children, youth, and their parents.

I am a wife and a mother of three. I was born and raised in Poland, in a town south of Krakow. I am the eldest of four children raised in a deeply rooted Catholic family.

Growing up in Poland I was very connected to my local parish and the youth group I belonged to as a teenager and then over time, as the group grew and welcomed new members, I became one of the leaders.

It was there that I learned more about Church teaching, and it was there that my faith became deeper and deeper, and my love for youth ministry and catechesis began to grow, especially when, at the age of 18, I was asked to become a youth leader at my parish. This experience from years ago helps me now in my work with young people.

After completing my financial and economic studies in Poland and receiving my college degree, I came to the United States at the age of 22 and began studying English.

God has granted me a deep passion for ministry work.

I completed Lay Leadership Ministry Formation Program, and Catechetical and Youth Ministry Program as well as Pastoral Leadership Formation at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. I am currently a second-year online student at The New Saint Thomas Institute in the Department of Liturgy and Sacramentology.

For the past twelve years, I worked at Saint Ferdinand School and Parish in Chicago, where I planned, coordinated, and led a comprehensive parish catechetical education program, including sacramental preparation in English and Polish for children in grades K-8, youth, adults, and young adults, and was involved in other activities in the parish and the Archdiocese of

Chicago. I am a member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) and Archdiocesan Women's Committee (AWC).

For the past 10 years, I have also worked as a Youth Group Coordinator and have been responsible for the Catholic faith formation of young people by planning, organizing, and coordinating youth activities, prayer meetings, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and annual mission trips. This summer I took a group of 50 young people, including eight adults, on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day to meet with the Pope in Portugal. On our way to Portugal, we visited Lourdes in France, Monserrat, Santiago De Compostella and Sagrada De Familia in Spain, and Fatima in Portugal. It was a blessed time.

I am very passionate about working with young people and bringing them closer to God. I enjoy teaching and helping people grow spiritually.

For the past two years I have also worked as Virtus Administrator for the school and parish.

I am grateful and very blessed for all the opportunities and gifts that God has given me, which have helped me to grow and develop spiritually, so that I can continue to share these gifts with others.

It is my hope that together we can build the best Faith Formation Program for the children, youth, and families in our Saints Thomas Becket and Alphonsus Liguori Parish. Amazing things can happen in our lives when we do beautiful things for God!

I have no doubt that our Lord, the Good Shepherd, has a plan for each of us. He is always waiting with open arms, ready to meet us where we are. All we have to do is accept Him and ask Him to come into our hearts and lead us.

I am very excited about beginning ministry here at Saints Thomas Becket and Alphonsus Liguori Parish and look forward to working with Father Greg, Father Steven and Father Slawek, and the Parish Staff as we help the people of our united parish to respond and continue to live out their Baptismal promises as disciples in the world.

To quote St. Francis of Assisi, "God has sent you into the whole world that you might bear witness in word and deed."

This is for me the heart of faith formation on all age levels that in light of instruction people's faith become living, active and conscious. Faith Formation is about information that leads to transformation of self and others (the community) and that once transformed the people of God go forth as disciples in the world proclaiming in word and deed the Good News of the Lord. I look forward to walking this journey of transformation with you and your families as together we continue to grow and live deeply our faith.

Blessings and Joy!

Beata Bosak

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation