



ST. RAYMOND DE PEÑAFORT

# MEET JILL HEINKING

## OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am excited to welcome Jill Heinking to our staff team. Jill will be serving as Director of Discipleship Formation. One of the main challenges of Renew My Church is to engage all adults and families in the community on a path to discipleship. This will be the primary focus of the Director of Discipleship Formation.

It is a given in the Scriptures that all members of the covenant community are engaged in a process of ongoing learning about the Christian faith and an ongoing process of deepening their relationship with Jesus and participation in the mission of the Church. The Christian life is not something that is learned as a child in sacramental preparation alone. It is something that must be engaged in as an adult.

We are privileged to welcome Jill, a long-time member of our community who has advanced training in pastoral ministry, as well as extensive professional experience in service to others, in particular in the Mount Prospect community. Jill begin her position on October 24.

Peace Be With You,

Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor



### CONTACT DETAILS

Jill starts on  
October 24, 2022

847-253-8600

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am humbled and excited to join the parish team as the Director of Discipleship Formation. I have been part of the St. Raymond family for more than 25 years. Many of you know my face, though maybe not my name, as I have sung in the choir for most of those years. Others may know me as the Village nurse, a position I held for over a decade here in Mount Prospect. Others still may know my daughters, both of whom attended our school. If we have not yet met, I hope we will soon come together on our journey as missionary disciples.

My discipleship call began long ago, at work, believe it or not, as a newspaper reporter in central Illinois. I began studying and praying, and upon moving back to Mt. Prospect I entered the RCIA process at St. Raymond parish. In 1986, Fr. Loftus wrote my letter of recommendation to theology school, and in 1990 I graduated from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. I have served as a missionary in Mexico, taught theology in Catholic high schools, and been involved in many ministries throughout my life in different churches. But St. Raymond's has always been home to me. This parish has always been a forward-thinking community, never shy to try something new, and never afraid to use its many gifts to bring Christ to our community and beyond. That charism is why I am so excited to step into this role.

When I was a missionary in Mexico, the people I worked with could not pronounce my name. They kept calling me "Hill". I explained hill had another meaning in English. Our little mission happened to sit at the foot of a hill named "Cerro de la Estrella." When I taught them the word Cerro meant hill in English, I was instantly given the name "Estrella." Estrella in English means Star. I hope in this new position to live up to my Spanish name and to help form disciples who will create descendants of St Raymond's, as numerous as the stars in the sky. I ask for your prayers and I will hold you in mine, as we travel together seeking and sharing Christ with all those we meet. ~Jill Heinking