

Crista's Journey

by Suzanne Heffernan

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Crista Carrick Mahoney is one busy lady. At any particular point in the workweek, she is either coming from a retreat, planning one, or on her way to a service trip with students as a campus minister. She would tell you that it is her mission to inspire people to give of their God-given talents.

Coming from a nurturing but independent-thinking and loving home environment, Crista came to Catholicism on her own terms. She chose to attend Catholic school in her early teens but said “no” to the sacrament of Confirmation at the time, feeling that she wasn’t ready. Introduced to the concepts of justice and help early in life at both school and home, Crista was drawn closer to Church in her high school and college years. She found meaning in the “family feel” and hospitable nature that the shared communal experience afforded. “Someone handed me a Bible in these years and that is when I began to read nightly. I also felt ready and was confirmed by Fr. Jim Hayes, SJ.”

Crista found that the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius and the experiences of community, spirituality, simplicity and social justice encountered both at the College of the Holy Cross and during her time in the Jesuit Volunteer Corp in Montana were transformative experiences. “My faith journey took a leap. I found that the Jesuits worked to form people in body, mind and spirit, something I am very drawn to!” It has been a natural fit for Crista to provide service outreach and to teach in both the Jesuit and Cristo Rey schools.

Crista has become fully aware that her talents as a retreat leader enliven Scripture for contemporaries in their everyday lives. She has spent the last number of years honing this skill both through her master’s program and through her leadership involvement in the Province of New England’s Jesuit Connection. “I have found a forum to use the language of theology and make it accessible to others to use.”

Crista Mahoney has been given a gift to share with others and we can only imagine, with gratitude, where her path will lead her from here.

A 2002 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, with a theology degree from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Crista, along with her husband, Michael Mahoney, and Kelly O’Neil, were the founding members of the Jesuit Connection. She is on the campus ministry staff at Emmanuel College.



The Jesuit Connection Retreat.