

Joyce Donahue grew up in Dixon, Illinois and earned an MA in English Literature from the University of Illinois, Champaign, with minors in music and journalism. She worked for the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, while serving as part-time liturgy coordinator in her parish and classical music critic for the *Rockford Register Star*. Later, she earned a Master's degree in Pastoral Studies, then served as a parish director of religious education and liturgy in Hampshire, IL. She came to Joliet in 2002 to work in the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education Office. Her duties include supporting and training leaders and teachers of parish religious education for children and adults. She also coordinates special needs ministry across the diocese. She does freelance writing for national ministry magazines and book publishers, is a blogger, manages several websites and contributes to two ministry blogs. She is an active member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Joliet and the proud mother of two married adult sons. She has one granddaughter. Joyce has been on the Easter Seals board since September, 2013 and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee.