**Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH**

Professor; Executive Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives

Full-Time Faculty College of Arts and Sciences: Religious Studies

**Degrees**

* D.Min., United Theological Seminary, 1988
* M.A., University of Dayton, 1978
* B.A., University of Dayton, 1974

**Profile**

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH, D.Min., is the Executive Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (1995 - present) and Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. She is a Marianist Education Associate (MEA) and has been teaching at UD for over 45 years.

She is a member of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart (Towson, Md.) and served on her Community’s Leadership team from 2000-2008, as Councilor/Vice President. She served as visiting professor at Crec Avex (Lyon, France) for 12 years, co-director of the Caribbean School of Catholic Communications founded in 1994 (Archdiocese of Port of Spain, Trinidad/Tobago, West Indies) for 25 years. Currently (2024), she co-produces a weekly Cable TV Program called ETHOS, on the Catholic Caribbean Trinity Television Network located in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies.

She served as the UNDA (Catholic Communications Association) USA President (1987-93), UNDA North American President (1990-94) and the UNDA World President from 1994-2002.  She served as Chairperson for the UNDA/OCIC Planning Committee for the World Congresses in Prague, Czech Republic (1994), Montreal, Canada (1998) and Rome, Italy (2001). She was a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (Vatican) 1994-2002.

Zukowski has been involved with distance education for over 50 years. She began with Cable television in 1971 and continued to advance into radio, satellite communication, multimedia, computer technologies and the Internet and digital technologies. Her current primary focus is the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) online courses in English, Spanish, and Arabic. The VLCFF was initiated in 1999 with one diocese and two courses. Today there are over 88 VLCFF World Wide Diocesan Partners, e-courses are offered in 26 plus countries. Over 160 English e-courses, 75 Spanish e-courses, and 13 Arabic e-courses, and a diversity of certificate programs are available. In 2024, over 6,250 students registered for courses. In 2025, IPI/VLCFF celebrates our 25th Anniversary.

**Teaching**

Within the Department of Religious Studies, Zukowski teaches M.A. courses associated with Pastoral Ministry, such as, Pastoral *Planning*, *Adult Faith Formation* and *Leadership and Ministry*. On the undergraduate level she coordinates the *FORUM for Young Catechetical Leaders*, a two-year catechetical formation program for UD students, as well as Religion and Film course. She taught Vocation and the Arts in the Chaminade Scholars Program for 17 years.

**Professional activities and achievements**

Zukowski received the 1993 *Lackner Award* given by the University of Dayton for Catholic Identity and Marianist Values. In 1997, she was recognized as one of the influential Catholic Educators in the 20th century (during NCEA Convention) to influence new initiatives in teaching and learning through the media. In the same year, Zukowski received the *President's Medallion for Lifetime Achievement in Communications* awarded in 1997 by the National Catholic Association of Communicators. In 2001, she received the *NCCL Technology Award* for her contribution toward the advancement technology and catechesis.

In 2001, she received the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal* from Pope John Paul II in Rome. In 2004, she received the *Distinguished Communicators Award* for 2004 from the Salesian Guild. In 2005, she received the *Honorary Prize of Julian Kulenty* presented during the National Catholic Film Association Conference held in Warsaw, Poland. In 2009, received the *NCEA National Catholic Schools Board Award* for her contribution for working with Catholic School Boards in the U.S. During the 2010 NCEA Convention in St. Paul, Minn. Zukowski received the *Emmaus Award* from the NPCD Association for her international and national work with Catholic education, faith formation and innovative online learning. On May 9, 2012, the NCCL (National Conference of Catechetical Leaders) presented Zukowski with their highest honor of the *NCCL Life Time Achievement Award* for excellence in adult faith formation via distance learning.  Nov. 9, 2012, the Catholic Leadership Institute (Philadelphia presented her the *National Catholic Lay Leadership Award*. In 2019, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities presented her with the Monika Hellweg Award.

**Research interests**

Zukowski’s current research is in designing prototypes for interactive e-learning for Catholic education, adult faith, lay ecclesial leadership and catechist formation through the VLCFF. Her special research interest is building on the work of Fr. Pierre Babin, OMI (with whom she was associated for twelve years in Lyon, France) for re-imagining his *Symbolic Way* in the light of the digital culture. In the spirit of Pope Francis’ call for Synodality, she is researching a new approach to catechesis with a Synodal Focus.

**Selected publications and presentations**

Her last book publication (2007) is  *Communicatio Socialis: The Challenge of Theology and Ministry in the Church* published by Kassel University (Germany). Other publications include: *Medias, chance pour l’ evangeile* written with Pierre Babin published in Paris (2000) and translated/published into English by Loyola Press entitled *The Gospel and The Internet* (2002). Her book *Voices of Courage: An International Profile of Women in Catholic Communications* (2001) has been translated into Slovakian, Portuguese and other languages (2003). She wrote a regular column, "Trends in Technology" in *MOMENTUM Journal* (NCEA Publication) and was Executive Editor of the University of Dayton *Catechist Formation Series* published by Peter Li, Inc both for 25 years. She has a chapter in *The Praeger Handbook of Faith-Based Schools in the United States, K-12* (2 vols.) ABC-Clio. August 2012. The chapter is entitled “The Threshold of New Catholic and Faith Based Learning Environments: The Advance of the Digital Culture.”

Zukowski offers workshops, seminars and lectures around the world. She serves as an international consultant on the application of new digital media resources for ministry and leadership. Her workshops range from Christian Meditation, designing new digital methodologies for learning, transformational leadership, nurturing dialogue skills and spiritual formation in a digital era.