

Noelle Garcia McHugh
1102 Shira St.
Dodge City, KS. 67801
517-526-2375
mqministries@gmail.com
www.noellegarciamusic.net

Curriculum Vitae

Personal

- Married ten years to David McHugh, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, Kansas.
- Mother of five children: four boys, one girl, ages 8, 7, 5, 3, and 1.
- Born in Arlington, Texas, but lived in Colorado, Tennessee, Michigan, and now Kansas.
- Oldest of six kids, three adopted through foster care and three biological
- Homeschooling, working mom!

Professional Experience

Catholic Recording Artist and Speaker

2007-present

- Wrote and recorded music for three albums:
 - *Meet Me Where I Am* (2007) winner of two Unity Awards
 - *Set the World on Fire* (2009)
 - *Wonderfully Made* (2014)
- I was featured in CNN's Latino in America which led to many speaking engagements nationally on finding Christ's love in the midst of personal struggles with self-harm and insecurity, depression and suicide
- Published two talks with Lighthouse Media and Augustine Institute *Getting Others to Heaven* (2013) and *13 Reasons Why You Matter* (2019) which were distributed nationwide and are available on formed.org
- Steubenville Conference Speaker/Musician
- Currently writing a book based on "13 Reasons Why You Matter"
- Design merchandise and keep track of all sales and profit/loss for business aspect of ministry
- Write and process contracts for speaking engagements, book all travel/airfare/car rentals and logistics for itinerant ministry
- Places I have served as keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and/or musician include: NCCL, NCYC, NCCYM, LA Congress, Steubenville Youth Conferences, Catholic Parent Revivals, Mid-Atlantic Congress, Diocesan Youth Conferences, Diocesan Women's Conferences, San Antonio Assembly, Pilgrim Center of Hope Women's Conference, Parish Missions, Holy Fire Middle School Conferences

Choir Teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Dodge City, Kansas 2016 - 2019

- Lesson plan, grade, and teach choir for 6-8th grade students
- Wrote *For You Jesus* a play based on Blessed Chiara Badano
- Taught students guitar, drums, vocal parts for plays, concerts and Masses for the Parish including Christmas Eve Mass
- Collaborated with other parishioners to teach the students acting, lights production, sound engineering, set production, and Spanish translation on PowerPoint presentation so that Spanish speaking parents could understand the play
- Coordinated a curriculum of bilingual music in order to bring the English and Spanish speaking communities together through their children's music in concerts and Liturgies and community service events such as caroling
- Accompany (piano) for elementary school music programs

Piano/Voice Teacher

2002 - present

- Teach private beginner piano and voice lessons
- Mentor students to use their piano/vocal talents for Liturgy

Member of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Council on Mental Illness

2018 - present

- Responsible for representing the Council in national speaking engagements, making connections with other presenters and parish leaders
- Helped write the Theological Framework for the Council
- Connected with fellow council member Deacon Ed Shoener to work on holy card ministry - producing and distributing English and Spanish holy cards of St. Dymphna and St. John of God, patrons of mental illness
- Co-wrote and helped to approve a Pastoral response to the controversial Netflix series *13 Reasons Why* with resources for parish leaders and parents

Volunteer Activities at Cathedral of Our Lady Of Guadalupe

2013 - present

- Volunteer in high school youth ministry and parish young adult ministry
- Co-Founded SKYAC - the Diocese of Dodge City's annual "Southwest Kansas Young Adult Conference"
- Assisted in Founding the bilingual "Crisis of Happiness Conference" with my husband, David McHugh, as well as follow-up activities to help empower families to address some of the causes of the mental health crises among youth today
- Volunteer musician/cantor for Mass, Penance Services, Diocesan Celebrations
- Assist Pastor in ideas for implementing parish vision and outreach

- Started a husband and wife Bible study that meets alternating weeks in each other's homes— husbands one week and wives the next week
- Regularly consult with staff members and provide them with resources for improving outreach, evangelization, and discipleship
- Consulted with Catholic School English Teacher on presenting and then instituting Academic and Fellowship Household communities within the K-8 student body

Director of Music & Evangelization for Most Holy Trinity, Fowler, MI. 2010-2013

- Met weekly with the Pastor to discuss homily themes, Liturgy planning for the upcoming Liturgical Season
- Planned the music and coordinated/recruited the musicians for all weekend and daily Masses, Encounter series, parish missions, school and parish Holy Hours
- Founded youth band and mentored teens in music (one of those teens is the current Music Director!)
- Established an evangelization committee based on strengths of parishioners who were personally invited by the parish staff to take part in helping evangelize our community
- Wrote a presentation on the new Mass translation which I presented to area parishes as well
- Successfully fundraised through “inspiring generosity” for new hymnals and Catholic speakers to present at parish events
- Regularly coordinated with DRE and Youth Ministry Coordinator to collaborate in planning retreats, help teens with faith and personal crises, and plan parish wide events to establish stronger Catholic community

Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. Gerard, Lansing, MI. 2008-2010

- Led the high school youth group, retreats, mission trips, service, youth conferences and social activities
- Coordinated and led the two year Confirmation program for 7-8th grades
- Founded, Coordinated, and led the youth band/choir for Sunday evening Liturgies and Confirmation (one of those students is now a Catholic Recording Artist!)
- Played music and sang for Holy Hours, Weddings, and Funerals
- Rewrote the entire Lansing Diocesan Confirmation Test
- Rewrote the entire Confirmation requirements of the parish, cutting service hours in half and adding participation in youth ministry sponsored events to establish a concrete connection to the faith post-Confirmation
- Rewrote the Confirmation curriculum/teachings
- Restructured the Confirmation classes to be less like a classroom and more like youth ministry— teaching plus small faith groups with an adult team leader and a high school peer mentor in order to support the prayer life of the students and establish strong connections to community that would help bring the students back to Mass and youth ministry post-Confirmation

Coordinator of Youth Ministry for St. Patrick, Portland, MI.

2006-2008

- Responsible for all high school youth related activities in the parish
- Started the very first middle school outreach for the parish, youth group for 6-8th grades
- Took over and revamped the entire parish website through iWeb
- Played music/sang and planned music for school Masses, weekend and Feast Day Liturgies, weddings and funerals
- Founded youth band that played for Holy Hours, Stations of the Cross, and Liturgies
- Wrote and implemented curriculum based on Catholic Social Teaching, Church Teaching regarding “Hot Topic Cultural Issues”, and Apologetics based catechesis

Other Experience

- Attended a conference on Gender Issues and the Catholic Church at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, Colorado sponsored by Catholic Women’s Forum and Courage in 2017
- Trained local parish and Diocesan employees on pastorally responding and ministering to people who struggle with their gender identity
- Successfully fundraised for “Between the Bridge and the River” and original song by my husband, David McHugh, and music video to address the issue of suicide and God’s healing in our community - to be released in summer 2019
- Able to read and sing in Spanish, still learning to speak Spanish
- Perform cover songs in music duo with my husband, David McHugh, for secular venues such as the City of Dodge Employee Christmas party, CASA Foster-care Fundraising Auction and Banquet, Prime on the Nine Steakhouse, and Boothill Casino and Resort

Skills

Public Speaking ~ Writing ~ Music Performance: Pianist and Vocalist ~ Collaborating on a Team ~ Fundraising ~ Event Planning ~ Teaching ~ Team Building

Educational Background

High School Graduate, Homeschool 2002
National Hispanic Scholar

B.A. Human Development 2006
Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
Summa Cum Laude

Masters of Theological Studies 2018
Newman University, Wichita, Kansas
4.0

Media

- Steubenville Youth Conference Keynotes available on YouTube
- Music available on iTunes/Apple Music/Spotify
- Featured in CNN Latino in America documentary and “Meet the Garcias” teaser trailer
- Interviewed on EWTN’s Life on the Rock
- Augustine Institute/Lighthouse Media/Formed.org talks: “Getting Others to Heaven” & “13 Reasons Why You Matter”
- Contributor at “Any Given Sunday Project”
<https://anygivensundayproject.org/author/ngarcia/>
- Regularly featured on “Catholic Playlist” podcast
- “How the Church Could Revolutionize the Workplace” by Noelle Garcia
<http://catholicmom.com/2016/01/22/how-the-church-could-revolutionalize-the-workplace-part-1/>
- “A Nun’s Life” Podcast <https://anunslife.org/podcasts/in-good-faith/igf029-in-good-faith-with-singer-songwriter-noelle-garcia>
- “No Hablo Español” talk from NCCL by Noelle Garcia and David McHugh
<https://nccl.org/product/no-hablo-espanol/>
- “Catholic Marriage: Fighting Well” written by Noelle Garcia and David McHugh
<https://www.catholicfam.org/fighting-well.html>
- “Youth Find Christ in Adoration” Diocese of Beaumont <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/2017/06/18/youth-find-christ-in-adoration/>
- “Christian singer Noelle Garcia to raise funds for disaster relief during concert tour”
https://www.mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/2011/06/christian_singer_noelle_garcia.html

Popular Presentations

“Wonderfully Made”

In this talk I share my own struggles with self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and depression as a teenager and how an encounter with the Lord at a retreat changed my life. For the first time, I heard at this retreat that Jesus did not just suffer physically, but emotionally as well. This realization combined with my first experience of adoring Christ in the Eucharist made me realize that Jesus has a plan for us, suffers with us, and loves us. This talk describes the Passion of Jesus, His Incarnate love, and how we can unite our sufferings to Him. Our faith doesn’t end at the cross!

“Living our Faith through Holy Week”

This talk describes the ups and downs of most of our spiritual lives through the lens of Holy Week. Once we encounter Jesus for the first time, we are excited! (Palm Sunday!) But then comes our first test... do we stay faithful, fall asleep, or betray Him? (Holy Thursday!) When we fall, do we come back like St. Peter? Or do we despair and fail to

return like Judas? (Good Friday) Jesus' mercy is always present, and we can stay faithful like John at the foot of the cross. Jesus promises us new life and Resurrection if we come back to Him and start over. (Easter Sunday).

“13 Reasons Why You Matter”

This talk plays on the title of the popular Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why* in which a character leaves behind 13 Reasons why she has decided to end her life. In this talk I share literally 13 reasons why our lives are important - from the fact that we are created with an eternal soul and made for relationship to the fact that we can be free from the hurt others have caused us through the forgiveness and healing of Jesus.

“His Mercy Endures Forever”

Sin comes from the word “syn” in Hebrew which means to “miss the mark”. Sin is not bad because we have broken an arbitrary rule. Sin is bad because it keeps us from hitting the target of who we are called to be. God's mercy is great! This talk describes how we know what is good and bad, why we need to choose good, and what to do when we fail/how to accept God's mercy.

“To Know Him is to Love Him”

How do we get to know Jesus? In this talk I describe how the Trinity is a relationship and as we are made in His image, love is a relationship. We will learn how to have a relationship with Jesus and then, in turn, to have healthy relationships with one another based on the four marks of love - total, faithful, fruitful, and free from Theology of the Body.

“My Home is My Mission Territory”

This talk is about living our ministry through our vocation. Often we may feel like we are not making a difference in the world and should be out serving others, yet we can end up neglecting the very people God has specifically entrusted to us through our vocation. This talk is about transforming how we see our work as family as the primary work of the Church, and not just a comfortable place to rest our laurels.

“No Hablo Español”

My dad is Mexican and speaks fluent Spanish but never taught me, growing up, because he didn't want me to face prejudice if I had an accent. This talk is about the growing generational struggles of being part of a family that is multicultural and how to ministry to the communities effectively. To integrate means to bring the parts together to make whole — not to take from some parts and other parts to make something homogenous. This talk is about finding ways to bring cultures together without losing the integrity and cultural values of the communities we serve.