

## **Janine Kramer, the New ABVM Director of Religious Education, Travels from Brooklyn and Finds a “Beautiful Corner of the World” in West Grove**

After 28 years working as an elementary school teacher, catechist, and Director of Religious education in Brooklyn, New York, Janine Kramer had thought about making a change and seeking a position in a different part of the country. Soon after circulating her resume, she was contacted by Father Scott about the opening at ABVM. Janine knew she needed help in making this decision, so she handed this over to God in prayer. She was also supported by her prayer group, whom she had known for several years—the “Prayer Warriors,” a group of mostly veterans who meet regularly online to join in prayer for each other’s intentions.

Father Scott had described West Grove as a “beautiful corner of the world,” so Janine decided to drive to West Grove to see the parish. Getting out of her car, the first thing she saw was the soldier’s statue—and she knew, then, she was making the right decision to take the DRE position in West Grove.



In addition to a degree in Early Childhood Education, Janine also earned an MS degree in Theology that, she says, “totally transformed my life.” “Theology takes you back to the beginning, the source—Holy Scripture...and that gives you the confidence to answer the questions that students ask. Once you start learning, the doors open up. It happened for me and will happen for other adults...”

**Quick fact sheet for 2020-21 Religious Education Program**

- On-site enrollment – 68 students
- Remote (home-based) - 157 students
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Formation for Confirmation – 43 students
- Utilizes Digital Instruction Platform from Loyola