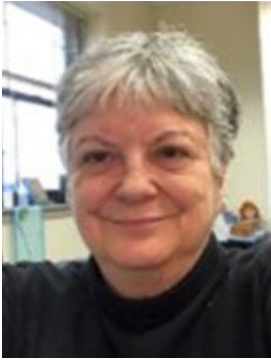




## Guest Speakers



### **Sr. Ellen LaCapria, DC, Keynote Speaker**

Sr. Ellen LaCapria has been a Daughter of Charity for 47 years. She credits her Vocation Call to that of Elizabeth Ann Seton and fell in love with the Vincentian Charism. What draws her is the call to love God through service to others, especially when facilitating Art/Spirituality Retreats and creating Vincentian-Centered artworks. Sr. Ellen's professional background spans the areas of Creative Arts and Nursing, which led to ministry as an Art Therapist, particularly with adults experiencing mental health concerns. Other ministries have followed. Her favorite, due to the Internationality of the Vincentian Family, has been her work promoting Systemic Change in several countries throughout the globe.



### **Cheryl Calire, Director of Pro-Life Activities, Diocese of Buffalo**

Cheryl Calire is the Director of Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese of Buffalo. These activities include seven locations of the St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Centers; the Project Rachel ministry; Sidewalk Advocates for Life; end of life issues; the opioid crisis; and legislative and internal public policy liaison for the bishop. Since 2015, Cheryl and her husband have lived in a former rectory in the inner city which houses the Mother Teresa Home, serving moms and families involved in unplanned and unsupported pregnancies. She is also the Director of Pastoral Ministries for the Diocese.



### **Kathleen Elias, Refugee Resettlement Volunteer**

Kathleen Elias' work with Refugees began about a year and a half ago when a small group of St. Joseph University Church Vincentians in Buffalo decided they wanted to do more to assist the resettlement of Afghans in the Buffalo area. They connected with Catholic Charities and now, after resettling about 30 families, have become a grass roots community ecumenical group of about 120 volunteers who desire to "love their neighbor" by creating a warm, welcoming home for our friends who have been forced from their home country. They presently are partnering with Journey's End and Jewish Family Services to assist them in the re-settlement process. Kathleen is a retired Middle School Social Worker who presently is a Faculty Field Liaison for the University of Buffalo School of Social Work.



## Guest Speakers (continued)



### **Kelly Diane Galloway, Founder and President, Project Mona's House**

Elder Kelly Diane Galloway is the Founder and President of Project Mona's House, a holistic restorative program that exists to serve those who have been exploited through human trafficking and those who are at risk. She is also the Founder of Ramp Global Missions, a Christian Humanitarian organization that serves the needs of broken, impoverished and exploited people around the world. Her heart has always been to help and fight for those who may be considered the underdog, disadvantaged or forgotten.



### **Julie Lulek, Senior Director, Catholic Charities of Buffalo**

Julie Lulek joined Catholic Charities five years ago as the Director of School-based Services. For the past two years, as one of Catholic Charities' Senior Directors, she has taken on responsibility and oversight of the WIC program for three counties in WNY, the agency's food pantries, and acts as the Director for the Ladies of Charity. Julie has a background in public health and has worked in various sectors of healthcare, but always with a focus on low-income and marginalized communities. Julie holds a BA in Biology and a Master's in Public Health.



Meredith, Susann, and Megan

### **Susann Montgomery-Clark, Co-founder & Board President, Megan Montgomery Foundation to Prevent Domestic Violence, Inc.**

On December 1, 2019, when her 31 yr old daughter Megan was murdered at the hands of Megan's estranged husband, Susann and her family's lives changed forever. She closed her consulting practice to volunteer full-time to fulfill Megan's dream of preventing domestic violence BEFORE it happens. This led to her, husband Rod Clark and daughter Meredith Montgomery-Price creating The Megan Montgomery Foundation. The mission of their grantmaking Fund is to "Save lives by preventing relationship violence BEFORE it starts." It is a tax-exempt 501 c (3) corporation. In the two years since its creation, they have distributed more than \$50,000 to schools and colleges for healthy relationship education.



## Guest Speakers (continued)



### **Shyam Sriram, PhD, Canisius College - Buffalo, NY**

Dr. Sriram is an expert on refugee resettlement and loves to research, teach, and explain the intricacies of American politics and policies. He is the first person in his family born in America and considers two places home: Chicago and Atlanta. He loves mentoring and co-authoring articles with his students. He moved to Buffalo in May 2022 from Spokane, WA where he taught at Gonzaga.



### **Toni Taylor, Chief Program Officer**

Toni Taylor is the Chief Program Officer at Recovery Options Made Easy, Inc. (ROME), one of Western New York's leading peer-certified and trauma-informed mental health advocacy networks that creates a continuum of support, reducing stigma and paving roads to recovery. ROME is committed to decreasing stigma by increasing awareness of mental health and substance use through information, education, and advocacy. Toni Taylor has been with Recovery Options for a little over seven years and is a graduate of SUNY Empire State College with a B.S. in Community and Human Services with a focus on Addiction and Holistic Healing. Toni is extremely passionate about recovery. She believes that everyone can achieve their goals and live the life they deserve. Toni is married with seven children. Toni is a Christian who believes that all things are possible with God and loves to share her testimony with as many people as she can.



### **Dennis Walczyk, Social Justice Programs at St. Joseph University Parish**

Dennis Walczyk currently serves as Coordinator of Social Justice Ministries at St. Joseph University Parish in Buffalo. Prior to his retirement in 2020, and beginning in 1976, Dennis has held various direct service and executive leadership positions in the community organizing and human service fields. Those included President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Buffalo, where he served for 23 years; Executive Director of Crisis Services of Erie County; and Associate Executive Director of the Association for Retarded Children of Niagara County. Dennis also serves as Chair of the Board of Back to Basics Ministries, Inc., and is a member of the Board of Directors of Felician Services, Inc., headquartered in Chicago. A lifelong resident of Buffalo, Dennis and his wife Beth reside in North Buffalo, and are proud parents of Kristen and Johanna (Tim Spitler), and grandparents of Van and Simone Spitler.