



Bob was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, and as a child moved with his family to Southern Florida where he was raised until moving to Washington, D.C., after graduation from high school. While working for the Federal Government in Washington, he pursued an undergraduate education in Business and Public Administration, graduating from the then George Mason College of the University of Virginia in 1969. From there he pursued a career as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation until his retirement in 1993.

He found himself in a second career as a mental health counselor after completing a Masters in Counseling degree at the then West Virginia Graduate College in 1994. He practiced for over five years in both private and community mental health agencies. He is a former Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Addictions Counselor. He also volunteered for about three years as a sexual offender counselor in a local private counseling agency.

Bob's formation as a Spiritual Director began in approximately 2000 shortly after he decided to engage in personal Spiritual Direction for himself. He has had an ongoing relationship with a qualified spiritual direction since that time.

He has completed some course work toward a Masters Degree in Theology at Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Bob completed the Associate Spiritual Director Program at the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in April, 2007,

after fulfilling the academic requirements in theology, psychology, and discernment and after receiving over 120 hours of group and individual supervision. The course work for this training complies with the guidelines promulgated by Spiritual Directions International for the training of competent spiritual directors. He is registered in the print and online Seek and Find directory of S. D. I., www.sdiworld.org.

Bob also holds certifications as a director of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and as a Supervisor of spiritual directors.

Bob considers his call to be a full-time ministry of spiritual direction. He meets regularly with persons who are seeking more in their relation to God and more integration in their spiritual lives. Although he enjoys companioning all persons on their spiritual journey, he has a particular interest in helping men on their spiritual journey and persons who are dealing with issues of addiction. His ministry includes: individual spiritual direction, group spiritual direction, facilitating individual and group retreats and workshops relating to spirituality.

Bob is married to Kathy Lester, who is also a Spiritual Director at WVIS. They both attend Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in South Charleston, WV. He can be contacted directly through email: bsyl@msn.com.