



Sister Christine Pratt

Sister Christine Pratt received her Master's Degree in Rural Sociology with a concentration in Community Development from the Ohio State University. She was Rural Life Director for 25 years in the Diocese of Toledo. She gave many workshops and presentations around the country on Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to food, agriculture, land use, the environment and other rural concerns. She served on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' committee on Food, Hunger and Land Issues. She also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Catholic Rural Life Board of Directors. She also served as a non-traditional partner for

The Ohio State University's Vice-President's Committee for the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science. Sr Christine also represented the religious (church's) voice on then Governor Ted Strickland's Food Policy Task Force. During her time in Toledo she was the lead agent in the formation of Toledo GROWS (Gardens Revitalize Our World), an urban garden project that has since expanded to now include both an education center and expanded programs within the low income neighborhoods of Toledo. She continues to serve the rural community wherever possible and is presently engaged in various groups addressing environmental and land issues. Her religious community, the Ursulines of Brown County placed their farmland in conservation easement in 2010 and their Solomon Run stream, a sub tributary of the Little Miami River, became a reclamation project restoring the original stream and wetlands in 2015.



Elissa Yoder Mann

Elissa Yoder Mann works as a Conservation Coordinator on the Clean Water Campaign for Central Ohio. She works at raising community awareness about Ohio waterways and increasing public participation in both policy and service activism.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Rangeland Ecology from Colorado State University. While in Colorado she worked in an environmental laboratory conducting water analysis and at an engineering firm. She received her Master of Environmental and Natural Resources from Ohio State University. Her thesis work focused on developing a comprehensive regional planning assessment, mapping a sustainable future and equitable water resources for the coastal counties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Rebecca Mellino

Rebecca Mellino graduated from Ohio State University with degrees in Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability, and Political Science. She worked for Mayor Coleman's Office of Environmental Stewardship where she completed the City of Columbus's application to the STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and rating communities) community rating system which resulted in a 4 (out of 5) Star certification. She is now working in Columbus Public Health's Office of Environmental

Protection and Sustainability where she is starting a climate change outreach project focused on education with African American and Latino faith congregations in Columbus, OH."



Mark A. McClain

Mark A. McClain received his BA degree in sociology from Harvard College and his law degree from Columbia University School of Law. He spent 20 years in the law profession serving in various capacities, including Chief Prosecutor of the cities of Cleveland and East Cleveland, assistant U.S. attorney, judge, civil rights and defense attorney. In 2006 he was called to the ministry in the Primitive Baptist Church. He continued to advocate for social justice issues in the Cleveland area and environmental and health issues statewide as past chairman of Ohio Alliance of People for Environment and co-chaired an initiative to educate and mobilize the residents of five Cleveland inner city communities on environmental and health issues. He continues his advocacy on behalf of the least of us on social justice and health issues and now serves as a Community Ambassador for HIP-Cuyahoga, a health partnership between county government and Case Western Reserve University. He is presently planting a church named The Growing Church, A Christian Experience, in Cleveland.