

Biographical information for Gillian Ahlgren

Dr. Gillian Ahlgren, Professor of Theology, is a church historian and specialist in the Christian mystical tradition. She received her doctorate in the History of Christianity from The Divinity School of the University of Chicago in 1991. Widely considered one of the world's leading experts on Teresa of Avila, she has written extensively on other spiritual leaders including Francis and Clare of Assisi, Ignatius Loyola, Julian of Norwich, and Hildegard of Bingen. She is the author of seven books, including *Teresa of Avila and the Politics of Sanctity*, *Enkindling Love: The Legacy of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross*, *The Tenderness of God: Reclaiming Our Humanity*, and *Spiritual Exercises for the 21st Century: A Workbook*. Dr. Ahlgren has been teaching at Xavier University in Cincinnati since 1990 and has developed over 25 undergraduate and graduate courses. Some of her favorite classes to teach are Christian Mysticism, Spiritual Exercises for the 21st Century, Recovery and Growth after Trauma, Spirituality and Transformation, and the First Year Seminar: St. Francis and Pope Francis. Dr. Ahlgren also does significant pastoral work in the local community and beyond. She was a founding member of the Cincinnati Women's Team of the Ignatian Spirituality Project, which provides retreats and support meetings for women in recovery from substance abuse. She has developed and provided spiritual enrichment programming serving women who have survived domestic violence.

