Curriculum Vitae

Tom Delaney, O.F.S.

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Tom Delaney, O.F.S., is a Franciscan educational psychologist and theologian specializing in forgiveness education and group facilitation. Certified in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and catechesis through St. Paul Seminary, and trained in the evidence-based REACH Forgiveness Model through Harvard University's Human Flourishing Program, he integrates psychological research, practical learning, and a deep appreciation for human dignity to help people work through hurts and wrongs caused by others, practice self-forgiveness, and support personal healing and well-being. A recognized "voice of hope," drawing on more than 30 years of public service in education and mental health, university teaching experience, and involvement in Catholic mental health ministry, he offers presentations and facilitated group experiences for Catholic ministries and secular communities alike, inspiring people to cultivate forgiveness, hope, resilience, and more fulfilling lives.

EDUCATION

B.A. in Psychology & Biology with Economics Core – *Macalester College (1990)*

M.A. and Ed.S. in Educational Psychology - *University of Minnesota (1995)*

- "I engage with how a person learns something, and how what a person learns changes them. When we understand how that works, we can be purposely change ourselves in the ways that we want to change."
- Completed M.A./Ph.D. coursework in:
    - Psychological Measurement: Theory & Methods
    - Developmental Psychology
    - Psychopharmacology
    - Developmental Psychopathology
    - Developmental Neuropsychobiology
    - Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
    - Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder
    - Research Problems in Learning & Cognition
    - Psychology of Learning

    - Eating Disorders in Childhood & Adolescence
    - Social Development
    - Behavioral Assessments & Interventions
    - Research Methods & Experimental Design
- Completed a clinical practicum at *Community-University Health Care Center (1993)*

M.A. in Theology - *St. Catherine University (2003)*

- Completed graduate coursework in:
    - New Testament Studies
    - Old Testament Studies
    - History of Christianity
    - Moral Theology
    - Sacramental Theology
    - Pastoral Theology
    - Christology & Systematic Theology
- Thesis: Origins & Types of Spirituality in Early Medieval Irish Hagiography

Certificate in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Education, Risk Assessment, and Community Planning - ***Minnesota Communities Caring for Children / FamilyWise (2015)***

Certificate in the Catechism of the Catholic Church & Catechesis – *St. Paul Seminary (2024)*

Focused on application of Catholic Social Teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church for serving and supporting persons with lived experience of trauma, addiction, and mental health crises.

Certificate in REACH Forgiveness Process Facilitation – *Harvard University / Human Flourishing Program (2025 to 2026)*

- The REACH Forgiveness Model, developed by psychologist Dr. Everett Worthington, is a five-step psychological process designed to help people replace negative, unforgiving emotions with positive, other-oriented feelings like empathy, compassion, and love. It is widely used in self-guided, group, and clinical settings to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.
- 2026 "Voice of Hope" Speaker at Wellness in the Woods "Power of Hope" Conference

EMPLOYMENT

Interagency Partnerships Supervisor - *Minnesota Department of Education (2016 to Present)*

- Senior (10+ years) public policy manager with a team of 8 advances professionals (Ph.D., Ed.D., licensed practitioners) responsible for implementation of combined programs

between the Minnesota Department of Education and other state agencies for persons with disabilities and needs for mental health services and supports.

- Serve on state councils, committee, and workgroups for improvement of state policies and programs for mental health and wellness in different ways:
    - State Advisory Council on Mental Health & Children's Mental Health Subcommittee
    - State Behavioral Health Planning Council
    - State Rehabilitation Council
    - State Children's Mental Health Plan & System of Care Administrative Team
    - Minnesota Council on Disability
    - Minnesota Olmstead Plan Leadership Forum
    - Governor's Children's Cabinet: Juvenile Justice Transformation
    - Governor's Children's Cabinet: Legislative & Continuum of Care Subgroup
    - Governor's Children's Cabinet: Raising the Age of Delinquency Workgroup
- Director of a federal grant to implement Check & Connect mentorship for Black and American Indian high school students with disabilities, including family engagement.
    - Collaborated with the U.S. Department of Education to convene states in an ongoing community of practice for achieving improved outcomes for American Indian students with disabilities
    - Completed the Mnísota Dakhóta Iápi Oyáŋke / Dakota Language Summer Institute
    - Completed Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTTAC) training in Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) and community planning for collective action.
- Adolescent Brain & Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study Community Liaison
    - Largest national long-term study of developmental life experiences, brain development, and social, behavioral, academic, health, and other outcomes.
    - Provides practical information to promote health and well-being for individuals, families, and community providers of health and mental health care.
- Awards & Recognitions:
    - "Friend of School Social Work" Award by the Minnesota School Social Workers Association (2026)
    - Minnesota Department of Education Achievement Award: Improving systems for successful postsecondary transition of students with disabilities (2019)

- Minnesota Department of Education Achievement Award: "Excellence and outstanding actions contributing to the mission and strategic directions of the Minnesota Department of Education" (2017)
- Governor's Recognition Award: Implementing Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) for health and mental health services in schools (2005, previously held position)

Education Consultant – ***Minnesota Department of Education (2012 to 2016)***

- Awarded Bush Foundation "Creative Community Leadership Institute" Fellowship (2013-2014)

Assistant Administrator for Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) & Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) – ***Saint Paul Public Schools Central Administration (2009 to 2012)***

- Successfully lowered school district suspension rates for Black students through school-site implementation of PBIS, including family engagement.
- Improved the capacity of school social workers, school counselors, and school psychologists to implement PBIS.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty – ***University of St. Thomas (2006 to 2014)***

- Designed and provided graduate-level coursework on theory and methods for
  - behavioral assessment
  - educational assessment
  - social, emotional and behavioral interventions
  - positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS)
- Responsibilities included:
  - course planning and syllabus development
  - composition and presentation of course content
  - leading and facilitating interactive student discussions
  - arranging practical learning experiences for students
  - providing supplementary instruction and materials
  - evaluation of student work and award of course credits
- Developed a full online course on behavioral and educational assessment

Co-Facilitator – ***Native Youth Language Project at American Indian Family Center (2012 to 2014)***

- Grant Author, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Language Revitalization Grant
- Designed and facilitated a program of mentoring and Native American youth leadership in a Dakota & Ojibwe language revitalization and youth resiliency project
- Designed use of "Sense of Hope" measurements for program effectiveness.
- Presented program and outcomes at the 2014 Minnesota Indian Education Conference

Guest Lecturer & Teaching Assistant - ***University of Minnesota (2004 to 2008)***

- Interagency Coordination for Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Interagency Coordination for Children with Multiple Disabilities and Sensory Impairments
- Virtue Ethics & Leadership in Education
- Non-Western Traditions of Education
- Historical, Philosophical, Political & Sociological Foundations of Education
- Leadership: Theory to Practice
- Awards & Recognitions:
    - Multicultural Teaching and Learning Fellowship
    - Corcoran Research Travel Award
    - Robert & Corrie Beck Fellowship

Guest Lecturer – ***University of Barcelona (2009)***

Child Development Perspectives for Special Education Monitoring and Evaluation in International Development

Guest Lecturer – ***Hanoi National University of Education (2007 & 2008)***

Assessment of Children & Youth with Disabilities in the United States

Guest Lecturer – ***St. Catherine University (2001 to 2004)***

Ethics in Eastern Philosophies (BA and M.A. Organizational Leadership students)

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

Mental Health Ministry Team – ***Diocese of St. Cloud (2025 to Present)***

Accompanying individuals and families experiencing mental health challenges, their caregivers, loved ones and pastoral leaders by providing support, resources and spiritual accompaniment. The team is affiliated with the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.

Hospitality Ministry Committee – *St. Henry's Church (2026 to Present)*
Completed Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis training for Executive Cell Teams. Planning and delivering hospitality experiences, especially focused on hospitality in ethical care for the poor, sick, and suffering, in the Franciscan tradition.

AFFILIATIONS

Order of Secular Franciscans (O.F.S.)
International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers
Harvard University Human Flourishing Program / Forgiveness Community of Practice
Harvard University Human Flourishing Program / Human Flourishing Network

PRESENTATIONS

Historical Progress of the Children's Mental System in Minnesota: Evolving Definitions, Metatrends, and Persistent Challenges (State Children's Mental Health Plan / System of Care)

School Behavioral Health Conference – November 2026

Local Public Health Association of Minnesota – August 2026

Minnesota Family & Mental Health Services Collaboratives – August 2026

Minnesota Special Education Directors Forum – August 2026

Cultural & Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Grant (CEMIG) Providers – July 2026

University of Minnesota Pediatrics and Behavioral Neuroscience Faculty – June 2026

HealthPartners Mental Health Providers – June 2026

Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention – June 2026

AspireMN (Day & Residential Behavioral Health Treatment Providers) – June 2026

Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators – April 2026

Self-Guided Forgiveness: Process & Practice

Explained human well-being, the importance of forgiveness for mental health, and guided attendees in accessing free resources for working through forgiveness of another person.

Sent, Sent, and Sent Again: A brief explanation of why your life has transitions in it and why God put 'em there in the first place

"Tom Delaney is a Secular Franciscan in the St. Cloud Diocese who focuses on how communities can help people grow from what is possible for their well-being to what is happening in their well-being with God's plan of goodness (Catechism 1).

Wellness in the Woods "Power of Hope" Conference - September 2026

Parish Renewal Week

/ Mary of the Visitation Church – May 2026

He will share with us: how transitions are a good and natural part of growth for both people and communities; how to get the best out of transitions by trusting in and working with God's plan; and good ways that a person can care for themself and their community during times of transition and growth."

Speaking of Forgiveness

Speaking of Faith Podcast – March 2026

In this episode of the Diocese of St. Cloud podcast Speaking of Faith, Tom Delaney, a Secular Franciscan, educational psychologist, and mental and behavioral health advocate explains forgiveness as both a gift and a process that integrates wrongdoing into one's life story. He shares how forgiveness can offer health benefits and allows us to participate in salvation.

Using Jesus and Peter as an example, he describes restoring relationships without excusing injustice, distinguishes decisional from deeper emotional forgiveness and suggests formalizing forgiveness in writing. He also emphasizes how the home is a "school of forgiveness" and how the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist can help along the way.

Financial Wellbeing & Mental Wellness

Catholic Men's "Walking Together as Brothers" Conference – February 2026

Explained definitions of financial well-being and mental wellness from scientific research, reviewed the 10 life decisions that most contribute to financial wellbeing, and provided an easy simple tool for self-assessment and planning for better financial well-being and mental wellness.

Application of Minnesota Care and Treatment State Statutes & Rules: Applied Behavior Analysis and Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention

Minnesota Administrators of Special Education (MASE) Best Practices Conference – May 2025

Medicaid in Education: State of the State Address & Opening Remarks

Medicaid in Education Spring Forum – April 2016 to 2026

School Behavioral Health Services & Supports for Students with Disabilities

State Special Education Advisory Panel – January 2025

School Behavioral Health Services & Supports	**State Advisory Council on Mental Health & Children's Mental Health Subcommittee** – January 2023
School Behavioral Health Services & Supports	**Children's Justice Initiaive Advisory Committee –** August 2022
Improving School Behavioral Health Services Capacity with Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports Access & 2022 Children's Summit Summary with Neerja Singh, Ph.D., LICSW, LADC, 2023 Bush Fellow	**Governor's Children's Cabinet / Mental Health Action Group** – July 2022 **Governor's Children's Cabinet** – May 2022
Implementation of Department of Health & Human Services Children's Mental Health Recommendations	**Minnesota Department of Education** – June 2022
Programs for Funding and Implementation Support of School Behavioral Screening and Follow-up Behavioral Health Services	**Minnesota Department of Education** – May 2022
How can we foster children's mental health and well-being so that <u>all</u> students experience optimal mental health?	**Minnesota Children's Summit** – January 2022
Using Data to Engage Historically Underserved Students with Disabilities	**State Improvement Grant (SIG) National Network of States** – August 2021
Effective Practices for Supporting Resiliency in Native American Youth and Families with Lonna Hunter (Tlingit & Sisseton Wahpeton)	**School Nurse Organization of Minnesota Conference** – November 2017

School-based Behavioral Supports & Mental Health Services: Statewide Investment & Scale-Up	**Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) Conference** – January 2016
Attachment Matters: Raising the Bar for Child Well-Being	**27th Annual ATTACh Conference** – September 2015
Systems Collaboration for Building Resiliency in Court-Placed Youth	**Minnesota School Social Workers Association Conference** – May 2015
Native Youth Language Project: Dakota & Ojibwe Language Revitalization & Resiliency	**30th Annual Minnesota Indian Education Association & American Indian Education Summit** – October 2014
Co-located Mental Health Services in School Districts: Collaborative & Integrated Systems of Care	**Minnesota Administrators of Special Education (MASE) Conference** – October 2013
Family Ratings of Iowa Early Intervention Services Support for Family Rights Education, Child Needs Communication, Child Development, and Learning Support	**North Central Regional Resource Center** – 2007 (publication)
Economics and Disability	**University of Minnesota President's 21st Century Interdisciplinary Conference on Aging** – December 2004
Minnesota Systems of Interagency Coordination (MnSIC): Coordination of Services Local Implementation Study	**MnSIC Joint Forum of Parent Advocacy Organizations, County Administrators, and Special Education Directors** – October 2004
Improvements in Interagency Coordination and Coordinated Service Delivery	**Minnesota State Interagency Committee** – March 2004

	Minnesota Special Education Advisory Panel & Minnesota Interagency Coordinating Council – October 2003
Children with Disabilities and the Global Quest for Peace	**Nobel Peace Prize Forum** – February 2004
The Minnesota System of Interagency Coordination	**Minnesota School Psychologists Association Conference** – January 2004
The Leadership Development Process	**Minnesota Deaf & Hard of Hearing Association Conference** – April 2003
Medical Assistance & Schools	**Maternal & Child Health Advisory Task Force** – September 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Grief, hope and healing: St. Cloud Diocese unites for suicide remembrance — **Central Minnesota Catholic** – October 2026

The Diocese of St. Cloud's annual Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance brings grieving families and friends together in prayer, compassion, and hope while highlighting the importance of reducing mental health stigma and strengthening parish and community support for those affected by suicide.

Formation day: Deepening the roots of small groups through relational evangelization — **Catholic Spirit** – August 2026

I am quoted and highlight the importance of genuine listening in relational evangelization, emphasizing that authentic relationships, compassionate accompaniment, and personal attention are essential to deepening faith and strengthening Catholic parish communities.

Lenten Forgiveness Series: Everything Must Be Fulfilled — **Central Minnesota Catholic** – March 2026

Encouraged readers to commit to the forgiveness they have offered, hold it in their hearts, and trust that this commitment represents a movement toward the wholeness and fulfillment found in following Christ.

We, Though Many, Are One

Central Minnesota Catholic – March 2026

Explored how forgiveness can help heal divisions and restore unity, drawing on the Christian understanding that although we are many and different, we are ultimately one body in Christ and called to live in reconciliation with one another.

Lenten Forgiveness Series: Road to Jerusalem, Road to Forgiveness

Central Minnesota Catholic – March 2026

Explained using the image of Christ's journey to Jerusalem to encourage readers to "pack light" by letting go of resentment and embracing forgiveness, drawing on both Gospel teaching and research showing forgiveness' benefits for well-being and a sense of meaning and purpose.

Season Like Never Before

Central Minnesota Catholic – March 2026

Introduced a Lenten journey of forgiveness, inviting readers to recognize Lent as a unique opportunity to release resentment and enmity, embrace Christ's merciful love, and begin intentionally practicing forgiveness through a guided process grounded in Catholic faith and forgiveness research.

Minnesota Franciscan and a Palestinian Humanitarian Build Peace

Central Minnesota Catholic – January 2026

As a Minnesota Secular Franciscan, I partner with a Palestinian humanitarian aid officer with Catholic Relief Services to bring evidence-based REACH forgiveness training to people in Palestine, combining Franciscan spirituality and psychological research to foster personal healing, hope, and peace across cultural and language barriers.

St. Cloud Secular Franciscans Celebrate 100 Years

Central Minnesota Catholic – March 2023

The St. Cloud Fraternity of Secular Franciscans celebrated its 100th anniversary at a spring gathering in Little Falls, where Franciscans shared fellowship, prayer, and reflections on

bringing the healing and peace of the Gospel into everyday life.