
FR. SERAFIM SMENSGÅRD

PROFILE

I am interested in the intersection of academic study, artistic and cultural practice, and formational *bildning*. My work at Sankt Ignatios has focussed on learning design that coordinates higher education, folkbildning, general adult education., and leadership training.

I did my undergraduate studies at Stockholm University majoring in English, as well as studying French, Portuguese and Creative Writing. At Dalarna University I studied a one-year masters program in African Literature and post-colonial studies, and subsequently also completed an MA in education. My BA thesis was on the significance of the physical environment in J.D. Salingers novella "Franny and Zooey", and my MA thesis was on paternalism in Alan Paton's short story collection "Debbie Go Home". My (co-authored) MA thesis in education was on the implementation of a student information system at a Swedish charter school.

After graduation I received my teaching licence from the Ministry of Education in Sweden and have worked in all three major school systems, including primary and upper secondary school, folkhögskola, and higher education, as well as with religious education in Heliga Anna of Novgorods Orthodox Parish where I have served as a priest since 2015. I studied for the priesthood at St. Ignatios Theological Academy in Södertälje, when the vocational program was part of Botkyrka Folkhögskola, before the accredited Pastoral Pedagogical Program was launched, so I have followed Sankt Ignatios Foundation's development since its inception. I currently serve as parish priest in Heliga Anna o Novgorods Orthodox Parish, under the Georgian orthodox patriarchate.

I am married and have two children. My main interests beyond engagement in church and education are analogue photography, literature, writing and visual arts.

EXPERIENCE

SANKT IGNATIOS FOUNDATION – 2017 TO PRESENT

Deputy Dean of Sankt Ignatius College and Folkhögskola 2022 to present.

Director of development for the Pastoral Pedagogical and Religious Educator programs 2020-2022. Teacher in homiletics, pastoral theology, religious education, pedagogy and adult education.

Manger of the General Education Department at Sankt Ignatios Folkhögskola 2018-2020. Teacher in English language.

Communication department 2017-2018.

PARISH PRIEST AND RECTOR

ST. ANNA OF NOVGORODS ORTHODOX PARISH, STOCKHOLM – 2015-
PRESENT

Parish priest from 2015 to present. Rector from 2020-2023.

ENGLISH TEACHER,

MORABERGS STUDIECENTRUM, SÖDERTÄLJE –

English teacher at a municipal school in Södertälje for recently arrived migrants who lack primary school certification.

ENGLISH TEACHER,

THORÉN BUSINESS SCHOOL, STOCKHOLM; 2011-

English teacher at upper secondary school, including mentorship, as well as teaching photography and media.

CAREERS COUNSELLOR,

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL IN BROMMA; 2007 - 2009

Careers counselling in connection with high-school applications in grade 9.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM, DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A
MAJOR IN ENGLISH, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF DALARNA, DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (60 CREDITS),
MAIN FIELD OF STUDY ENGLISH - AFRICAN LITERATURE, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF DALARNA, MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION - FOR
TEACHING IN UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COMPULSORY
SCHOOL - LATER YEARS, 2012. SUBJECTS - ENGLISH AND
PORTUGUESE,

TEACHING LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION (SKOLVERKET) IN 2015.

ST IGNATIUS THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY, (BYZANTINE ORTHODOX
SEMINARY) ORTHODOX THEOLOGY, 2014-2015.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN 2015.