

Alicia Garcia was born in Slaton, Texas, a quiet rural community in the South Plains of the Panhandle. She was raised in a humble and upright family. She learned how to work hard in the cotton fields of West Texas and learned how to appreciate the value of a dollar. Education was a priority in her home. She realized early on that education was her ticket out of hard labor. In a world that values material possessions and evaluates people by their background and ethnicity, she learned from her family that without God, everything else is meaningless. God was the center of her family life. She learned to rely on a God who cared for the poorest of the poor and would always provide. She learned that Our Lady of Guadalupe would lead her to God especially in her most dire needs.

Alicia credits the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Marianist Community for her formal religious education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Theology from St. Mary's University in 1989 and 1994. She worked seven years as a Director of Religious Education at St. Jude's Catholic Church. It was her parishioners that gave her the encouragement to move on and become a full time teacher.

Alicia joined the Central Catholic High School faculty in 1996 as a religion teacher. After five years, she was promoted to Director of Campus Ministry. Her responsibilities included retreat work, service projects, liturgies, faith sharing, prayer services and promoting programs for the formation of faculty/students in the Marianist Tradition. Her hope was that those who have been touched by her ministry may indeed lead others to similar experiences and allow them to see Christ and make a positive difference in this world. As a result of these efforts, she was awarded the Marianist Heritage Award in 2006.

She has taught Religion 1, 2, 3, and has been Acting Department Chair. Her religion students inspire her to teach about a religion that is very down to earth and teaches one to live life to the fullest. She believes that religion is a lived experience not just something that is read and studied from a book.

While working full time as a campus minister and teaching religion, she put herself through the School Leadership Program at Trinity University. Alicia earned her Master of Education in School Administration in May 2008. While at Trinity University, she noticed one common thread that was near and dear to her heart--the professors spoke of the poorest of the poor in education. She embraced this value and this challenge to give all children regardless of race, ethnic background, and social status an opportunity to succeed.

Alicia was named Assistant Principal for Academics in August 2008, at Central Catholic High School. Her focus has been working with faculty and their professional development. She believes in the value of professional learning communities and critical friends as essential components to the success of education. She has worked with a rigorous college prep

curriculum and strong religious background. She believes in a curriculum that will prepare students spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially and one that will implement a strong student ethic of performance and achievement.

She is currently attending Texas State University and working towards her PhD in School Improvement. She is pursuing a doctoral degree to acquire educational leadership qualities and skills that will help break the ties that trap the unfortunate. She plans on giving back to the educational community and empowering the needy. She will complete her course work in December 2011, and plans to begin writing her dissertation in January 2012.

Alicia brings with her teaching and administration experience as well as a sense of purpose and mission for Catholic schools. Alicia's approach to education is to build a working faith-filled community with positive relationships that keep each other on the right path. She wants to be an administrator that brings forth great opportunities for spiritual growth as well as academic growth.