



# Faculty FOCUS

*Karen Czmarko & Brandy*  
Dean of Students & Guidance  
& Therapy Dog



**Karen Czmarko: Dean of Students & Guidance**  
**Brandy: Therapy Dog**

**Degree(s)/Degree-granting institution:** BA from Bradley University, MA from Missouri Baptist  
**Academic area:** Master's in Counseling, but my previous teaching experience was Spanish!  
**Years teaching/Years teaching at St. Pius X:** 3 years at SPX, plus 12 years at other schools

### **What is your favorite thing about working at Pius X?**

I love everything about working at St. Pius X: the students, the faculty, my work here, the only thing I don't like is driving in from St. Louis City every day!

### **What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?**

Can I say social media, even though this is a social media post? I think technology is wonderful and allows access to so many things for students, but the flip side of social media means that the school day social interactions are never over. I worry about students who struggle with balancing their online presence with real-life experiences. I do not envy students and the struggles that come with the increase in technology of this day and age.

### **What are you currently reading for enjoyment?**

I have always loved reading and still read a lot. I love mysteries, historical fiction, and biographies. I recently read "Secret Service Dogs: The Heroes Who Protect the President" because it is about the same breed of dog that Brandy is!