

# JACOB HAROLD FRIESENHAHN, PH.D.

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## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D. in Religious Studies</b> (Specialization: Systematic Theology) Southern Methodist University, Graduate Program in Religious Studies	<b>2009 Graduation</b> 3.920 GPA
<b>M.A. in Philosophy</b> The University of Texas at San Antonio	<b>2021 Graduation</b> 4.000 GPA
24 graduate credit hours of M.A. courses in Theology The Catholic University of America	2001–2002 3.875 GPA
<b>B.A. in Theology</b> The University of Dallas	<b>2001 Graduation</b> 3.843 GPA

## DISSERTATION

“The Trinitarian Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar and Theodicy” (2009)

Published as: *The Trinity and Theodicy: The Trinitarian Theology of von Balthasar and the Problem of Evil* (Routledge: London, February 2011).

## PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST AND COMPETENCE

- Systematic Theology
- Philosophy of Religion

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- The Problem of Evil (Theodicy)
- Atheism and Theism
- Trinitarian Theology
- Christology
- The Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar
- The Theology of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)
- Spirituality
- Exotheology

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books:**

*The Catholic Imagination* (forthcoming – Kendall Hunt Publishing Company)

*Introduction to Spirituality: A Contemporary Guide* (forthcoming – Cognella)

*The Trinity and Theodicy: The Trinitarian Theology of von Balthasar and the Problem of Evil* (Routledge: London, February 2011).

### **Poems:**

“nostalgia,” *Blue Lake Review*, March 2024.

“haystacks,” *Evening Street Review*, Evening Street Press, December 2023.

“grief,” *Evening Street Review*, Evening Street Press, December 2023.

“wet winter,” *Loud Coffee Press*, December 2023.

“the naming of the animals,” *Canary: A Literary Journal of the Environmental Crisis*, Hip Pocket Press (forthcoming).

“oak,” *The Basilisk Tree: An Online Poetry Journal*, October 16, 2023.

“bed,” *BOMBFIRED*, September 23, 2023.

“rows,” *The Basilisk Tree: An Online Poetry Journal* (forthcoming).

“thirst,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“barn,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“Losar,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“bright eyes,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“The Fallen Ones,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“wings,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“window,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“reflection,” *Ginosko Literary Journal* (forthcoming).

“Reply to My Great-Great-Grandchildren,” (forthcoming).

“dream of publication,” *Papers Publishing: Our Dream Journal*, July 19, 2023.

“river,” *The Big Windows Review*, August 18, 2023.

“eat,” *Voices de la Luna*, Volume 15, Number 3, May 2023.

“stranger,” *Papers Publishing*, Issue #1: Avenues of Communication, May 29, 2023.

“Matryoshka,” *Rundelania*, Issue #13, May 2023.

[πέντε – Five Poems – RUNDELANIA](#)

“presence,” *Rundelania*, Issue #13, May 2023.

[πέντε – Five Poems – RUNDELANIA](#)

“The Foolish Men and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: A Dialogue,” *Rundelania*, Issue #13, May 2023.

[πέντε – Five Poems – RUNDELANIA](#)

“Immaculate Conception,” *Rundelania*, Issue #13, May 2023.

[πέντε – Five Poems – RUNDELANIA](#)

“bouquet,” *Rundelania*, Issue #13, May 2023.

[πέντε – Five Poems – RUNDELANIA](#)

“the prayer of the mantis,” *The Basilisk Tree: An Online Poetry Journal*, May 28, 2023.

“baby soaks the beans,” *Loud Coffee Press*, Volume 4, Issue 2, April 30, 2023.

“train,” *Last Stanza Poetry Journal*, Issue #12: Respite, April 4, 2023.

“precipitate,” Nostalgia Press, March 12, 2023.

“dream of decapitation,” BOMBFIRE, February 11, 2023.

“the painted lady,” *Burrow*, Old Water Rat Publishing: The Geography and Psychology of Place (Under Threat), February 1, 2023.

“young Jesus,” *Calla Press*, January 7, 2023.

“oyamel,” *Canary: A Literary Journal of the Environmental Crisis*, Hip Pocket Press, December 21, 2022.

“Discovery of Dreaming Spiders,” *Litbreak Magazine*, October 10, 2022.

“on limits,” *The Lake Front: News for the Students by the Students*, Our Lady of the Lake University, March 2019, Volume 65, Issue 6.

### **Encyclopedia Article:**

“The Problem of Evil,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*. General Editor George Thomas Kurian (Wiley-Blackwell: London, Jan 12, 2012).

### **Journal Article:**

“Evil, the New Atheism, and the God of the Trinity,” *The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology and Culture*, July 12, 2012.

### **Book Reviews in *The International Journal of Public Theology*:**

*Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics* by Ross Douthat

*How to Be Secular: A Call to Arms for Religious Freedom* by Jacques Berlinerblau

*Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life* by Elizabeth Scalia

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATION**

“The Trinitarian Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar and Theodicy,” *Society for the Study of Theology*, Soesterberg, The Netherlands, March 31, 2009.

### **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHING**

*Program Head: Theology and Philosophy* (Fall 2023 to Current)

*Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy* (Fall 2023 to Current)

*Program Head: Theology and Spiritual Action* (Fall 2019 to Spring 2023)

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies* (Fall 2018 to Spring 2023)

**Our Lady of the Lake University**, Theology and Spiritual Action, San Antonio, TX

#### Courses Taught:

THSA 1300: The Catholic Imagination

THSA 1310: Introduction to Spirituality and Providence

THSA 1320: Reading the Bible

THSA 2320: Christian Scriptures

THSA 2337: Relationships and Christian Marriage

THSA 2380: Inter-Religious Dialogue and Religions of the World

THSA 3332: Theology of Jesus Christ and God

PHIL 2321: Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 3344: Philosophy of Religion and God

Committee and Council Work:

Spring 2023	Lily Endowment – <i>Thriving Congregations</i> – Grant Writing and Steering Committee
Fall 2022-Spring 2023	Lily Endowment – <i>Puentes de la Fe</i> - Grant Writing and Steering Committee
Fall 2019-Present	Mission and Ministry Advisory Council: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Representative
Fall 2020-Spring 2021	“DFW” Work Group and Task Force
Fall 2018	Faculty Search Committee: Business

I am trained to develop and teach online courses through **Wiley** for Our Lady of the Lake University’s online Bachelor’s in Social Work (BSW) program. I have completed the following Wiley courses:

<b>Online Course Design with Wiley</b>	Certificate awarded February 26, 2020
<b>Online Teaching Strategies</b>	Certificate awarded March 22, 2020

*Adjunct Professor of Theology* (Spring 2011 to Spring 2018)  
**Mexican American Catholic College, San Antonio, TX**

Courses Taught:

DFP 608: Introduction to Theology I: Trinity  
DFP 609: Introduction to Theology II: Christology  
THEO 1320: Introduction to Theology and Biblical Studies  
THEO 3381: Christ and the Church  
THEO 3385: Moral Theology: The Faith Lived  
THEO 4320: Evangelization and the Writings of St. Paul  
THEO 6301: The Trinity and Jesus Christ  
THEO 6302: Ecclesiology and Eschatology  
THEO 6340: Sacramental and Liturgical Theology

*Adjunct Professor of Theology* (Spring 2016, Fall 2017)  
**Saint Mary’s University, San Antonio, TX**

Course Taught:

SMC 1314: Foundations of Reflection: God

*Visiting Instructor of Theology* (Fall 2006 to Spring 2008)

*Adjunct Instructor of Theology* (Spring 2006)

**The University of Dallas**, Constantin College, Theology Department, Irving, TX

Courses Taught:

THE 1310: Understanding the Bible

THE 4357: The Writings of Benedict XVI

THE 4357/5303: The Problem of Evil

I helped direct Senior Theses and served on the faculty panel for Senior Oral Comprehensive Exams.

*Adjunct Instructor of Theology* (Fall 2006, Fall 2007)

**The University of Dallas: Holy Trinity Seminary**, Philosophy and Letters Program

Courses Taught:

PHL 4341: Senior Seminar: Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II

PHL 4341: Senior Seminar: Recent and Contemporary Trinitarian Theology

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS**

**Research Assistantships**

**The University of Texas at San Antonio**, MA Program in Philosophy

Research Assistant to Dr. Jessica Wright, Fall 2019

Research: History of medicine and the brain in the ancient world

**The University of Texas at San Antonio**, MA Program in Philosophy

Research Assistant to Dr. Joshua Thurow, Spring 2019

Research: Philosophies and theologies of atonement

**Southern Methodist University**, Perkins School of Theology

Research Assistant to Dr. Alyce McKenzie, Spring 2003, Spring 2004

Research: Biblical studies and homiletics

**The Catholic University of America**, MA Program in Theology

Research Assistant to Dr. Michael Hoonhout, Fall 2001, Spring 2002

Research: Theologies of the Trinity

**Teaching Assistantships**

**Southern Methodist University**, Perkins School of Theology

The Interpretation of the Christian Message, Fall 2005–Spring 2006

Teaching Assistant to Dr. William J. Abraham (course chair) and

Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher.

The Interpretation of the Christian Message, Fall 2004–Spring 2005  
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Bruce D. Marshall (course chair) and  
Dr. William J. Abraham.

Christian Heritage I, Fall 2003  
Teaching Assistant to Dr. James Kirby.

## HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

*Instructor of Religious Studies* (Summer 2001 to Summer 2021)  
*Chair of the Religious Studies Department* (Fall 2008 to Spring 2012)  
Texas Military Institute – The Episcopal School of Texas, San Antonio, TX

*Instructor of Theology* (Fall 2012 to Spring 2018)  
*Head of the Theology Department* (Fall 2014 to Spring 2018)  
Saint John Paul II Catholic High School, New Braunfels, TX

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

### Catechetical Experience

#### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Selma, TX**

*Catholic Faith Topics*, Apologetics Ministry, Presenter Fall 2010–Spring 2018

October 26, 2010	“ <i>Saved by Hope</i> : Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI”
January 25, 2011	“Moral Relativism”
February 8, 2011	“ <i>God is Love</i> : Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI”
March 8, 2011	“ <i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> , Pope Benedict XVI”
January 10, 2012	“The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell”
December 11, 2012	“The Birth of Christ”
October 8, 2013	“Prayer: Improving Yours!”
December 9, 2014	“The Birth of Christ”
February 13, 2018	“Lent: How To Have Your Best Ever!”

Jeff Cavins’ *Great Adventure Bible Timeline*, Facilitator Fall 2010–Spring 2011

*Little Rock Scripture Study*, Facilitator: The Acts of the Apostles Fall 2010

*Little Rock Scripture Study*, Facilitator: The Gospel of John  
and the Johannine Letters Spring 2010

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: Part I*, Instructor Fall 2009

*Little Rock Scripture Study*, Facilitator: Paul’s Prison Epistles Summer 2009

CCD, Confirmation (High School Level), Instructor Fall 2010–Spring 2012

Catholic Catechetical Development, Instructor, Grades 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Fall 1996–Spring 1997

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Semi-Finalist, Birdy Poetry Prize, Meadowlark Press

April 28, 2023

Graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Dallas

Spring 2001

Inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa*

Spring 2001

University of Dallas *Dean's List*

Fall 1997–Spring 2001

*The Marianist Heritage Award*

May 1997

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The American Academy of Religion