



Speaker Bios

Jose Gonzalez

Jose Gonzalez joined the team at Sophia Institute for Teachers in 2014 after more than 10 years as a Catholic high school teacher. In addition to teaching Jose has experience working in parish and diocesan ministry. Jose has led over 250 of our workshops in over 45 dioceses, and contributes regularly to our teacher's guides and digital instructional resources. He has a BA in theology with a concentration in religious education from Franciscan University of Steubenville, and an MA in evangelization and catechesis from the Augustine Institute. Jose and his wife, Mary Beth, have four children.



Sr. M. Johanna Paruch, FSGM

Sr. M. Johanna Paruch, FSGM, is Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. A member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, she holds a BA in theology and elementary education from St. Louis University and an MA from the Angelicum, awarded after completing studies at Notre Dame Catechetical Institute. She also earned the Pontifical Catechetical Diploma as well as an undergraduate degree in deaf communication. She has completed her doctorate at Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, England. Involved in catechetics in all its forms, at every level, Sr. Johanna has also spent several years as a Catholic school teacher. In 1999, Sr. Johanna joined the Theology faculty of Franciscan University. She specializes in catechetics, and teaches both graduate and undergraduate students. In addition to her teaching duties, Sr. Johanna travels throughout the country presenting workshops on catechist training, catechist retreats, and catechesis for persons with disabilities. Sr. Johanna is also engaged in research on the role of Catholic sisters in the American Civil War.



Diane Mead

Diane lives a ridiculously blessed life as a wife and stay-at-home mom in Peoria, IL. She holds a Bachelor's in English and French Secondary Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Master's in Theology from Ave Maria University. She has worked as a Catholic missionary on college campuses with the nonprofit organization FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and as a high-school Theology teacher and campus minister. Diane currently stays at home with her sweet 9-month-old son while teaching religious education classes at her parish and training to



become a Natural Family Planning teacher (Creighton model). She loves reading, cooking, hiking, traveling, and the amazing feeling of a clean house.

Douglas G. Bushman, S.T.L.

Since 2013, Prof. Bushman has held the St. John Paul II Chair of Theology for the New Evangelization at the Augustine Institute in Denver, CO, where he teaches courses on the New Evangelization, Catholic Spirituality, Vatican II, and St. John Paul II. Prof. Bushman studied under the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and was awarded the Licentiate in Sacred Theology degree (1980). He is currently engaged in research on the pastoral theology of the Second Vatican Council and Popes Paul VI, St. John Paul II, and Benedict XVI.



Prof. Bushman has served the Church as a parish lay theologian (1983–86), diocesan director of education (1986–92), and as director of graduate programs in pastoral theology at the University of Dallas (1992–2001) and Ave Maria University (2001–2013). He has contributed articles to Catholic publications including Lay Witness, Magnificat, Catholic Faith, Catholic Dossier, Catholic World Report, and Homiletic and Pastoral Review.

He is the author of introductions for *The Sixteen Documents of Vatican II* (Pauline Books & Media, 1999); the *In His Image Program of Renewal through Education* (Ignatius Press, 1989/1990); and, most recently, *The Theology of Renewal for His Church. The Logic of Vatican II's Renewal In Paul VI's Encyclical Ecclesiam Suam, and Its Reception In John Paul II and Benedict XVI*.

He also contributed to the translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* into English. (So, when you are reading from the Catechism's second part on the liturgy and sacraments, you can thank him!)

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D.

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D. is currently the Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In this position she oversees the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Environmental Studies departments and the college's Center for Sustainability. She is also a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist.

Sister Damien Marie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biogeography from McGill University, her Master of Science degree in Soil and Plant Science from University of Connecticut, her Master of Arts degree in Theology from The Catholic University of America and her Ph.D. degree in Civil (Environmental) Engineering from



The Catholic University of America. She has lectured and written widely on *Laudato Si'* and creation care, as well as on themes related to ecological restoration and resilience theory, ecological health, ecology and theology, and science and faith.

Cory Hayes, Ph.D.

Cory Hayes is a professor of Philosophy and Theology at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA. He holds a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. His research and teaching interests include: Byzantine and Eastern Christian theology, Philosophy of Nature, and the relation between Catholic theology, philosophy, and empirical science. He and his wife Jennifer reside in Covington and they have 8 children.



André Polaniecki

André Polaniecki is an adjunct instructor and academic advisor at Holy Cross College. For the past several years, she has taught “Theology and Sports” in the Saints & Scholars Summer Theology Institute at Holy Cross. André also oversees compliance responsibilities for Holy Cross’s varsity sports as the faculty athletics representative. The Louisiana native was a student-athlete at Notre Dame and a high school religion teacher while living in New Orleans. She has a Master of Religious Education and recently defended her Leadership dissertation “The Sportsman’s Pope: John Paul II’s Writings on Sport.” André and her husband Andrew (who is the Dean of Students at Holy Cross College) reside in South Bend with their five children (Gabriel, David, Leo, Agnes and Matthew).



Carolyn Pirtle, M.A.

As Program Director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Carolyn oversees the planning and facilitation of the Center’s conferences, on-campus programs, and digital resources. Additionally, Carolyn serves as Managing Editor for the McGrath Institute Blog, where she writes on liturgical music, aesthetics, devotional practice, and popular culture. Carolyn holds degrees in piano performance (B.M., Kansas State University, 2003), music theory-composition (M.M., Kansas State University, 2005), vocal/choral sacred music (M.S.M., Notre Dame, 2008), and theology (M.A., Notre Dame, 2016). She has published articles in *Logos: A Journal for Catholic Thought and Culture*, *AIM: Liturgy Resources*



Magazine, and *GIA Quarterly*, and is author of *Praying the Rosary Together: A Guide for Households and Classrooms* (World Library Publications, 2019), and *Ten Ways to Pray: A Catholic Guide for Drawing Closer to God* (Ave Maria Press, 2021).

Susannah Brietz Monta

Susannah Brietz Monta is the Glynn Family Honors Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. Her books include *Martyrdom and Literature in Early Modern England* (Cambridge UP, 2005, paperback 2009; winner, Book of the Year award, Conference on Christianity and Literature), *Teaching Early Modern English Prose* (MLA, 2010, co-edited with Margaret W. Ferguson), and *A Catholic Reads The Faerie Queene: Anthony Copley's A Fig for Fortune* (Manchester University Press, 2016). She served as editor of *Religion and Literature* from 2008 to 2015, and is currently co-editor of *Spenser Studies*. She has published articles on topics such as martyrology, hagiography, devotional poetry and prose, early modern women's writing, and religion and literature methodology. Current projects include a co-edited scholarly edition of the *Lives* of St. Philip Howard and Anne Dacre Howard, earl and countess of Arundel (with Elizabeth Patton and Earle Havens), a five-volume complete works of Robert Southwell for Oxford University Press (co-edited with Peter Davidson and Emily Ransom), and a monograph on prayer, poetry, and repetition in the Reformation era.



Dr. Robin Lynn Treptow, MSP

Dr. Robin Lynn Treptow is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Divine Mercy University (DMU), and teaches human flourishing, developmental psychology, and relationship skills in DMU's online Master of Science in Psychology (MSP) degree. Dr. Treptow holds two doctorates—in Clinical Psychology (University of Nebraska-Lincoln: 1999) and in Infant and Early Childhood Development with Emphases in Infant Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (Fielding Graduate University: 2019). She trained in medical (e.g., inpatient psychiatry, University of Nebraska Medical Center, a family practice residency, addiction treatment), school, and outpatient settings. She is certified as a Wellness Coach by the Mayo Clinic (2016).



Dr. Treptow is a Director for the Board of the Catholic Psychotherapy Association and member of the Catholic Medical Association. She applies relationship science in her work for global peace, and presents on health narratives, infant mental health, and bias's effects on wellbeing. A Founding Director of Wee Moccasin Way: Montana's Association of Infant Mental Health, she is passionate to expand horizons for families by uprooting the impact of negative bias on how babies learn and grow. Dr. Treptow lives in Montana with her

family; her eldest son is discerning the priesthood in his studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio). You can see a bit of her work [here!](#)

Dr. Dan Kuebler

Dr. Dan Kuebler is a Professor of Biology and Chair of the Biology Department at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio where he teaches courses on evolution, cell physiology, and neurobiology, as well as maintaining an undergraduate research laboratory that investigates seizure disorders. He is the co-author of *The Evolution Controversy: A Survey of Competing Theories* (Baker Academic, 2007), a resource for cutting through the competing agendas to gain an unbiased understanding of the scientific issues involved in the debate surrounding evolution.



Heather Foucault-Camm

Heather is the Program Director for the Science and Religion Initiative at the McGrath Institute for Church Life, where she develops the pedagogical components of SRI programming, delivers presentations on content, and coordinates program events. A veteran science teacher and curriculum expert, she has a BSc and MSc in the field of Chemistry (specializing in Physical Chemistry), a PGCE, has completed the program for the National Certificate in Health Care Ethics from the NCBC, and is working towards an MA in Theology (Moral Theology) at the University of Notre Dame. Heather has created and implemented a high school course with a two-part focus on the Church's historic relationship with science and bioethics as a practical contemporary example of this relationship. Heather wants to motivate teachers and students to consider how an authentic vision of the relationship between science and religion complements scientific progress aimed at truly improving the human condition.



Jess Keating, M.Div.

Jess Keating directs the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity in the McGrath Institute for Church Life. In her role, she leads the Institute's research, education, and outreach efforts around life and human dignity issues, and spearheads the Institute's development of pro-life curriculum and resources.



Jess originally hails from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. She completed her undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Sociology from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. After teaching for five years on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, she earned her Masters of Divinity from the University of Notre Dame in 2013. In addition to her work with the Institute, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Notre Dame.

Jess' writing has appeared in popular publications such as, *America Magazine*, *The Imaginative Conservative*, and the *Catholic Catalogue*, as well as in the volume of essays, *Dante, Mercy, and the Beauty of the Human Person*.

She enjoys baseball, European literature, puzzles, spending time with her family, and running.