

## **TODD WALATKA, Ph.D.**

TEACHING PROFESSOR  
ASSISTANT CHAIR FOR GRADUATE STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME • DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY  
125 Malloy Hall • Notre Dame, IN 46556  
(574) 631-6158 • [twalatka@nd.edu](mailto:twalatka@nd.edu)

---

### **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.**, University of Notre Dame, Systematic Theology (2006-2011)  
**M.T.S.**, University of Notre Dame, History of Christianity (2004-2006)  
**B.A.**, University of Dayton, Religious Studies and Spanish (2000-2004)

### **FIELDS OF COMPETENCE**

Catholic systematic theology; Latin American liberation theology; Hans Urs von Balthasar; ecclesiology; eschatology; theology and racism; Christian spirituality; Catholic Social Teaching; Jewish-Christian relations; pedagogy and pedagogical formation

### **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Chair for Graduate Studies, University of Notre Dame (2011- present)  
Assistant Special Professional Faculty (2011-2017)  
Associate Teaching Professor (2017-2023)  
Teaching Professor (2023-Present)

### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Books**

*Words of Life: The Preaching of St. Óscar Romero* (Forthcoming with Orbis Books, Spring 2026)

*Óscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching*, editor (University of Notre Dame Press, 2024)

#### Reviews:

- (1) *Irish Theological Quarterly*, November 2025 (Michelle Becka)
- (2) *The Heythrop Journal*, August 2025 (Ashley Beck)

*Von Balthasar and the Option for the Poor: Theodramatics in the Light of Liberation Theology* (Catholic University of America Press, 2017)

#### Reviews:

- (1) *New Blackfriars*, November 2019 (Dominic White)
- (2) *Irish Theological Quarterly*, November 2019 (Rodney Howsare)
- (3) *Scottish Journal of Theology*, May 2019 (Stephen Wigley)
- (4) *Anglican Theological Review*, Fall 2018 (Nicholas Krause)
- (5) *Theology*, September 2018 (D. Stephen Long)
- (6) *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, April 2018 (Andrew Prevot)

### Peer-Reviewed Essays

“Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Meaning of Christmas.” *Theological Studies* 81/4 (December 2020): 929-950.

“The Principle of Mercy: Jon Sobrino and the Catholic Theological Tradition.” *Theological Studies* 77/1 (March 2016): 96-117.

“The Church as Sacrament: Gutiérrez and Sobrino as Interpreters of *Lumen Gentium*.” *Horizons* 42/1 (June 2015): 70-95.

“Uniting Spirituality and Theology: Jon Sobrino’s Seeking Honesty with the Real.” *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 13/1 (Spring 2013): 76-99.

“Hub-and-Spoke Student Blogging and Advantages for Classroom Discussion.” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 15/4 (October 2012): 372-383.

“Theological Biblical Interpretation: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Figure of Moses.” *Pro Ecclesia* 19/3 (Summer 2010): 300-317.

### Book Chapters

“Prophetic Preaching in Polarized Times: St. Óscar Romero and Preaching Catholic Social Teaching Today” (forthcoming in volume with Liturgical Press)

“Hans Urs von Balthasar and Political Theology,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Hans Urs von Balthasar* (forthcoming)

“Óscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction” in *Óscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching*, ed. Todd Walatka (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2024), 1-16

“Fear of God in Liberation Theology,” in *Saving Fear*, ed. Ann Astell (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame, 2020): 353-378.

“Delighting in the Truth: St. Augustine and Theological Pedagogy Today.” In *An Apocalypse of Love: Essays in Honor of Cyril O’Regan*. Ed. Jennifer Newsome Martin and Anthony C. Sciglitano Jr. (New York: Herder and Herder, 2018), 136-148.

“Witnesses as Theological Sources” in *Witnessing: Prophecy, Politics, and Wisdom*, ed. Maria Clara Bingemer and Peter Casarella (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014), 30-44.

### Book Reviews

Review and Response to Matthew Philipp Whelan, *Blood in the Fields: Óscar Romero, Catholic Social Teaching, and Land Reform*. Syndicate Theology, forthcoming,  
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/blood-in-the-fields/>

Review of Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo and Laurel Marshall Potter, *Re-Membering the Reign of God: The Decolonial Witness of El Salvador’s Church of the Poor* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023). *Theological Studies* (January 2024).

Review of José Sols Lucia (ed), *La humanidad en camino: Medio siglo de la encíclica Populorum Progressio* (Barcelona: Biblioteca Herder, 2019). *Theological Studies* (April 2021).

Review of Ormond Rush, *The Vision of Vatican II: Its Fundamental Principles* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2019). *Newman Studies Journal* 18.1 (Summer 2021).

Review of Brian Flanigan, *Stumbling in Holiness: Sin and Sanctity in the Church* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2018). *Theologische Revue* 116 (Feb 2020).

Review of Naim Stifan Ateek, *A Palestinian Theology of Liberation: The Bible, Justice, and the Palestinian Conflict* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2017). *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations* 14/1 (2019): 1-3.

Review of Matt Eisenbrandt, *Assassination of a Saint: The Plot to Murder Óscar Romero and the Quest to Bring His Killers to Justice* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017). *AAR Reading Religion* (August 2018)

Review of O. Ernesto Valiente, *Liberation through Reconciliation: Jon Sobrino's Christological Spirituality* (New York: Fordham University, 2015). *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 4 (2017): 168-171.

Review and Response to Orlando Espín, *Idol and Grace*, Syndicate Theology, June 26, 2017 (<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/idol-and-grace/>).

Review of Anthony C. Sciglitano, Jr. *Marcion and Prometheus: Balthasar against the Expulsion of Jewish Origins from Modern Religious Dialogue* (New York: Crossroads, 2014). *Theological Studies* 75/4 (December 2014): 922-923.

Review of Stanley Porter, ed. *Those Who Can, Teach: Teaching as Christian Vocation* (Eugene: Pickwick, 2013). *Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* Online Book Reviews (2014).

Review of Aidan Nichols, *Conversation of Faith and Reason: Modern Catholic Thought from Hermes to Benedict XVI* (Chicago/Mundelein, Ill.: Hillenbrand Books, 2009). *Antiphon* 16/1 (2012): 74-76.

Review of Kathryn Tanner, *Christ the Key* (New York: Cambridge University, 2010). *Theological Studies* 71/3 (September 2010): 742-743.

### **Popular Publications**

*Mission to Love: 30 Days With Óscar Romero* (Forthcoming with Ave Maria Press, February 2026).

Feature article on Óscar Romero for *The Preacher* (Forthcoming, January 2026)

“Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies: St. Oscar Romero Lived and Died Defending His People.” *The Word Among Us*. Special Feature, Lent 2019, 72-77.

### **Conference Presentations**

“Center and Periphery: Paul VI, Óscar Romero, and the Reception of Vatican II,” The Legacies of Nicaea I and Vatican II: An Inheritance Unfolding, Marquette University, September 2025

“Christian Theology and Anti-Judaism: The Case of Liberation Theologies,” Frances W. DeMott Biblical Symposium, Florida Southern College, November 2024

“Prophetic Preaching in Polarized Times: St. Óscar Romero and Preaching Catholic Social Teaching Today,” Marten Program Preaching Conference, June 2023

“Óscar Romero and Engaging Catholic Social Teaching Today,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, June 2020 (online).

Panelist, “Explaining Antisemitism, Then and Now,” Thomas More University Conference, Crestview Hills KY, October 2019 (invited).

“Balthasar, Politics, and the Option for the Poor,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, June 2018.

“Be Transformed by the Renewal of Your Mind,” John Carroll University Theology for Teachers Workshop Plenary Address, October 2017 (invited).

Panelist, “Bridging the Gap between Academia and The Community: A Conversation Between Jews and Christians,” 2018 Haym Perelmuter Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2018 (invited).

“Salvadoran Martyrs of Peace and Justice,” College Theology Society, Newport, RI, June 2017.

“Óscar Romero as Interpreter of *Gaudium et Spes*,” College Theology Society, Portland, OR, June 2015.

“The Principle of Mercy: Jon Sobrino and the Catholic Theological Tradition,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, June 2014.

“Re-Configuring Mercy: Jon Sobrino and Thomas Aquinas in Dialogue,” Midwest American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Ada, OH, April 2014.

“The Place of Saints/Witnesses in Theology: From Barth to Balthasar to Sobrino,” Testemunho/Testimonio/Witnessing: Prophecy, Politics, and Wisdom conference co-sponsored by the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul University and the Centro de Teologia e Ciências Humanas at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Chicago, IL, November 2012 (invited).

“Trinitarian Theology and Christology: Kathryn Tanner and Hans Urs von Balthasar on the Concrete Life of Jesus,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

“Hans Urs von Balthasar on the Beatitudes and Human Rights,” College Theology Society Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, June 2010.

“An Exploration in the Diversity of Latin American Liberation Theology: Juan Luis Segundo’s Grounding of the Preferential Option for the Poor,” College Theology Society Annual Meeting, South Bend, IN, June 2009.

“The Inclusivity of Christ: Christian Identity and Action in the Christocentric Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar,” College Theology Society Annual Meeting, Newport, RI, May 2008.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Chair for Graduate Studies**, University of Notre Dame (2011- present)

*Introductory Undergraduate Courses*

Foundations of Theology: Biblical/Historical  
Theology University Seminar  
The Resurrection and Christian Hope  
Christianity and Judaism  
Directed Reading on Jewish-Christian Relations  
The Church and the Poor  
Know Your Catholic Faith: The Cross  
Know Your Catholic Faith: Vatican II  
Óscar Romero and the Salvadoran Martyrs

*Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses*

The Christian Theological Tradition II  
Introduction to Vatican II/The Church in the Modern World  
Jewish-Christian Relations after Vatican II (Jerusalem)  
Eschatology  
Mercy and Liberation  
Directed Readings: Thought of Gustavo Gutiérrez; Theological Aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar

*Graduate Courses*

The Christian Theological Tradition II  
Ecclesiology (traditional format and online)  
Eschatology (intensive and online)  
Teaching Theology  
Fundamentals of Systematic Theology  
Orders and Ministry (opening three weeks of team-taught version)  
Theology en Español (1 credit)  
Theology, Race, and Racism (cross listed at 40xxx level)  
MA Capstone Course  
Directed Readings: Theological Aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar; Thought of Gustavo Gutiérrez and Óscar Romero; Theology and Race; Asian American Theology;

**Instructor**, University of Notre Dame (Fall 2010)

Foundations of Theology: Biblical/Historical

## **ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Active University Service**

Theology Teaching Committee Chair  
Theology Ph.D. Committee  
Theology M.A. Committee  
Kellogg Institute Faculty Fellow  
Kellogg Institute Director of Latin American, North American Church Concerns Program  
Kellogg Institute Chair of Romero Studies Working Group  
Initiative on Race and Resilience Affiliated Faculty  
Graduate Theological Society Advisor  
Notre Dame Chess Club Advisor

## Past Service at Notre Dame

### *Department of Theology*

Theology Program Directors Committee (2011-2023)  
Master of Divinity Program Director (2019-2024)  
Congregation of Holy Cross Formation Committee (2019-2024)  
Marten Program Committee (2019-2024)  
Theology Accreditation Administrative Committee, University of Notre Dame, 2012-2013, 2023  
MDiv Synthesis Seminar Project Advisor, Spring 2023  
PhD Candidacy Exam Committee Member, 2022-2023 (x2)  
Undergraduate Thesis Director, 2018-2019, 2021-2022  
Director of Pastoral Formation Search Committee Member, Summer 2021  
Theology Assistant Professional Specialist Hiring Review Committee Member, Fall 2016  
Theology M.T.S. Systematics Advisor, University of Notre Dame, 2015-2016  
Theology Postdoctoral Selection Committee, University of Notre Dame, 2011-2015  
M.A. Comprehensive Exam Committees, University of Notre Dame, 2012-2017 (48 exams)  
Church and Synagogue: Conceptions of Community in Theology and History Conference Co-Organizer, Fall 2015  
Faculty Coordinator, “Building for the Future: Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Cultural Context,” Jerusalem, Israel, Spring 2012

### *Outside of Theology*

Kellogg Institute “Romero Days” Organizer, 2020-2025  
Rome International Scholars program, Undergraduate Project Advisor, Summer 2024  
Center for Social Concerns, NDBridge Faculty Mentor and Research Advisor, Summer 2023, Summer 2024 (x2)  
Kellogg Institute Óscar Romero Reading Group Organizer, Kellogg Institute, 2015-2018  
Arts and Letters College Council, 2019-2022  
Arts and Letters College Nominating and Elections Committee, 2019-2022  
Campus Ministry El Salvador Pilgrimage Faculty Leader, Spring 2020  
Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning Book Group Facilitator, University of Notre Dame, 2011-2025 (almost every spring and summer)  
Kaneb Center Faculty Fellow, 2018-2019  
Fulbright Notre Dame Campus Reviewer, Fall 2016 and Fall 2017

## Other Service

*Theological Studies* Editorial Board Consultant (2025 – present)  
External Promotion Case Reviewer, Purdue University Cornerstone Program (Summer 2025)  
Manuscript Reviewer:  
*Journal of Moral Theology*, Fall 2024, Fall 2021  
*Heythrop Journal*, Fall 2024  
*Fordham University Press*, Spring 2024  
*Modern Theology*, Summer 2022, Summer 2020 (twice)  
*Irish Theological Quarterly*, Spring 2021, Spring 2018  
University of Notre Dame Press, Fall 2020, Fall 2019  
*Horizons*, Fall 2020  
*Theological Studies*, Spring 2019  
Lexington Press, Spring 2018  
Catholic University of America Press, Summer 2018 and Fall 2017  
T&T Clark, Fall 2014

Theological Witness of Óscar Romero Interest Group Co-Convener, Catholic Theological Society of America, 2018-2021  
Christianity and Judaism Consultation Administrative Team, Catholic Theological Society of America, 2012-2015

### **ON-CAMPUS TALKS/WORKSHOPS**

“Romero’s Preaching on Violence and Non-Violence,” Working Group Presenter, September 2025

“Óscar Romero and ‘*Las crisis del reino de Dios*,’” Working Group Presenter, February 2025

“The Future of Romero Studies,” Working Group Presenter, September 2024

“Teaching Human Dignity,” Workshop Leader for the Teaching Human Dignity Symposium, June 2021, June 2022, June 2023, June 2024, June 2025

Respondent to Raúl Zagarra, “A Revolutionary Faith: Liberation Theology between Public Religion and Public Reason,” ST/MT Colloquium, April 2023

Respondent to Marie-Claire Klassen, “Future Directions: Palestinian Liberation Theology in Global Context,” Kellogg Institute Work-in-Progress Workshop, February 2023

Workshop Series Organizer and Facilitator, “Óscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching,” October 2020-March 2021

“The Fittingness of Canonizing Óscar Romero and Pope Paul VI Together” LANACC Panel Discussion Celebrating the Canonization of Saint Archbishop Óscar Romero, October 2018

Pedagogy Workshop Leader, Center for Social Concerns, July 2017 and July 2018

Respondent to Tomáš Halík, “Vatican II and Historical Context: Between Modernity and Postmodernity,” NDIAS, October 2017

Respondent to Eileen Markey, “A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura,” LANNAC, April 2017

“Romero on the Witness of the Martyrs,” Romero Days, March 2017

Teaching Strategies Workshop, Holy Cross College, May 2016

“Romero, Community, and Catholic Social Thought,” Center for Social Concerns, November 2015

“Harry Potter and Theology,” Farley Hall, Spring 2015

“The Option for the Poor in Christian Theology,” M.A. Summer Lecture Series, Summer 2013

“The Papacy and Pope Francis,” Farley Hall, Spring 2013

“The Tensions between *Aggiornamento* and *Ressourcement* in Vatican II and in the Church,” Theology Club, Spring 2013

“Enhancing Discussion through Student Blogs,” Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, Fall 2011

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Lilly Endowment, Co-PI for \$5,040,487 Grant, Support for New Horizons: Educating and Forming Tomorrow’s Catholic Leaders,” January 2026-December 2030  
Lilly Endowment, Co-PI for \$997,387 Grant, “Developing Intercultural Competency in Tomorrow’s Pastoral Leaders,” November 2021-December 2026  
Franco Family Institute for Arts and the Public Good Mini Henkels Grants  
Spring 2026: “Romero Days 2026: Paths of Violence and Non-Violence”  
Fall 2020: “Óscar Romero and Catholic Social Teaching”  
Winter 2020: “Spanish Language Training and Workshop for Future Ministers”  
Franco Family Institute for Arts and the Public Good, Co-PI for Faculty Seminar Grant on “Educating the Whole Person: Large Language Models and the Liberal Arts”  
Kellogg Institute Academic Conferences Grant, Spring 2020, Spring 2025, Spring 2026  
Kellogg Institute Research Grant, Spring 2026  
Wabash Center, PI for \$5,000 Grant, “Creating Discussion Groups: Issues of Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity,” September 2022-June 2023  
Lilly Endowment, Co-PI for \$49,990 Grant, “Training Future Ministers for a Diverse, Global Church,” March 2021-December 2021  
Center for Social Concerns Community Impact Grant for Romero Days 2020, Spring 2020  
Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Spring 2018  
Teaching Beyond the Classroom Grant, University of Notre Dame, Spring 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2016

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Catholic Theological Society of America  
College Theology Society  
American Academy of Religion