

Oswald John Nira

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Publications

Spring 2019 “Revolutions in Life and Thought: Mexican Americans and Religious Communities in South Texas” in “Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society.”

Summer 2011 Published lecture: “Nahua Religion and Spanish Catholicism: Dialogue and Collaboration.” St. Edward’s University Press.

Spring 2011 Published book review: God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World—and Why Their Differences Matter” in www.catholicbooksreview.org

Spring 2010 Paper Presentation at Our Lady of the Lake University Mexican American Scholars Conference: “Sources of Empowerment in Mexican American Communities: A Survey”, San Antonio.

Summer 2009 “Mestizaje: (Re)Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latina/o Catholicism” Book Review published by www.catholicbooksreview.org

Fall 2009 Publication of 4 Essays in [Hispanic American Religious Cultures](#), DeLaTorre, Miguel, Ed.: “Trinity,” “Buddhism,”

Effective college teacher with strong student engagement skills that stimulates the search for meaning, community and justice. Research and teaching interests include Latinx spiritual communities, practices and beliefs; Catholicism--Roman and Popular; Inter-Spiritual Dialogue; United States Catholic Laity.

EXPERIENCE

Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas — Associate Professor of Theology and Spiritual Action

Spring 2001 - Fall 2018

Taught 4-4 course load from 2002-2007; Program Head and Chair from 2007-2018.

Courses taught: Mexican American Spiritual Foundations; Introduction to Latino/a Theology; Introduction to Catholicism; Introduction to Spirituality; World Religions; History of Religion in the USA.

Revitalization of Religious Studies and Theology program; Curriculum and Program Development; General Education Program development.

Honors Program Director & Faculty Member, 2007-2018.

Member of Development Team for “Encuentro” Program: Catholic Institute for High School Ministry, 2014-2018.

Service Learning Faculty Member, 2003-2018.

Antonian College Preparatory School, San Antonio, Texas — Theology Instructor, College Advisor & Academic Dean

August 1994 - May 1998

Taught all levels of Theology from 1994-1998

Served as College Advisor, 1996-1997; advised students for college selection and preparedness.

Served as Academic Dean, 1997-1998; program development, scheduling and faculty supervision.

St. Michael's Academy, Austin, Texas — *Theology Instructor and Campus Minister*

August 1992-May 1994

Developed and coordinated school liturgies; organized student and faculty retreats; developed and supervised peer leaders.

Taught Church History, Morality & Social Justice.

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. — *PhD in Theology, Concentration in Faith and Culture*

August 1998 - May 2007

Courses: Mexican American Religious Experience, Catholic Laity History, Asian Spirituality, Theories of Religion, Theological Method.

Dissertation: Mexican American Lay Leadership in the Diocese of Austin, 1948-1998.

The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. — *MA*

August 1984- Summer 1986

Courses: Ecclesiology, Christology, Pentateuch, Prophetic Literature, Christian Ethics/Morality, Sacramental Theology (Marriage), Theology of Liturgy.

Research Papers: Ecclesiology of Gustavo Gutierrez; Prophetic Tradition and Lay Leadership

St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas—*BA*

August 1978-May 1982

Earned BA in Religious Education; Philosophy Minor. Active member in Campus Ministry, Student Publications, Volunteer to University Events, Travis State School mentor.

PRESENTATIONS, PROJECTS & SERVICE

25th Anniversary Planning Committee — *Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), Fall 2020-Fall 2021*

Member of five person national committee tasked with planning and executing 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Hispanic Theological Initiative at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas;

“Numerology,” “United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.” In ABC-CLIO: Santa Barbara, California.

Summer 2008 “On the Move: A History of the Hispanic Church in the United States.” Review published by Catholic Books Review.

Fall 2007 “The Church in the Barrio: Mexican-American Ethno-Catholicism in Houston” for H-NET Book Review.

Fall 2004 “The Faith: A History of Christianity” by Daniel Monaghan. Book Review published by [Spiritual Life: A Quarterly of Contemporary Spirituality](#).

August 2000 “The Doctors of the Church: Thirty-Three Men and Women who Shaped Christianity” by Bernard McGinn. Review published by [Spiritual Life: A Quarterly of Contemporary Spirituality](#).

Spring 2000 “From the Heart of Our People: Latino/a Explorations in Catholic Systematic Theology,” ed. By Orlando Espín and Miguel H. Díaz. Published in [The Living Light: Journal of Catechesis and Pastoral Ministry](#).

August 1999 “Evelyn Underhill: Spirituality for Daily Living” Review in [Spiritual Life: A Quarterly of Contemporary Spirituality](#).

July 1999 “Spiritlinking Leadership: Working through Resistance for Organizational Change” Review in [Presence](#).

Celebration will highlight HTI's method of *en conjunto*, impact on theological graduate education, and future vision.

Internalizing Spirituality—Fall 2020

Active member of national study group on foundational aspects of Sikh Spirituality.

Catholic Theology Society Presentation—June 1, 2018

Presented Paper "Revolutions in Life and Thought: Religious Community and Mexican American Youth in South Texas" at Catholic Theology Society Annual Convention, St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

National Board Theta Alpha Kappa—Fall 2012–Fall 2018

National Board At-Large Representative; Developed Initiative supporting Undergraduate Theological Research; Identified exemplary faculty from member institutions that supported undergraduate theological education and research.

Theta Alpha Kappa—Spring 2003–Fall 2018

Advisor to Our Lady of the Lake University chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa: Alpha Eta Gamma.

Dia de los Muertos Celebration—Fall 2001–Fall 2018

Coordinated and Led University celebration of *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) on November 2.

Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education—Spring 2018

Developed curriculum and program initiatives to deepen undergraduate understanding of vocation post graduation.

Reviewer—Summer 2018

Reviewed essays for publication in College Theology Society (CTS) 2018 Annual Volume

Principal Writer and Team Member—Spring 2018

For Website posted text on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition at Our Lady of the Lake University, 2018.

Catholic Relief Services—Summer 2017 through 2018

Faculty Advisory Committee-Worked on developing curriculum for CRS University; Research on upcoming Compendium for Catholic Social Teaching.

Retreat Team Member—Advent 2017

Planned Retreat for Congregation of Divine Providence Associates

Team Member—2014–2018

Encuentro Summer High School Theology Institute-Developed Grant and Participated in Summer High School Theology

[The Journal for Spirit Directors International.](#)

Honors and Promotions

Fall 2013 Promoted to Associate Professor; Awarded tenure, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas

2011–2012 Excellence in Service Learning Award, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio.

2007–2011 Recognized for Outstanding Service as Honor Program Director, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio.

2007–2008 Excellence in Service Learning Award, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio.

2006–2007 Service Appreciation Award for Campus Ministry, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio.

1999–2000 Hispanic Theological Initiative Scholar Awardee, Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey

1991 Recognized with special citation from the Texas State Senate (SR No. 596) for outstanding service to the City of Austin and the community of San José Catholic Church.

1982 Graduated with *cum laude* distinction in Religious Education, St. Edward's

experience, developing college mentors and theology/reflection/service experiences for High School students. Lily awarded grant to Our Lady of the Lake University in 2015 for 4 yr. Program.

Retreat Planning Team—Spring 2017

Member of Team that planned and executed Our Lady of the Lake University Senior Retreat.

Quinto Encuentro Parish Leader—Summer 2017

Lead *Quinto Encuentro* Parish Team; planned and executed *Quinto Encuentro* Parish Retreat at Mission Concepcion.

Teaching Interfaith Understanding—Summer 2017

Seminar participant sponsored by Interfaith Youth Core and Council of Independent Colleges; developed curriculum and program goals.

McNair Advisor—Summer 2016

McNair Advisor to Amelia Rivera—research on immigration experience and interfaith volunteer response; Ms Rivera's research subsequently led to enrollment at Loyola Chicago graduate theology program.

OLLU Meditates—Fall 2016

Organized meditation experiences from different spiritual traditions for Our Lady of the Lake University, led by OLLU faculty and staff.

Advisory Council Member—2013-2018

Served on Our Lady of the University Mission and Ministry Advisory Council.

SSCS Panel Speaker—Fall 2016

Panel topic: "Spirituality of Immigrants and Community Organizing," Fall 2016; sponsored by Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality in conjunction with American Academy of Religion Annual Convention.

Co-Chair: APRC Committee—2012-2015

Served as co-chair to Academic Program Review Committee; reviewed and developed process for academic program review at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Adult Formation Team Member—2014-Present

Led Christian Initiation and Adult Formation sessions at Mission Concepcion, San Antonio.

Day of Reflection/Retreat Leader at St. Dismas Catholic Community—Summer 2014

Coordinated and led theological and faith reflection at McConnell Unit, Beeville, Texas.

Deacon Formation/Instruction—2012-2013

Taught "Intro to Theological Studies" to Deacon Candidates for the Archdiocese of San Antonio

University, Austin, Texas.

1978 Arthur Kinsella
Scholarship for Religious
Education Scholar Awardee,
St. Edward's University,
Austin, Texas.

MEMBERSHIPS

Theta Alpha Kappa: The
National Honor Society for
Religious Studies and
Theology

Hispanic Theological
Initiative

College Theology Society

Congregation of Divine
Providence, Associate

American Catholic Hispanic
Theologians of the United
States

**Adjunct Instructor at Oblate School of
Theology—Spring 2013**

Taught “Contemporary Hispanic/Latino Spiritualities” in DMin program at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio.

Honors Program Director—2007-2011

Developed curriculum and faculty in Our Lady of the Lake University Honors Program.

Advisor—2007-2011

For “The Alliance” --LGBTQI and Allies student organization at Our Lady of the Lake University

Team Member—1994-1998; 2001-2004

RCIA Team member, Resurrection of the Lord Parish, San Antonio, Texas; led teaching sessions, coordinated retreat and meditation experiences, developed formation program.