

---

---

**ROBERT A. DELFINO**  
CURRICULUM VITAE

---

---

Department of Philosophy  
St. John's University  
8000 Utopia Parkway  
Queens, NY, 11439

St. John's Hall  
Room B30-4  
delfinor@stjohns.edu  
(718) 990-6246

**EDUCATION:**

***State University of New York at Buffalo***

Ph.D. Philosophy, June 2001

Dissertation: "The Ontological Status of Identity"

Advisors: Jorge J. E. Gracia (Chair), Barry Smith, and Kenneth Barber

Outside Reader: Jude Dougherty, Catholic University of America

***St. John's University, New York***

B.A., *Summa cum laude*, June 1994

Double Major: Philosophy and English

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:**

Latin (Translation)

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy (especially St. Thomas Aquinas), Science & Religion

**AREAS OF COMPETENCY:**

Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Science

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:**

***St. John's University, New York***

Associate Professor, Fall 2010-Present

Assistant Professor, Fall 2001-Spring 2010

Adjunct Professor, Spring 1999-Spring 2001

***Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Connecticut***

Adjunct Professor (Summers only), 2016-2023

**ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS:**

Impact Leader Award, for developing student leaders (*Sigma Alpha Pi*), Spring 2023

Post Tenure Review Outstanding Achievement Award for Teaching, Spring 2019

Excellence in Teaching Award (*Sigma Alpha Pi*), April 2016, 2018

Professor of the Year Award (Student Government), May 2015

Faculty Recognition Awards, Spring 2007-2012, 2017, 2018

Invited Lecturer (*Jacek Woroniecki Lectures*, Poland), May 2010

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

### ***St. John's University***

Philosophy of the Human Person\*

Ethics\*

Metaphysics\*

Logic\*

Science and Religion\*

Problem of God\*

Ancient Philosophy

Medieval Philosophy\*

Modern Philosophy

Contemporary Philosophy

\* = Also taught as an Honors Class

Independent Studies (non-paid): I've taught these courses with over 50 different students.

## GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

### ***Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Connecticut***

St. Thomas Aquinas on Being and Nothingness (Online)

### ***John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland***

Ethical Pluralism and American Culture

## PUBLICATIONS:

### ***Book***

*Does God Exist?: A Socratic Dialogue on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas.* St. Louis, MO: En Route Books and Media, LLC, 2018, co-authored with M. Fradd.

### ***Edited Books***

*The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J.E. Gracia*, co-edited with William Irwin and Jonathan J. Sanford. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.

*Understanding Moral Weakness.* Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006.

*What are We to Understand Gracia to Mean?: Realist Challenges to Metaphysical Neutralism.* Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006.

*Plato's Cratylus: Argument, Form, and Structure.* Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2005.

### ***Articles and Book Chapters***

"Transcendental Beauty and Culture." *Człowiek w Kulturze* 34, no. 2 (December: 2024): 167-179.

"Gracia, Individuation, and Thomistic Metaphysics." In *The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J. E. Gracia*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2022, 103-113; 277-282

“The Compatibility of Evolution and Thomistic Metaphysics: A Reply to Dennis F. Polis.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 10:1 (March 2021): 71–102.

“Theology for Nones: Helping People Find God in a Secular Age,” co-authored with Andrew Gniadek. *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 6:1 (March 2017): 31–46.

“Carol’s Transformation,” co-authored with Lea Lesinski. In *The Ultimate Walking Dead and Philosophy: Hungry for More*. Open Court Popular Culture and Philosophy Series Chicago: Carus Publishing Company, 2016, 175-187.

“Redpath on the Nature of Philosophy.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 5:1 (January–March 2016): 33–53.

“Imagination and Creation: The Morality of Fiction in Dungeons & Dragons,” co-authored with Jerome Hillock. In *Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series, NJ: Wiley & Sons, September 2015, 95-105.

“The Failure of New Atheism Morality.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 4:3 (July–September 2015): 229–240.

“The Cultural Dangers of Scientism and Common Sense Solutions.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 3: supplement (2014): 485–496.

“Experiment (in Science)” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-2013: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 2013, 542-544.

“Walking Contradictions,” co-authored with Kyle Taylor. In *The Philosophy of the Walking Dead*, Open Court Popular Culture and Philosophy Series. Chicago: Carus Publishing Company, 2012, 39-51.

“Scientific Naturalism and the Need for a Neutral Metaphysical Framework.” In *Science and Faith within Reason: Reality, Creation, Life and Design*, ed. by Jaume Navarro. Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2011, 43-59.

“Bound Idealities and the Metaphysics of Edmund Husserl.” In *Metaphysik Heute*, ed. By Tadeusz Guz, Elzbieta Szczurko, and Leszek Brusniak. Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang, 2009, 43-64.

“Cultural Meanings and Identity in Edmund Husserl” *CALIPSO: Conference Addresses of the Long Island Philosophical Society Online* (July 2009).

“Science and the Inescapability of Metaphysics.” *Global Spiral* (May 2009): <https://metanexus.net/science-and-inescapability-metaphysics/> and reprinted in: *Bridging Science and Spirituality* (Bhaktivedanta Institute, 2010).

“Bad Timing: The Metaphysics of The Terminator,” co-authored with Ken Sheahan. In *Terminator and Philosophy: I’ll Be Back, Therefore I Am*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2009, 109-121.

“The Problem of Nature and Evil in Kant’s *Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View* and Other Works.” *Człowiek W Kulturze: Wyzwania współczesnej demokracji*, vol. 20 (April 2009): 237-257.

“Understanding Locke’s View of Personal Identity” *CALIPSO: Conference Addresses of the Long Island Philosophical Society Online* (March 2009).

“Christian Physicalism and Personal Identity” *Global Spiral* (Nov. 2008):  
<https://www.metanexus.net/christian-physicalism-and-personal-identity/>

“Realism and the Problem of Universals: A Thomistic Solution” *Człowiek W Kulturze: W obronie realizmu*, vol. 19 (March 2008): 301-315.

“Methodological Naturalism and Evolution.” In *Ewolucjonizm czy Kreationizm*. Poland: Fundacja Lubelska Szkoła Filozofii Chrześcijańskiej, 2008, 137-156.

“Replacing Methodological Naturalism” *Global Spiral* (May 2007):  
<https://www.metanexus.net/replacing-methodological-naturalism/>

“Justice for All?: Metallica’s Argument against Napster and Internet File Sharing.” In *Metallica and Philosophy*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series. New York: Blackwell Publishing, 2007, 232-244.

“The Problem of Justifying the Right to Freedom of Religion.” *Journal of Dharma*, vol. 31, no. 1 (2006): 51-65.

“Neo-Thomism and Gracia’s metaphysics.” In *What are We to Understand Gracia to Mean?: Realist Challenges to Metaphysical Neutralism*. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006, 75-87.

“The Beauty of Wisdom: A Tribute to Armand A. Maurer, CSB.” In *A Thomistic Tapestry: Essays in Memory of Étienne Gilson*. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2003, 37-45.

“Mystical Theology in Aquinas and Maritain.” In *Jacques Maritain and The Many Ways of Knowing*. Catholic University of America Press, 2002, 253-268.

“Aristotle on the Value of the History of Philosophy for Philosophy.” *Contemporary Philosophy*, vol. XX, no. 5/6 (1998): 49-58.

### **Book Foreword**

“Foreword,” in Peter A. Redpath, *Meditations on My Life as a Brooklyn Existentialist, Philosophical Paladin, and Samurai Thomist*. St. Louis, MO: En Route Books and Media, 2024, vii-xvi.

“Foreword,” in Piotr Jaroszyński, *Metaphysics or Ontology?* Leiden: Brill-Rodopi, 2018.

### **Book Reviews**

Robert C. Trundle. *Integrated Truth and Existential Phenomenology: A Thomistic Response to Iconic Anti-Realists in Science*. *The Review of Metaphysics*, 69, 4 (June 2016): 832-835.

Tim Lacy. *The Dream of a Democratic Culture: Mortimer J. Adler and the Great Books Idea, Society for U.S. Intellectual History*, September 2014.  
<https://s-usih.org/2014/09/philosophy-history-and-the-dream-of-the-great-books-movement/>

John F. Wippel. *The Ultimate Why Question: Why Is There Anything at All Rather than Nothing Whatsoever? The Review of Metaphysics*, 65, 3 (March 2012): 695-697.

W. Norris Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God: A New Thomistic Perspective*, 2nd revised edition. *H-Catholic, H-Net Reviews* (May 2008).  
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=14471>

John. F. Wippel, *Metaphysical Themes in Aquinas II, Philosophy in Review*, Volume XXVII, no. 6 (December 2007): 449-451.

Brian Davies, ed. *Aquinas's Summa Theologiae: Critical Essays. H-Catholic, H-Net Reviews* (February 2007).  
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=19881174662005>

Jean-Louis Chrétien, *The Call and the Response. The Review of Metaphysics*, vol. LVIII, no. 4 (2005): 882-884.

Alice Ramos and Marie I. George, eds., *Faith, Scholarship, and Culture in the 21st Century. Maritain Studies*, vol. XIX (2003): 115-118.

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

### *Academic*

“Ramanuja’s Ontology for Christianity? A Reply to Jon Paul Sydnor” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, St. John’s University, Queens, NY, March 29, 2025.

“Transcendental Beauty and Culture” *Reclaiming beauty: from idealism to realism. On the 140th anniversary of the birth of Étienne Gilson*, Symposium sponsored by the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, April 26, 2024.

“Aquinas and the Existential Theory of Individuation” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Saint John’s University, Queens, NY, April 1, 2023.

Chair. “Session 8: Ancient Philosophy, Maimonides, Schopenhauer, Epistemic Virtues” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Saint John’s University, Queens, NY, April 1, 2023.

Chair. “Session 18: (Theism, Aquinas, Rahner. Ecclesiastes, Scotus)” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 30, 2022.

Chair: “Session 4: Modern Philosophy, Descartes, Hume.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 30, 2022.

“Recovering Reason in our Times,” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Hyattsville, MD, June 12, 2021.

Chair: “Panel 3: Recovering the Best of our Ancient and Medieval Heritage,” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Hyattsville, MD, June 12, 2021.

“Gracia, Individuation, and Thomistic Metaphysics” *A Collection of Individuals: The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J. E. Gracia*, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY, October 19, 2019.

“A Note on Abstraction and the Principle of Individuation,” *Fifth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 20, 2018.

Chair: “Plenary Session 4.” *Fifth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 20, 2018.

“Common Sense and Philosophy.” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 2, 2018.

Chair: “Session 1: Aquinas, Animals, Ecology, Language, Law.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 14, 2018.

Chair: “Session 6: Augustine, Aquinas; Sheed as Apologists & Reformers.” *Fourth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 14, 2017.

Conference Organizer: “The Prologue of St. John's Gospel: Reason and Interpretation in Catholic Thought.” *International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics*, Catholic Center at NYU, November 5, 2016.

“The Metaphysics of Mercy” *Colloquium on Mercy*, St. John's University, NY, October 24, 2016.

“Theology for Nones: Helping People Find God in a Secular Age.” *Third World Congress of Aquinas Leadership International*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 9, 2016.

Panelist: “Panel 4: The Benedict Option Upon Us?” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, May 29, 2016.

Chair: “Session 4.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 9, 2016.

“The Failure of New Atheism Morality.” *Second World Congress of Aquinas Leadership International*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, June 26, 2015; reprinted in *Al-istighrab* (2017): 162-172.

“The Cultural Dangers of Scientism and Common Sense Solutions” *Inaugural International Congress: Renewing the West by Renewing Common Sense*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 19, 2014.

Panelist: “Civil Religion and Popular Culture.” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 8, 2014.

Chair: “Session 3.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 26, 2014.

Commentator: “Virtue of the Self: A Kierkegaardian Virtue of Epistemology.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, SUNY Suffolk County Community College, May 4, 2013.

Panelist: “Panel 4: The Problem of Disconnectedness.” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 17, 2012.

Chair: "Session 5: Friendship, Happiness, Environmental Ethics." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 14, 2012.

Commentator: "St. Thomas Aquinas on Intelligent Design." *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, October 28, 2011.

Chair: "Session 10: Plato." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY, October 15, 2011.

Chair: "Session 2: Wittgenstein and Consciousness." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, St. Francis College, NY, April 16, 2011.

Chair: "Session 9: Ethics, Law, Political Theory." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 17, 2010.

Chair: "Plenary Panel 2." *International Etienne Gilson Society Meeting*, Loyola College, Baltimore, October 2, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and the Foundation of Morality: A Neo-Thomistic Response." *International Etienne Gilson Society Meeting*, Loyola College, Baltimore, October 2, 2009.

Chair: "Process & Change Session." *Tenth Annual Metanexus Conference*, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Arizona, July 19, 2009.

"Science and the Inescapability of Metaphysics." *Tenth Annual Metanexus conference*, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Arizona, July 19, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and the Need for a Neutral Metaphysical Framework." *Metaphysics, Ontology and the Science-Religion Debate*, Thomas More Institute, London, UK, May 8, 2009.

"Cultural Meanings and Identity in Edmund Husserl." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, LaGuardia Community College, NY, April 4, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and Objective Moral Values." *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Philadelphia, PA, December 28, 2008.

"Christian Physicalism and Personal Identity." *Ninth Annual Metanexus conference*, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, Spain, July 16, 2008.

"Science and Natural Theology: Barriers to Dialogue" *Beyond Paley: Renewing the Vision for Natural Theology, an International Interdisciplinary conference on Natural Theology*, Oxford University, UK, June 23, 2008.

"Understanding Locke's View of Personal Identity." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 5, 2008.

"Animal Rights and Agency" *Sixth Annual International Conference on Arts and Humanities*, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 13, 2008.

"Replacing Methodological Naturalism." *Eighth Annual Metanexus conference*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, June 5, 2007.

“Methodological Naturalism and Evolution.” *International Symposium: Future of the Western Civilization*, Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawla II, Lublin, Poland, April 18, 2007.

Chair: “Session I: Issues from Aristotle.” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, Denison University, Granville, OH, October 27, 2006.

Commentator: “Real Emotivism.” Morning Session 1 at the *Long Island Philosophical Society Meeting*, St. John’s University, Queens Campus, NY, October 21, 2006.

Commentator: “Omniscience and its Discontents.” *New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association/Long Island Philosophical Society Meeting*, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY, April 8, 2005.

Commentator: “Relationships and Persons: Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” Group Session X at the *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Hilton New York, NY, December 29, 2004.

Chair: “Concurrent Session 1A.” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, October 21, 2004.

Discussant: “Discussion of Jorge Gracia’s ‘Metaphysics and Its Task.’” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, University of Notre Dame, IN, October 21, 2000.

“Mystical Theology in Aquinas and Maritain.” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, Berkeley, CA, October 25, 1999.

“Aristotle on the Value of the History of Philosophy for Philosophy.” *American Catholic Philosophical Association Western Pennsylvania Regional Meeting*, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, May 1, 1998.

“Mystical Theology in St. Thomas Aquinas.” *Nineteenth Annual Medieval Forum*, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH, April 17, 1998.

“From Boethius to St. Thomas Aquinas: Numerical Difference in Material Things.” *Thirty-second International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11, 1997.

### ***Non-Academic***

“God’s Omniscience and Human Freedom” *Catholic Apologetics Virtual Conference*, October 23, 2020. <https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/UniversalLogin>

“Aquinas’ Third Way of Proving God: Adapted for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” *Our Lady of the Lake Church*, Verona, NJ, March 11, 2020.

“What Life in Heaven Might be Like” *Theology on Tap*, Flagship Brewery, Staten Island, NY, October 14, 2019.

“The Meaning of Life in Christian Philosophy,” *Our Lady Star of the Sea*, Staten Island, NY, August 17, 2019.



“Christian Paradoxes: A Lenten Reflection.” *Campus Ministry*, Staten Island, NY, March 28, 2019.

“Does God Exist? Thomas Aquinas’s Five Proofs,” *Seminary of the Immaculate Conception*, Long Island, NY, November 18, 2018.

“Considering the Soul.” *Liminal Analytics*, Brooklyn, NY, November 15, 2013.

“Art and Healing from a Philosophical Point of View.” *The Guild of Creative Art*, Shrewsbury, NJ, November 2, 2010.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

American Philosophical Association, 1996-Present.

American Catholic Philosophical Association, 1998-Present.

Long Island Philosophical Society, 2006-Present.

Metanexus Institute for Science and Religion, 2007-2011.

International Étienne Gilson Society, 2009-Present (Founding Member).

Adler-Aquinas Institute, 2009-Present.

Academy of Philosophy and Letters, 2012-Present.

International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics, 2015-2019 (Founding Member).

## **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE SERVICE**

### **ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY:**

#### ***Committees***

Environmental Sustainability & Decision-Making Committee, March 2019-Present.

Strategic Planning Committee (SI Campus), Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Global Studies Minor Committee, Spring 2011-Spring 2013.

Liberal Arts Faculty Council, Fall 2005-Spring 2007.

Enrollment Task Force Member, Fall 2007-Spring 2009.

Academic Planning Committee (SI Campus), Fall 2007-Fall 2009.

#### ***Faculty Moderator***

Philosophy Club, Fall 2005-2021.

#### ***Faculty Mentor***

Alexis B. Coven, “Literacy Program: Using Play Mentorship to Increase Literacy Rates for Lower Income Students from Ten to Fifteen Years Old in New York City,” 2015-17.

## **HOLY APOSTLES COLLEGE & SEMINARY (2016-2023):**

### ***Master of Arts Philosophy Concentration Chair***

Systematic Philosophy

### ***Master's Thesis Advisor/Master's Capstone Paper Advisor***

Jamal Kimbanga, Master's Capstone Paper: "Aquinas on the Providence of God and the Problem of Evil," 2023.

Ervin Reyes, Master's Thesis: "The Metaphysical Principles of Religion: How Aristotle's Theory of Finality and St. Thomas Aquinas' Notion of Participation show that Religion is Natural for Human Beings," 2020.

Jonathan Stute, Master's Thesis: "Journey or Judgment?: An Analysis of the Intra-Thomistic Dispute on the Beginning of Metaphysics," 2019.

### ***Master's Thesis Reader/Post-Master's Reader***

Nathaniel Beckman, "Aquinas & Analogy of Being," 2024.

Michael Shuman, "The Fourth Way as a Participation Argument," 2023.

Rev. Br. Reed Frey, C.O., "Nature and Method in the Work of Francis Bacon," 2020.

Christopher Apodaca, Post-Master's Degree Certificate in Philosophy Reader, 2019.

### ***Master's Degree Comprehensive Exam Grader***

Jeffrey Camlin, 2023.

Justin Cunha, 2023.

Brandon Spun, 2021.

Shane Van Diest, 2021.

Joseph Jordan, 2020.

Daniel McQuillan, 2020.

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:**

### ***Pre-Publication Book Reviews***

Catholic University of America Press, 2008, 2019.

Brill Publishing, 2015.

### ***Journal Peer-Reviews***

The Thomist, 2024

Studia Elckie, 2021, 2023.

Studia Gilsoniana, 2013, 2018, 2020.

Annals of Philosophy, 2016.

American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, 2016.

### ***Grant Review***

National Science Center of Poland, 2017.

### ***Special Book Series Editor***

Studies in the History of Western Philosophy (Value Inquiry Book Series), 2002-2015.

### ***Editorial and Advisory Boards***

Scientific Council, *Studia Elckie*, 2021.

Editorial Board, *Gilson Studies* (Special Series) Brill Publishing, 2015.

Editorial Board, *Studia Gilsoniana*, 2012.

Scientific Committee, *Człowiek W Kulturze*, 2011.

Board of Advisors, *International Etienne Gilson Society*, 2010.

### ***Webmaster***

International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics webpage, 2015-2019.

American Maritain Association webpage, 2000-2010.