

Peter Nguyen, S.J., Ph.D., S.T.D.

College of the Holy Cross, Department of Religious Studies

One College Street

Worcester, MA 01610

E-Mail: penguyen1@holycross.edu

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Areas of Specialization

Systematic Theology, with a focus on the spirituality of Christian martyrdom in sustained conversation with totalitarian movements and their formational logics

Areas of Competency

Theology of Alfred Delp, Theology of Edith Stein, Theology of the White Rose, Ignatian Spirituality, Fundamental Theology, Interaction of trinitarian and Christological teachings, Theology of Bernard Lonergan, S.J., Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas

Education

Ph.D. University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto,
November 2016
Major Field: Theology

S.T.D. (Doctorate in Sacred Theology) Regis College, University of Toronto
November 2021
Major Field: Theology

S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
May 2009

MDiv. (Master of Divinity) Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
May 2008

M.A. Loyola University Chicago
May 2002
Major Field: Social Philosophy

B.A. The University of Chicago
June 1996
Major Field: Religion in the Humanities

Professional Appointments

Associate Professor, as of Fall 2024
Catholic Studies Advisor, as of Fall 2025
The College of the Holy Cross
Department of Religious Studies

Rev. Francis Wade, S.J., Chair Academic Year 2023-2024
Marquette University

Associate Professor, as of Fall 2021
Creighton University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theology

Assistant Professor Fall 2015-Spring 2021
Creighton University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theology

Books, single author

Contemplation as Resistance: Edith Stein from the Classroom to Auschwitz: A Theology of Intercessory Representation and Education as an Anti-Totalitarian Formation.
Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming (under contract).

Against the Titans: Theology and the Martyrdom of Alfred Delp (Hardcover and e-book),
Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, June 2020. (Peer Reviewed)

Book Chapters, single author

“Edith Stein: Interiority as Affective Depth,” in *Jesuit Humanism*, Georgetown University Press, forthcoming (under contract).

“Interiority as Freedom: Edith Stein and Hannah Arendt,” in *Contemplation and Christian Freedom: The Liberating Power of Spiritual Practice*, Wipf and Stock, April 2025. (Peer-reviewed)

“Suffering from Anxiety and Loneliness: The Martyrdom of Alfred Delp and the Apostasy of Sebastian Rodrigues,” in *Alfred-Delp-Jahrbuch: Band 13*, Lit Verlag, March 2023.

“Priesthood in the Age of Totalitarianism,” in *A True and Mature Obedience: Seminary Formation and Freedom* (Paperback), Institute for Priestly Formation Publications, January 2021. (Peer-reviewed)

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles, single author

- “Edith Stein’s Spiritual Vision for Resistance to Totalitarianism” in *Spiritus* Vol. 26. no. 2 (forthcoming October 2026)
- “Existence as Relationship: Alfred Delp contra the Totalitarian State,” in *Hợp Tuyển Thần Học* [*Theological Digest: A Journal of the Jesuits in Vietnam*] Vol. 33, no. 54, 2023, 131–180.
- “Renewing the Social Dimension of the Sacred Heart.” In *Chicago Studies* Vol. 60, no. 1, 2022, 39–47.
- “Broken Bodies, Healed Body: Contemporary Martyrdom and Ecumenism.” In *Journal of Religion and Society*. Supplement 18, 2019.
- “Ecumenism in Blood: The Martyrdom of Alfred Delp and Helmuth James von Moltke. In *Canadian Theological Review* Vol. 3, no. 1, 2016, 14–25.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles, lead author

- Nicolae Roddy, “Performative Theodicy: Edith Stein and the Recovery of Lamentation.” In *Modern Theology* Vol. 40, no. 3, July 2024, 572–599.
- M. Ross Romero, SJ. “Seeking What is Pure, Doing What Is True, and Living a Life of Love: Pastoral Leadership and Self-Sacrifice in the Gospel of John.” In *Science et Esprit* Vol. 74, no. 2–3, 2022, 387–407.

Editorially-reviewed Journal Articles, single author

- The Hopeful Death of Alfred Delp, S.J.: Self-emptying in a Time of Darkness.” In *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, no. 64, Fall 2025.
- “The Courage of a Jewish-Catholic Intellectual: Edith Stein.” In *Evangelization and Culture*, no. 22, December 2024.
- “Not All Sacrifice Saves.” In *Notre Dame Church Life Journal*, 22 March 2018.
- “The Last Judgement is the Reason for Advent.” In *Notre Dame Church Life Journal*, 14 December 2017.
- “Silence and Weakness: The Martyrdom of Alfred Delp and the Apostasy of Sebastian Rodrigues.” In *Homiletics & Pastoral Review*, 9 March 2017.

Short and Popular Essays, single author

“The ‘Manosphere’ and the formation of moral conscience.” In *America: The Jesuit Review of Faith and Culture*, June 25, 2026.

“How a reading group helped young German students defy the Nazis and find their faith.” In *The Conversation*, April 30, 2025.

“Homilies for March 2018” (3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays in Lent and Palm Sunday). In *Homiletics & Pastoral Review*, March 2018.

Reviews

Review of *Hans Urs von Balthasar’s Theology of Representation: God, Drama, and Salvation*, by Jacob Lett. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2023. *Theological Studies*, Vol. 85, no. 1, March 2024, 193-94.

Review of *Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age: Desmond and the Quest for God*, by Ryan G. Duns, SJ, Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2020. *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* Vol. 48, no. 2, December 2021, 503–504.

International and National Conferences

“The Integration of the Person and the Unity of Knowledge: Edith Stein, John Paul II, and the Renewal of Catholic Higher Education,” at the Catholic Studies Consortium Conference, University of St. Thomas, September 24–26, 2026.

“Conversion under Pressure: Conscience, Truth, and the White Rose amid Decline,” at Lonergan Workshop 53: Progress, Decline, Redemption, Boston College, June 15–18, 2026. (Peer-reviewed).

“Edith Stein’s Narratives: Fostering a Spiritual Journey and Embodying Hope,” at the Dialogue Colloquium on Engaging the Body in Narratives of the Soul’s Unfolding, International Relations Committee of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, Dublin, Ireland, June 9–11, 2026. (International Conference, Invited Participant).

“The Eucharistic Christ in the Saint: Edith Stein’s Anthropology,” at the Catholic Studies Consortium Conference, Providence College, September 19–21, 2025.

“Reading the Bible after the Holocaust” at the 2024 Annual Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, May 28–31, 2024. (Invited Participant).

- “Interiority as Affective Depth: Edith Stein as Model for the Jesuit Professor” at Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age Conference, Loyola University Chicago, August 31–September 2, 2023. (National Conference, Invited).
- “Hannah Arendt and Edith Stein: Interiority as Freedom” at the Catholic Theological Society of America 77th Annual Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 8–11, 2023. (International Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “Alfred Delp’s Sacramental Theology: Christian Humanism in the Age of Mass-Man” at the 2020/2021 Annual Meeting of the Association of Professors of Mission, Virtual, June 17, 2021. (International Conference, Invited).
- “Renewing the Social Dimension of the Sacred Heart” at the Colloquium on Learned Devotion in the Jesuit Way of Life at the Lumen Christi Institute, May 27–29, 2021. (National Conference, Invited).
- “The Agonism of Alfred Delp: Priesthood as Hero and Victim” at the Institute for Priestly Formation Annual Seminar on Obedience and Fear: Seminarians and the Healing of Mistrust, Omaha, Nebraska, September 13–15, 2019. (National Conference, Invited).
- “Sharing in Divine Silence” at the Catholic Theological Society of America 73rd Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 6–8, 2018. (International Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “Grace as an Awakening of Authentic Desire in a Nihilistic, Technological Age” at the Catholic Theological Society of America 73rd Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 6–8, 2018. (International Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “Broken Bodies, Healed Body: Contemporary Martyrdom and Ecumenism” at the Kripke Symposium on Religion and Reform, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, February 15–16, 2018. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “The Titan in the Human Heart: Nihilism and the Martyrdom of Alfred Delp” at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture’s 18th Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame, Indiana, Notre Dame University, Indiana, November 9–11, 2017. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “Pope Francis: Renewing the Social Dimension of the Sacred Heart” at Franciscan University’s Symposium on the Thought of Pope Francis, Steubenville, Ohio, November 9–12, 2016. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).
- “Recovery of the Contemplative Imagination: Memory and Empathy” at the Colloquium on Human Flourishing and Social Media, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, September 16–18, 2016. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).

“Theology of Conversion in the Sacred Heart Devotion of Alfred Delp and Pope Francis” at the Faber Symposium hosted by Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits, Chicago, Illinois, June 12–14, 2016. (National Conference, Invited).

“Theology of Mercy in Pope Francis’ Sacred Heart Devotion” at the Canadian Theological Society Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, June 3–5, 2016. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).

“Christology and Pneumatology in the Martyrdom of Alfred Delp” at the Canadian Theological Society Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, June 5–7, 2015. (National Conference, Peer-reviewed).

Public Lectures

“Discerning Freedom: Alfred Delp, Ignatian Spirituality, and the Temptation of Authoritarianism.” Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, Anticipated Spring 2027.

“Faith, Morality & the Manosphere - Four Millennial Catholic Intellectuals Respond.” The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, February 26, 2026.

“Sharing Our Dying and Deaths: Edith Stein’s Theology of Community.” The Rev. Francis Wade, S.J., Public Lecture, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 10, 2024.

“Edith Stein: The Mystery of the Cross and the Mystery of the Eucharist.” Presentation for the Catholic Studies Program, Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 31, 2023.

“Contemplating Friendship and Gift amid Death: The Prison Meditations of Alfred Delp.” Presentation for B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center, Washington Parish, Louisiana, January 30, 2023.

“How to Make Sense of the Sanctity of St. John Paul II in Light of the Sex Abuse Crisis.” Presentation for St. Pius X Parish, Omaha, Nebraska, November 7, 2019.

“Fortitude in the Martyr.” Presentation for the Catholic Studies Program, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, February 5, 2018.

“Recovery of the Contemplative Imagination: Memory and Empathy.” Presentation for the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, October 19, 2017.

“Lenten Afternoon of Reflection.” Presentation for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Omaha and Norfolk, Nebraska, March 8–9, 2017.

Current Works in Progress

“Formed for the Law of the Cross: Alfred Delp, Ignatian Spirituality, and the Jesuit Grammar of Martyrial Witness (Proposal for a journal) This essay argues that Ignatian formation cultivates a distinctive spirituality of witness by training the Jesuit subject in a Christological grammar characterized by descent, discernment, and apostolic availability. In the case of Alfred Delp, this formation is manifested as a form of freedom achieved not through the avoidance of suffering, but through participation in the law of the Cross. Through adherence to this law, evil is endured, transformed, and rendered redemptive.

Conversion under Pressure: Formation, Conscience, and the Catholic Imagination in the White Rose (Monograph in development). This project interprets the White Rose resistance circle as a community whose conscience was re-formed under pressure through friendship, prayer, shared texts, and the Catholic imagination. Drawing on the formative sources that shaped the White Rose—Augustine, John Henry Newman, Jacques Maritain, Romano Guardini, Georges Bernanos, Paul Claudel, the Shroud of Turin—and in conversation with Bernard Lonergan, it examines how literary, philosophical, and devotional materials cultivated an interior horizon capable of truthful perception, moral responsibility, and solidarity amid totalitarian surveillance and terror. The project hopes to extrapolate and infer from the wisdom of the White Rose to help us confront contemporary forms of anxiety and the temptation toward totalizing political and technological control.

Honors, Awards, and Grants

Participant in the 2024 Annual Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust: Reading the Bible after the Holocaust, May 28–31, 2024

Rev. Francis Wade, S.J., Chair Academic Year 2023-2024 at Marquette University

Creighton University’s Academic Sabbatical, Academic Year 2022-2023

Research Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies at Boston College, Spring Semester 2018.

Shine Award (for being an Outstanding Creighton Educator) from Gamma Phi Beta at Creighton University, April 4, 2017.

Iggy Award (for being an Outstanding Freshman Educator/Mentor) from the Office of Retention at Creighton University. Received the award twelve times from 2016–2022.

Member, Alpha Sigma Nu, inducted December 2010 (at Regis College, University of Toronto)

Membership in Professional Organizations

Associate Professors of Mission (previously held)
Canadian Theological Society (previously held)
Academy of Catholic Theology
American Academy of Religion
Catholic Theological Society of America
Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Service to the College and Profession

College of the Holy Cross

Member of the Board of Trustees, The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, 2017–2024. Appointed for two four-year terms.

AI Task Force, January 2025–present. I serve on the Exploring Responsible Academic Uses of AI in the Liberal Arts.

Mission Priority Examen Steering Committee, May 5, 2025–present.

Catholic Studies Advisor, August 1, 2025—present.

Jesuit Liaison to JEBI (Justice, Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion). August 1, 2025—present.

Society of Saints Peter and Paul Co-Moderator, September 1, 2024—present.

Benedict Joseph Fenwick Debating Society Moderator, September 1, 2025—present.

Chaplain to the Men's Lacrosse Team, January 1, 2026—present.

Profession

Member of Editorial Board of *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits*, 2018–Present. As a member, I help to review proposed articles on Jesuit spirituality, history, way of proceeding, and related subjects. With other seminar members, I offer feedback on the submitted papers through encouragement, critiques, and suggestions for further research.

Member of the American Academy of Religion Christian Spirituality Steering Committee. Late Fall 2023—Ongoing. As a member, I assist in the review of paper submissions and planning for the annual meeting of the AAR Christian Spirituality panel.

Extracurricular Activities

Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu (train at Worcester Mixed Martial Arts Academy)