BIOGRAPHY 2015
FR. ROBERT J. SPITZER, S.J., Ph.D.

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Born: Honolulu, HI (May 16, 1952)

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 16, 1952, Fr. Spitzer is a Catholic Priest in the Jesuit order, and is currently the President of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith (www.magiscenter.com) and the Spitzer Center (www.spitzercenter.org). The Magis Center produces documentaries, books, high school curricula, college courses, adult-education curricula, and new media materials to show the close connection between faith and reason in contemporary physics, philosophy, and historical study of the New Testament. The Spitzer Center produces facilitated curricula to strengthen culture, faith, and spirit in Catholic organizations as well as culture and ethics in nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Some highlights of Fr. Spitzer’s professional life:

• He was President of Gonzaga University from 1998 to 2009. During that time, he significantly increased the programs and curricula in faith, ethics, service, and leadership, and led the efforts to build 20 new facilities, increased the student population by 75%, and raised more than $200 million for scholarships and capital projects.

• He has made multiple media appearances including: Larry King Live (debating Stephen Hawking, Leonard Mlodinow, and Deepak Chopra on God and modern physics), the Today Show (debating on the topic of active euthanasia), The History Channel in “God and The Universe,” and a multiple-part PBS series “Closer to the Truth.” He has also appeared on dozens of nationally syndicated radio programs.

• He has published seven books:
  o Evidence for God from Contemporary Physics: Extending the Legacy of Monsignor Georges Lemaître. (South Bend, Ind: St. Augustine’s Press 2015).


o Spirit of Leadership: Optimizing Creativity and Change in Organizations (Executive Excellence, 2000).


• He has submitted two additional books for publication as part of a four-volume quartet entitled: Happiness, Suffering, and Transcendence (to be published by Ignatius Press in 2015):

  o The Soul’s Upward Yearning: Clues to our Transcendent Nature from Experience and Reason
  o God So Loved the World: Clues to Our Transcendent Destiny from the Revelation of Jesus

He is preparing the fourth volume of the quartet for publication in 2016:

  o The Light Shines On In the Darkness: Contending with Suffering and Evil Through Faith

• He has also published many scholarly articles in journals such as: International Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy in Science, the Business and Professional Ethics Journal, and the Journal of Ultimate Reality and Meaning.

• He has also written an online Encyclopedia of Reason and Faith which responds to questions about the evidence for God, Creation, and the transmateriality of human consciousness as well as questions concerning the historicity of Jesus (www.magiscenter.com)

• He has given hundreds of presentations to universities, learned societies, professional societies, corporations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies both nationally and internationally (including members of Tony Blair’s Cabinet in London, officials of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia, both sides of the conflict in Northern Ireland, government officials in Costa Rica, as well as international universities, corporations, and Catholic organizations).

• Fr. Spitzer has had a rewarding career in teaching.

  o He was Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University where he won the Edward T. Bunn Award for most outstanding professor at the University (1989).
  o He was Associate Professor of Philosophy and visiting Professor of Business at Seattle University where he won the award for most outstanding professor in the College of Arts and Sciences (1997) and held the The Frank Shrontz Chair of Professional Ethics (1997-98).
While President of Gonzaga University he held the John Aram Chair of Business Ethics (1999-2000) and was awarded the University’s highest honor, the Desmet Medal (2009).

- He has won numerous other awards including honorary doctorates from U.S. Universities, the Aquinas Medal (2014), the Catholic Leadership Institute, the Loyola Institute, and other professional societies.

- His academic specialties are (1) Philosophy of Science, particularly space-time theory and transcendent implications of contemporary Big Bang cosmology, (2) metaphysics, particularly the theory of time and philosophy of God, and (3) organizational ethics and its relationship to personal and cultural transformation. He has also studied leadership, historical exegesis of the New Testament, the life issues, and philosophy of culture.

- He founded six major national institutes:
  1. Magis Center of Reason and Faith, Garden Grove, CA (www.magiscenter.com).
  2. Spitzer Center in Ann Arbor, MI (www.spitzercenter.org).
  5. University Faculty for Life at Georgetown University (www.uffl.org).
  6. Philosophical Foundations of Physics at Georgetown University.

- He has been a member of several Boards of Directors and Trustees, including: Gonzaga University, Seattle University, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), The Spokane Chamber of Commerce, Caritas In Veritate International, and NEXT IT, as well as an officer on the Boards of the Institutes he founded.


- Brief educational background:
  High School Punahou High School (Honolulu, Hawaii), 1970 National Honors Society.
• He is a Catholic Priest of the Society of Jesus. He entered the Jesuits August 17, 1974, took first vows August 21, 1976, was ordained a priest on June 11, 1983, and took final vows April 4, 1992.

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