

Travis Alexander Dziad

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

PhD Theology, Ave Maria University, expected to graduate 2019
STM International Theological Institute, *Summa cum laude*, 2015
BA (Liberal Arts) Wyoming Catholic College, *Summa com laude*, 2013
St. Joseph's Catholic School, Greenville, SC, *Summa cum laude*, 2009



Academic and Research Interests

- Sacred Scripture
 - the inspiration of Scripture
 - theology of revelation
- Faith and reason
 - the genesis of substance; cause of substantial form
 - evolution and contemporary cosmology in light of Thomistic philosophy and theology
 - free will and Divine causality
- Education theory and praxis
 - Experiential and outdoor education
 - Pedagogical methodologies
- Vocation and discernment
 - universal vocation to holiness, as rooted in charity

Awards and Distinctions

International Theological Institute

-*Summa cum laude*

Wyoming Catholic College

-St. John Paul II Award (the school's highest award)

-St. Albert the Great Award (second highest GPA)

-*Summa cum laude*

St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School

-*Redemptoris Custos* Award (the school's highest award)

-*Summa cum laude*

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

-Valedictorian (the school's highest award)

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Travis Alexander Dziad is a Catholic theologian according to the tradition of Aquinas. He is currently finishing a PhD in theology from Ave Maria University. Following the completion of his doctorate, he hopes to teach at the undergraduate level for a small, Catholic liberal arts school.

Travis has worked as a professional retreat master and backpacking instructor for Ave Maria University, Wyoming Catholic College, St. Joseph's Seminary in LA, Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries in WY, and Camp Wojtyla in CO. In the past eight years, he has logged over ten months in the field as an instructor, with numerous retreats lasting three weeks each. The courses he has designed incorporate elements of a Catholic men's/women's retreat with the technical and meta skills necessary for surviving in the wilderness. Travis also currently teaches AMU's Campus-Track RCIA program.

As a master's student in Austria, Travis gained considerable experience living and travelling abroad. He has organized and led trips in many countries, including: Austria, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Travis is a devoted Catholic. He has a deep love of the Sacred Liturgy, and has been attending Mass daily for the past eight years. He is a firm believer that theology can only properly be studied "on one's knees."

EDUCATION

Ave Maria University – Ave Maria, FL: 2015-2019

- PhD Theology, to be completed 2019

International Theological Institute - Trumau, Austria: 2013-2015

- STM and MA Sacred Theology, *summa cum laude*
- Master's Thesis: "God's Causality in Creation: Reconciling Modern Evolutionary Cosmology with Thomistic Metaphysics"

Wyoming Catholic College - Lander, WY: 2009-2013

- BA Liberal Arts (*summa cum laude*), emphasis in critical reasoning
- Recipient of the *Pope St. John Paul II Award* (the school's highest award)
- Recipient of the *St. Albert the Great Award* (award for the second-highest GPA)
- Chosen by the faculty and student body to give the senior graduation address
- Bachelor's Thesis: "Free Will and Divine Causality as it Relates to Predestination"

St. Joseph's Catholic School - Greenville, SC: 2005-2009

- Singular recipient of the *Redemptoris Custos Award* (the school's highest award)
- Chosen by the faculty and student body to give the senior graduation address
- St. Joseph's Scholar Award* recipient (half tuition paid for all four years)
- Singular recipient of the *Terry L. Haskins Christian Leadership Award and Scholarship*

Languages

- Native Language: English
- Reading Proficiency: Latin, NT Greek, Italian
- Studying: German, Spanish, Ancient Hebrew

EMPLOYMENT IN EDUCATION

Wyoming Catholic College (WCC) Outdoor Leadership Program Head Instructor: August 2010- March 2017; Supervisor: Thomas Zimmer, Ph.D. (719)648-1574. *Instructing Outdoor Retreats for college-age students. Special emphasis on the experiential model of education and spiritual development. Trips and retreats led include mountain and desert backpacking, technical mountaineering, rock climbing, canyoneering, ice climbing, backcountry skiing, sea kayaking, caving, mountain-biking, and winter camping. Over 40 weeks logged teaching in the backcountry over the past eight years.*

Retreat Designer and Head Instructor for St. Joseph's Seminary Wilderness Leadership Expeditions: July 2014, July 2015; Reporting to: Thomas Zimmer, Ph.D. (719)648-1574. *Responsible for designing and instructing 10-day Wilderness Retreats for St. Joseph's Seminary in Louisiana, as a component of their regular priestly formation. Expeditions consist of a 10-day wilderness leadership retreat designed specially for seminarians. Trips promote spiritual development, growth in leadership, communication, community development, and self-awareness.*

Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM) Senior Field Instructor: May 2012-August 2014; Supervisor: Andrew Arnold (andrew@srom.org). *Senior field instructor in charge of 10+ high school and college-age students on multi-week backcountry retreats with one co-instructor. Programming activities include backpacking, rock climbing, mountaineering, backcountry cooking, alpine and backcountry living, orienteering, and community building. Strong emphasis on fostering students' spiritual growth and development.*

AMU Campus-Track RCIA Instructor: 2016-2017; Supervisor: Scott King, (239)280-1587. *In charge of teaching RCIA to AMU students on a weekly basis.*

Catholic Outdoor Renewal Senior Field Instructor and Program Development Advisor: March 2017-present; Supervisor: Thomas Zimmer, Ph.D. (719)648-1574. *Instructing Catholic outdoor retreats. Advisor in program and curriculum development for wilderness expeditions.*

Retreat Designer and Leader for Ave Maria Outdoor Retreat (AMOR) Program: 2016-2017; Supervisors: Scott King (Scott.King@avemaria.edu) and Dr. Tom Zimmer, (719)648-1574. *In charge of designing and instructing two week-long Outdoor Adventure Retreats for AMU students.*

Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage Retreat Designer and Head Leader: June 2017; Reporting to Scott King (Scott.King@avemaria.edu). *In charge of designing and instructing a week-long walking pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.*

AMU's Mother Teresa Project – Calcutta Mission Trip Co-Leader: May 2017; Reporting to Jim Towey, President of AMU. *Co-leader on AMU's yearly two-week mission trip to Calcutta, India.*

Experiential Education Teaching Internship with Lander Elementary School: December 2011- May 2012; Supervisor: Thomas Zimmer, Ph.D. (719)648-1574. *Hands-on teaching experience with a class of 10 fifth-grade students in developing the experiential model of education.*

ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Trips in Europe: During his time as a Master's student, Travis lived in Austria and had the opportunity to organize and lead trips in many countries, including trips to:

- Austria (Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Lungau, Linz, Graz, Trumau, Heiligenkreuz)
- Italy (Rome, Venice, Assisi, Ravenna, Turin, Milan, Norcia, Bolzano, Manopello)
- Germany (Munich, Dachau)
- France (Paris, Tours, Fontgombault)
- Spain (the Camino de Santiago)
- Netherlands (Amsterdam, Vught)
- Ireland (Dublin, Knock, Mullingar)
- Poland (Krakow, Czestochowa, Auschwitz)
- Hungary (Budapest)
- Czech Republic (Prague)
- Slovakia (Bratislava, Kosice)
- Ukraine (L'viv)

WCC Head Male Prefect: August 2011- May 2013; Reporting to: Jonathan Tonkowich (307)349-8321. *Chosen as singular head male prefect (from 120 students); in charge of enforcing student rules, dealing with disciplinary matters, providing counsel and support for students, and acting as leader of student representative and advisory committee to the college faculty and staff.*

Camp Wojtyla Summer Retreat Counselor and Head Backpacking Instructor: June 2012-August 2012; Reporting to: Annie Powell, www.camp-w.org *Mentoring middle- and high-school age students in Estes Park, CO. In charge of organizing and leading a 5-day backpacking trip for 7 high school boys, in addition to two months of active ministry and Bible-study, all in a remote camp setting.*

Madonna House Farm – Combermere, Ontario, Canada: June 2010- July 2010; Supervisor: Mark Schlingerman, www.madonnahouse.org *Work as a farmhand at the lay Catholic farming community founded by Servant of God Catherine Doherty.*

Choir and Schola Cantorum: (2009-2016) *Singing polyphony and Gregorian chant for Sacred Liturgy and for concerts at Wyoming Catholic College, the International Theological Institute, and Ave Maria University.*

REFERENCES

Timothy Kelly, ThD, t.kelly@iti.ac.at

International Theological Institute STM Program Director and Professor of Dogmatic Theology
STL, International Theological Institute, Austria
ThD, Universität Freiburg, Switzerland

Vincent DeMeo, STD, v.demeo@iti.ac.at

Studium Generale Program Director and Professor of New Testament Theology
STL, International Theological Institute, Austria
STD, Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum

Rev. Joseph Bolin, STL, j.bolin@iti.ac.at

Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology
BA (Liberal Arts), Thomas Aquinas College
STM and STL, International Theological Institute, Austria

Jeremy Holmes, PhD, jholmes@wyomingcatholiccollege.com

Wyoming Catholic College Academic Dean and Assistant Professor of Theology
BA (Liberal Arts), Thomas Aquinas College
STM, International Theological Institute, Austria
PhD (Biblical Studies), Marquette University

John Mortensen, PhD, ThD, jmortensen@wyomingcatholiccollege.com

Wyoming Catholic College Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Theology
BA (Liberal Arts), Thomas Aquinas College
STM and STL, International Theological Institute, Austria
PhL and PhD, Pontificia Università della Santa Croce, Italy
ThD, Universität Freiburg, Switzerland

Michael Bolin, PhD, mbolin@wyomingcatholiccollege.com

Wyoming Catholic College Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Theology
BA (Liberal Arts), Thomas Aquinas College
MA (Philosophy), University of Dallas
PhD (Philosophy), University of Dallas

Thomas Zimmer, PhD, tzimmer@wyomingcatholiccollege.com

Wyoming Catholic College Assistant Professor of Leadership and Outdoor Education
BA (Recreation & Outdoor Leadership), Western State College
BA (Business Administration, Entrepreneurship), Western State College
MS (Parks, Recreation, and Tourism), University of Utah
PhD (Parks, Recreation, and Tourism), University of Utah

Scott King, scott.king@avemaria.edu

Ave Maria University Director of Mission Outreach
BA, Franciscan University of Steubenville