

SR. MARIA FRASSATI JAKUPCAK, OP

Malloy 224, 3800 Montrose Blvd, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX 77006, maria.jakupcak@stthom.edu

EDUCATION

Providence College, Providence, RI

Masters in Theological Studies

2021 – Present

To be completed Summer, 2026

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

PhD in English

2013 – 2020

Dissertation: “Art to Enchant: Shakespeare’s Player-Dramatists Staging Recognition Scenes.”

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

MA in English

2011 – 2013

Specialty: Twentieth Century Catholic Literary Revival in England

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MI

Coursework, Catholic Studies Program

Summer 2010

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI

BS in Elementary Education

2004 - 2007

Certified K-12, Specialization in Reading

Summa cum laude

Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist

Ongoing formation

2001 – Present

EXPERIENCE

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Assistant Professor of English and Fellow of the Core

2022 – Present

Marin Catholic High School, Kentfield, CA

English Teacher

2015 – 2022

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Teaching Fellow, First Year Experience

2013 – 2015

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Intensive English Program

2012 – 2013

St. Gregory’s Catholic School, Phoenix, AZ

Middle School Language Arts

2010 – 2011

Spiritus Sanctus Academy, Plymouth, MI

Sixth Grade

2008 – 2010

Rhodora J. Donohue Academy, Ave Maria, FL

Fourth Grade, Kindergarten Gym

2007 – 2008

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

"Providence and Healing Remembrance in Rumer Godden's *Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy*." *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*. Vol. 29, no. 3 (2025), 117-139.

"Between Life and Art: Hilaire Belloc's the Path to Rome." *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*. Vol. 18, no. 4 (2015), 59-81.

Anthologized in *Children's Literature Review* 224. Gale (2018), 87-97.

"'A Particular Cast of Fancy': Addison's Walk with Tolkien and Lewis." *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review*. Vol. 11 (2014), 45-66.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Gnosticism and Elizabeth Goudge." Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference. Villanova, PN. October 25, 2025.

"Creative Writing in the Literature Classroom." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. Washington, DC. October 19, 2024.

"Grappling with Freedom in *The Tempest*." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. Washington, DC. October 19, 2024.

"Healing Remembrance in Rumer Godden's *Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy*." Forgotten Voices Conference, Blackfriars, Oxford, UK. July 5, 2024.

"Moral Luck and the Good Life in *Measure for Measure* ." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. Houston, TX, October 13, 2023.

"Lost Tools in the Literature Classroom." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. Houston, TX, October 13, 2023.

SELECTED POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

"All in good fun: One sister's adventures with holy prankster Pier Giorgio Frassati." *Our Sunday Visitor*, July 2025, 27-33.

"Meditations in a Time of Zillow." *Deep Down Things*. February 25, 2025.

"The Failed Poet's Department." *Deep Down Things*. March 11, 2025.

"Open Letter to Pope Leo XIV." *Deep Down Things*. August 5, 2025.

"Via Lucis." *Magnificat*. April Issue, 2024

"Via Crucis." *Magnificat*. Holy Week Issue, 2022.

"Via Matris." *Magnificat*. Holy Week Issue, 2021, 2026.

"Adoration Vigil." *Magnificat*. Holy Week Issue, 2020, 2025.

Magnificat Advent and Lenten Companions. 2-5 meditations Annually from 2019 – 2027.

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Shakespeare and Aquinas on Kinds of Knowing." Thomistic Institute Intellectual Retreat, Shakespeare and Aquinas. Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C. April 11, 2026.

"Shakespeare and Aquinas on Education." Thomistic Institute Intellectual Retreat, Shakespeare and Aquinas. Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C. April 11, 2026.

"I'm Not a Nerd, I'm a Dominican." Openlight Media Podcast, Ann Arbor, MI, aired March 4, 2026.

"Why UST?." Keynote Address, Merit and Mission Scholarship Day, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, February 28, 2026.

"Forming the Imagination with J.R.R. Tolkien." Catholic Home Educators Collective Houston. Houston, TX, February 27, 2026.

"What has Shakespeare to do with The Lord of the Rings?." Portsmouth Abbey School, Portsmouth, RI. February 6, 2026.

"On Tolkien, Shakespeare, and the Nature of Christian Art." Providence College Humanities Forum, Providence College, Providence RI, February 5, 2026.

"What has Shakespeare to do with The Lord of the Rings?." Beran Library, St. Mary's Seminary, Houston TX, February 3, 2026.

"Sharing the Fruits with Frassati." Retreat for Lay Dominicans, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI, August 15-17, 2025.

SELECTED EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Core Senate Representative	2025 - Present
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Search Committee, Vice President for Academic Affairs	2025-2026
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Search Committee, Core English	2025-2026
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Search Committee, Core English and English Department	2024-2025
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Search Committee, William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies/Core	2023-2025
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX LS 1301 Revision Committee Chair	2024-2025
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC Religious in Residence	2011-2015
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC Co-Chair, Archbishop Fulton Sheen Legacy Committee	2014-2015

SELECTED POPULAR PRESENTATIONS

"History of Religious Life." Order of Christian Initiation, Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, TX, April 14, 2026.

"The Core at UST." Staff Formation for Mission, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, April 17, 2026.

"Understanding Charisms." Lenten Retreat, Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, TX, March 21, 2026.

Night of Discussion on Flannery O'Connor. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Houston, TX, March 3, 2026.

"Making in the Image of a Maker." Immaculata Conference, Trinity, TX, January 11, 2026.

"The Core at UST." Faculty Formation for Mission, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, November 7, 2025.

Visit with Courageous Hearts Household, September 19, 2025.

"The York Crucifixion: A Medieval English Play For Your Life." Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, October 22, 2023.

"What has Shakespeare to do with *Lord of the Rings*?" Doherty Library, UST, October 4, 2022.

"Respond with the Gift Only You Can Give," for the GIVEN Institute, San Francisco, January 29, 2022.

"Fulton Sheen at CUA." Interview on EWTN News Nightly, April 15, 2015.

Panel Moderator, "Media and the New Evangelization," featuring Michael Warsaw, Rev. Thomas Rosica, Most Rev. Robert Reed, and Helen Osman. For Fulton Sheen Week at The Catholic University of America, April 13, 2015.

Discussion Moderator, "Spiritual Autobiography of Flannery O'Connor," featuring Bill Sessions. For Modern Catholic Authors at The Catholic University of America, March 23, 2013.

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT**University of St. Thomas**

Literature for Evangelists, EVNG 5302

Shakespeare, ENG 3316

Catholicism and Literature, ENG 4393

Foundations of Liberal Learning, LS 1301

The Classical Tradition, ENG 1301

Medieval and Renaissance Literature, ENG 1302

World Youth Day Pilgrimage Prep Study Abroad, 2023

The Catholic University of America

Freshman Composition, First Year Experience, ENG 101

Listening to Academic Lectures, Intensive English Program, IEP 78