

*Presented by*

*Seton Hall University's Departments of Physics and Catholic Studies, Immaculate Seminary School of Theology, Core Curriculum Program, Center for Catholic Studies, and chapter of the Society of Catholic Scientists, in collaboration with the Stanley Jaki Foundation*

# **The 2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress**



**Wednesday, April 24, 2024  
Bethany Hall  
Seton Hall University**

# Stanley Jaki International Congress | April 24, 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Stanley Jaki International Congress!

This scholarly conference celebrates the centenary of Father Stanley Jaki's birth on August 17, 1924, and follows our successful inaugural event in 2015.

All papers and presentations presented at the conference have undergone a double-blind peer review by a distinguished group of scholars.

The Program Committee has invited submissions of scholarly papers on topics such as the relationship between Christian faith and the natural sciences, physics, the philosophy of nature, metaphysics, and other interdisciplinary areas connecting faith and science, Divine Revelation and human rationality.

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## Morning Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
8:00am	Introduction	Ines Murzaku, Ph.D.
8:05am	Opening Prayer	Rev. Joseph R. Laracy S.T.D.
8:07am	Welcome	M. Alper Sahiner, Ph.D.
8:09am	Welcome	Rev. Paul Haffner, S.T.D.
8:10 a.m.	Opening Remarks	Rev. Gerald J. Buonopane, Ph.D.
8:15 a.m.	“The Mystery of Creation, Various Ontologies, and Effective Communication”	Rev. Brian Humphrey, S.T.L.
8:45 a.m.	“Conciliatory Christian Humanism and the Confinement of Naturalism”	Rev. Zachary Mabee, Ph.D.
9:15 a.m.	“Jaki and Barbour: Pilgrims on Parallel Paths of the Science and Religion Journey”	Rev. Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.
9:45 a.m.	“An Examination of Mathematical Realism as it Conforms to and Contradicts the Work of Stanley Jaki and Plato”	Collin Doyle and Iain Morton
10:15 a.m.	“God is Still There: An Analysis of Werner Heisenberg's Reconciliation of Quantum Mechanics With Aristotelian Hylomorphism”	Stacy Trasancos, Ph.D.
10:45 a.m.	“Searching for Truth in Determinism: A Call for Compassion, Mercy, and Love”	Samatha Mattheiss, Ph.D.
11:15 a.m.	“The Papers of Stanley L. Jaki: An Introduction”	Sarah Ponichtera, Ph.D.
11:45 a.m.	Leave for Chapel	
12:00 p.m.	Mass	
12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Poster Session	

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## Afternoon Presentations

<b>Time</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
1:30 p.m.	"Nineteenth Century American Catholic Approaches to Darwinian Evolution"	Jeffery Morrow, Ph.D. and Biff Rocha, Ph.D.
2 p.m.	"Nature and Scripture: Galileo's Proposed Biblical Hermeneutic in the Context Of Early Modern Biblical Interpretation"	Jeffrey Morrow, Ph.D.
2:30 p.m.	"Has Stanley Jaki Underestimated the Byzantine Influence on the Rise of Science?" (presented by the Rev. Robert Nicoletti, MJ)	Rev. Paul Haffner, S.T.D.
3 p.m.	"Theology as a Science and the Dialogue With Other Sciences from a Thomistic Perspective"	Rev. João Paulo Santiago, C.S.J.
3:30 p.m.	"Pythagorean Argument of the Grand Design"	Alexey Burov Ph.D. and Alexei Tselvik, Ph.D.
4 p.m.	"Stanley Jaki: A Life Devoted to the Relationship Between Science and Faith"	Antonio Colombo, M.S.
4:30 p.m.	"Evolution, Teleology, and Purpose: Transhumanism and the Natural and Supernatural Ends of Being"	Braden Molhoek, Ph.D.
5 p.m.	AI, International Relation, and Catholicism"	Rev. Brian K. Muzás, Ph.D.
5:30 p.m.	"All Things were Made Through: Some Thoughts about The Teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas on the Relationship between Matter and God"	Jordan Miller, Ph.D.

## Bethany 201 (Remote, Virtual Presentations)

2 p.m.	"Chesterton, Undset, and Jaki: Three Catholic Intellectual Giants"	Geir Hasnes, M.S.
2:30 p.m.	"Can What Cannot be Measured Exactly Happen Exactly?"	John Long, Ph.D.
3 p.m.	"Gödel's Theorems in Physics Half a Century after Stanley Jaki"	Gergely Bognár, M.A.

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## About Fr. Jaki

Father Stanley L. Jaki, O.S.B., S.T.D., Ph.D. (1924-2009), is celebrated as one of the preeminent intellectuals of the twentieth century. His scholarly contributions to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, especially his exploration of the nexus between science and faith, have made a lasting impact. Holding professorships in physics at Seton Hall University from 1965 until his death in 2009, and possessing doctorates in both theology and physics, Father Jaki dedicated over four decades to advancing the study of the history and philosophy of science. His extensive scholarly output includes over fifty books and more than three hundred and fifty articles. He was appointed to prestigious roles such as the Gifford Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and the Fremantle Lecturer at Balliol College, Oxford. Father Jaki lectured at esteemed institutions across the United States, Europe, and Australia. He was an honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and a corresponding member of the Académie Nationale des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts of Bordeaux. Among his numerous accolades, he was awarded the Lecomte du Noüy Prize in 1970 and the Templeton Prize in 1987.

The Fr. Stanley Jaki International Congress continues to honor his enduring legacy.



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## Stanley Jaki International Congress Program Committee

### **Rev. Gerald Buonopane, Ph.D.**

Minister, Priest Community

Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Seton Hall University

### **Sulie L. Chang, Ph.D.**

Professor of Biological Sciences

Director, Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology (INIP)

Director, Academy for Nature and Nurture (ANN): Interdisciplinary Approaches to Resilience

### **Antonio G. Colombo, M.S.**

Secretary, Stanley Jaki Foundation

Computer Engineer (Retired)

### **Rev. Paul M. Haffner, S.T.D.**

*General Conference Chair*

President, Stanley Jaki Foundation

Invited Professor, Faculty of Theology

Pontifical Gregorian University and

Adjunct Professor, Department of Catholic Studies

Seton Hall University

### **Rev. Joseph R. Laracy, S.T.D.**

*Conference Program Committee Chair*

Treasurer, Stanley Jaki Foundation

Assistant Professor, Department of Systematic Theology and

Adjunct Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Seton Hall University

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### **Jose L. Lopez, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Physics  
Director, Office of Grants and Research Services  
Seton Hall University

### **Ines A. Murzaku, Ph.D.**

Professor of Religion  
Director of Catholic Studies Program  
Head of Catholic Studies Program  
Head of Catholic Studies Research Group -  
International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)  
Founding Chair of the Department of Catholic Studies

### **M. Alper Sahiner, Ph.D.**

Professor and Chair, Department of Physics  
Seton Hall University

### **Stacy Trasancos, Ph.D.**

Adjunct Professor, Department of Catholic Studies  
Seton Hall University

## Stanley Jaki International Congress Registration and Hospitality Committee

### **Gloria Aroneo, M.B.A.**

*Conference Registration Chair*  
Assistant to the Chair, Department of Catholic Studies  
Seton Hall University

### **Jessica Vital, 2026**

Finance Major  
Catholic Studies Minor

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