

Dr. Robert L. Masson
Associate Professor of Theology
Marquette University

Robert Masson, an Associate Professor at Marquette University, specializes in Catholic systematic and fundamental theology. The focus of his current research is the role of metaphor and analogy in religious understanding and theological argumentation, and the implications of research in cognitive linguistics for this issue. He is past President of the College Theology Society (2004-2006), past Coordinator of the Karl Rahner Society (1995-98) and was Associate Editor of *Philosophy & Theology* (1995-2002).

Special Fields: Systematic & Philosophical Theology with an emphasis on issues related to the nature of religious thought and language and the work of Karl Rahner.

Education: 1964-1965 St. Andrew's College & Seminary, Rochester, NY
1965-1968 LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY
1968-1973 Fordham University

Degrees: B.A. 1968 LeMoyne College
M.A. 1970 Fordham University
Ph.D. 1978 Fordham University
Dissertation: "Language, Thinking and God in Karl Rahner's Theology of the Word: A Critical Evaluation of Rahner's Perspective on the Problem of Religious Language"

Academic Experience:

1969-1971 ESL Instructor Puerto Rican Community Development Project, NYC
1973-1980 Assistant Professor, Loyola College
1978 Associate Professor
1979 Tenured
1980- Assistant Professor, Marquette University
1987 Associate Professor, Tenured

Publications:

Books

1987 *The Charmed Circle: Theology for the Head, Heart, Hands and Feet.* Kansas City: Sheed & Ward.

Books Edited

1982 *The Pedagogy of God's Image: Essays on Symbol and the Religious Imagination.* Chico, CA: Scholars Press.

Chapters in Books

2009 Ref. "Analogy as Higher-Order Metaphor in Aquinas," in *Divine Transcendence and Immanence in the Thought of Thomas Aquinas*, edited by Harm Goris, Henk Schoot and Herwi Rokhof. Louvain: Peeters, 111-28.
2004 Ref. "Metaphor as Apt for Conversation: The Inherently Conversational Character of Theological Discourse," in *Theology and Conversation: Developing a Relational Theology*. Ed. Jacques Haers, and Peter De Mey. Leuven: Peeters Press, 145-61.
2003 Ref. "The Clash of Christological Symbols: A Case for Metaphoric Realism" in *Christology: Memory, Inquiry, Practice*. ed. Clifford Anne M., and Anthony J. Godzieba. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 62-86.
2002 Inv. "Karl Rahner," *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*, edited by Robert Kastenbaum, 703-705.

- 2002 Ref. "Service Learning in an Introduction to Theology," in *From Cloister to Commons: Concepts and Models for Service-Learning in Religious Studies*, edited by Richard Devine, Joseph A. Favazza, and F. Michael McLain. AAHE's Series on Service-Learning in the Disciplines, series editor, Edward Zlotkowski. Washington, D.C.: American Association for Higher Education, 93-106.
- 2000 Inv. "Karl Rahner," *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Theologians*. Editors Patrick Carey and Joseph Lienhard. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 427-31.
- 1999 Inv. Foreword to Carmichael Peters, *Through Grace to Freedom: A Gadamerian Reading of Karl Rahner*. New York: Catholic Scholars Press, ix-xi.
- 1980 Inv. "Of Epiphanies, Scabs and Wagers," A response to Michael Harrington in *Social Ethical Dilemmas Facing the Modern Corporation*. Ed. John A. Gray. Baltimore: Loyola College, 23-24.

Articles

- 2010 Ref. "Interpreting Rahner's Metaphoric Logic." *Theological Studies* (2010) 71 /2: 380-409.
- 2006 Ref. "Rahner's Primordial Words and Bernstein's Metaphorical Leaps: The Affinity of Art with Religion and Theology," *Horizons*, Fall 2006, 33/2: 276-297.
- 2005 Ref. "When Stands Are Taken Where Do We Stand?" *Horizons*, 32/2: 203-209.
- 2005 Ref. "The Force of Analogy," *Anglican Theological Review*, 87/3: 471-86.
- 2004 Ref. "Saving God," *Horizons*, 31/2: 239-271.
- 2004 Inv. "Reframing the Fields," *Zygon*, 39/1: 49-62; referred journal.
- 2001 Ref. "Analogy and Metaphoric Process," *Theological Studies*, 62/3: 571-96.
- 1993 Inv. Primary author with Ann Riggs, "Annual Update of Bibliography of Rahner Secondary Literature: 1993," *Philosophy & Theology*, 8/1: 97-108.
- 1992 Inv. Primary author with Andrew Tallon and Ann Riggs, "Annual Update of Bibliography of Rahner Secondary Literature: 1992," *Philosophy & Theology*, 7/2: 229-43.
- 1987 Inv. "Taking the Pulse of an Emerging Genre: College Theology on the Catholic Campus," *Current Issues in Catholic Higher Education*, 7/2: 5-8.
- 1986 Ref. "Theology for the Head, Heart, Hands and Feet: An Approach to the First Course," *Horizons*, 13/1: 90-103.
- 1984 Inv. "Spirituality for the Head, Heart, Hands and Feet: Rahner's Legacy," *Spirituality Today*, 36/4: 340-54.
- 1980 Ref. "Beyond Nygren and Rahner: An Alternative to Tracy," *The Heythrop Journal*, 21: 260-87.
- 1979 Ref. "Can Rahner Bridge the Linguistic Divide?" *Horizons*, 6/2: 219-39.
- 1978 Inv. "A Grammar for Dissent - In Response to *The Resilient Church*," *Living Light*, 15: 428-33.
- 1973 Ref. "Rahner and Heidegger: Being, Hearing and God," *The Thomist*, 37/3: 455-88.

Other Publications

Digital

- 2006 Inv. "College Theology in the United States," report to the International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology, <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/INSeCT/cd/northamerica-masson.html>.

Translation

- 1986 "Dogmas - Their Importance and Their Limits," *Karl Rahner in Dialogue: Conversations and Interviews 1965-1982*, ed. Harvey D. Egan, S.J. New York: Crossroad, 251-53.

Proceedings Reports

- 1993 "Rahner and Dulles on the Unity of the Churches: The Karl Rahner Society," *Proceedings of The Catholic Theological Society of America*, 48, 90-92.
- 1998 "Karl Rahner Society," *Proceedings of The Catholic Theological Society of America*, 53, 148-49.

Reprint

- 2004 "Karl Rahner: A Brief Biography," *Justice Reflections*, 6/39: 15-19 (reprint of biography published in *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Theologians* and also reprinted on the Karl Rahner Society web page).

Magazine Articles

- 1989 "Multiple Choice Exams Made Easy," *WordPerfect Magazine*, (October), pp. 34-38 plus coding for related macro-merge routines in the *WordPerfect Magazine Disk of the Month*.
- 1993 "Shaken to the Core? Political Correctness, Good Grammar and Catholic Identity," *Reflections: The Newsletter of Marquette University College of Arts & Sciences* (Spring).

Associate Editor *Philosophy & Theology*

- 1993-2003 Editor for selection, refereeing, editing and production (electronic typesetting) of the special "Rahner Papers" Issue each year.

Book Series Editor College Theology Society publications.

- 1983-1987 First editor of the series; selection, refereeing, editing and production through 1987.
- COLLEGE THEOLOGY SOCIETY STUDIES IN RELIGION
- #1. J. Bracken. *The Triune Symbol: Persons, Process and Community* (1985).
- #2. V. Gregson. *Lonergan, Spirituality and the Meeting of Religions* (1985).
- #3. J. Hogan. *Collingwood and Theological Hermeneutics* (1989).
- COLLEGE THEOLOGY SOCIETY RESOURCES IN RELIGION
- #1. Mary Jo Weaver. Ed. *Newman and the Modernists* (1985).
- #2. Arlene Swidler & Walter Conn. Ed. *Mainstreaming: Feminist Research for Teaching Religious Studies* (1985).
- #3. Elizabeth Tetlow. Trans. *Spiritual Exercises* (1987).
- #4. Ed. Timothy P. Fallon and Philip Boo Riley. *Religion in Context: Recent Studies in Lonergan* (1988).
- COLLEGE THEOLOGY SOCIETY REPRINTS IN RELIGION
- #1. Elizabeth Tetlow. *Women and Ministry in the New Testament* (1985).
- #2. Donald Gelpi, *Experiencing God* (1989).

Book Reviews

- 2008 *God in the World: A Guide to Karl Rahner's Theology* by Thomas F. O'Meara (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2007) in *Theological Studies*, 69: 229.
- 2007 *Karl Rahner: Theology and Philosophy* by Karen Kilby (New York, NY: Routledge, 2004) in *Modern Theology*, 23/1: 157-60.
- 2005 *Contemplating Aquinas: On the Varieties of Interpretation* edited by Fergus Kerr, O.P. (London: SCM, 2003) in *Theological Studies* 6/4, 895-97.
- 2004 *Erich Przywara, S.J.: His Theology and His World* by Thomas F. O'Meara, O.P. (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2002) in *The Thomist*, 68: 153-56.
- 2004 *Credible Signs of Christ Alive: Case Studies from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development* by John P. Hogan (Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward, 2003) in *Horizons*, 31/2: 478-79.

- 2003 *Being as Symbol: On the Origins and Development of Karl Rahner's Metaphysics* by Stephen Fields, S.J. (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2000) in *Horizons*, 30/2, 357-58.
- 2002 *New Maps for Old: Explorations in Science and Religion* by Mary Gerhart and Allan Melvin Russell (New York: Continuum, 2001) in *Horizons*, 29/2, 378-79.
- 1997 *The Ordinary Transformed: Karl Rahner and the Christian Vision of Transcendence* by Russell Ronald Reno (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995) in *Theological Studies* 58/1, 173-5.
- 1996 *Reconstructing Catholicism For a New Generation* by Robert A. Ludwig (New York: Crossroad, 1995) in *Horizons* 23, 342-3.
- 1995 *The Church of the Word: A Comparative Study of Word, Church and Office in the Thought of Karl Rahner and Gerhard Ebeling* (New York: P. Lang, 1993) by John B. Ackley in *Theological Studies* 56/4; 789-91.
- 1990 *Toward a Contemporary Wisdom Christology* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1988) by Leo Lefebure in *Theological Studies* 51/2, 376-7.
- 1984 *Metaphorical Theology: Models of God in Religious Language* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982) by Sallie McFague in *Horizons* 11, 177-78.
- 1984 *Liturgies and Trials: The Secularization of Religious Language* (New York: Pilgrim Press, 1982) by Richard K. Fenn in *Zygon* 19, 372-73.
- 1983 *Mended Speech: the Crisis of Religious Studies and Theology* (New York: Crossroad, 1982) by P. Joseph Cahill in *Theological Studies* 44, 320-2.
- 1983 *Personal Becoming: In Honor of Karl Rahner* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1982) by Andrew Tallon in *Theological Studies* 44, 522-3.
- 1983 *The God of Forgiveness and Healing in the Theology of Karl Rahner* (Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1982) by J. Norman King in *Horizons* 10, 174-5.
- 1983 *Experiencing God All Ways & Every Day* (Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1982) by J. Norman King in *Horizons* 10, 174-5.
- 1983 *Taking Leave of God* (New York: Crossroad, 1980) by Don Cupitt in *Horizons* 10, 387-88.
- 1982 *Our Christian Faith: Answers for the Future* (New York: Crossroad, 1981) by Karl Rahner in *Theological Studies* 43, 326-7.
- 1982 *Theology and Discovery: Essays in Honor of Karl Rahner* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1980) edited by William Kelly in *Theological Studies* 43, 328-30.
- 1981 *Rationality and Religious Belief* (Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 1979) by C.F. Delany in *Horizon* 8, 440-1.
- 1981 *The Problems of Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980) by Brian Hebblethwaite in *Horizons* 8, 387-9.
- 1981 *A World of Grace* (New York: Seabury Press, 1980) edited by Leo O'Donovan in *Theological Studies* 42, 157-8.
- 1978 *Introduction to Theology* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976) by Theodore Jennings in *Theological Studies* 39, 813.
- 1976 *Mystery and Meaning* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975) by Douglas Fox in *Theological Studies* 37, 537-8.
- 1975 *Man: Christian Anthropology in Conflicts of the Present* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974) by Jürgen Moltmann in *Theological Studies* 36, 566-67.
- 1975 *Thinking About God* (London: SCM Press, 1975) by John Macquarrie in *Theological Studies* 36, 816.

Recent International Conference Papers:

- Oct 2009 “Discerning Divine Causality in an Embodied World,” LEST VII, University of Leuven, Belgium.
- June 2008 Guest Lecturer Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität (MU–Goethe Faculty Exchange)
- Nov 2007 “The Cross Between Analogy and Metaphor: An Ecumenical Possibility” LEST VI, University of Leuven, Belgium.
- Dec 2005 “Analogy as Higher-Order Metaphor in Aquinas,” Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- Nov 2003 “Undoing the Experience of God in Sheehan’s Heideggerian Atheology,” LEST IV, University of Leuven, Belgium.
- Nov. 2001 “Metaphor as Apt for Conversation,” LEST III, University of Leuven, Belgium.
- May 2000 Respondent, Gifford Conference on Natural Theology, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Recent National Conference Papers:

- June 2010 “How Cognitive Science Reopens the Question of Religious Language and Knowledge: Opportunity or Threat?” CTS Convention
- May 2008 “Race, Ethnicity and Pedagogy,” CTS Convention.
- June 2008 “Reinterpreting Rahner’s Balance,” CTSA Convention/Karl Rahner Society
- June 2006 “Art, Theology and Bernstein’s Mass,” CTS Presidential Address.
- June 2004 “Mapping the Codes: A Proposal for the Prolegomena to Theology,” CTS Convention.
- June 2004 “The Force of Analogy,” CTSA Convention.
- June 2002 “The Clash of Christological Symbols,” CTS Convention.
- June 2001 Respondent, CTS Convention.
- June 2000 “Two Types of Natural Theology,” CTS Convention.

Recent Lectures & Conferences:

- May 2010 “Emergent Meanings and the Reframing of Conceptual Space” for the Chicago Group.

Membership in Professional Societies:

- 1973-Present College Theology Society (President 2004-06; National Convention Local Chair, 2003; Editor & Chair of Publications 1983-1987; National Board of Directors 1980-1983; Regional Chair, 1976-78; Baltimore & Washington Regional Secretary, 1974-1975)
- 1973-Present Catholic Theological Society of America (National Convention Local Chair, 2001)
- 1991-Present Karl Rahner Society of America (Coordinator 1995-1998; Board of Directors 1991-2003; Editor of “Rahner Papers” 1993-2003 and of Web Page, 1997-2003)
- 1974-90/99-01 American Academy of Religion

Honors, Awards, Grants:

- 2010 Marquette RCM Course Reduction for Research
- 2009 Marquette University Nominee for NEH 2010 Summer Stipend.
- 2008 Simmons Religious Commitment Fund with Dr. Jame Schaefer and Dr. John Karkheck: “Metaphor and Symbols: Theology in Dialogue with the Natural Sciences.”
- 2008 Simmons Religious Commitment Fund: “Recording Equipment for the Continuation of Story Project on Race and Religion” in Theo 164 (Bridging the Racial Divide).
- 2008 Simmons Religious Commitment Fund with Bobby Timberlake and Dr. Susan Mountin: “Listening Sessions and Teach-ins on Community Organizing”

- 2006 Marquette Summer Faculty Fellowship.
- 2005 Consultant, Lilly Grant "Small Christian Communities in the U.S. Catholic Church."
- 2003 Faculty Recognition Award 2002-2003, Division of Student Affairs.
- 2003-06 Provost's Grant for Pilot Program: McCormick Hall Inclusive Leadership CommUNITY.
- 2003 Core Curriculum Development Fund, for ARSC 005-006 "Dynamics of Cross Cultural Engagement."
- 2002 Manresa Grant for Course Revision.
- 2001 PT3 Grant from MU School of Education implementing technology in undergraduate teaching.
- 1998 MU Mellon Grant "Modes of Reasoning and Rhetoric Across the Curriculum: Development of Assessment Instruments and Inquiry Exercises for Theology 001."
- 1994 Goethe Institut: Tuition Scholarship, Murnau, Germany Oct. 29-Dec. 21.
- 1988-1992 MU Mellon Grant "Integrating Black Studies in the Core Curriculum of the Catholic University" for the departments of English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Theology.
- 1989 Marquette Summer Faculty Fellowship.
- 1989 Religious Commitment Fund: "Anglican-Roman Catholic Ecumenical Relations: A Presentation (slides and sound track) for Use in Anglican and Roman Catholic Parishes" with Dr. Julian Hills.
- 1988 Faculty Award for Academic Excellence, Annual Minority Student Recognition Day.
- 1984 Marquette Summer Faculty Fellowship.
- 1978 Loyola College Summer Faculty Fellowship.

Archdiocesan Committees

- 1997-2002 Archbishop's Review Board for Catholic Teaching
- 1990-95 Archbishop's Consultation for Theological Issues
- 1992-94 Diocesan Planning Committee Reorganizing Central City Parishes
- 1986-89 Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee

University Committees:

- 2007- Coordinator, Marquette for Common Ground
- 2003-06 Faculty Coordinator, ARSC 005-006 "The Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Engagement"
- 2001-06 Advisory Board, McCormick Hall Inclusive Leadership Program
- 2000-02 University Core Curriculum Assessment Committee
- 1994-2001 Marquette University Press Executive Board
- 1998-99 Search Committee, Assistant Dean of Residence Life
- 1996-98 Residential College Planning Committee
- 1993-94 Co-Coordinator Marquette Institute for Urban Life
- 1989-92 Sabbatical Review Committee
- 1989-95 Campus Ministry Advisory Board
- 1988-92 Coordinator: Black Studies and the Core Curriculum Workshops
- 1984-87 First Warrior Advisory Board
- 1984-85 Honors Council

Recent Community Service:

- 2002-04 President, Lincoln Terrace Homeowners Association
- 1997-98 Lenten and Small Faith Planning Groups at All Saints
- 1996-97 Coordinating Committee All Saints and Martin de Porres Parishes
- 1995-96 Parish Council All Saints Church