



**Dora Tobar van der Mensbrugge**

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**EDUCATION:**

Doctor in Theology **Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome 1997, Dissertation:**  
*“The Relationship between Nature and Grace in the Theology of  
Henri Bouillard”*

Master in Theology **Pontifical Javeriana University, Bogotá 1984, Thesis:**  
*“The Mystery of the Supernatural in Henri de Lubac’s Theology”*

Diploma **Pontifical Javeriana University, Bogotá 1982.**  
in  
Theology

Philosophical Studies
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<b>Universidad de San Buenaventura, Bogotá 1978-1982</b>
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Department of Philosophy: 4-year program (32 credits)
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Training in Ignatius Spirituality
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<b>Centro Ignaciano de Espiritualidad (CIRE), Bogotá 1993.</b>
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Spiritual Exercises and discernment Director.
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**PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:**

- 2017 **SCALA** (Sociedad de Catequetas Latinoamericanos). Board Member.
- 2018 **Catholic University**, Theology Department. Innovation on Hispanic Theology Lecture. 2018 award. Lecture: *The Emotional Ministry of Parents in their Domestic Church. Implication on the Hispanic Family Ministry.*
- 2018 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**,  
Keynote: *Acepta que Dios te ama; El principio de la fe y la liberación interior; Familia y Sacramentos de Iniciación*
- 2017 **Dayton University**. Virtual learning Community for Faith Formation. Author of the Online Class: *Introducción a la Teología de la Familia*
- 2017 **SCALA** (Sociedad de Catequetas Latinoamericanos). International Meeting. Boston College, July 24-27, Lecture: *Familia e Iniciación a la fe. Perspectiva desde Evangelii Gaudium y Amoris Laetitia. (Initiation to the Faith in the Family. A perspective from Evangelii Gaudium and Amoris Laetitia)*
- 2017 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**,  
Keynote: *Si tuvieras fe. El reto creador de la fe: Misericordia en familia*
- 2016 **Liturgy Symposium. Notre Dame University. Jun 2016.** Lecture: *Popular Culture and Liturgy in the the New Evangelization.*
- 2016 **University of Notre Dame. CAMINO Online Spanish curses:** Author of the online class: *El misterio del mal y del amor que lo supera*
- 2016 **University of Notre Dame. Cushwa Center:** *American Catholic Studies Symposium on Experience of Hispanic Catholics in US Parishes.*
- Since 2015 Midwest Catholic Association of Hispanic Ministry. Board Director Member.
- 2016 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**,  
Keynotes: *Vatican II's Prophetic Call to Women ("Vatican II: Llamado Profético a las mujeres"); Family Instrument of Salvation- Synod 2015 ("Familia, Instrumento de Salvación- Sínodo 2015")*
- 2012-2014 **Dayton University**. Virtual learning Community for Faith Formation. Online Instructor.
- 2012 **Center for Ministry Development: Washington State, U.S.A**  
Co-author: *"Catholic Faith and Family Bible"- Spanish Version"* Pastoral introduction of each book from the Old and New Testament.
- 2012 **Diocese of Fresno - California: Diocesan Congress and Youth Day. October 2012**  
Keynote Speech: *"Risen day by Day."*  
Secondary speech: *"Preserving love in the marriage relationship"*
- 2011 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**,  
Keynotes: *How to talk about God today ("Cómo hablar de Dios hoy"); Women as God designed us. ("Mujeres como Dios lo quiso")*
- 2010 **United States Catholic Conference of Bishops**  
Translator and adaptation of the Bishops pastoral letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan. Leaders Guide.*

- 2010 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**  
Keynotes: *A Live Host in a Hungry World* (“*Hostias vivas en un mundo con hambre*”);  
*Living the Catechism at home* (“*Catequizar en Familia*”)
- 2010 **International Congress of the Religious Phenomena. Archdiocese of Cali (Colombia)**  
Keynote: *The Image of God in Today’s Mentality.* (“*Imagen de Dios del hombre actual*”)
- 2009 **United States Catholic Conference of Bishops**  
Editor on Chief of the USCCB’ web for the Hispanic Marriages:  
[www.portumatrimonio.org](http://www.portumatrimonio.org)
- 2009 **National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**  
Author: *Recursos para la Formación a la castidad de los Jóvenes Hispanos* (An Abstinence  
*Resource for Hispanic Youth Ministry*)
- 2009 **Jesuit International Congress on Pastoral with Immigrants.** México City. Keynote:  
“*Catequesis Familiar. Una alternativa Hispana, para la Evangelización de los Hispanos*”  
(*Family Catechesis: A Hispanic alternative for the Hispanic Evangelization.*)
- 2009 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechesis 2009, Archdiocese of Los Angeles,**  
Keynotes: *The World of God in the daily life; Why God wanted the men leave every thing  
Before becoming one Sole Body with his Wife.*
- 2008 **United States Catholic Conference Bishop,**  
Symposium on Hispanic Religious Formation. Keynote: “*Family Catechesis: a Hispanic  
alternative for the new Evangelization*”
- 2008 **Diocese of Rockville Centre. XV Congress of Latina Women.**  
Keynote: “*La voluntad de Dios al crearte mujer*” (God’s will for Women)
- 2008 **National Congress of Religious Education and Catechetical 2008, Archdiocese of Los Angeles,**  
Keynotes: *The Gospel Pedagogy; and, The Happy Couple: Preparation to Marriage.*

#### ***PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT DIOCESAN LEVEL:***

- Since 2014 **Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana.** Director of the Pastoral Office for Family life and  
Hispanic Ministry
- 2014-2017 **Diocese of South Ben-Fort Wayne.** Spanish Deaconate Program: Instructor of the  
Classes: *Introduction to the Trinity; The Christian Prayer; Ecclesiology.*
- 2017 **Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Institute for Biblical Studies**  
*Introduction to St John Gospel*
- 2016 **Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Institute for Biblical Studies**  
*Introduction to the Wisdom Literature*
- 2015 **Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Institute for Biblical Studies**  
*Women in the Old Testament and, Theology of the Body*
- 2010 **Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Institute for Biblical Studies**  
*Women in the New Testament and, Biblical Anthropology*
- 2009 **Archdiocese of Washington. Family Retreat Day**  
Keynote: *Praying in family*
- 2008 **Archdiocese of Washington. Family Retreat Day.**  
Keynote: *God in our Love-Stories*

2008 - 2011 **Diocese of Arlington, Institute for Pastoral Formation. Hispanic Apostolate.**  
 Courses: *Introduction to the Bible; History of the Church and Christian Anthropology.*

2000- 2011 **Archdiocese of Washington, Office of the Permanent Diaconate,**  
**Formation Program for Permanent Deacons:**  
 Courses: *Theology of the Diaconate; Revelation and Faith; Christian Anthropology; and Christology*

**Archdiocese of Washington, Office of Religious Education,**  
**Hearts Aflame Program:**  
 Courses: *Introduction to the Faith, Introduction to the Bible, Sacraments, Liturgy, Creed I and II.* Special course: *“The Life and Message of Jesus of Nazereth”*

**Archdiocese of Washington Catechetical Day**  
 Keynotes: *The Body of Christ is Alive; Family Catechesis; Spirituality of a Catechist; Challenges for today Catechism*

**Archdiocese of Washington, Office of Hispanic Pastoral Affairs:**  
 - Member: Core Team that created the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry,  
 - Author of the Text for the Archdiocesan Lenten Mission  
 - Trainer of missionaries.  
 - First *“Encuentro”* for Personnel of the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore. Keynote address: *“Hispanic Ministry in a Culturally Diverse Church”*

**Archdiocese of Washington, Office of Hispanic Family Life Ministry and Diocese of Richmond (Sacred Heart Parrish):**  
 Adviser/speaker: Family Catechesis.

**Archdiocese of Washington, Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors):**  
 Archdiocesan Radio Program: Frequent guest.

**Archdiocese of Washington, El Pregonero:**  
 Archdiocesan Newspaper, columnist.

**Archdiocese of Washington, Eucharistic Congress 2000,**  
 Lecture: *“The Eucharist, Mysterium of Communion and Participation”.*

**Archdiocese of Baltimore: Hispanic Institute for Leaders Formation.**  
**Courses:** *Introduction to the Biblia; Training in spiritual skills (Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius)*

**Archdiocese of Washington and Archdiocese of Baltimore:**  
 Spiritual retreat direction and Keynotes.

**Diocese of Charlotte, First Eucharistic Congress (2005):**  
 Keynote: *A Live Host in a Hungry World. Spanish Speaking Community.*  
 Spiritual retreat direction and keynote addresses:  
*To be the Church* (2004); *God’s will for women* (2006)

**Diocese of Providence, Hispanic Ministry Office,**  
 Advent Retreat: *The Shepherd’s Spirituality in the Nativity.*

**Dioceses of Arlington, Charlote, Trenton:**  
 Spiritual retreat direction and keynote addresses.

**Archdioceses of Boston and Hartford, Dioceses of Providence and Springfield, (2005)**  
 Hispanic Pastoral Offices Lenten Retreat: *“To Believe in a Suffering God”*

**PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT PARISH LEVEL:**

- 2011 **San Bartolomeus Parish**  
Lent Retreat. *Por qué la cruz nos salva (Why the Cross save us.* Three nights of reflexion
- 2010 **Jesuite Province of Maryland**  
*Introduction to Saint Ignatius and his spiritual proposal in the Spiritual Exercises.* 5 Intensive Workshops.
- 2004-2010 **Parrishes in Washintong Area:**  
**Adolescents and Youth Adult Groups:** Workshop, *“La Pareja Feliz” (The Happy Couple.)* Training in the Emotional and Sexual options for a moral and romantic life.
- 2000-2003 **Director of Religious Education for the Hispanic Community:** Children and Adult Formation  
**St. Catherine Labourè Church (Wheaton MD)**  
“Pedagogical Family Catechesis” – Training  
Workshop: *“To Forgive: the Door for the Happiness”*
- 2005-2009 St. Bartholomew (Bethesda MD)  
Confirmation Retreat  
Workshop: *“To Forgive: the Door for the Happiness”*  
Adult Formation: *“The Sacraments”*; *“Living the Reconciliation; The Eucharist*

#### **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2008 **Jesuits Collaborative.**  
Workshops: *The Happy Couple*; and, *Spiritual Exercises for Hispanic Leaders.* 2007-2009 **Centro Tepeyac** (Silver Spring Women Center)  
**Counseling: Pregnant Women in Crises.**  
Class: *“Preparación al nacimiento de nuestros hijos”*  
Ongoing Course for Couples and youth ministry: *“The Happy Couple.”*
- 2006-2010 **Jesuit Institute on Migration and Pastoral Ministry** - Member of the team Develop and facilitate Ignatius Retreats for Hispanic Leaders

#### **PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

- 2007 **Catholic University of America, School of Theology and Religious Studies**  
Courses: *Christian Anthropology* (Graduate Program)
- 2001-2007 **Catholic University of America and Northeast Institute for Pastoral Formation**  
**Hispanic Leadership Summer Program**  
Keynote: *“Guidelines for a Spirituality in Postmodernity”*  
Courses: *Christian Anthropology and Jesus the Master* (Introduction to the Gospel Pedagogy). *Eucharist and Spirituality; Life and Message of Jesus of Nazareth, Intruction to the Bible for Youth; Spirituality in the Post Moder World; Jesus in the Gospels: The Holy Spirit and the Church*
- 2003 **University of Notre Dame,** Keynote address: *“The Language of the Latin America Culture and the Worship”* Pastoral Liturgy Conference June 16-19: The Language of Worship.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1990 - 1998 **Pontifical Javeriana University, Cali, Colombia: Department of Theology.**  
Chair and Professor, Theology Department.  
Courses: *Introduction to Faith* (focused on the anthropological justification of the believing experience); *Christology* (Introduction to the theology of Christ); *Catholic Social Doctrine*.  
Frequent speaker, both within and outside the university, especially on the relationship between faith and science, as well as on other current topics. Specialized training in the Saint Ignatius Spiritual Exercises.
- 1989-1996 **Seminary of San Pedro Apóstol, Archdiocese of Cali**  
Courses: *Revelation and Faith*, “*Mariology, Creation, Theological Anthropology, Trinity*.”
- 1995-1998 **Mass Media Service, Archdiocese of Cali.**  
Consultant for radio and television religious programs.
- 1994-1998 **Universidad Del Valle, Cali. Department of Health Sciences,** Member of Bioethics Academy, Department of Health Sciences.
- 1992-1994 **Universidad Del Valle, Cali. Department of Human Sciences,**  
Professor of religious program at the state university.  
Courses: *Does God Exist?* (Theological presentation of the reasons for believing in God); *Jesus Christ’s Proposals for Life*.
- 1991-1995 **Archdiocesan Association of Professors of Religion, Cali. President**
- 1990-1996 **Lumen Gentium Institute, Archdiocese of Cali:**  
1990 to 1992: member of team responsible for the design and founding of the Institute as a center of theological and pedagogical training for religion teachers and pastoral ministers.  
1992 to 1996: professor and member of Academic Council of the Institute.  
Courses: *Human Development, Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, Revelation and Faith, Anthropological Context of Faith*.
- 1989-1990 **Universidad de San Buenaventura, Cali**  
Professor in the Department of Religious Sciences.  
Courses: “*Wisdom Literature*”, “*Moral I*”, “*Moral II*”, “*Religious Pedagogy*”.

## PUBLICATIONS

“La Mujer en una Iglesia de Comunión y Participación” (“Women in a Church of Communion and Participation”), co-authored with Martha Lucía Chaparro, *Revista Teológica Xaveriana*, 30/4, No. 57 (October-December 1980): 523-532.

“Religión y Fe” (“Religion and Faith”), *Boletín Trimestral de Bioética*. Universidad del Valle (Cali), N° 6 (October, 1996): 2-7.

“Resurrección y Reencarnación” (“Resurrection and Reincarnation”), *Revista Teológica Xaveriana* 50/3, No 135 (July-September, 2000): 389-399

“El valor histórico de los Evangelios: Ensayo Histórico-crítico” (“The Historic Value of the Gospels”), Pontificia Universidad Javeriana-Cali, 1996: 2-20

“El Lenguaje de la Cultura Hispana y la Liturgia,” in *Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia: Languages of Worship* (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2004): 63-77.

“*La Misericordia hace Milagros*,” Revista El Señor de los Milagros (Misioneros Redentoristas. Buga-Colombia), Año 54, No 34, 12-15.

“*Guía Para la Misión Cuaresmal Arquidiocesana 2006*” (Guide to 2006 Lent Mission) Contributor. Ed. Archdiocese of Washington Press, 2006.

“*Hacia el amor: Recursos para la formación de Jóvenes Hispanos a la Castidad*”. National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, 2009 (In process to be publish)

[www.Portumatrimonio.org](http://www.Portumatrimonio.org), USCCB, Washington D.C.: Editor in chief and main writer, Feb 2010

“*Biblia Católica de la Familia*” Ed. Verbo Divino, 2012; Editor and Colaborator. Center for Ministry Development. Gig Harbor WA, USA

“*La capella Italiana nelle isole Orcadi. Un altare alla pace in tempo di Guerra. Testimonianza.* In, Mysterion. Revista di ricerca in Telogia Spirituale, anno 7, n. 1 (2014), 133-151.

#### **LANGUAGES**

**Spanish:** Native language.

**Italian:** Fluent speaking, reading and writing.

**French:** Fluent speaking and reading

**English:** Fluent speaking and reading.

#### **COMPUTER SKILLS**

MS Word, MS Outlook (including email), Power Point.

#### **REFERENCES**

**Bishop Francisco González** (Archdiocese of Washington). Email: [Gonzalef@adw.org](mailto:Gonzalef@adw.org) ; Tel: (301) 853 4566

**Alejandro Aguilera –Titus**, (Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Email: [aaguilera@usccb.org](mailto:aaguilera@usccb.org) / Tel: 202 -541 5417

**Rev. John Ford** (Professor of Theology and Religious Studies; Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Programs, The Catholic University of America: [Ford@cua.edu](mailto:Ford@cua.edu)

**Cardinal Pedro Rubiano Saenz** (Archdiocese of Santafé de Bogotá- Colombia, former Archbishop of Cali), (Tel: 011- 57- 1- 334 55 00 Bogotá)