



## The Reverend Edward T. Oakes, S.J. 1948 - 2013

Jesuit Father Edward Oakes died on Friday morning, December 6, 2013. He was sixty-five years old.

“Father Oakes was a great teacher because he was a great priest and theologian,” said Father Thomas Baima, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, “His faith in Jesus Christ was the foundation of his priesthood, and all of his work as a scholar flowed from that personal faith. As a teacher, he always united faith and theology and taught his students to do the same.”

An internationally known scholar, Father Oakes worked on the writings of Hans Urs von Balthasar. His book *Pattern of Redemption: the Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar* and his edited work *The Cambridge Companion to Hans Urs von Balthasar* have become standard works. Additionally, Father Oakes was a theologian in his own right, having most recently published *Infinity Dwindled into Infancy: A Catholic and Evangelical Christology* along with many articles and essays. Best known for his frequent essays in the journal *First Things*, Father Oakes made significant contributions on current issues as a public intellectual.

“He would always say yes to my requests to serve as an examiner, thesis director, or to take an extra course” said Elizabeth Nagel, President of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology. “If it would benefit students, he would gladly take on extra work. He worked hard as a teacher, researcher and writer. His concern for students meant that he was always ready to do what was needed to assist in their learning, both in and out of the classroom. He always participated in the doctoral colloquia, where his comments were astute, insightful and helped our best students honestly evaluate, refine and perfect their work.”

Active in ecumenical work, Father Oakes was a long-time member of Evangelicals and Catholics Together and recently of the Lausanne Conversation between Catholics and Evangelicals.

A priest of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) Missouri Province, Father Oakes began his teaching career at Fordham University in 1985. In 1987 he moved to New York University where he taught until 1994 (with a break for a year and a half research fellowship in Germany). From 1995 to he was a scholar in residence at Cambridge University and Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University. In 1996 he joined the faculty of Regis University. In 2002 he was appointed Paluch Professor of Theology, a distinguished visiting professorship at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary. In 2004, he was named by Francis Cardinal George, OMI to the regular faculty of the Seminary where he continued teaching into the Fall semester of 2013.

Father Oakes held a B.A. (Classics), and M.A. degrees from Saint Louis University. He held an M.Div. degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkley and the M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Union Theological Seminary.

Arrangements are pending.