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## Contributor Bios

Obsculta Editors

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## Contributor Bios

### **CINDY GONZALEZ**

Cindy Liliana holds a Master of Arts in Ministry from the Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota, where she currently teaches courses on family ministry through the Emmaus Institute, in Spanish. Currently, Cindy is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, College of Education and Human Development, focused on Parent and Family Education. Cindy identifies as a proud Chicana having grown up in California and spending most summers of her youth with her extended family in Tijuana, Mexico.

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### **LEAH WAKEFIELD**

Leah is an MDiv student from the Twin Cities area. She completed her BA from the College of Saint Benedict in 2018. In her time at the SOT, she's found a passion for developing her own intercultural competencies and helping others do the same. She hopes to complete a PhD in ethics and teach at the college level.

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### **ANISABEL PALMA**

Anisabel Palma is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Ministry at St. John's University, with a focus on Evangelization and Catechesis. She currently works as Director of Hispanic Ministry, Spanish RCIA and Spanish Adult Faith Formation at the Church of Saint Mary in Willmar, Minnesota.

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### **FR JAMES VOELLER, FBP**

The Franciscan Brothers of Peace are a local community in Minnesota and we maintain three places including our two friaries in St Paul and our Spiritual Center located remotely in the Superior forest of the North Shore. After completing my MDiv, this is where a portion of my work could be focused.

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### **SR. MARIE T. RACINE, OSB**

Sr. Marie Therese Racine, OSB is a Benedictine Sister of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. She recently completed her Master of Arts in Theology degree at St. John's University, with a concentration in Liturgy. She currently serves her monastic community as Director of Liturgy.

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### **TOAN PHAN**

Father John Toan Phan is a Cistercian monk of Our Lady of Divine Grace Abbey in Vietnam. He received an M.Div. from Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary, in Weston, Massachusetts, and an MTS in Monastic Studies/Spirituality from the School of Theology and Seminary, Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

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#### **LAURA SUHR, OSB**

S. Laura is a Benedictine Sister at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, MN. She is director of Girls, God and Good Times Summer Camp sponsored by the sisters. She is pursuing a Master's to assist her in ministry with her community in the future.

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#### **WONG KWAN WONG**

Wong Kwan Yau Xavier is a diocesan priest from Hong Kong. He came to Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in 2019, and is completing his Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in liturgy. He enjoys hiking, reading, and cooking. Doing meditation and offering mass are two things he enjoys the most in his daily life; they are not simply for fulfilling his obligation, rather are important for his spiritual growth.

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#### **KAREN F. ARCE, OCSO**

Karen F Arce is originally from La Paz, Bolivia. She is a Cistercian sister of the Strict Observance for 17 years at Redwoods Monastery in California. She earned her Master's Degree in Monastic Studies at Saint John's University. Now she aspires to continue to deepen this ancient tradition and pass it on to new generations.

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#### **MEGHAN STRETAR**

Meghan Stretar is a third-year M.Div. candidate at St. John's School of Theology. Originally from Apple Valley, she graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in 2017 with a degree in elementary education. She is currently fueling her passion to build community through the holistic development of young people in St. John's Campus Ministry working as the Ministerial Resident for Retreats.

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#### **COURTNEY HORSTMAN**

Courtney Horstman is from the Nashville, TN area but has most recently called Lexington, KY home. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Asbury University in Wilmore, KY. She is currently working in Marketing and Sales at a local business in Saint Cloud, MN and is in the process of earning her YTT 200-hour certificate for teaching yoga! She plans on starting her journey towards a Master's degree sometime within the next few years and navigating which degree she wants to pursue.

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#### **JASON HORSTMAN**

Jason Horstman is completing a Masters degree with a concentration in Monastic Studies at St. John's University School of Theology. He holds a Bachelors degree in Religious Studies and Spanish from Berea College.

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#### **TONI MARIE NICHOLS**

Toni Marie Nichols is originally from Minnesota but currently lives in Stuttgart, Germany. She worked supporting the U.S. Government at different levels and capacities, but left her professional career to pursue opportunities that would enable her to be a greater witness and missionary for the Catholic Church. She has a Master's in International Relations and is currently working towards a Master's in Ministry, with a focus in Spiritual Direction.

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#### **JOSEPH PENNY**

Joseph Penny is from San Dimas, CA. He is completing his third year of undergraduate studies as a theology major at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (CSB/SJU).