



## MEET THE CLASS OF 2023 DIA FELLOWS



**Ann Fallon**

**Ann Fallon** is the Principal of St. Albert the Great Academy in Auburn, New York. Prior to being a school leader, Ann homeschooled her eight children and then served at Tyburn Academy by teaching, fundraising, developing a middle school program, working with teacher formation and retreats, and volunteering as a Board member. Her passion for catechesis has been strengthened through formation in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and leadership certificates from Aquinas College. She holds a BA from the University of Denver.

Ann's DIA Fellowship project focused on marketing and rebranding Catholic elementary education in her community.

Mentor: Tommy Curtin



**Max Grisnik**

**Max Grisnik** is in his third year teaching at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, KS. Before that, he was the building substitute. He is currently teaching Rhetoric and Media Arts, World Studies, and History of Film. He has also taught other courses in the Social Studies department. He is an alum of St. James Academy and is the head coach of Science Olympiad.

St. James Academy, a Catholic high school in Lenexa, KS, is in the beginning stages of a new program called Rhetoric and Media Arts. The aim of this program is to harmonize the classical roots of rhetoric with the technical side of media while doing so with a Catholic Worldview.

Mentor: Phil Consuegra



**Randall Justman**

**Randall Justman** has been teaching theology at JSerra Catholic High School for five years. He has mainly focused on teaching scripture but has also taught sacraments, morality, and lives of the saints. Before becoming a teacher, Randall worked as a youth minister for three years. Randall received his undergraduate degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2015 and is currently working on his master's in educational technology from Webster University.

For his DIA Fellowship project, Randall focused on building a robust program that encourages parents as the primary catechists and educators of their children by offering evening courses for them to mirror what their children are learning in the classroom.

Mentor: Deborah Nearmyer



**Sam Rockford**

**Sam Rockford** is Director of Educational Programming at St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kansas. He graduated from University of Kansas with BSE in Secondary Math and English, and an MA in Teaching and Leadership. In 2017 Rockford was a Kansas Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. In 2020 he received the Jedel Excellence in Math Education Prime Award Recipient. Sam is married with three kids and enjoys lawn care, gardening, reading, and playing guitar. His favorite verse is Romans 5:1-5.

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Mentor: Fr. Randy Sly





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**Michael Solomon**

**Michael Solomon** grew up in Newton, MA, the eldest of three children. He attended Franciscan University of Steubenville, where majoring in Catechetics and Theology. It was at Franciscan that he found a love for catechesis and for teaching. After a few years of catechizing and doing ministry he discerned a call to priesthood and attended St. John's Seminary in Boston, studying philosophy and theology for 5 years. It was during this time period that he heard the deeper call to religious life and so entered the Dominicans of Eastern Province and continued studies in theology. In total he spent 3 and a half wonderful years as a Dominican. This time in religious life confirmed Michael's love of the intellectual life, the desire to teach, and to create curriculum. Ultimately, it was also a time to discover that God was leading him away from the supernatural call of priesthood and preparing him to enter into married life. Now into his 3rd year of teaching and second year at The High School of St. Thomas More in Champaign, IL, Michael teaches theology to both freshmen and seniors and consider it a wonderful experience. He is passionate about forming an excellent theology curriculum that is integrative and faithful to the Catholic Church. Michael is also married to a wonderful woman, Zoe, and just had their first child.

Michael's project was two-pronged: One was for a new class he's calling "Great Christian Literature". The hope for the class is to highlight the integration of Literature and Theology. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to experience a compelling presentation of a true Catholic Worldview. The second is for this class to become a microcosm for an integrated Humanities at the High School of St. Thomas More, striving for an environment by which the Humanities (English, History, and Theology), become an integrated whole.

Mentor: Tom Cole



**Zach Werner**

**Zach Werner** was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He moved to Massachusetts to attend College of the Holy Cross in Worcester and played Division I lacrosse where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and double minored in Education and Italian. From there, he became a Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers (PACT) teaching fellow through the University Consortium for Catholic Education, affiliated at Providence College. He spent two years teaching Theology and facilitating campus ministry at Lowell Catholic High School in northeastern Massachusetts. Following the completion of teaching and taking graduate courses for two years, he earned his Master of Science in Education degree. In 2019, he and his wife, Alicia, moved across the country to Reno, Nevada, to begin their new life together. Zach currently serves as the Theology department chair and 12th grade Theology teacher at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School in the Diocese of Reno.

Zach's Duc in Altum Fellowship focused on the spiritual development and formation of faculty and staff. He's developing a program that enables teachers from a variety of backgrounds and faith traditions to meaningfully participate in the mystical Body of Christ.

Mentor: Patrick Reidy

