



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

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magis center

Topic: Happiness & Purpose in Life

Tuesday, March 7, 2023: 7:00pm

Location: Austin Preparatory
School (Chapel)

As Aristotle noted some 2400 years ago, “Happiness is the one thing we choose for its own sake – everything else is chosen for the sake of happiness.” One of the hottest topics in contemporary culture is happiness. The explanation for this current fixation seems to lie in the contrary phenomenon – unhappiness. Despite the fact that we have tremendous access to every imaginable form of entertainment, we experience a pervading sense of insecurity, emptiness, and malaise amid sporadic peak experiences.

Developed over many years, Fr. Spitzer’s “Four Levels of Happiness” work is based on the world’s most famous historical and contemporary philosophers, classical thinkers and psychologists. Finding True Happiness is both a philosophical itinerary and a practical guide for life’s most important journey – from the mundane and the meaningless to transcendent fulfillment.

Co-Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Schools Office & The Magis Center

For more information, please contact Colleen_Donohoe@rcab.org

magiscenter.com



FR. ROBERT J. SPITZER, S.J., Ph.D.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 16, 1952, Fr. Spitzer is a Catholic Priest in the Jesuit order, and is currently the President of the Spitzer-Magis Institute of Reason and Faith (www.magiscenter.com). The Magis Center produces documentaries, books, high school programs, college courses, adult-education programs, and social media materials to show the close connection between faith and reason in contemporary physics, philosophy, and historical study of the New Testament. Fr. Spitzer is also the President, Master of Ceremonies, and speaker at the Napa Institute (www.napa-institute.org).

Some highlights of Fr. Spitzer's professional life:

He was President of Gonzaga University from 1998 to 2009. During that time, he significantly increased the programs and curricula in faith, ethics, service, and leadership, and led the efforts to build 20 new facilities, increased the student population by 75%, and raised \$200+ million for scholarships and capital projects.

He is currently the host of a weekly EWTN television program – Father Spitzer's Universe – that discusses faith, science, philosophy, and culture.

He has made multiple media appearances including Larry King Live (debating Stephen Hawking, Leonard Mlodinow, and Deepak Chopra on God and modern physics), the Today Show (debating on the topic of physician assisted suicide), The History Channel in "God and The Universe," and a multiple-part PBS series "Closer to the Truth." He has also appeared on dozens of nationally syndicated radio programs.

Brief educational background:

Ph.D. Catholic University of America, 1984-88. Philosophy Summa cum Laude.

Dissertation: A Study of Objectively Real Time. Director: Paul Weiss.

Th.M. Weston School (Cambridge), 1983-84. Theology (Scripture). Summa cum Laude. Thesis: The Depth Grammar of "Pneuma" and "En Christo" in I Cor. 12.

M.Div. Gregorian University (Rome), 1980-83. Theology. Summa cum Laude.

Thesis: Early Christological Hymns.

M.A. St. Louis University, 1976-78. Philosophy. (Research) Magna cum Laude. Thesis: The Metaphysical Proof of God's Existence in De Ente Et Essentia of St. Thomas Aquinas.

B.B.A. Gonzaga University (1970-74) Public Accounting and Finance Magna Cum Laude.

Punahou High School (Honolulu, Hawaii), 1970 National Honors Society.

* He is a Catholic Priest of the Society of Jesus. He entered the Jesuits August 17, 1974, took first vows August 21, 1976, was ordained a priest on June 11, 1983, and took final vows April 4, 1992.