

# Elizabeth A. Johnson csj

**Distinguished Professor  
Department of Theology**

Fordham University  
Bronx, New York



**Elizabeth A. Johnson, C.S.J., is University Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University in New York City, where she teaches in both undergraduate and graduate programs.**

She grew up in Brooklyn, NY the oldest of seven children in a sprawling Irish Catholic family that included beloved cats and dogs. After graduating from high school she joined the religious order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph headquartered in Brentwood, Long Island. During the Second Vatican Council she was a young Sister engaged in teaching in Catholic elementary school. The Council energized her faith and imagination.

Her formal education includes a B.S. from Brentwood College (1964), an M.A. in theology from Manhattan College (1970), and a Ph.D. in theology from Catholic University of America (1981). She began her professional life by teaching science and religion in Catholic elementary and high schools before teaching theology at the college level (St. Joseph College, Brooklyn, NY). She then moved to the university level (Catholic University of America, 1980-91, and Fordham University, (1991 - present). Currently her ministry includes teaching, mentoring, writing, editing, and public lecturing in theology.

A former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the oldest and largest society of theologians in the world, and a former president of the American Theological Society, an ecumenical association, her service to the field of theology also includes working on the editorial boards of three journals: *Theological Studies*; *Horizons: Journal of the College Theology Society*; and *Theoforum*.

EJ's main areas of study focus on the mystery of God, Jesus Christ, science and religion, the problem of suffering, creation and ecology, Mary and the saints, and issues related to justice for women. Her books include:

*Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology* (1990)

*She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse* (1992)

*Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit* (1993)

*Friends of God and Prophets: A Feminist Theological Reading of the Communion of Saints* (1998)

*The Church Women Want* (2002 - editor)

*Truly Our Sister: A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints* (2003)

*Dangerous Memories: A Mosaic of Mary in Scripture* (2004)

*Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in Theology of God* (2007)

*Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love* (2014)

*Abounding in Kindness: Writings for the People of God* (2015)

*The Strength of her Witness: Jesus Christ in Women's Global Voices* (2016-author, editor)

CURRICULUM VITAE 2016



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Dr. Johnson has also published numerous essays in scholarly journals, chapters in edited books, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and articles in popular journals.

Her work has been translated into 13 languages: Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian, French, Dutch, Polish, Icelandic, Lithuanian, Bosnian, Korean, Indonesian, and Thai.

Deeply involved in the life of the church, her public service in the church has included being a theologian on the national U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue (1984-91); a consultant to the US Catholic Bishops' Committee on Women in Church and Society; a theologian on the Vatican-sponsored dialogue between science and religion; a participant in the Vatican-sponsored ecumenical conference on Christ and world religions; and a core committee member of the Common Ground Initiative, started by Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin to reconcile polarized groups in the Catholic Church.

Dr. Johnson loves to teach and was awarded the Fordham Teaching Award in 1998 and Professor of the Year Award in 2011 (most fond of these). She has received 15 honorary doctorates and numerous other accolades, including the John Courtney Murray Award for excellence in theology from the Catholic Theological Society of America. Her book *She Who Is* received the Grawemeyer Award; *Friends of God and Prophets* was awarded the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion; *Truly Our Sister: A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints* received Book of the Year Award from the College Theology Society; four of her books received first place awards from the Catholic Press Association.

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