

We live in an era of tremendous opportunities and of significant challenges. As an Academy of Latina/o Catholic theologians, we recognize that getting the word out, communicating the outcomes of our work nationally and internationally is a crucial priority. At the same time, we are aware that the economic challenges of scholarly publication, along with the limited financial resources of many of our constituencies, call on us to be innovative and resourceful as we engage in our work of scholarly reflection on the religious experiences of our Latina/o communities.

It is through the "can do" attitude and the endlessly generous spirit of Daniel O'Connell and his company, Metavisual, that ACHTUS was able to restore to life the *Journal of Hispanic / Latino Theology* as an electronic publication. To put it plainly, without Daniel O'Connell and Metavisual, the electronic *Journal of Hispanic / Latino Theology* would not exist. Maintaining its standard of excellence as a peer-reviewed journal, it is now available to an international readership, with subscribers around the world now able to engage in conversation with the work of U.S. Latina/o scholars in theological and religious studies. It is in every respect stronger, more economical, and more available to its readership than it ever was. It is also through the innovative work of Mr. O'Connell and Metavisual that ACHTUS has been able to sponsor the bibliography project that makes the considerable production of scholarly writings by U.S. Latino/a Catholic and Anglican scholars available in searchable format and at no cost on the Internet at [Latinobibliography.org](http://Latinobibliography.org).

Deeply committed to social justice, Mr. O'Connell and his company put that commitment into practice by implementing open source software solutions, solutions that respect the principle of subsidiarity, while keeping the cost of producing the *Journal of Hispanic / Latino Theology* at a small fraction of the cost of that journal during its years of existence as a print journal. With more than thirteen years of experience with web design and online education, Mr. O'Connell also served as Manager of Information Technology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, providing the technical leadership to develop cutting-edge techniques for producing media-rich blended learning courses at the largest Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry in the United States.

From its founding, the *Journal of Hispanic / Latino Theology* has been a pioneering, groundbreaking initiative that established a "footprint" for ACHTUS and for U.S. Latino/a theologies in the scholarly community and in the churches. In its electronic format, made possible by Mr. O'Connell and his company, the journal takes its place as the first such scholarly journal published by a theological society in the United States, and as one of only a very few such journals in the world. As Managing Editor of the journal, Mr. O'Connell is at the front end of troubleshooting technical difficulties and fielding subscriber questions. All this he does with dedication, competence, and commitment. A "techies' techie," he is at the same time a person of genuine faith, a true believer in the mission of the journal and of ACHTUS, a capable ally of the Latino/a community.

For this reason, in recognition of distinguished "institutional contributions to theology in keeping with the mission of our Academy," the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States gratefully confers the ACHTUS award on Mr. Daniel O'Connell and Metavisual.

Given at Chicago, Illinois, June 2, 2009