

## Media Release

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### **“What Proofs about God Really Prove” Author Nathan Schneider to Deliver Bishop Dollard Lecture Thursday, March 26 at 5 pm**

Writer and journalist Nathan Schneider will deliver this year’s Bishop Dollard Lecture at St. Thomas University. His talk, “What Proofs about God Really Prove,” will take place Thursday, March 26 at 5 pm in the Holy Cross House Conference Room.

Schneider will draw on Christian, Jewish and Islamic thinkers to examine the significance of proofs of God’s existence beyond demonstrating that God exists.

“Using the long tradition of so-called proofs about God as an academic performance, or as blunt instruments for culture-warring, means missing out on the most worthwhile stuff they have to offer. Rather, they’re meant to invite us into fresh modes of thinking,” Schneider said.

“The real question a proof about God was created to address may not be simply whether or not God exists. More often, it’s something more interesting—What do we mean by God? And what can be achieved with proof?”

Schneider is a writer and journalist whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harpers*, *The Nation*, *The New Inquiry*, and *The Catholic Worker*, among others. He has written two books, *God in Proof* and *Thank You Anarchy*.

“Schneider focuses on the human context in which proofs of God’s existence occur, suggesting a connection between the dry, academic exercise of proof-making, and the very human experience of the life of religious faith,” said Dr. Matthew Dinan, St. John XXIII Chair in Catholic Studies at St. Thomas.

“This lecture should appeal to a wide variety of people—those interested in faith as a religious and as a human phenomenon.”

The Bishop Dollard Lecture was established in 2002 to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Saint John and is dedicated to the memory of the first Catholic bishop in the province, William Dollard. The lecture is sponsored by the Catholic Studies Program, an interdisciplinary program that combines core courses in the Catholic intellectual tradition with a broader examination of topics, themes and questions pertinent to Catholic history, doctrine and faith studied through literature, history, philosophy, theology and the social sciences. This semester, the Catholic Studies Program is offering the course *Atheism and Catholicism in Dialogue*, which investigates the questions common to Catholic and non-theistic writers.

- 30 -

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