



Matthew Fox

Matthew Fox (b. 1940) is an internationally acclaimed spiritual theologian, an Episcopal priest, and an activist who was a member of the Dominican Order for 34 years. He holds a doctorate, summa cum laude, in the History and Theology of Spirituality from the Institut Catholique de Paris.

As a spiritual theologian, he has written 30 [books](#) that have been [translated](#) into 48 languages and have received numerous [awards](#). Among them are *Original Blessing*, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, *A Spirituality Named Compassion*, *The Reinvention of Work*, *The Hidden Spirituality of Men*, and *Christian Mystics*.

Matthew Fox has been renewing the ancient mystical tradition of Creation Spirituality that was named for him by his mentor, the late Father Marie Dominic Chenu, o.p., in his studies in Paris. This tradition is feminist, welcoming of the arts and artists, wisdom centered, prophetic and committed to eco-justice, social justice and gender justice.

Fox's effort to reawaken the West to its own mystical tradition has included revivifying awareness of Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart, Thomas Aquinas and the Cosmic Christ tradition, as well as interacting with contemporary scientists who are also mystics. He has authored two books with British biologist Rupert Sheldrake, and has worked closely with Native American leaders such as Buck Ghosthorse.

In a conscious effort to reinvigorate Western ritual, Fox deconstructed forms of worship inherited from the modern era (such as sitting in benches and being read to, preached at or reading from books including song books) and reconstructed these forms of worship by going back to the pre-modern practice of dance. The result, created in collaboration with a group of Anglican youth of the "rave" generation, was the "[Techno-Cosmic Mass](#)" that mixes dance, techno and live music, dj, vj, rap and contemporary art forms with the western liturgical tradition. The Cosmic Mass continues to be celebrated in many cities across the U.S.; many people are now trained in celebrating this post-modern form of worship.

As an activist, Fox's interests have been the renewal of education and of religion. Seeking to establish a new pedagogy for learning spirituality that was grounded in an effort to reawaken the West to its own mystical tradition, as well as interacting with contemporary scientists who are also mystics, Fox founded the [Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality](#) that operated for seven years at Mundelein College in Chicago and twelve years at Holy Names College in Oakland.

For ten of those years at Holy Names College, Cardinal Ratzinger – now Pope Benedict XVI – tried to shut the program down. As chief Inquisitor and head of the Congregation of Doctrine and Faith (called the Office of the Holy Inquisition until 1965), Ratzinger silenced Fox for one year in 1989 and forced him to step down as director. Three years later he expelled Fox from the Order, thus terminating the program at Holy Names College.

Rather than disband his amazing and ecumenical faculty, Fox started his own University called [University of Creation Spirituality](#) where it thrived for nine years and closed in 2007. Fox has since taught at Stanford University, Vancouver School of Theology, Association for Transpersonal Psychology, and the California Institute of Integral Studies, among other places.

Fox believes that “by [reinventing work](#), education and worship we can bring about a non-violent revolution on our planet” and has committed himself to this vision for many years. His 2006 book, [The A.W.E. Project: An Educational Transformation for Post-Modern Times](#), lays out the elements of an educational revolution for young people that is based on his 40years of educating adults with an [alternative pedagogy](#) based on cosmology, creativity and contemplation.

Fox is currently implementing this vision in a project for inner city teenagers in Oakland called [YELLAWE](#): “Youth and Elder Learning Laboratory for Ancestral Wisdom Education.” The goal is to reinvent education from the inner city out. Offshoots from this project have now taken root in Chicago.

In 2005, when Cardinal Ratzinger was made pope, Fox went to Martin Luther’s church in Wittenberg, Germany and pounded [95 contemporary theses](#) at the door to call people to a [New Reformation](#). Knowing Ratzinger well from a protracted battle with him over the years in his role as chief inquisitor of our day, Fox wanted to alert people to what the future held. Six years later, after documenting the ongoing evolution of that future in [The Pope’s War: Why Ratzinger’s Secret Crusade Has Imperiled The Church And How It Can Be Saved](#), Fox repeated his protest, nailing his 95 Theses outside of [Cardinal Law’s Basilica in Rome](#) to call attention to the corruption in the Vatican.

Fox is a recipient of the Abbey Courage of Conscience Peace Award (other recipients being the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Ernesto Cardenal and Rosa Parks); the Ghandi King Ikeda Award; the Tikkun National Ethics Award; and other [awards](#). His work has been [honored](#) by theologians, artists, healers and thought leaders, as well as by many of his students.

He has been interviewed in [print and broadcast media](#) including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *People Magazine*, *Yoga Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Oakland Tribune*, *New Age Journal*, *Utne Reader*, *Spirituality and Health*, *Tikkun*, *Science of Mind*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Toronto Star*, *Washington Post*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Independent (London)*, *The Guardian*, *YES! Magazine*, and *Caduceus Journal*, as well as The Today Show with Bryant Gumbel, BBC and Brazilian, Canadian and Italian television.

Matthew Fox is currently visiting scholar at the [Academy of the Love of Learning](#) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and lives in Oakland, California.