

Dr. Ryan N.S. Topping

*Director, Benedict XVI Institute
Newman Theological College Edmonton, AB
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I. AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Systematic & Moral Theology
Philosophy of Catholic Education
Religion and Western Culture
St. Augustine & Classical Philosophy

II. EDUCATION

- D.Phil. Theology University of Oxford (Moral Theology; Systematics)
Supervisor: Dr. Mark J. Edwards
*2005-2008 SSHRC Canadian Doctoral Fellowship
- M.Phil. Theology University of Oxford (Moral Theology)
Supervisor: Prof. Oliver O'Donovan, FBA
- MA Philosophy University of Manitoba (Greek Philosophy, Philosophical Ethics)
Supervisor: Prof. Donald McCarthy
- BA (Hons.) Phil. University of Winnipeg (History of Philosophy, Classics)
- BA Christian Studies Concord College (Canadian Mennonite University), Winnipeg
(Biblical Studies, New Testament Greek, Music performance)

III. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-present Director, Benedict XVI Institute
Full Professor of Theology
Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB
- 2018-2021 Vice-President and Academic Dean
Full Professor of Theology
Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB
- 2012-2017 Fellow/Associate Professor
Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts
Merrimack, NH
- 2011-12 Endowed Chair of Studies in Catholic Theology
Pope John XXIII Centre for Catholic Thought
St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB
- 2010-11 Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology
Walsh University, North Canton, OH
- 2008-10 Postdoctoral Fellow in Catholic Studies
St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, SK

IV. PUBLICATIONS

A. Books

The Gifts of the Church: How the Catholic Church Transformed the Arts and Culture of the West, Volume 2; The Educated Teacher: 20 Great Books Every Teacher Should Know; Educating for Beauty: A Reader in the Philosophy of Catholic Art, editor; *Putting Faith in Culture: Essays and Addresses* (all in progress)

11. *Meet our New Priests: 12 Key Findings about the Background, Discernment, and Seminary Formation of Canada's Recent Ordination Classes*. Forward by Archbishop Richard Smith. (46 page booklet.) (Benedict XVI Institute: Edmonton, AB, 2023)

10. *Thinking as Though God Exists: Newman on Evangelizing the 'Nones'* (Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press, 2023)

9. *Christmas Around the Fire: Stories, Essays and Poems for the Season of Christ's Birth* (Charlotte, NC: Tan Publishers, 2019) *Awarded prize for 'Best Compilation' by Catholic Book Publishers Association

8. *The Gifts of the Church: How the Catholic Church Transformed the History and Soul of the West, Volume 1*. Foreword by Anthony Esolen (Charlotte, NC: Tan Publishers, 2018)

7. *The Elements of Rhetoric: How to Write and Speak Clearly and Persuasively – A Guide for Students, Teachers, Politicians, and Preachers* (Kettering, OH: Angelico Press, 2016)

6. *Renewing the Mind: A Reader in the Philosophy of Catholic Education*, editor. Foreword by Don J. Briel (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2015)

5. *The Case for Catholic Education*. Foreword by Sr. John Mary Fleming, O.P. (Kettering, OH: Angelico Press, 2015)

4. *St. Augustine*, 2nd edition. Foreword by John Haldane. (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2014) (originally published by Continuum Press, 2010)

3. *Rebuilding Catholic Culture: How the Catechism Can Shape our Common Life*. Foreword by Fr. Aidan Nichols, O.P. (Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press, 2012)

2. *Happiness and Wisdom: Augustine's Early Theology of Education* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2012)

1. *Two Concepts of the Soul in Plato's Phaedo: a Beginner's Guide to the Phaedo and some related Platonic Texts on the Immortality of the Soul* (Langham, MD: Univ. Press of America, 2007)

B. Journal Articles and Book Chapters (peer reviewed *)

- *21. "The Literary Preconditions for Catechesis: Is the *Catechism* a Great Book?" chapter in *Speaking the Truth in Love: The Catechism and the New Evangelization*, eds. Petroc Willey and Scott Sollom (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road Academic, 2019), 113-26.
20. "Finding God at Oxford" chapter on personal conversion in *Canadian Converts, Volume II* (Ottawa: Justin Press, 2018), 249-93.
- *19. "Education still at the Crossroads: Maritain on the Renewal of Education Today" in *Etudes maritainiennes – Maritain Studies* 33 (2017): 36-45.
18. "What Hope for the Secular City?" Review article of Doug Farrow's *Desiring a Better Country: Forays in Political Theology* in Voegelinview.com (February 2016)
- *17. "The Uses of Literature for Faith" in *Fidelitas* (Summer-Fall 2015): 8-26.
- *16. "Catholic Education and the Culture of Life" chapter in *Liberal Education and Canadian Political Culture* ed. David Livingstone (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015), 169-183.
15. "Teaching with Faith, Rekindling the Fire: A Review of Recent Literature on Catholic Education" in *The Catholic Review of Books* 1:3 (Fall 2014).
14. "God and the Great Books: Why only Religion Can Save the Liberal Arts in Canada" in *Convivium* (September/October 2012): 27-31.
- *13. "The Intellectual Preconditions for the Renewal of Sacred Architecture" in *Journal of the Canadian Chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars* (Summer-Fall 2011): 9-29.
- *12. "Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Four Lessons in Fundamental Moral Theology" in *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 14:4 (Fall 2011): 43-57.
- *11. "How Liturgy Transforms: Cult and the Renewal of Catholic Culture" *FCS Quarterly* (Summer 2011): 26-33.
10. "The *Catechism* on how Catholics Believe" in *Pastoral and Homiletic Review* (January 2011): 24-30.
- *9. "Catholic Studies in Canada: History and Prospects" in *CCHA Historical Studies* 76 (2010): 45-60.
8. "Notes from the Underground: Slavoj Žižek on Chesterton on Paradox" in *The Chesterton Review* 36:1-2 (Spring & Summer 2010): 57-66.
- *7. "Christ as *disciplina dei* in St Augustine's early educational thought" in *Studia Patristica* 49 (2010): 101-106.
- *6. "Augustine on Liberal Education: Defender and Defensive" in *The Heythrop Journal* 51 (2010): 377-387.

- *5. “Christology and the Renewal of Catholic Culture” *Journal of the Canadian Chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars* (Summer-Fall: 2009): 64-99.
- *4. “The Perils of Skepticism: The Moral and Educational Argument of *Contra Academicos*” in *International Philosophical Quarterly* 43.3(September, 2009): 333-350.
- *3. “St. Augustine, Liberalism, and the Defense of Liberal Education” in *New Blackfriars* 89 (November 2008): 674-690.
- *2. “Transformation and the Will in St. Anselm’s *Proslogion*: a response to Augustine’s articulation of the problem of human evil” originally published in *The European Legacy* 7.1 (February, 2002): 33-43, reprinted in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism* 67 (June 2004).
- 1. “The Idea of Christian Philosophy” *Direction* 30.2 (Fall 2001): 199-210.

C. Scholarly Book Reviews

- 7. Aaron Hughes’ *From Seminary to University: An Institutional History of the Study of Religion in Canada* (forthcoming, *American Catholic Historical Society*)
- 6. Peter Krauss’ *Odyssey of Love: A Christian Guide to the Great Books* (forthcoming, *Voeglimview*)
- 5. Jens Zimmermann’s *Incarnational Humanism: A Philosophy of Culture for the Church in the World* in *Augustinian Studies* 44:1 (2013):198-202.
- 4. Aidan Nichols’ *The Realm: An Unfashionable Essay on the Conversion of England* in the *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly* 33 (Spring/Summer 2010): 41-42.
- 3. Christopher C.H. Cook’s *Alcohol, Addiction and Christian Ethics* in *Studies in Christian Ethics* 21.1 (April 2008): 129-133.
- 2. Peter Burnell’s *The Augustinian Person* for *New Blackfriars* 88 (July 2007): 627-629.
- 1. Oliver O’Donovan’s *Ways of Judgment* for *New Blackfriars* 88 (January 2007): 121-24.

V. SENIOR AMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

2022-present Director of the Benedict XVI Institute, NTC, Edmonton

Key Duties: Implement Major Grant from the Lilly Endowment on Vocations; develop national research projects on priestly vocations; establish college-wide student internship program; hire and direct staff; fundraising

2018-21 VP & Academic Dean, Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB

Key Duties: M.Div. program Director; Director of the Benedict XVI Institute; Chair of the following committees: Faculty Council; Faculty Search Committee; BA Development Committee/CAQC Application to the Ministry of Education, Alberta; Homiletics Institute Committee; Newman Conference Committee; Liturgy Committee; Distance Education Committee

Accomplishments: Successful accreditation for new BA program through Alberta's Ministry of Education; Hiring and mentoring of new faculty; Developed and Implemented Comprehensive Assessment Regime for College; Launched Faith and Reason Seminar for Catholic Professionals; Aided in Select Fundraising Works; Helped develop NTC's first Successful Grant Through the Lilly Foundation for \$1 million USD to help Re-Launch Benedict XVI Institute

2011-12 Acting Director, Blessed John XXII Centre for Catholic Thought, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB

Key Duties & Accomplishments: Organized a university-wide public lecture Series; lectured widely in the community; raised the profile of Catholic Studies among faculty and within the province

VI. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2021-03 Board Member, *Clear Water Academy*, Calgary, AB

2023 Program Evaluation Committee (Chair) for *Program Review of 3 Year*

Degree in Catholic Studies (Seat of Wisdom College) for Ontario's Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board

2022 Consultor, *Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education*, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

2014-present (occasional) Peer Reviewer for Catholic University of America Press and several academic journals

2016-17 Debate Coach, *TMC Debate Society*, NH

2013-17 Secretary, Council of Fellows, TMC, NH

2012-17 Program Organizer, Student-Teacher Internship Program, TMC, NH

2015-16, 20 Consultor, *Cardinal Newman Society*. K-12 Catholic Standards Project

2014-15 Scholar-Teacher, *Sophia Institute for Teachers* Teacher Training Program, NH

2014-15 Editor (Architectural Page), *Catholic Insight Magazine*

2014 Evaluator, *National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools* (USA)

2010-11 Departmental Search Committee, Walsh University, North Canton, OH

2009-10 Fellow, *Classics, Medieval & Renaissance Studies Program*, U of Saskatchewan

2008-10 Post-Doctoral Fellow in Catholic Studies, St. Thomas More College, SK (Helped establish a new Minor in Catholic Studies at the College.)

2008 Organizer, Seminar on Catholic Higher Ed, St. Benet's Hall, Oxford (Ralph McInerny, Fr. Aidan Nichols O.P., Stratford Caldecott, William Carroll)

2007-08 Board Member, *Society for the Study of Christian Ethics*, UK

2006-08 President, *Graduate Theology Society*, University of Oxford, Oxford

2005-08 Student Fellow, *Centre for Christianity and Culture*, Regent's Park College, Oxford

VII. PRESENTATIONS (peer reviewed or keynote*)

2024

*99. “Catholic Studies and the Great Books: 5 Lessons from Newman on Reviving the BA,” invited keynote Lecture for the *Benedictine College Transforming Culture Symposium*, Benedictine College, Atchison, KS (15 March 2024)

2023

*98. “Relaunching a Conversation on Vocations in Canada” Showcase presentation, *Pathways for Tomorrow Coordination Program Gathering*, Marriott Indianapolis, IN (7 November 2023)

97. “Credo Series” An eight-part lecture series on the Seven Deadly Sins, Newman Theological College (October 2023-May 2024)

96. “Vocation Directors and the Implementation of the New Canadian Ratio” *Vocations Renewing Priestly Vocations in Canada: Reflections and Dialogue Conference*, with Fr Cristino Bouvette, Toronto, ON (28 September 2023)

95. “New Ordinands in Canada: Highlights from National Research” Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Plenary Session*, invited presentation, with Fr Cristino Bouvette, Toronto, ON (27 September 2023)

94. “Moving from Temperament to Virtue” *NTC Fall Retreat*, Way of Holiness, Hinton, AB (9 Sept 2023)

93. “The House of Virtue” and “Exploring the House of Virtue” talks for *Campion Classical Academy Fall Retreat*, Way of Holiness, Hinton, AB (17-18 August 2023)

92. “Self-Knowledge”, “Self-Possession”, “Self-Gift,” talks for the *John Paul II Youth Leadership Camp*, Our Lady of Victory Camp, Gull Lake, AB (26-28 July 2023)

91.

90. “Benedict on Vocation” lecture for the opening of the *Faith and Reason Seminar for Catholic Professionals*, Benedict XVI Institute, St. Joseph Seminary, Edmonton AB (June, 2023)

89. “New Ordinands in Canada: Highlights of Recent Research into Vocations” Seminar for Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Zoom Presentation (21 January 2023)

2022

88. “Credo Series” An eight-part lecture series on Catholic apologetics following themes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Newman Theological College (October 2022-May 2023)

87. “The Dignity of Human Life” a three-part lecture and discussion series on articulating the Catholic view of life; “From Conception to Natural Death” (29 Sept 2022), “The Meaning and Value of Suffering” (2 Nov 2022), “Dying with Dignity” (7 Dec 2022), Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sherwood Park, AB

*86. “Renewing Catholic Education Today: 6 Signs of Hope” *Opening of St. Monica’s Institute*, Archdiocese of Toronto, Toronto (24 September 2022) also delivered as keynote for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars conference *Religion in the Public Square* at NTC, Edmonton (21 October 2022)

85. “Answering God’s Call as a Student,” Opening of Year Retreat, Newman Theological College, Hinton, AB (10 Sept 2022)

84. “Ratzinger’s Europe and it’s Discontents” Lecture for the opening of the *Faith and Reason Seminar for Catholic Professionals*, Benedict XVI Institute, St Joseph Seminary, Edmonton (7 July 2022)

83. “Culture and the Creed” *St Francis Xavier Chaplaincy*, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Calgary (11 April 2022)

82. “The Six Characteristics of the Religious Vocations Movement Today” *Strategic Planning Conference* for Leaders in Youth Ministry in Western Canada, Newman Theological College, Edmonton (20 February 2022)

2021

81. “Ora: Learning to Pray Like Benedictines” *Parish Mission*, St John Bosco Parish, Edmonton, AB (8 December 2021)

80. “Mula: Why (Almost) Everyone Should Get Married” *Parish Mission*, St John Bosco Parish, Edmonton, AB (7 December 2021)

79. “Benedict’s Paris Address” Lecture for the opening of the *Faith and Reason Seminar for Catholic Professionals*, Benedict XVI Centre, Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline AB (21 October 2021)

78. “Friendship – in the present, with the past” Highschool Retreat Talks, *Campion Classical Academy*, Hinton, AB (August 12-13, 2021)

77. “How to Leave Home Without Losing Your Faith: Considerations for Choosing a College” *Fidelis Viam*, Leduc, AB (May 30, 2021)

76. “5 Questions Every Board Should Ask” Lecture to Board of Clear Water Academy, Calgary, AB (April 30, 2021)

75. “Seven Ways to Love God as a Student” OLPH Youth Gathering, Sherwood Park, AB (April 16, 2021)

2020

74. “Anthropology and the Renewal of the Catholic School” *Catholic Education Virtual Summit*, Hosted by Barb Lobko, School Principal of the Archdiocese of Chicago (July 2020)

73. “What Tolkien’s Leaf by Niggle Teaches about Study” *University of Alberta Tolkien Society*, NTC (11 March 2020)

72. “How to Read a Book: A Lesson for Teachers” *PD workshop for CCM Teachers*, Sherwood Park, AB (22 February 2020)

2019

71. “Defending the Rights and Duties of Conscience” Opening reflections on the *Defending the Rights and Duties Conference* on conscience, St. Joseph’s Basilica, Edmonton (20 November 2019)

70. “Six Ways to Improve Your Preaching” *Archdiocese of Edmonton Homiletics Institute*, Providence Centre, Edmonton (5 November 2019)

69. “The Ends and Means of Worship” *Archdiocese of Edmonton Homiletics Institute*, Providence Centre, Edmonton (4 November 2019)

68. “Study for Faith, Reason, and the Economy” Presentation at the Wisdom Homeschool Conference, NAIT, Edmonton (2 November 2019)

67. “What the Church Wants us to See in Newman” *Adoremus* in honour of Newman’s canonization, St. Joseph’s Basilica, Edmonton (11 October 2019)

66. ‘Reasonable Faith’ *PD workshop for STAR school division*, Christ the King School, Leduc, AB (29 August 2019)

65. “Why we need to listen to Benedict XVI’s Regensburg Address” *Faith and Reason Seminar*, St. Joseph’s Seminary, Edmonton (17 July 2019)

64. “Finding a Catholic Home” (with Anna Topping) *Family Life Conference*, Lac St. Anne, AB (1 July 2019)

63. “Keeping Faith in an Age of Unreason” *Family Life Conference*, Lac St. Anne, AB (1 July 2019)

62. “The Philosophy Behind Failing Marriages” presentation for COLF (Canadian Organization for Life and Family), Ottawa, ON (1 June 2019)

61. “Classical Education: Why You Don’t Want Your Kids to Miss out” Professional Development event for the Edmonton CCM Coop, Topping Mansion, Sherwood Park (2 April 2019) and at the Wapoose Catholic Community Farm, Ottawa, ON (31 May 2019)

60. “Popes Against Militant Secularism: How the Popes Launched the New Evangelization” *The Gift of the Church Lenten lecture series*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sherwood Park (9 April 2019)

59. “How Medievals Reconciled Faith and Reason – and How Moderns Tore them Apart” *The Gift of the Church Lenten lecture series*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sherwood Park (28 March 2019)

58. “Jerusalem, Athens, Rome: How the Early Church Built the West” *The Gift of the Church Lenten lecture series*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sherwood Park, AB (19 March 2019)

57. “How Homeschooling Can Rebuild a Catholic Culture” *Refresh Conference* presentation, Catholic Connections Winter Conference, Online (16 March 2019)

2018

56. “The Rise of the Nones and the Fall of Vocations” and “Openings to God in the Culture” *Homiletics Institute for Clergy*, Archdiocese of Edmonton, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, AB (6 Nov 2018)

55. “Discerning the Culture: Cultivating a Listening Heart” *Homiletics Institute for Clergy*, Archdiocese of Edmonton, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, AB (5 Nov 2018)

54. “Three Tasks for Christian Philosophers” invited lecture for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Annual Conference, Calgary, AB (27 Sept. 2018)

53. “The Garden, the Desk, and the Village: The Stages of Catholic Education from Kindergarten through College” *Rebuilding Catholic Culture Conference*, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Saskatoon, AB (10 August 2018)

52. “Homeschooling as a Means of Rebuilding Catholic Culture” *Calgary Homeschool Association*, St. Bernard’s Catholic Church, Calgary, AB (8 June 2018)

51. “Catechism in Stone: The Renewal of Sacred Architecture” *Sacred Art Guild of Alberta*, St. Stephen’s Protomartyr Church, Calgary, AB (7 June 2018)

50. “Revitalizing Catholic education” *Diocese of Joliet Catholic School District*, Diocesan Professional Development day, Naperville, IL (5 October 2017)

49. “Decoding the Grammar of Sacred Architecture: Revelation, Nature, Tradition” *Summer Teachers’ Institute*, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College (10 August 2018)

2017

48. “From Aristotle to the Common Core: The Rise and Fall of Liberal Study” Keynote address for conference on Liberal Arts Education, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI (May 2017)

47. “St. George, the Princess, and the Dragon” *Commencement Address*, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Richmond, NH (18 June 2017)

46. “Cultivate Magnanimity” Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, *Graduation Address* (29 April 2017)

2016

*45. “Education Still at the Crossroads: Maritain on Renewal in Education” *Canadian Maritain Association Conference*, University of Ottawa (29 October 2016)

44. “Rebuilding Catholic Culture” Diocese of Cleveland *Pastor and Parish Catechetical Leader Day*, Cleveland, OH (23 September 2016)

43. “Re-Stating the Case for Catholic Education” *Anthony J. Ruggiero Lecture on Catholic Education*, De Sales University, PA (12 September 2016); also at Maryvale Academy, Ottawa, ON (30 October 2016)

42. “Apologetics 101 – What Every Christian Should Know” *Catholic Apologetics Conference*, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Saskatoon, SK (18 June 2016)

41. “The Christian Family: Key to Building a Culture of Life” Annual Pro-life Seminar sponsored by the New Hampshire Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Cathedral, Concord, NH (17 April 2016)

40. “The Marks of a Catholic Education” for *The Call of the Catholic Teacher Seminar*, Fredericton, NB (2 April 2016)

39. “Our Suffering and Christ’s Passion” for the *Rediscovering your Spiritual Roots* Lenten lecture series, Sts Patrick and Raphael Parish, Williamstown, MA (16 March 2016)

38. “Holiness in the Home” as Key Note Speaker for *Western Canadian Catholic Homeschool Conference*, Edmonton, AB (11-12 March 2016)

37. “The Case for Catholic Education” and “Workshop on Public Speaking” *Western Canadian Catholic Homeschool Conference*, Edmonton, AB (11-12 March 2016)

2015

36. “St. Augustine’s *Confessions* and the defense of classical education” Hillsdale College, Department of Education, Hillsdale, MI (6 November 2015)

*35. “The Uses of Literature for Faith” *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference*, Dominican University College, Ottawa, ON (2 October 2015)

2014

34. “Why Some Lovers Stay Happy” *Sophia-Teachers Institute*, in-service seminars for Catholic Teachers in New Hampshire, Bedford, NH (17 November 2014)

33. “What Therapists Can’t Cure: The Power of Confession” *Sophia-Teachers Institute*, in-service seminars for Catholic Teachers in Yonkers, New York (31 October 2014); also given in Bedford, NH (17 October 2014)
32. “The Artist After God: A History with a Lesson” *The Art of the Beautiful Lecture Series*, Catholic Artists Society, New York University, Newman Center, New York City (8 November 2014); lecture for the *19th Century Boston Art Program Series*, Thomas More College, Merrimack, NH (25 July 2014)
31. “Not a Book but a Brotherhood: The Reason for Baptism” *Sophia-Teachers Institute*, in-service seminars for Catholic Teachers in New Hampshire, Bedford, NH (19 September 2014)
30. “St. Luke meets Dr. Faustus: The Battle for the Physician’s Soul” *Catholic Medical Guild*, Key Note Speaker for White Mass and Dinner, Tampa, FL (13 September 2014)
29. Plenary Invited Response to Dr. Jonathan Reyes, “Catholic culture and the formation of life” for the opening of *Twenty Years of Catholic Studies Conference*, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND (29-31 August 2014)
28. “Why Read the Great Books?” *TMC Great Books Summer School Program*, Thomas More College, Merrimack, NH (5 July 2014)
27. “How to Build a Catholic Culture” Guest Speaker for Veritas Bookstore’s 20th Anniversary Celebration, Canadian Martyrs Church, Halifax, NS (7 February 2014)

2013

26. “Augustine’s *Confessions* on Liberal Education” Chesterton Academy, Minneapolis, MN (8 November 2013)
25. “How the Incarnation Transformed the Liberal Arts” University of Minnesota Christian Faculty group, Minneapolis, MN (8 November 2013)
24. “The Philosophical Roots of Modern Church Architecture” invited lecture for the *19th Century Boston Art Program Series*, Thomas More College, NH (31 July 2013)
23. “The Crisis and Renewal of Catholic Education in Canada” lecture for the *Rebuilding Catholic Culture Conference* at St. Anne’s Church, Saskatoon, SK (17 July 2013)
22. “The Past and Future History of St. Augustine’s *De Magistro*” presentation for the University of Pittsburgh *Medieval Latin Reading Seminar*, Pittsburgh, PA (16 April 2013)
21. “The *Catechism* and the Year of Faith” Eight-part lecture series at St. Christopher’s RC Church, Nashua, NH (January-March 2013)

2012

20. “St. Augustine’s *Confessions* and the tradition of liberal education” St. Dunstan’s College at the University of Prince Edward Island, PEI (6 July 2012); paper for *Confessions Revisited Conference*, Walsh University, North Canton, OH (26 March 2011)

*19. "God and the Great Books: Why only Religion Can Save the Liberal Arts in Canada", Conference on Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts in Canada, King's College, Halifax, NS (28 June 2012)

18. "An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching" Catholic Diocese of St. John lay formation group, Villa Madonna, St John, NB (16 March 2012)

2011

17. "The Rise and Fall of Beauty: From Mimetic to Creative Art" guest lecturer for course on the *Philosophy of Beauty*, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB (28, 30 November 2011)

*16. "Of Popes, Parents, and Philosophers: Steps in the Renewal of Catholic Culture" *University of Notre Dame Ethics and Culture Conference*, Notre Dame, IN (10 November 2011)

*15. "On the Arts of Enchantment: Sacrament and Stone in Christian liturgy" *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Canada Conference*, University of Toronto (15 October 2011).

14. "Why does the Church need the Pope? The office of Peter and the offer of *Anglicanorum Coetibus*" paper for the Toronto Ordinariate Group, Newman Centre, University of Toronto (5 June 2011)

13. "Sign and Contradiction: Patterns of Renewal in Contemporary Religious Life" talk for the *Congregation of the Divine Spirit*, House of Loreto, Canton, OH (9 April 2011)

2008-10

12. "Pope Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate* and the Tradition of Catholic Social Teaching" invited contribution to *Panel Discussion on Caritas in Veritate* at St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon (18 November 2009)

*11. "Augustine on Liberal Education: Defender and Defensive" *Canadian Society of Patristic Studies Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa, (25-26 May 2009); University of Saskatchewan, *Classical, Medieval, Renaissance Studies colloquium series*, Saskatoon (26 March 2009); St. Mary's University College, Calgary, *Faculty seminar series* (12 February 2009)

*10. "Chesterton on Paradox in Apologetics: The Case of Faith and Reason" *Canadian Theological Society Annual Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa (25-27 May 2009)

*9. "Catholic Studies in Canada: History and Prospects" *Canadian Catholic Historical Association Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa (25-26 May 2009)

8. "Faith and Reason and the Catholic *Catechism*" St Thomas More College *RCLA class* (27 January 2009)

*7. "Beauty as Revelation: Balthasar on Augustine on Beauty" *Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova University, Villanova, PA (10-12 October 2008)

2006-07

6. “How to Study Piously: Some Augustinian Reasons Why Faith Must Precede Understanding” *Society for the Study of Christian Ethics Postgraduate Conference*, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford (8 September 2007)

*5. “Christ as *disciplina dei* in St. Augustine’s Early Educational Thought” *XVth International Conference on Patristic Studies*, University of Oxford (6-11 August 2007)

4. “Love of Honor, Love of Euthanasia” *Society for the Study of Christian Ethics Postgraduate Conference*, Mansfield College, University of Oxford (17 March 2007)

3. “St. Augustine and the Defense of Liberal Education” *Middle Common Room Seminar Series*, Regent’s Park College, Oxford (7 February 2007)

*2. “Music in the ascent of the soul: a note on the liturgical significance of St Augustine’s *De Musica* Bk.VI” *Royal Musical Society Postgraduate Conference*, Durham University (20 June 2006)

*1. “John Locke on Political Toleration” *Society for the Study of Theology Annual Conference*, University of Leeds (3-6 April 2006)

VIII. TEACHING

Teaching Positions

2018-present Full Professor, Newman Theological College, Edmonton, AB

2020-present Sessional Instructor, Campion Classical Academy, Edmonton, AB

2012 –17 Fellow/Associate Professor, Thomas More College, Merrimack, NH

2011-12 Lecturer, Aquinas Great Books Program, St. Thomas Univ., Fredericton, NB

2010-11 Visiting Assistant Professor, Walsh University, Canton, OH

2007 Adjunct, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford

2007 Tutor, Oxford Royale Summer Academy, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford

2003-04 Adjunct, Bethany College, Hepburn SK

1998-01 Teacher Assistant, Department of Philosophy, U of Winnipeg, MB

Graduate Theses Directed or Evaluated

“The State as Parent: A Critical Look at the Relationship Between the Church, State and Family in Catholic Education in Ontario, Canada” Kenton E. Biffert (Phd. in Theology, Dominican University College, Ottawa, 2023); “Eastern Catholic Approaches to the Theology of the Body” Fr. Mike Bombak (Master of Theology, NTC, 2019-20); “Von Balthasar on the Person and Mission of Christ” Michael Obwega (Master of Theology, NTC 2020)

Courses Taught

Philosophy & Theology

- Introduction to Catholic Studies • Systematic Theology • Contemporary Catholic Thought • The *Catechism* and Cultural Apologetics • Christian Moral Life • Christian Marriage • Philosophy of Religion • Philosophy of Catholic Education
- Medical Ethics • Modern Philosophy • Philosophical Ethics • Philosophical Aesthetics
- John Paul II and Christian Marriage

Scripture & Early Christian Thought

- Sacred Scripture and the Catholic Tradition • Legacy of St. Augustine
- Roman & Early Christian Thought

Classics & Humanities Courses

- Introduction to Logic • Introduction to Latin • Rhetoric & the Art of Writing
- Latin Fathers and Doctors (Latin reading course on St. Thomas' *Summa*)
- Western Thought and Culture • Aquinas Program in Great Books (St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB) • Classical Civilization • Reformation & Renaissance Thought

Highschool Courses

- The North American Jesuit Missions (Thomas More College Summer Program, NH)
- Introduction to Latin (Summer School held in Oxford) • Christian Apologetics (Campion Classical Academy [CCA], AB) • Moral Theology (CCA)

IX. POPULAR ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS & OPINIONS

Appearances, interviews, and opinions on radio, television, and internet outlets such as: EWTN, Word on Fire, Grandin Media, Catholic Answers, National Catholic Reporter, Catholic TV, Relevant Radio, Kresta in the Afternoon, The Journey Home with Marcus Grodi, Catholic World Report, Catholic News Service, Macleans, The Cardinal Newman Society, Sirius Radio, Shalom Media.

2023-24

“Joyfully Big” featuring the Topping family on Shalom Media (19 June 2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heRkMfhhLQ0>

“From Protestant to Catholic Through Newman” interview with Brian Holdsworth (20 May 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDFohseLTIA>

“Evangelizing the ‘Nones’” *The Catholic Canuck Pod-Cast* with David Skuban (27 April 2023) <https://player.fm/series/the-catholic-canuck-podcast/evangelizing-the-nones-wdr-ryan-topping>

“New Book on Evangelization” (April 26, 2023) Interview with Brooke Taylor on Relevant Radio’s show “Trending” (interview at part 2 of clip)

<https://relevantradio.com/2023/04/defeating-evil-and-recovering-the-good/>

“The Three Funerals of Pope Benedict XVI,” *Catholic Register Op Ed* (13 January 2023)

<https://www.catholicregister.org/opinion/guest-columnists/item/35155-the-three-funerals-of-pope-benedict-xvi>

2020-22

“On Renewing Catholic Education” *In Conversation Pod-Cast* with David Goa (February 2021) <https://www.davidgoa.ca/podcast-ryan-topping>

“On Renewing Catholic Culture” *The Catholic Canuck Pod-Cast* with David Skuban (December 2020)

“Individual Rights and Social Responsibilities” Panelist in discussion in response to Alberta Bishops’ 2020 Pastoral Letter on Covid-19 for *Grandin Media* (October 2020)

“Catholic Education” *St. Columbiana Journal* interview on the philosophy of education (August 2020)

“Sacramental Worship” Video interview with Archbishop Smith for *Grandin Media* (July 2020) <https://grandinmedia.ca/archbishop-in-dialogue-asks-the-question-why-worship-sacramentally/?print=print>

“The Case for Catholic Education” *The Well Read Catholic* podcast interview (April 2020)

2018-19

“Christmas Around the Fire” *Left Footers* Youtube interview (Dec 2019)

“Christ and Stories” *Grandin Media* interview (Nov 2019)

“Bill 207 is dead. Now what?” *Grandin Media* (Nov 21, 2019) & *Convivium* (Nov 27, 2019) <https://www.convivium.ca/articles/bill-207-is-dead-now-what/>

“Christmas Around the Fire” interview with Ken Huck, on Radio Maria’s *Meet the Author* (20 November 2019) <https://radiomaria.us/meet-the-author/>

“Newman’s Gifts Uniquely Suited to the New Evangelization” *EWITN Catholic Register* (October 14, 2019)

“One of the great intellectual giants, Newman challenged Catholic thought and practice” *Grandin Media* (October 12, 2019), contributing commentary

“Denial to Proclamation” reflections in *Veritas Devotional Journal* for teens (October 2019)

“Church in Canada set to enact new abuse document” *BC Catholic* (February 26, 2019), contributing commentary

“New Book reminds us of the Church’s massive contributions to Western civilization” *Grandin Media* (November 21, 2018), interview on new book

<https://grandinmedia.ca/new-book-reminds-us-churchs-massive-contributions-western-civilization/>

“The Gifts of the Church” *The Uncommon Good* (November 16, 2018), long interview on new book <https://simplecast.com/s/dc2d7d05>

“How the Church Transformed the West” *Kresta in the Afternoon* (Ave Maria Radio) (October 22, 2019), long interview on new book <https://avemariaradio.net/audio-archive/kresta-in-the-afternoon-october-22-2018-hour-2/>

“The Three Anniversaries of John Paul II” *GM* (November, 2018)
 “Christians lose at Court – and what to do about it” *GM* (July 2018)
 “To Join Wisdom to Eloquence: Augustine’s On Christian Teaching” (July 2018)
<https://newmansociety.org/to-join-wisdom-to-eloquence-augustines-on-christian-teaching/>
 “An Attack On All: The Court’s Attack on Trinity Western is an Attack upon us all”
Convivium (July 2018) <https://www.convivium.ca/articles/an-attack-on-all>
 “Lessons on Holiday” *CNSJ* (July 2018) <https://newmansociety.org/lessons-on-holiday/>

 “Finding Jesus on Jasper Avenue” *Grandin Media* [GM] (June 2018)
 “Commonsense Philosophy: Aristotle’s *Ethics*” in *CNSJ* (June, 2018)
<https://newmansociety.org/aristotles-commonsense-philosophy/>
 “Why I Enjoyed Just Reading Virgil’s *Aeneid* to my Seven Sons” in *CNSJ* (May 28, 2018)
<https://newmansociety.org/reading-virgils-aeneid-with-my-seven-sons/>
 “Should Catholic Schools Observe Fish Friday All Year?” in *CNSJ* (May 14, 2018)

 “Why Johnny Stopped Going to Church: Parts 1 and 2” in *CNSJ* (April 16 and 30, 2018)
<https://newmansociety.org/why-johnny-stopped-going-to-church-part-1/>
<https://newmansociety.org/why-johnny-stopped-going-to-church-part-2/>
 “Thomism for Teachers: Jacques Maritain’s Education at the Crossroads (1943)” in
CNSJ (March 31, 2018)

 “Vatican: Against the New Gnostics, Embrace the Theology of the Body” in *CNSJ*
 (March 14, 2018)
 “Why Culture is the Key: Christopher Dawson’s *Crisis of Western Education*” in *Cardinal Newman Society Journal* [*CNSJ*](March 2, 2018)

2015-17

“Making the Case for Faithful Catholic Education” Interview with the Cardinal Newman Society (4 January 2017) <https://newmansociety.org/qa-dr-ryan-topping-making-case-faithful-catholic-education/>
 “Do Your Students March?” in *Catholic Exchange* (February 2016)
 Monthly architectural editorials in *Catholic Insight* [*CI*] (July 2014-May 2015)

2013-14

“Open wide the Doors of Faith” in *CI* (July, 2014)
 “The Tabernacle and the Feast” editorial in *CI* (June, 2014)
 “The Grammar of Worship” editorial in *CI* (May, 2014)
 “One Seminary, Two Chapels” editorial in *CI* (April, 2014)

 “Is Beauty in the eye of the Beholder?” editorial in *CI* (March, 2014)
 “The Philosophy of Catholic Education” Parts I-IV in *CI* (July-December 2013)
 “Preparing for your Wedding: A Bride’s Checklist of Questions and Answers” in *Crisis Magazine* (21 June 2013) <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/preparing-for-marriage-a-brides-checklist-of-questions-and-answers>
 Jens Zimmermann’s *Incarnational Humanism: A Philosophy of Culture for the Church in the World* review in *CI* (June 2013)
 “Why Catholics Cheer for the Pope” in *CI* (May 2013)

 “Catechism and Cultural Ruin” adapted excerpt from *Rebuilding Catholic Culture* in *Convivium* (April/May 2013): 38-39
 “How to Keep a Good Lent” in *Catholic Exchange* (27 February 2013)

<https://catholicexchange.com/how-to-keep-a-good-lent>

“Towards the Rebuilding of Catholic Culture” in *CI* (February 2013)

“The Long War Against the Family: Parts I-III” in *Crisis* (28-30 January 2013)

<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/the-long-war-against-the-family-part-i>

<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/the-long-war-against-the-family-part-ii>

“St. Augustine: The Restless Flame” in *Crisis Magazine* (27 August 2013)

2009-12

“Vatican Two and the Renewal of the Parish Liturgy, Parts I and II” in *CI* (July/August and Sept 2012)

“On the unfinished work of *Dignitatis Humanae*” in *CI* (May 2012)

“Reviving the Spirit of Vatican II” in *CI* (April 2012)

“Keeping the (Year of) Faith in 2012” in “On the Square”/*First Things* (23 January 2012)

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2012/01/keeping-the-year-of-faith-in>

“The Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelism” in *CI* (December 2011)

“A New Generation of Theologians” in “On the Square”/*First Things* (27 September 2011)

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2011/09/a-new-generation-of-theologians>

“Why does the Church need the Pope? The office of Peter and the offer of *Anglicanorum Coetibus*” in *The Messenger: Journal of the Traditional Anglican Communion* (24 June 2011)

“On the Family: A Report of the National Theology of the Body Conference” in *CI* (September 2009)

X. AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Province of Alberta)
- 2019 Awarded prize for “Best Compilation” by Catholic Book Publishers Association for *Christmas Around the Fire: Stories, Essays and Poems for the Season of Christ’s Birth* (Tan Publishers, 2019)
- 2017 “Catholic Culture Award” Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, ON
- 2014, 17 Summer Institute Fellowship, *Faith and Reason Institute*, Warren, NH
- 2013 Publication Grant, Thomas More College, NH
- 2011 Conference Travel Grant, St. Thomas University, Fredericton
- 2010 Publication Grant, St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon
- 2007-08 Calihan Academic Fellowship, Acton Institute, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2005-08 Doctoral Fellowship (\$60,000) Government of Canada Social Sciences Humanities Research Council
- 2005-07 Graduate Theology Studentship, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford
- 2003 2nd Prize in the National Greek Translation Competition, junior category, Canadian Classics Association
- 2002 Senator T. Alexander Crerar Scholarship (major award by Faculty of Graduate Studies), University of Manitoba
- 2002 Department of Philosophy Graduate Scholarship, University of Manitoba
- 2000 Gold Medal, Hons Philosophy (top graduate in program), U of Winnipeg
- 2000 Victory Y. Shimzu Kant Prize, for work in Early Mod Phil, U of Winnipeg
- 2000 Christian Studies Faculty Prize for Senior Thesis, Concord College, Winnipeg

XI. OTHER ACADEMIA

Languages Studied

- Classical and Biblical Greek
- Classical and Medieval Latin
- Modern French
- Modern German

Academic Associations (Past or Present)

- Jacques Maritain Association
- Canadian Fellowship of Catholic Scholars
- American Academy of Religion
- Canadian Catholic Historical Association

XII. OTHER ACTIVITIES (Past or Present)

Additional Employment • Co-owner of St. Peter's Books (current) • Program Facilitator at *Hope Center*, Winnipeg, working with people with physical and mental disabilities • Assistant Manager for store operated by *Mennonite Central Committee* Saskatchewan • Farm and construction work

Music and Athletics Thomas More College Schola • Oxford Gregorian Chant Society • Oxford Oratory Choir • Pembroke College Chapel Choir • Winnipeg Mennonite Oratorio Choir • University of Winnipeg Chamber Choir • University of Oxford Blues Ice-Hockey • Concord College Ice Hockey

Other Community Service • Coach for U6 Family Friendly Soccer, Edmonton • Marriage preparation courses • Co-founder of Saturday Night Gym Night, drop-in for teens, Winnipeg • Youth summer camps • Music and visitation ministry at the Headingly Correction Center, Winnipeg • Teaching English as a Second language at U of Klaipeda and Lithuanian Christian College, Lithuania

XIII. PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

• Mr. David Clayton, Provost, Pontifex University • Dr. Barry Craig, St. Thomas University, Fredericton • Dr. John Liptay, Thomas More College, Saskatoon • Dr. Patrick Kelly, Thomas More College, Saskatoon • Fr. Aidan Nichols, O.P., Blackfriars, Cambridge • Dr. Mark J. Edwards, Oxford University, Oxford