

Ryan N.S. Topping, D.Phil.

*Fellow, Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts
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AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Systematic & Moral Theology
Philosophy of Christian Education
Religion and Culture
Early Christian Thought

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)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2012-present 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

PUBLICATIONS

(a) Books

9. *Finding Interior Peace: A 40 Day Retreat with St. Francis de Sales* (in progress)
8. *The Gifts of the Church: How Catholics Transformed the History, Literature, Art and Soul of the West* (forthcoming with St. Benedict's Press)
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, Book Chapters, Forewords (peer reviewed *)

- *20. "The Artist After God: A History with a Lesson" in *Verge: A Journal of the Arts and Christian Faith* (under review)
19. Foreword to Hilaire Belloc's *The Catholic Church and History* (Charlotte, NC: St. Benedict's Press, forthcoming)
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

Jens Zimmermann's *Incarnational Humanism: A Philosophy of Culture for the Church in the World* in *Augustinian Studies* 44:1 (2013):198-202.

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.

Christopher C.H. Cook's *Alcohol, Addiction and Christian Ethics* in *Studies in Christian Ethics* 21.1 (April 2008): 129-133.

Peter Burnell's *The Augustinian Person* for *New Blackfriars* 88 (July 2007): 627-629.

Oliver O'Donovan's *Ways of Judgment* for *New Blackfriars* 88 (January 2007): 121-24.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (peer reviewed * key notes †)

- *46. “Is the Catechism a ‘Great Book?’: A Meditation on the Literary Preconditions to Catechesis” *Speaking the Truth in Love Conference* at The University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH (13 October 2017)
45. “Catechesis in Stone: The Grammar of Church Architecture” *Wojtyla Teachers’ Institute*, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy, Barry’s Bay, ON (10 August 2017)
- †44. “St. George, The Princess, and the Dragon” *Graduation Address* at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Richmond, NH (17 June 2017)
- †43. “From Plato to the Common Core: The Rise and Fall of Liberal Study” opening address for the *Colloquium on Catholic Wisdom in Today’s Academy*, Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, Hillsdale College (2 June 2017)
- †42. “Cultivate Magnanimity” *Graduation Address* at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy, Barry’s Bay, ON (29 April 2017)
- *41. “Education Still at the Crossroads: Maritain on Renewal in Education” *Canadian Maritain Association Conference*, University of Ottawa (29 October 2016)
40. “Rebuilding Catholic Culture” Diocese of Cleveland *Pastor and Parish Catechetical Leader Day*, Cleveland, OH (23 September 2016)
- †39. “Re-Stating the Case for Catholic Education” *Anthony J. Ruggiero Lecture on Catholic Education*, De Sales University (12 September 2016); also given at Maryvale Academy, Ottawa, ON (30 October 2016)
38. “Apologetics 101 – What Every Christian Should Know” *Catholic Apologetics Conference*, Saskatoon, SK, Canada (18 June 2016)
37. “The Christian Family: Key to Building a Culture of Life” Annual Pro-life Seminar sponsored by the New Hampshire Knights of Columbus, Concord, NH (17 April 2016)
36. “The Marks of a Catholic Education” for *The Call of the Catholic Teacher Seminar*, Fredericton, NB (2 April 2016)
35. “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)
- †34. “Holiness in the Home” as Key Note Speaker for *Western Canadian Catholic Homeschool Conference*, Edmonton, AB (11-12 March 2016)
33. “The Case for Catholic Education” and “Workshop on Public Speaking” as Key Note Speaker for *Western Canadian Catholic Homeschool Conference*, Edmonton, AB (11-12 March 2016)

32. “St. Augustine’s *Confessions* and the defense of classical education” Hillsdale College, Department of Education, Hillsdale, MI (6 November 2015)
- *31. “The Uses of Literature for Faith” *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference*, Dominican University College, Ottawa, ON (2 October 2015)
30. “Why Some Lovers Stay Happy” *Sophia-Teachers Institute*, in-service seminars for Catholic Teachers in New Hampshire, Bedford, NH (17 November 2014)
29. “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)
28. “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)
27. “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)
- †26. “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)
25. 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)
24. “How to Build a Catholic Culture” Guest Speaker for Veritas Bookstore’s 20th Anniversary Celebration, Canadian Martyrs Church, Halifax, NS (7 February 2014)
23. “Augustine’s *Confessions* on Liberal Education” Chesterton Academy, Minneapolis, MN (8 November 2013)
22. “How the Incarnation Transformed the Liberal Arts” University of Minnesota Christian Faculty group, Minneapolis, MN (8 November 2013)
21. “The Philosophical Roots of Modern Church Architecture” invited lecture for the *19th Century Boston Art Program Series*, Thomas More College, NH (31 July 2013)
20. “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)
19. “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)
18. “The *Catechism* and the Year of Faith” Eight-part lecture series at St. Christopher’s RC Church, Nashua, NH (January-March 2013)
17. “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)

- *16. "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)
15. "An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching" Catholic Diocese of St. John lay formation group, Villa Madonna, St John, NB (16 March 2012)
- *14. "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)
- *13. "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)
12. "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)
11. "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)
- *10. "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)
- *9. "Chesterton on Paradox in Apologetics: The Case of Faith and Reason" *Canadian Theological Society Annual Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa (25-27 May 2009)
- *8. "Catholic Studies in Canada: History and Prospects" *Canadian Catholic Historical Association Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa (25-26 May 2009)
- *7. "Beauty as Revelation: Balthasar on Augustine on Beauty" *Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova University, Villanova, PA (10-12 October 2008)
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)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Philosophy & Theology

- Senior (Systematic) Theology
- Contemporary Catholic Thought
- The *Catechism* and Cultural Apologetics
- Christian Moral Life
- Christian Marriage
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Catholic Education
- Medical Ethics

Scripture & Early Christian Thought

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

Classics & Humanities

- Introduction to Logic
- Introduction to Latin
- The Essay and the Art of Rhetoric
- Western Thought and Culture
- Aquinas Program in Great Books
- Classical Civilization
- Reformation & Renaissance Thought
- The North American Jesuit Missions

2012 – Fellow/Assistant 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, U of Oxford

2003-04 Adjunct, Bethany College, Hepburn SK

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

ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017- Grant Writing - Office of Development, Thomas More College

2016- Faculty Director - Thomas More College Debate Society

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

2014-15 Peer Reviewer for academic journals in religion and education

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

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

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

2014 Editorial Board - *Journal of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars* (Canada)

2013- Secretary - Council of Fellows, Thomas More College, NH

- 2012- Coordinator – Thomas More College Student-Teacher Internships in local Catholic schools
- 2011-12 Acting Director - *Blessed John XXIII Centre for Catholic Thought*, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB
- 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, Saskatoon (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

SELECT POPULAR ARTICLES & INTERVIEWS

“Making the Case for Faithful Catholic Education” cover interview in the Cardinal Newman Society's *The Renewal Report* (December 2016)

“Do Your Students March?” in *Catholic Exchange* (February 2016)

Monthly architectural editorials in *Catholic Insight [CI]* (July 2014-May 2015)

“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)

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)

“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)

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

“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)

“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)

“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)

POPULAR LECTURES & MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Appearances and interviews on radio and television programs and networks such as: EWTN, Catholic Answers, 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; presentations at churches, community groups, and conference on family, education, and catechesis. (For additional details see www.ryan-topping.com)

SELECT FUNDING AWARDS AND ACADEMIC PRIZES

- 2017,14 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

FOREIGN LANGUAGES STUDIED

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

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS (past or present)

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

(a) Additional Employment

- 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

(b) Music and Athletics

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

(c) Academic and Community Service

- Faculty Representative for college Debate Society • Marriage preparation courses • Saturday Night Gym Night, drop-in for teens, Winnipeg • Summer camps • Music and visitation ministry at the Headingly Correction Center, Winnipeg • Exchange with the U of Klaipeda and LCC, Lithuania

~ Professional References Available from: ~

- Mr. David Clayton, formerly artist-in-residence, Thomas More College, NH
- Dr. John Liptay, Thomas More College, Saskatoon, SK
- Dr. Patrick Kelly, Thomas More College, Saskatoon, SK
- Dr. Chris Morrissey, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC
- Fr. Aidan Nichols, O.P., Blackfriars, Cambridge, UK
- Dr. Matthew Siebert, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC