

Joshua C. Benson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology
The Catholic University of America
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Education

Degrees

Ph.D., Saint Louis University, Historical Theology	May 2007
M.A., St. Bonaventure University, Franciscan Studies	May 2002
B.A., Canisius College, Philosophy	May 2000

Appointments

Associate Professor Historical and Systematic Theology, The Catholic University of America
2008-2018; 2020-Present
Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Theology and Franciscan Studies, St.
Bonaventure University 2018-2020

Professional Service

Chair of Theology and Franciscan Studies, SBU (2018-2020)
Associate Director, Systematic and Historical Theology, CUA (2017-2018)
Assistant Director, Medieval and Byzantine Studies, CUA (2017-2018)
First Year Experience Lead Coordinator, Master Teacher (2015-2017)
Area Director, Spirituality, CUA (2014-2016)
Member, Committee for Appointments and Promotions, CUA (2014-2017)

Professional Societies

Member, Advisory Council of the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University (2019-
Present)
Member, Academy of Catholic Theology (2014 -)
Member, CFIT Advisory Council (January 2014–2016)
Member, Research Advisory Council for the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University
(2014–2017)
Member, Editorial and Advisory Board of the Bonaventure Text in Translation Series (BTTS)
(2006–2013)
Member, Advisory Board of *Greyfriars Review* (2006–2010)

Awards

2016-2018 Fellow, *Institute for Human Ecology*, Catholic University of America
2015-2016 Teacher of the Year Award, from Catholic University School of Theology and
Religious Studies Graduate Student Association

Publications

Books (as editor):

Robert Lax, *21 Pages and Psalm*, eds. Joshua C. Benson and Paul J. Spaeth (St. Bonaventure:
Franciscan Institute Publications and One Island Books, 2020)

Articles:

- “Images of Jesus: Bonaventure,” *Franciscan Connections: The Cord – A Spiritual Review* 65:2 (2015), 10-11.
- “A Witness to the Early Reception of Bonaventure’s *Collationes in Hexaëmeron*: Nicholas of Okcham’s *Leccio* at Oxford (c. 1286) – Introduction and Text,” *Medieval Sermon Studies*, 58 (2014), 28-46.
- “‘Hold Back Nothing of Yourselves for Yourselves’: Transitus Address 2012,” *The Cord* 63:1 (2013), 27-35.
- “Nada de vosotros retengáis para vosotros” (CtaO29), trans. Rafael Sanz, *Selecciones de Franciscanismo* 132/XLIV (2015), 431-438.
- “Bonaventure’s Inaugural Sermon at Paris: Omnium Artifex Docuit Me Sapientia. Introduction and Text,” in *Collectanea Franciscana* 82/3-4 (2012), 517-562.
- “Fons Sapientiae Verbum Dei in Excelsis. John Pecham’s Inaugural Sermon?” *Collectanea Franciscana* 81:3-4 (2011), 451-478.
- “An Unedited Principium: Fons Sapientiae Verbum Dei in Excelsis. Introduction and Text,” *Collectanea Franciscana* 81:1-2 (2011), 71-100.
- “Bonaventure’s *De reductione artium ad theologiam* and Its Early Reception as an Inaugural Sermon,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 85 (2011), 7-24.
- “Identifying the Literary Genre of *De reductione artium ad theologiam*: Bonaventure’s inaugural lecture at Paris,” *Franciscan Studies* 67 (2009), 149-178.
- “Digitizing Francis and Clare of Assisi Early Documents – Progress, Challenges Implications.” *Spiritus* 8:2 (2008), 156-163.
- “Structure and Meaning in St. Bonaventure’s *Quaestiones disputatae de scientia Christi*,” *Franciscan Studies* 62 (2004), 67-90.

Book Chapters:

- “Bonaventure,” Forthcoming in *Classical and Medieval Literary Criticism Series*
- “Matthew of Aquasparta,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (DeGruyter, Forthcoming)
- “Facing the Twelfth Century: The Spiritual Senses in Bonaventure’s *Hexaëmeron* and Stephen Langton’s Lectures on Genesis,” in *Essays in Honor of Michael Blastic* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).
- “Reflections on Memory in the *Vita Prima*,” in *Ordo et Sanctitas: The Franciscan Spiritual Journey in Theology and Hagiography*, Essays in Honor of J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., eds. Michael F. Cusato, Timothy J. Johnson, Steven J. McMichael (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 11-31.
- “The Christology of the *Breviloquium*,” in *A Companion to Bonaventure*, eds. Jay M. Hammond, J. A. Wayne Hellmann and Jared Goff (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 247-288.
- “Augustine and Bonaventure,” in *T and T Clark Companion to Augustine and Modern Theology*, eds. C. C. Pecknold and Tarmo Toom (London: Bloomsbury, 2013), 131-150.
- “Summa Fratris Alexandri,” in *The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, vol. 3, ed. Karla Pollmann (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 1784-1787.
- “Matthew of Aquasparta’s Sermons on Theology,” in *Franciscans and Preaching*, ed. Timothy J. Johnson (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 145-174.

Translations

Hugh of St. Victor, "On the Wisdom of Christ's Soul," in *Victorine Christology*, Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 7, ed. Christopher P. Evans (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018), 83-110.
"Summa Sententiarum I.15-19," in *Victorine Christology*, Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 7, ed. Christopher P. Evans (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018), 183-206.
Hugh of St. Victor, "The Five Sevens," in *Writings on the Spiritual Life*, Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 4, ed. Christopher P. Evans (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013), 349-368.
Hugh of St. Victor, "On the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit," in *Writings on the Spiritual Life*, Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 4, ed. Christopher P. Evans (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013), 369-380.

Reviews (solicited):

Review of *Early Franciscan Theology* (Cambridge, 2019) by Lydia Schumacher, forthcoming in *Archa Verbi*.
Review of *Quaestiones disputatae 'De productione rerum,' 'De imagine' et 'De anima' e schola bonaventuriana* (Roma: Istituto Storico Dei Cappuccini, 2014) by Mikolaj Olszewski, *Archa Verbi* 12 (2015), 202-204.
Forum Essay on *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society* (Brad Gregory). Nelson H. Minnich, Joshua Benson, Hans J. Hillerbrand, Simon Ditchfield, Paul F. Grendler and Brad Gregory. *The Catholic Historical Review* XCVIII:3 (July, 2012), 503-516.

Electronic Media:

The Digital Francis of Assisi and Clare of Assisi: Early Documents. Available at: <http://franciscantradition.org:8080/FAED/> Now updated by Danny Michaels at franciscantradition.org

Invited Addresses:

Transitus Address, St. Bonaventure University, October 3, 2018.
"Mary: The Virgin Mother of God," talk sponsored by the Thomistic Institute at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Arlington VA, September 26, 2017.
"Beggars and Masters: The Rise of the Mendicants and the Medieval Universities," for DC Public Schools professional development session, Dec. 4, 2015.
"Pope Francis, St. Francis and the Book of Creation," for St. Jerome's Parents' Symposium, Hyattsville, MD, October 22, 2015.
"An introduction to Francis of Assisi," for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria VA, May 18, 2014.
"An introduction to Francis of Assisi," for the John Carroll Society, Washington DC, January 13, 2014.
"A Humble Gesture, Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis," Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, October 8, 2013.
"Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves . . ." Annual Transitus Address, Holy Land Monastery, Washington D.C., Oct. 3, 2012.
"The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition. The Challenge in the Sources." Five Day Workshop with Capuchins of the St. Mary Province (Boston, MA), Aug. 20-24, 2012.

“Francis and the Sultan: A Peaceful Encounter,” Dulin United Methodist Church, Falls Church, VA. March 2011

“St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan: A Peaceful Encounter with Islam,” DC Public Library, November 9, 2010.

“Fons sapientiae verbum Dei in excelsis: John Pecham’s Lost Inaugural Lecture at Paris?” Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Catholic University, October 20, 2010.

“Images of Francis of Assisi: A New Look at a Beloved Saint.” Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., October 5, 2009

“Ortus, Progressus, Status: The Structure of Bonaventure’s Theology in the *Breviloquium*.” Saint Bonaventure University, Franciscan Institute Summer Lecture Series, July 21, 2008

Respondent:

Response to Jay Hammond, “The Structure of the Hexaemeron,” Boston Colloquy in Historical Theology, 2019

Response to Christopher Cullen, “Bonaventure on the Natural Desire to See God: Innate Appetite or Elicited Desire,” Boston Colloquy in Historical Theology, 2012

Conference Papers:

“Bonaventure’s *De reductione artium* and a sermon of John Pecham?” Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference at Villanova University, October 23, 2010.

A Dialogue between Faith and Modernity: Habermas and Ratzinger, Saint Louis University, October 2, 2007 “Ratzinger on Faith and Reason.”

International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2007 “Identifying the Literary Genre of the *De reductione artium ad theologiam*.”

International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2006 “*Mulier Fortis*”: Mary, Fortitude, and Bonaventure’s Shifting Perspective on Feminine Exemplarity?”

International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2005 “Robert Grosseteste on *Contuitio*.”

Theological Studies Graduate Student/Faculty Colloquium, Saint Louis University, November 9, 2004 “The Electronic Grosseteste Project: Task and Outcomes.”

International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2004 “The Poverello in Paris: Matthew of Aquasparta as Interpreter of Bonaventure’s Francis.”

American Comparative Literature Association, San Marcos, California April 2003

“Theology and Science: Arthur Peacocke and Saint Bonaventure on the Ultimate Science in Search of Ultimate Meaning.”

Teaching

Courses Taught (Graduate)

- Bonaventure and Aquinas (CUA)
- Bonaventure: Parisian Master (CUA)
- Foundations of Franciscan Theology (SBU)
- Francis: His Life and Charism (Saint Bonaventure University)
- The History of Franciscan Theology (CUA)
- Inaugural Sermons of Medieval Masters (CUA)
- Theology of Saint Bonaventure (CUA)

- Introduction to Medieval Theology (CUA)
- Introduction to the History of Christian Spirituality (CUA)
- Mariology (CUA)
- Medieval Christology (CUA)
- Medieval Exegesis (CUA)
- Methods for the Study of Spirituality (CUA)
- Readings in Franciscan Theology: Peter of John Olivi (SBU)
- The Spirituality of Saint Bonaventure (SBU)
- Study of the Bible in the Twelfth Century (CUA)

Courses Taught (Undergraduate)

- Bonaventure: Life and Writings (SBU)
- Christianity and Culture (CUA)
- Christian Beliefs (Saint Louis University)
- Dynamics of Christian Spirituality (CUA)
- Enduring Questions of Catholic Theology (CUA)
- Faith Seeking Understanding (CUA)
- Francis and Clare (CUA)
- Franciscan Spirituality (SBU)
- Jesus and Salvation (Saint Louis University)
- Lives of the Saints (CUA)
- Senior Seminar: Genesis
- Special Topics: Ratzinger's Jesus of Nazareth (CUA)
- Teachers of Medieval Christianity (Saint Louis University)
- Theological Foundations (Saint Louis University)
- The Way of Francis and Clare (SBU)
- Unity and Diversity: Theology in the Middle Ages (CUA)

Courses Taught (Other)

- Christology, Archdiocesan Diaconate Program, Washington D.C.

Dissertations Directed

Brett W. Smith, "Aspectus and Affectus in the Theology of Robert Grosseteste," CUA 2018

Aaron M. Gies, Alexander of Hales on the Gospel of John: An Epitome of Sacra Doctrina," CUA 2017

Daniel W. McClain, "An Hexaëmeral Reading of Bonaventure's Breviloquium," CUA 2016.

Matthew L. Martin, "The Kingdom of Heaven in the Gospel Commentaries of St. Thomas Aquinas: Historical, Ecclesiological and Eschatological Dimensions" CUA 2015.

Catherine Levry, "Omnium Artifex Docuit Me Sapientia: A Study of Bonaventure's Inaugural Sermon," CUA 2014.