

THOMAS A. PIOLATA

Curriculum vitae

(Updated: October 22, 2024)

Assistant Professor, Systematic Theology
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
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EDUCATION

- Current **PhD Theology | STD (doctorate in co-tutelle)**
Durham University, Durham, UK | Antonianum University, Rome, IT
Dissertation: “*Ratio finiendi*: The Finality of the Holy Spirit in the Theology of St. Bonaventure”
Moderators: Rik Van Nieuwenhove (Durham); Mary Melone SFA (Antonianum)
- 2021 **STL (Licenciate in Sacred Theology), *summa cum laude***
Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
Thesis: “*Unitas caritatis*: A Reading of Bonaventure’s *Quaestiones disputatae de mysterio Trinitatis* (With a Focus on the Spirit)”
Moderator: Amaury Begasse de Dhaem SJ
- 2020 **STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology), *summa cum laude***
Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
- 2018 **MA Historical and Systematic Theology**
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2016 **MA Philosophy**
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
Thesis: “Bonaventure’s *Collationes in Hexaemeron*: A Reappraisal of The Seraphic Doctor’s Response to Radical Aristotelianism”
Advisor: Timothy Noone
- 2012 **Honors BA Philosophy, Classical Humanities, Italian Studies**
Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO
- 2010 Summer graduate course
Franciscan Institute at Saint Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024-Present Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Catholic University of America, Washington DC

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2024 Northern Bridge Consortium Large Grant (covers full cost for travel to Australia for a conference)
- 2022-24 AHRC Northern Bridge 2 Doctoral Studentship (full tuition scholarship at Durham University and annual stipend)
- 2021-24 Doctoral Fellow of the Collegium Sancti Bonaventurae - Fratri Editori di Quaracchi

- 2016-18 MA Half Tuition Scholarship, School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America
- 2015 Virgil Crisafulli Memorial Scholarship (full scholarship to take Latin during the summer at Catholic University of America)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medieval Theology	Franciscan Intellectual Tradition
Pneumatology	Trinitarian Theology
Soteriology	Christology
Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI	Romano Guardini
Eucharist	Gabriel Marcel

PUBLICATIONS

Books Edited

- In progress* Piolata, Thomas A., and Jared I. Goff, editors. *Saint Bonaventure 1274-2024*.
- 2023 Piolata, Thomas A., and David B. Couturier, editors. *The Earlier Rule of 1221: History, Theology, Vision*. St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute, 2023.

Journal Articles

- In progress* “The Pneumatological and Eschatological Nuance of the Third Commandment: A Look at the *Glossa* of Alexander of Hales and the *Summa Halensis*.”
- Forthcoming* “Bonaventure, Guardini and a Eucharistic Theology of Hope.” *Forthcoming in The New Ressourcement*.
- Forthcoming* “God is Love: Investigating Bonaventure’s Theology of the Essential Love of God.” *Forthcoming in Nova et Vetera*.
- Forthcoming* “The Center Blossoms, Part 2: The Spirit of Salvation in Bonaventure’s *Breviloquium*.” *Forthcoming in Franciscan Studies* 82 (2024).
- 2023 “The Center Blossoms, Part 1: The Pneumatological Fruit of the Incarnate Word in Bonaventure’s *Breviloquium*.” *Franciscan Studies* 81 (2023): 195-235.
- 2023 “‘But he is not a man – he is a mushroom!’ Catholic and Franciscan Insights from *The Little Prince*.” *LOGOS: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 26, no. 3 (2023): 112-137.
- 2021 “The Significance of Supposition: Abelard and Bonaventure on the Question of God Begetting God.” *Collectanea Franciscana* 91, no. 1-2 (2021): 27-49.

Articles in Edited Volumes

- In progress* “The Circularity of Divine Life and the Procession of the Holy Spirit: A Bonaventurian Perspective.”
- Forthcoming* “*Et pax erit*: La finalità dello Spirito Santo nella struttura della storia della salvezza secondo le *Collationes in Hexaemeron*.”

- 2023 “*Earlier Rule: Invitation to Ecclesial / Inter-obediential Unity.*” In *The Earlier Rule of 1221: History, Theology, Vision*, edited by David B. Couturier and Thomas A. Piolata, 129-142. St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute, 2023.
- 2022 “*Unitas caritatis: Explicating an Implicit Reference to the Spirit in Bonaventure’s Quaestiones disputatae de mysterio Trinitatis.*” In *Ut bon(aventurian)i fiamus. Studies in St. Bonaventure on the Occasion of the 800th Anniversary of His Birth*, edited by Nena Bobovnik, Jan Dominik Bogataj and Miran Špelič, 133-149. Ljubljana – Rome: Založba UL – Edizioni Quarrachi, 2022.
- 2021 “Bonaventure’s *Collationes in Hexaemeron* and Radical Aristotelianism.” In *Saint Bonaventure: Friar, Teacher, Minister, Bishop. A Celebration of the Eighth Centenary of His Birth*, edited by Timothy Johnson, Katherine Wrisley Shelby and Marie Kolbe Zamora, 341-355. St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute, 2021.
- 2020 “Implicazioni eucaristiche di un’eccelesologia mariana. Un’indagine a partire dal primo Sermone di san Bonaventura sull’Assunzione della Beata Vergine Maria.” In *L’eletta dello Spirito: Maria in Bonaventura (Doctor Seraphicus 67)*, edited by Letterio Mauro, 123-139. Milano: Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana, 2020.

Translations

- In progress* A translation with J.A. Wayne Hellmann of Romano Guardini, *Die Lehre des heil. Bonaventura von der Erlösung: Ein Beitrag zur Geŕgeschichte und zum System der Erlösungslehre* (Düsseldorf: L. Schwann, 1921).

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming* Goff, Jared I., ed. *The Collected Essays of Peter Damian Fehlner*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2023. — *Forthcoming in Franciscan Studies*.
- 2021 Johnson, Timothy, Katherine Wrisley Shelby and Marie Kolbe Zamora, eds., *Saint Bonaventure: Friar, Teacher, Minister, Bishop. A Celebration of the Eighth Centenary of His Birth*, St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute, 2021. — *Gregorianum* 102, no. 4 (2021): 941-942.

Other

- 2024 Co-authored with Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv. “The goal of the Eucharist is spiritual communion.” *America* (online), <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2024/04/16/bonaventure-eucharistic-revival-247661>, April 16, 2024.
- 2024 “YouTube and the Yearning for God.” *First Things* (Web Article), <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2024/01/youtube-and-the-yearning-for-god>, January 17, 2024.
- 2023 “St. Francis of Assisi: Saint of the Body and Blood of Our Lord.” *The Catholic Thing*, <https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2023/04/22/st-francis-of-assisi-saint-of-the-body-and-blood-of-our-lord/>, April 22, 2023.
- 2016 “Not What You Once Were, But What You Henceforth Have Begun To Be.” *Franciscan Connections: The Cord – A Spiritual Review* 66, no. 4 (2016): 30-33.
- 2012 “The Religious Vision of Saint Francis of Assisi as Mission: Entering Into the Experience of the Other.” *Obsculta* 5, no. 1 (2012): 5-11.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Circularity of Divine Life and the Procession of the Holy Spirit: A Bonaventuran Perspective.” The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation, Durham University; Durham, UK (March 12-14)
- 2024 “From This World to the Father: Bonaventure, Guardini and A Eucharistic Theology of Hope.” Eschatology at the Beginning of the Third Millennium, The University of Notre Dame; Sydney, Australia (February 9-10)
- 2023 “Finalità dello Spirito Santo: una lettura della storia di salvezza a partire dalle *Collationes in Hexaëmeron*.” *L’Hexaëmeron* de saint Bonaventure: nouvelles perspectives, 4^e Rencontre du Réseau bonaventurien, Institut Catholique de Paris; Paris, France (September 7)
- 2023 “The Pneumatological and Eschatological Nuance of the Third Commandment: A Look at the *Glossa* of Alexander of Hales and the *Summa Halensis*.” The Last Things in Alexander of Hales and the Early Franciscan School, Collegium Sancti Bonaventurae (Quaracchi); Rome, IT (May 29-30)
- 2022 “*Ut unum sint*: The Ecclesiological and Ecumenical Challenge of the *Regula non bullata*.” Called – Converse – Create. Celebrate our Gospel Life: Earlier Rule 1221-2021, Saint Bonaventure University; St. Bonaventure, NY (July 13-15)
- 2019 “Avicennian Elements in Bonaventure’s Doctrine of God as First Known as Presented in the *Itinerarium mentis in Deum*.” The Franciscan Legacy from the 13th Century to the 21st, Durham University; Durham, UK (November 5-7)
- 2019 “Implicazioni eucaristiche di un’ecclesiologia mariana: un’indagine dal primo sermone sull’Assunzione di Bonaventura.” *L’eletta dello Spirito: Maria in Bonaventura*, Centro Studi Bonaventuriani; Viterbo e Bagnoregio (May 24-25)
- 2017 “Identifying the Theme of *Ecclesia* in a 12th Century Manuscript’s Commentary on Zephaniah.” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference (PMR), Villanova University; Villanova, PA (October 13-15)
- 2017 “Bonaventure’s *Collationes in Hexaëmeron* and Radical Aristotelianism.” *Frater, Magister, Minister et Episcopus: The Works and Worlds of Saint Bonaventure*, Saint Bonaventure University; St. Bonaventure, NY (July 12-15)
- 2017 “The Significance of Supposition: Abelard and Bonaventure on the Question of God Begetting God.” Fifth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University; St. Louis, MO (June 19-21)
- 2016 “Supra-Intellective, Affective, and Poor: The Architecture of Mysticism in Plotinus and Bonaventure.” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference (PMR), Villanova University; Villanova, PA (October 14-16)
- 2016 “The Possibility of Pagan Virtue in St. Bonaventure.” Fourth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University; St. Louis, MO (June 20-22)
- 2015 “The Self in Augustine’s *Confessions*: An Anthropology of Poverty.” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference (PMR), Villanova University; Villanova, PA (October 16-18)

2012 “*Being as Being-With: Toward a Heterological Ontology in David Bohm’s Approach to Quantum Theory.*” The Ohio State University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference; Columbus, OH (May 12)

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Pneumatic Form of St. Francis Cruciform: A Meditation on the Holy Spirit and the Stigmata.” Franciscan Zoom Lecture Series, Franciscan School of Theology at the University of San Diego (September, 2024)
- 2024 “St. Francis of Assisi and St. Bonaventure on the Eucharist: Entering Into Communion.” Presentation at the Provincial Assembly of the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine; Cleveland, OH (May 30, 2024)
- 2023 “St. Bonaventure on the Eucharist: The Finality of the Spirit.” Recorded Zoom lecture for the Capuchin Delegation of Great Britain’s Ongoing Formation Series (September, 2023)
- 2023 Five talks given to the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration: “The Spiritual Life as Quest,” “St. Francis on the Eucharist,” “St. Bonaventure on the Eucharist,” “St. Bonaventure’s *On the Perfection of Life* Chapters 1-4,” “St. Bonaventure’s *On the Perfection of Life* Chapters 5-8.” Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Hanceville, AL (June 21-23)
- 2023 “The Strength of Tradition: A Reflection on Memory.” Talk delivered via Zoom to Confraternity of Penitents of the Franciscan Third Order (January 14)
- 2022 “Remember Where You Come From: An Advent Reflection.” Preached a day of recollection for the Capuchin community of Franciscan Friary; Erith, UK (December 15)
- 2022 “Bonaventure’s Theology of the Holy Spirit in the Inner Life of the Holy Trinity.” Centre for Catholic Studies Lunchtime Research Conversation; Durham, UK (December 6)
- 2018 “St. Francis of Assisi and the Eucharist.” Preached a day of recollection at St. Francis Episcopal Church; Potomac, MD (March 17)
- 2017 “Christmas Everyday: The Spiritual Gifts of Saints Francis and Bonaventure.” Three-hour class given to Franciscan Mission Service; Washington, DC (August 31)
- 2017 “Misery and True Joy: A Lenten Reflection.” Holy Rosary Parish Lenten Retreat; Washington, DC (March 12)
- 2016 “St. Bonaventure: Features of His Thought.” Delivered to Capuchin College Post-Novitiate Formation Gathering; Washington, DC (November)
- 2016 “Christmas Everyday: The Spiritual Gifts of Saints Francis and Bonaventure.” Three-hour class given to Franciscan Mission Service; Washington, DC (October 17)
- 2016 “The Spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi.” Delivered to Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Spirituality Night; Washington, DC (October 10)
- 2016 “The Power of Prayer.” Delivered to Young Adult gathering at St. Ambrose Catholic Church; Baltimore, MD (July)

- 2016 “Spirituality of Sustainability: Becoming a Steward of All Our Resources.” Delivered to Holy Trinity Parish Youth Group; Washington, DC (January)
- 2015 “How Great a Gift.” Keynote Address, Catholic Youth Summer Camp’s Annual “Dinner Theatre” Fundraiser (500+ attendants), Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center; Columbus, OH (December 6, 2015)
- 2015 “Student Testimony.” Graduate Student Orientation, Catholic University of America; Washington, DC (August)
- 2015 “Bonaventure’s Christology and the Mystical Journey.” Delivered to St. Conrad’s Secular Franciscan Community; Washington, DC (February)
- 2013 “The Christian Life: An Everyday Vocation.” Three-part lecture given to adults at St. Patrick’s Church; Malvern, PA (October 11, 18, 25, 2013)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2026 “The Capuchin Reform: Theology and Spirituality” (Tentative title). Co-organizer with Benjamin Johnson OFM Cap.
- 2024 “The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation.” Co-organizer with James Kelly, Brian Casey, Rik Van Nieuwenhove, and Liam Temple. Hosted by The Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University (UK), March 12-14, 2024.
- 2022 “Called – Converse – Create. Celebrate our Gospel Life: Earlier Rule 1221-2021.” Co-organizer with Jay Hammond, David Couturier OFM Cap., J.A. Wayne Hellmann OFM Conv., Dominic Monti OFM, Benjamin Johnson OFM Cap., Mario Serrano OFM. Conv., Albert Bravo OFM Conv., Jeffrey Jordan OFM and Ryan Thornton OFM. Hosted by the Franciscan Institute at Saint Bonaventure University, July 13-15, 2022.

TEACHING

Undergraduate

The Catholic University of America

- TRS 202B: Church and The Human Person
- TRS 270: Lives of the Saints

Durham University

- Guest Lecturer: “Hadewijch and the Beguines” in “Medieval Theology & Spirituality” (Dec., 2023)
- “Introduction to Christian Theology” – TA, 2 Seminar Groups (2022-23)

Graduate

Pontifical Antonianum University (Licentiate course)

- Guest Lecturer: “Pneumatologia di Bonaventura” in “Lo Spirito Santo *Dominus et vivificans*” (Nov., 2023)

Franciscan School of Theology at the University of San Diego

- Guest Lecturer: “Bonaventure’s Pneumatology” in “Theology of God and Trinity” (March, 2024)

University of Louisville Law School (Ordered Liberty Summer School at the University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary)

- “Natural Law & Natural Rights” – Co-teacher (July, 2022; July, 2023)

LANGUAGES

Italian: Advanced Reading, Writing, and Speaking Proficiency

Latin (Medieval): Reading

German: Reading, Intermediate Speaking/Writing

Spanish: Reading

French: Elementary Reading

OTHER

Led a Franciscan Reading Group for students in Durham University’s Catholic Society; 2023-2024 academic year.

Served on the interviewing committee for Durham University’s Postdoctoral Research Associate: Capuchin Fellow in the History of Catholicism; November 19, 2020.

“Exhaustion,” *Cords* (Capuchin Province of St. Augustine Magazine), Spring 2018: 12.

Blog Post: “Seeing Clearly: Reading the Word.” *Franciscan Mission Service*, Lent Blog Series, February 26, 2018.

Radio interview: by *Encounter Radio*; aired November 4, 2017.

Blog Post: “A Time to Expose, Implore, and Adore.” *Franciscan Mission Service*, Lent Blog Series, March 22, 2017.

Blog Post: “Prayer and Thanks.” *Franciscan Mission Service*, Advent/Christmas Blog Series, December 14, 2015.

PAST SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS

2012 Winner of the Obsculta Theological Essay Contest, Saint John’s School of Theology, Collegeville, MN

2012 Micah Program Senior Leadership Award, Saint Louis University

2012 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (1 of 26 student recipients from the 2012 graduating class at Saint Louis University)

2012 James D. Collins Award for Excellence in Student Academic Achievement in Philosophy (2012; awarded by the philosophy faculty at SLU to one graduating student per year)

2008 Presidential Scholar: Full tuition, four year scholarship to attend Saint Louis University

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

2018 Solemn Profession (August 18)

2014-18 Post Novitiate Formation, Capuchin Friars of the Province of St. Augustine; Washington, DC

NB: During my formation, I was involved in a wide variety of ministerial outreach: teaching ESL (Philadelphia, 2012), interning at the Public Defender's Office (Project Dawn Court: Philadelphia, 2013), serving food to the homeless (Catholic Charities: Santa Barbara, 2013-14; Missionaries of Charity: Washington, DC, 2016-17), young adult ministry (270 Catholic: Rockville, MD, 2014-15), working at a soup kitchen and men's shelter (St. John's Hospice: Philadelphia, 2017), teaching catechesis to children and adults at a parish (Holy Rosary Catholic Church: Washington, DC, 2016-17), summer preaching band (2016).

- 2013-14 Novitiate, North American Pacific Capuchin Conference; Santa Ynez, CA
- 2012-13 Postulancy, Capuchin Friars of the Province of St. Augustine; Philadelphia, PA