

PATRICK MAHANEY CLARK

Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME (Notre Dame, IN)
Ph.D. Theology, *Moral Theology Specialization*, August 2009
Dissertation: *Courage, Death and Virtue in Aquinas and His Philosophical Inheritance*
BOSTON COLLEGE (Chestnut Hill, MA)
M.A. Theology *with distinction*, December 2003
DUKE UNIVERSITY (Durham, NC)
A.B. Philosophy *cum laude*, May 2001

FIELDS OF COMPETENCE

Moral Theology	Systematic Theology	Just War Theory
Catholic Social Teaching	Biblical Theology	Medical Ethics
Virtue Theory	Medieval Mysticism	Sexual Ethics

PUBLICATIONS

- “Martyrdom as the Culmination of the Christian Life in the Thought of Servais Pinckaers” in *The Josephinum Journal of Theology* (forthcoming)
- “Is Martyrdom Virtuous? An Occasion for Rethinking the Relation of Christ and Virtue in Aquinas” in *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 30.1 (Spring 2010)
- “‘Feeling’ in Walter Hilton’s *The Scale of Perfection*” in *The Downside Review* vol. 127, no. 446 (January 2009), pp.23–48.
- “Love’s Descending Ascent: Divinization in *Deus Caritas Est*,” published online by the Office of the President of the University of Notre Dame at <http://www.nd.edu/encyclical>
- “The Cup of the Lord and the Cup of Demons: Reflections on Martyrdom and Suicide Thirty Years after Jonestown” in *Touchstone* 22.2 (March 2009)
- “Awaiting New Wine.” *Sermons from Duke Chapel: Voices from ‘a Great Towering Church’* (Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press, 2006) pp326–330.
- “Against the Dogma of Affluence: the Social Dynamics of World Population Growth.” *The Commons* (Duke Univ. Trinity College, Spring 2001)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- “The end of an era? How Benedict XVI's Theology of History Problematizes the Modern Tradition of Catholic Social Teaching,” to be delivered at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2010
- “Is Martyrdom Virtuous? An Occasion for Rethinking the Relation of Christ and Virtue in Aquinas,” delivered at The Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, January 2009
- “Memory, Forgetfulness and the Self in Hauerwas and Nietzsche,” delivered at the “New Wine, New Wineskins” Conference of the Young Catholic Moral Theologians Symposium, August 2009
- “Reconceiving Conception Ascetically: Engaging the Stalemate between the Church’s Teaching on Family Planning and the Ecological Threat of Overpopulation,” delivered at the Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, June 2009
- “Jesus as Outsider: Rethinking the Ethical Implications of Augustine’s Allegorical Exegesis of the Good Samaritan Parable,” delivered at The Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, November 2008
- “The Sovereignty of the Family and the Criminalization of Homeschooling,” delivered at The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, November 2008
- “Toward a More Coherent Catholic Critique of Capital Punishment,” delivered at The Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 5 April 2008
- “‘Laying Down One’s Life for One’s Friends’: A Critical Comparison of the Jonestown Suicides and the Ugandan Martyrs” delivered at the Baylor University Symposium on Faith and Culture, 26 October 2007
- “Love’s Descending Ascent: Divinization in *Deus Caritas Est*,” delivered at the University of Notre Dame’s multidisciplinary conference on Benedict XVI’s *Deus Caritas Est*, Spring 2007

DISSERTATION

For the Greater Glory: Courage, Death and Virtue in Aquinas and His Philosophical Inheritance
Director: Jean Porter, John A. O'Brien Chair in Theological Ethics

Abstract

In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle argues that most deaths are contemptible and offer no opportunity for the exercise of virtue. Thomas Aquinas, on the other hand, considers the publicly shameful death of the martyr to be not only the highest exemplification of the virtue of courage, but also the greatest proof of moral perfection more generally. What accounts for this substantial divergence from Aristotle on the possibilities of virtuous action in death? This dissertation inquires into this question by examining and contrasting the noble death tradition of classical antiquity with Thomas Aquinas' account of courage and its exemplary act of martyrdom. It investigates the theologically informed metaphysical and anthropological framework within which Aquinas situates his claims, and then explores the implications of these claims for his broader ethical appropriation of Aristotelian virtue theory. This project ultimately intends to show the extent to which Aquinas' conception of virtue depends upon a theological, and specifically Christological, understanding of the relation between death and human perfection.

AWARDS AND HONORS

PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY COMPETITION WINNER
University of Notre Dame, 2007

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CERTIFICATE
Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame, 2009

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIP
University of Notre Dame, 2007, 2008, 2009

TERTIO MILLENNIO SEMINAR FELLOWSHIP
Krakow, Poland, Summer 2003

ERNEST FORTIN FOUNDATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
Boston College, 2003

DUKE CHAPEL STUDENT PREACHER
Duke University, 2000

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

University of Notre Dame, 2009–2010

Fall Semester: Theology 20648: *Fundamentals of Christian Ethics* (2 sections)

Spring Semester: Theology 10001: *Foundations of Theology* (3 sections)

Responsibilities: Developed a new core theology course, delivered all lectures, facilitated discussion, provided mentoring and evaluated all student work

UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTOR

University of Notre Dame, Fall Semester 2008

Theology 10001/20001: *Foundations of Theology* (2 sections)

Responsibilities: Constructed the curriculum and syllabus, delivered all class lectures, managed discussion, provided advising, graded all student work

TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of Notre Dame, Fall Semester 2006

Dr. Maura Ryan, Teaching Mentor

Theology 20630: *Health Care Ethics for the Twenty-First Century*

Responsibilities: Delivered class lecture, evaluated student papers, facilitated class meetings, provided academic advising

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

University of Notre Dame, Summer Semesters 2005–2006

Dr. Michael Baxter, Supervisor

Responsibilities: Conducted research and collected source material on the 19th century Americanism controversy in the Catholic Church

HIGH SCHOOL THEOLOGY TEACHER

Father Matignon High School (Somerville, MA), Spring Semester 2004

Responsibilities: Prepared and delivered daily class lectures, graded all student work, provided academic advising

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTOR

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church (Mishawaka, IN), 2004–2007

LITURGICAL CANTOR

University of Notre Dame, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, 2006–2009

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church (Mishawaka, IN), 2007–9

PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Duke University Ad Hoc Recommendation Committee, Spring 2000

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society of Christian Ethics
Catholic Theological Society of America
American Academy of Religion
Society of Biblical Literature
Young Catholic Moral Theologians Symposium

FOREIGN LANGUAGE READING PROFICIENCY

Latin
German
French

REFERENCES

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