

Christopher D. Denny

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St. John's University, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
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Queens, NY 11439
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EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Ph.D., Theology and Religious Studies 2004

Fields: Catholic Theological Tradition, Religion and Culture, Church History

Specializations: Religion and Literature, Comparative Theology, Medieval Eschatology, Sacrifice and Soteriology, Hans Urs von Balthasar,

Dissertation: "Literature in the Dramatic Anthropology of Hans Urs von Balthasar"

Advisor: William Loewe

M.A., Religion and Religious Education, Religion and Culture 1998

St. John's College, Annapolis, MD, and Santa Fe, NM

B.A., Liberal Arts (Concentrations in Philosophy and the History of Mathematics and Science) 1993

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Distinguished Visiting Professor – Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Dayton Fall 2017

Associate Professor – Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies, St. John's University 2010-Present

Assistant Professor – Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies, St. John's University 2004-2010

Visiting Scholar – University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 2005

Research Assistant - The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 1996-1999

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

[Honorable Mention for Book on the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II—Catholic Press Assoc.](#) 2016

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Grants 2005, 2016

[Lionel Basney Award—Conference on Christianity and Literature](#) 2013

First Place: Best Feature Article, Scholarly Magazines—Catholic Press Association 2012

Award for Best Published Article in 2009—College Theology Society 2010

St. John's University Summer Research Grant 2005

Hubbard Dissertation Fellow 2003

Department of Religion and Religious Education Fellow 2002

Johannes Quasten Scholar 1996-99

PUBLICATIONS

Books

[A Generous Symphony: Hans Urs von Balthasar's Literary Revelations.](#) Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016.

[A Realist's Church: Essays in Honor of Joseph Komonchak,](#) eds. Christopher Denny, Patrick Hayes, and Nicholas Rademacher. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2015 [note: recipient of 2016 citation noted above].

Books (cont'd)

[*Empowering the People of God: Catholic Action before and after Vatican II*](#), eds. Jeremy Bonner, Mary Beth Fraser Connolly, and Christopher Denny. Catholic Practice in North America. New York: Fordham University Press, 2014.

[*Finding Salvation in Christ: Essays on Christ and Soteriology in Honor of William Loewe*](#), eds. Christopher Denny and Christopher McMahon. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2011.

Special Journal Issue

[*Christian Literary Imagination: Seeking Transcendence in an Age of Identity*](#), ed. Christopher Denny. *Religions* 10, 2019.

Articles and Essays

[“Revisiting Bellah's Sheila in a Religiously Pluralist Century.”](#) In *Theology without Walls: The Transreligious Imperative*,” ed. Jerry L. Martin, 25-34. New York: Routledge, 2020.

[“Religiones Antiquae: Reviving Nostra Aetate to Expand the Scope of Salvation ‘History.’”](#) *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* 20 (2017): 29-37.

[“Trinitarian Theology between Religious Walls in the Writings of Raimon Panikkar.”](#) *Open Theology* 2 (2016): 363-73.

“Revisiting Dante’s Promised End: Eschatological Implications of Péguy’s Jeanne d’Arc Mysteries.” *Christianity and Literature* 62/4 (Summer 2013): 533-63 [note: [winner of 2013 award noted above](#)].

“[Christians and Vedic Sacrifice: Comparing Communitarian Sacrificial Soteriologies.](#)” *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 26 (2013): 55-66.

““All Will Be Well’: Julian of Norwich’s Counter-Apocalyptic Revelations.” *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 38/2 (Fall 2011): 193-210 [note: winner of 2012 award noted above].

"Which Holy Child? German Romantic Rivals to Balthasar’s Theology of Youth." *Communio: International Catholic Review* 36/4 (Winter 2009): 673-93.

“Iconoclasm, Byzantine and Postmodern: Implications for Contemporary Theological Anthropology.” *Horizons* 36/2 (Fall 2009): 187-214 [note: winner of 2010 award noted above].

“Interreligious Reading and Self-Definition for Raimundo Panikkar and Francis Clooney.” *The Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 44/3 (Summer 2009): 409-31.

"*The Imitation of Christ's* Spiritual Interiority Dramatized in *Elckerlijc/Everyman*." In *Everyman: Actes des Colloques de Janvier 2009 à Nancy-Université et à Toulouse-Le Mirail*, edited by Elise Louviot, Colette Stévanovitch, Philippe Mahoux et Dominique Hascoët, 237-58. Collection GRENDEL, vol. 10. Nancy: L'AMAES, 2009.

“Discarded Woman, Cherished Icon: The Peaceful Silence of Browning’s Duchess.” In *Making Peace in Our Time*, edited by Joan F. Hallisey and Mary-Anne Vetterling, 65-76. Proceedings of the Northeast Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature. Weston, MA: Peace Press, 2008.

“The Laity and Catholic Action in John Courtney Murray’s Church of the Future.” In *Vatican II Forty Years Later*, edited by William Madges, 55-77. College Theology Society Annual Volume 51. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006.

Articles and Essays (cont'd)

“Greek Tragedies: From Myths to Sacraments?” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, 9/3 (Summer 2006): 45-71.

Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

Review of *The Achievement of Hans Urs von Balthasar: An Introduction to His Trilogy*, Matthew Levering. *Catholic Books Review* (October 28, 2019):
<http://www.catholicbooksreview.org/2019/levering.html>.

Review of *Experiments in Buddhist-Christian Encounter: From Buddha-Nature to the Divine Nature*, Peter Feldmeier. *Catholic Books Review* (June 10, 2019):
<http://www.catholicbooksreview.org/2019/feldmeier.html>.

Review of *God as Sacrificial Love: A Systematic Exploration of a Controversial Notion*, Asle Eikrem. *Catholic Books Review* (September 20, 2018): <http://www.catholicbooksreview.org/2018/eikrem.html>.

Review of *Sacrifice in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, David L. Weddle. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86/3 (September 2018): 872-75.

Review of *Martyrdom, Self-Sacrifice, and Self-Immolation: Religious Perspectives on Suicide*, ed. Margo Kitts. *Reading Religion* (September 12, 2018):
<http://readingreligion.org/books/martyrdom-self-sacrifice-and-self-immolation>.

Review of *Love Itself Is Understanding: Hans Urs von Balthasar's Theology of the Saints*, Matthew A. Rothaus Moser. *Catholic Books Review* (July 10, 2017):
<http://www.catholicbooksreview.org/2017/moser.html>.

“The Story of a Soul”; “The Cloud of Unknowing”; “The Steps of Humility.” *100 Books to Read before the Four Last Things: The Essential Guide to Catholic Spiritual Classics*, ed. Marie I. George. Kettering, OH: Angelico, 2017.

Review of *Many Yet One? Multiple Religious Belonging*, eds. Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar and Joseph Prabhakar Dayam. *Reading Religion* (February 3, 2017):
<http://readingreligion.org/books/many-yet-one>.

Review of *Christ's Descent into Hell: John Paul II, Joseph Ratzinger, and Hans Urs von Balthasar on the Theology of Holy Saturday*, Lyra Pitstick. *Catholic Books Review* (August 7, 2016):
<http://catholicbooksreview.org/2016/pitstick.html>.

Review of *The Anatomy of Misremembering: Von Balthasar's Response to Philosophical Modernity*, Cyril O'Regan. *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 42/2 (December 2015): 508-10.

Review of *The Legacy of Vatican II*, eds. Massimo Faggioli and Andrea Vicini. *The Living Church* (October 18, 2015): 21-22.

Review of *Stoicism in Early Christianity*, eds. Tuomas Rasimus, Troels Engberg-Pedersen, and Ismo Dunderberg. *Catholic Books Review* (May 17, 2012):
<http://catholicbooksreview.org/2012/rasimus.htm>.

Review of *The Command of Grace: A New Theological Apologetics*, Paul D. Janz. *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 38/1 (Spring 2011): 138-39.

Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries (cont'd)

“Chaucer, Geoffrey”; “Dante Alighieri”; “Langland, William”; “Péguy, Charles.” *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*, eds. George T. Kurian and James D. Smith III. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2010.

Review of *Late Medieval Mysticism of the Low Countries*, eds. Rik Van Nieuwenhove, Robert Faesen, and Helen Rolfson. *Catholic Books Review* (October 19, 2009):

<http://www.catholicbooksreview.org/2009/nieuwenhove.htm>.

“Unifying Knowledge for a Changing Culture.” Review of *The Etymologies of Isidore of Seville*, ed. and trans. Stephen A. Barney, W. J. Lewis, J. A. Beach, and Oliver Berghof. *International Catholic History Discussion List* (May 2007).

Review of *Theological Aesthetics: A Reader*, ed. Gesa Elsbeth Thiessen. *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 33/1 (Spring 2006): 156-58.

Editorial

Christopher Denny and Elena Procario-Foley, “From the Editors.” *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 46/1 (June 2019): v-viii.

Invited Blog Entry

“Herodotus, Hermeneutics, and Vatican II: Should Historians Trust Us Theologians?” *History of Christianity*, official blog of the American Society for Church History, July 9, 2012.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Poet or Prophet? Langland and the Limits of Poetry as Historical Evidence.” American Catholic Historical Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

“From Drowned World to Ecclesial Bestiary: Noah’s Ark in the Beatus Apocalypses.” Society of Biblical Literature annual international meeting, Helsinki, Finland, August 2018.

“The Theology of the Cross in Luther’s Century and in Ours.” University of Dayton, Dayton, OH, December 2017.

“*A Self Shaped by Sacrifices: Augustine’s Unique Mystical-Ecclesial Balance*.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 2017.

Invited Panelist: “Theme: *Recognizing the Divine Imprint Across Religious Boundaries*.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, November 2017.

“Competing Heirs to Luther’s *Theologia Crucis*: Barth and Balthasar on Authority.” Reformation Reverberations: Consequences and Challenges of Change conference, Azusa, CA, October 2017.

Invited Panelist: “William Loewe’s *Lex Crucis: Soteriology and the Stages of Meaning*.” College Theology Society annual meeting, Newport, RI, June 2017.

“Sacrificial Multiple Religious Belonging: Vedic and Christian Test Cases.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2017.

“Childhood vs. the French Republicans: An Anti-Modernist Motif of Pius X and Charles Péguy.” American Catholic Historical Association annual meeting, Denver, CO, January 2017.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

Invited Panelist: "Theology without Walls: The Human Predicament." American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

"Seeing beyond the Cross: Dostoevsky's Holy Fool as Aesthetic Connoisseur." Center for Ethics and Culture annual fall meeting, South Bend, IN, November 2016.

"Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Discernment of the Spirits in Romantic Literature." Eric Voegelin Society annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016.

"Countering Crusades: The Eschatological Turn in Christian-Muslim Dialogue among the Spiritual Franciscans." American Catholic Historical Association annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 2016.

Invited Panelist: "Theology without Walls: Theology from the Ground Up." American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

"*Religiones Antiquae*: Reviving *Nostra Aetate* to Expand the Scope of Salvation History." American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2015.

Invited Panelist: "Theology without Walls: Theology from the Ground Up." New England-Maritimes American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Boston, MA, March 2015.

Invited Panelist: "Theology without Walls." Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Columbia, MD, March 2015.

"Beyond *the Symbolism of Evil*: Prelude to a Dialogical Tragic Theology." American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2014.

"From Doubt and Decline towards Dialogue: Discussing Anselm's *Proslogion* in the Religiously Pluralist Classroom." "What is Liberal Education For?" conference, Santa Fe, NM, October 2014.

"Between Aesthetic Eidesis and Moral Mimesis: Levinas, Marion, and Dante's *Purgatorio*." Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies conference, Villanova University, PA, October 2013.

"From Participation to Community: John Courtney Murray's American Justification for Catholic Action." American Catholic Historical Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2013.

"How Studying Vedic Sacrifice Can Improve Christian Views of Suffering Atonement." American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2012.

"Perusha Sukta / Nirvana / Holy Saturday: Alternative Paths to Spiritual Kenosis." Society for Hindu-Christian Studies annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

"Aquinas's Interpretation of Denys's Apophaticism: Its Consequences for Theological Aesthetics."

"The Metaphysics of Aquinas and its Modern Interpreters: Theological and Philosophical Perspectives," New York City, NY, March 2011.

"Pluralism's Escape from the Soteriological Reductions in Christian Theologies of Religion." Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2011.

"Francis's Role in the Apocalyptic Histories of Spiritual Franciscans and Leonardo Boff." College Theology Society annual meeting, Portland, OR, June 2010.

"All Will Be Well: Julian of Norwich's Counter-Apocalyptic Revelations." Catholic Theological Society of America annual meeting, Halifax, NS, June 2009.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

“The Dramatization of *The Imitation of Christ's* Spiritual Interiority in *Everyman*.” *Everyman* Colloquium, Nancy, France, January 2009.

“Which Holy Child? German Romantic Rivals to Balthasar’s Theology of Youth.” Catholic Theological Society of America annual meeting, Miami, FL, June 2008.

“Trinity and Interreligious Belonging in the Writings of Raimundo Panikkar.” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

“Discarded Woman, Cherished Icon: Peace and Christlike Silence in Browning’s *Duchess*.” Conference on Christianity and Literature annual meeting, Weston, MA, October 2007.

“Public Icons, Private Selves: Byzantine Origins of a Contemporary Problematic.” College Theology Society annual meeting, Dayton, OH, June 2007.

“‘Reacting to the Past’ in an Interreligious Present.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 2007.

“The Harrowing of Hell in *Piers Plowman*: A Christological Struggle against Violence.” Conference on Christianity and Literature annual meeting, Brooklyn, NY, October 2006.

“Imagining Hell: Infernal Aesthetics and the Medieval Struggle for a Virtuous Society.” College Theology Society annual meeting, Denver, CO, June 2006.

“Medieval Damnation or Modern Tragedy? Heuristic Frameworks for Christian Alienation.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 2006.

“Dionysius Crucified: On the Feasibility of Tragic Christ-Figures.” Conference on Christianity and Literature annual meeting, Caldwell, NJ, October 2005.

“From Dante’s *Inferno* to Hopkins’s ‘Heraclitean Fire’: A Balthasarian Reading.” National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar, “Religious Experience and English Poetry, 1633-1985.” South Bend, IN, July 2005.

“Catholic Action in John Courtney Murray’s Theology of History.” College Theology Society annual meeting, Mobile, AL, June 2005.

“Symbolic Vision and Human Freedom in the Mystical Theology of Karl Rahner.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2005.

“Von Balthasar and the Academic Study of Religion and Literature in the Near Future.” College Theology Society annual meeting, Washington, DC, June 2004.

“Hindu and Buddhist Contributions to the Trinitarian Theology of Raimundo Panikkar.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 2004.

“From Poetry to Eschatology: Von Balthasar’s Readings of Dante and Péguy and the End of History.” Conference on Christianity and Literature annual meeting, Farmingdale, NY, Oct. 2003.

“The Inter-Religious Hermeneutics of Raimundo Panikkar and Francis Clooney.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 2002.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

“Ransoming Anselm: Religious Narrative, Theory, and Expiatory Christology.” College Theology Society convention, Portland, OR, June 2001.

“Poets and Seers: A Test Case for Rahner’s Theology of the Symbol.” College Theology Society convention, Villanova, PA, June 2000.

“The Copycat Mystic: Image and Imitation in Gregory of Nyssa.” Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Glen Mills, PA, March 2000.

INVITED TALKS

“Seeing through Green Eyes: Christianity and an Environmental Ethic.” Presentation for St. John’s University Student Earth Club, April 2013.

“Abelard and Bernard.” Diocese of Brooklyn Theology on Tap, Queens, NY, April 2011.

“The Bible and Spring.” Theta Alpha Kappa Spring Concert, St. John’s University, May 2010.

Presentation on Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. The Enduring Classics Faculty Book Circle, St. John’s University, October 2006.

EDITORIAL, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

Editorial Positions

Editorial Board Member – <i>Reading Religion</i>	2018-Present
Associate Editor – <i>Horizons</i> , Journal of the College Theology Society	2016-Present
Editorial Board Member – <i>Journal of Moral Theology</i>	2013-Present
Book Review Co-Editor – <i>Horizons</i> , Journal of the College Theology Society	2011-2014

Board Memberships, Chairs, and Directorship

Member of the Executive Board, Faculty Association, St. John’s University	2018-Present
Member of the Board of Visitors and Governors – St. John’s College, MD and NM	2015-2018
Co-Chair, Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Section:	
Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion	2016-2017
Member of the Board of Directors – College Theology Society	2011-2014
Facilitator, Membership Task Force – College Theology Society	2013-2014
Co-Chair, University Seminar on Studies in Religion – Columbia University	2010-2013
Regionally Elected Director – American Academy of Religion (Mid-Atlantic Region)	2008-2011
Member of the Board of Directors – American Academy of Religion	2008-2010
Convener – Arts, Literature, and Religion Section – College Theology Society	2006-2009

Committee and Editorial Service at St. John’s University

Theology/Religious Studies Graduate Education Policy Committee	2010-2016, 2018-Present
Theology/Religious Studies Undergraduate Education Policy Committee	2006-2012
Faculty Co-Moderator, Alpha Alpha Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa	2006-2011
Faculty Co-Editor – <i>Diakonos</i> , Student Journal of the Theology/Religious Studies Dept.	2006-2009

EDITORIAL, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE SERVICE (cont'd)

Invited Editorial and Manuscript Reviewer

<i>Religion and Literature</i>	2019
<i>Modern Theology</i>	2018-2019
<i>Religions</i>	2018-2019
<i>Open Theology</i>	2017
College Theology Society Annual Volume	2009, 2012, 2014, 2016
Oxford University Press	2014
Anselm Academic Press	2013
State University of New York Press	2012
St. Mary's Press	2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor – St. John's University, Queens, NY, July 2010 - Present

Assistant Professor – St. John's University, Queens, NY, September 2004 - June 2010

<i>"History of Christian Theology 2: From the Reformations to the Present"</i>	2016-2019
<i>"History of Christian Theology 1: Origins through the Middle Ages"</i>	2014-2016, 2019
<i>"Perspectives on Christianity: A Catholic Approach"</i>	2004-2010, 2012-2013, 2015-2016, 2019
<i>"The First Six Centuries"</i>	2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019
<i>"Theology in the Middle Ages"</i>	2006-2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017
<i>"Christianity and the Rise of Modern Culture"</i>	2011, 2013, 2016
<i>"Theology in Christian Literature"</i>	2009, 2011, 2016
<i>"Catholic Vision and Imagination"</i>	2015
<i>"History of the Church"</i>	2005-2006, 2008, 2010, 2012-2014
<i>"The Church, the Churches, and World Religions"</i>	2006
<i>"The Human Mystery"</i>	2006
<i>"Perspectives on the Church"</i>	2004-05

Distinguished Visiting Professor – University of Dayton, Dayton, OH

<i>"Hans Urs von Balthasar: His Theology and Influence"</i>	2017
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Visiting Lecturer – Little Rock Theology Institute, Little Rock, AR

2009-2010

"Scriptural and Theological Foundations of the Church"

Lecturer – The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2000-02

<i>"Abelard, Aquinas, and Dante: Theology in the Middle Ages"</i>	2001-02
<i>"Contemporary Trends in Catholic Thought"</i>	2000

Teaching Assistant – The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 1999

"The Christian Difference"

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature	2015-Present
Associate Member, Seminar on Catholicism, Culture, and Modernity—Columbia Univ.	2014-Present
American Catholic Historical Association	2010-Present
Associate Member, Seminar on Studies in Religion—Columbia University	2006-Present

MEMBERSHIPS (cont'd)

Conference on Christianity and Literature
College Theology Society
American Academy of Religion

2002-Present
1999-Present
1997-Present