

**Dr. John S. Bergsma, Ph.D., Th.M., M.Div.**  
*Associate Professor of Theology*  
*Franciscan University of Steubenville*

**Education:**

- University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1999–2004
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Theology, May 2004
  - Dissertation: “The Jubilee from Leviticus to Qumran”
  - Dissertation Director: Dr. James C. VanderKam
  - Dissertation Defended with High Honors March 2004
- Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998–1999
  - Master of Theology (Th.M.), May 1999
  - Thesis: “Normativity in Walter Brueggemann’s *Theology of the Old Testament*”
- Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1992–1998
  - Master of Divinity (M.Div.), May 1998
- Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1989–1992
  - Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Classical Languages, December 1993

**Publications:**

*Books:*

- *The Jubilee from Leviticus to Qumran: A History of Interpretation* (Vetus Testamentum Supplements 115; Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2007).

*Essays, Articles, Reviews:*

- “Jubilee,” in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten* (Bonn: University of Bonn, forthcoming).
- “Damascus,” in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten* (Bonn: University of Bonn, forthcoming).
- “Cultic Kingdoms in Conflict: Liturgy and Empire in the Book of Daniel,” in *Letter & Spirit: A Journal of Catholic Biblical Theology* 9 (2009): forthcoming.
- Review of Jeffrey Stackert, *Rewriting the Torah: Literary Revision in Deuteronomy and the Holiness Legislation* (FAT 52; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007) in *Biblica* (forthcoming; est. Spring 2009)
- “The Relationship between Jubilees and the Early Enochic Books (*Astronomical Book* and *Book of the Watchers*),” in *Enoch and the Mosaic Torah: The Evidence of Jubilees* (ed. G. Boccaccini and G. Ibba; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009), 36–51.
- “The Persian Period as Penitential Era: The ‘Exegetical Logic’ of Daniel 9.1-27,” in *Exile and Restoration Revisited: Essays in Memory of Peter R. Ackroyd* (ed. G. Knoppers and L. Grabbe; Library of Second Temple Studies 73; Continuum/T & T Clark, 2009).
- “The Old Testament: Why Can’t We Just Get Rid of It?” *Lay Witness* 29/5 (Nov-Dec 2008): 6-9.
- “Qumran Self-Identity: ‘Israel’ or ‘Judah?’” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 15 (2008) 172-89.

- “Loving the Lectionary,” *Lay Witness*, November 2006.
- “The Temple as ‘Built Jubilee’ in Ezekiel,” *Proceedings of the Eastern Great Lakes and Midwestern Biblical Societies* 24 (2004) 75-85 [appeared Winter 2005]
- “Philippians: Epistle of Joy,” *Lay Witness*, September 2006.
- “Once Again, the Jubilee, Every 49 or 50 Years?” *Vetus Testamentum* 55.1 (2005) 121-125.
- “Noah’s Nakedness and the Curse on Canaan (Gen 9:20-27),” with Scott W. Hahn, *Journal of Biblical Literature* 124.1 (2005) 25-40.
- “What Laws Were Not Good? A Canonical Approach to the Theological Problem of Ezekiel 20:25–26,” with Scott W. Hahn, *Journal of Biblical Literature* 123 (2004) 201–18.
- “The Jubilee: A Post-Exilic Priestly Attempt to Reclaim Lands?” *Biblica* 84 (2003): 225–46.
- “Codex,” “Genealogy,” “Irenaeus,” “Quotation,” and “Testimonia,” articles in *The Westminster Dictionary of New Testament and Early Christian Literature and Rhetoric* (ed. David Aune; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2003).
- “First Fruits and the Sanctification of Space,” *Sacred Architecture* 7 (2002-3): 20.
- Review of Walter Brueggemann, *David’s Truth in Israel’s Imagination & Memory* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), *Calvin Theological Journal* 37 (2002): 343–344.
- “‘Useful for the Church?’ A Critique of Walter Brueggemann’s *Theology of the Old Testament*,” *Calvin Theological Journal* 35 (2000): 105–35.
- “Comparative Consistency of AA and Christian Worldviews,” *Stromata: The Calvin Theological Seminary Student Journal* 39.1 (1996): 96–109 .
- “Was Paul Wrong? A Moral Investigation of Paul’s Teaching on Slavery,” *Stromata: The Calvin Theological Seminary Student Journal* 38.2 (1994): 1–11.

### **Radio and Television:**

- Guest for *Franciscan University Presents* on topic of “The Year of St. Paul: St. Paul on the Cross, Eucharist, and Priesthood,” taped October 10, 2008, aired Holy Week 2009.
- Interviewed on EWTN’s “The Journey Home” with Marcus Grodi, March 24, 2008.
- Interviewed on *The Drew Mariani Show* on Relevant Radio, April 4, 2007 again concerning the *Gospel of Judas*.
- Interviewed for *Franciscan University Presents* concerning Pope Benedict’s *Jesus of Nazareth*, October 31, 2007.
- Interviewed on *The Drew Mariani Show* on Relevant Radio, April 2006 concerning the *Gospel of Judas*.
- Participated in panel discussion of Dr. Scott Hahn’s *Letter & Spirit: From Written Text to Living Word in the Liturgy* for *Franciscan University Presents*, April 26, 2006.

### **Papers and Presentations:**

- “The Biblical Manumission Laws: Has the Dependence of H on D been Demonstrated?”, paper at the Biblical Law Session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Congress, New Orleans, November 23, 2009.

- “Jesus Our New Temple: Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7-9),” and “The ‘Passion’ of the Christ (John 19-21),” lectures at “The Word Became Flesh: Exploring the Catholic Meaning of the Gospel of John,” conference sponsored by Fullness of Truth and the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, San Antonio, TX, August 22-23, 2009.
- “Let Him Take Up His Cross and Follow,” talk to Fall 2009 orientation leaders, Franciscan University of Steubenville, August 18, 2009.
- “Learning and Teaching Salvation History,” four-hour presentation to catechists of the Diocese of Steubenville, Bridgeport, OH, August 12, 2009.
- “Adam and Steve? Or Adam, Eve, and Sally?: Defining Marriage in the Bible,” and “The Crucifixion: A Priestly Act, A Nuptial Act,” lectures at the Word of God Conference: The Sacraments of Service: Marriage and Priesthood, New Orleans, LA, August 8-9, 2009.
- “My Journey to the Catholic Church,” talk at the Defending the Faith summer conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, August 2, 2009.
- “Jesus Our New Temple: Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7-9),” “Two High Priests Face Off (John 16-18),” and “The ‘Passion’ of Christ, Our Royal Priestly Bridegroom (John 19-20),” three lectures at the Institute for Applied Biblical Studies summer conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, July 29-31, 2009.
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Catholic Faith,” three lectures for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, Indiana, July 11, 2009.
- “Romans 1: Bad News for Modern Man,” “Romans 6-7: Baptism as New Exodus,” and “Romans 13: Of Law and Love,” lectures at the Fourth Annual Conference for Priests, Deacons and Seminarians: *Romans: The Gospel According to Saint Paul*, Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, June 15-19, 2009.
- “The Old Testament Types of the Eucharist,” talk to the men’s and women’s Eucharistic households of Franciscan University, International Lounge, J.C. Williams Center, February 17, 2009.
- “The Nuptial Mystery in Paul,” paper presented at the Fourth Annual Letter and Spirit Conference, St. Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, November 15, 2008.
- “St. Paul and the Dead Sea Scrolls,” public lecture for the students, faculty, and staff, Christ the King Chapel, Franciscan University of Steubenville, November 13, 2008.
- “As You Have Received Christ, So Also Walk in Him” (Col 2:6), formation talk for Student Life Staff, Franciscan University of Steubenville, October 1, 2008.
- “As You Have Received Christ, So Also Walk in Him” (Col 2:6), formation talk for orientation leaders, Franciscan University of Steubenville, August 19, 2008.
- “Church as Temple in John,” “Church as Bride in John,” and “Priesthood in John,” lectures at the Third Annual Conference for Priests, Deacons and Seminarians: *The Splendor of the Church*, Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, June 16-20, 2008.
- “Catholics and Evangelicals Together,” a panel discussion with Fr. Michael Scanlan and Fr. Kenneth Cienik, for the second annual Franciscan-Wheaton Ecumenical Exchange weekend, April 5, 2008.
- “Manhood and the Eucharist,” a talk for Theology on Tap of Steubenville, Damon’s of Steubenville, April 2, 1998.

- “Daily Spiritual Exercises,” a talk for the residents of Sts. Kolbe and Clare Halls, Franciscan University of Steubenville, October 3, 2007.
- “A Crash Course in Salvation History,” a four-hour workshop for the Catholic students of Bowling Green State University, at St. Thomas More University Parish, Bowling Green, Ohio, September 28, 2007.
- “Running so as to Win,” presentation to orientation leaders, Franciscan University of Steubenville, August 21, 2007.
- “Leadership as Suffering,” a one-hour presentation to the Provincial Superiors of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, Indiana, July 27, 2007
- “Nuptiality in Salvation History,” a two-part, four-hour presentation to the general congress of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, Indiana, July 27, 2007.
- “Pentecost and Jubilee,” presentation at the Institute of Applied Biblical Studies summer conference, July 26, 2007, Franciscan University of Steubenville.
- “The Relationship between Jubilees and the Early Enochic Books (*Astronomical Book* and *Book of the Watchers*,” paper presented at the Fourth Enoch Seminar, July 8-12, 2007, Camaldoli, Italy.
- “The Spirituality of St. Josemaría Escrivá,” a four-part public lecture series for students, faculty and staff, February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2007, International Room, Franciscan University of Steubenville.
- “Daniel 9 and the Return to Zion,” paper presented at the Literature and History of the Persian Period section of the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Congress, Washington, D.C., November 21, 2006
- “The Jubilee and Jesus,” “The Jubilee and the Eucharist,” “Covenant, Oath, Seven, and the Jubilee,” presentations to the laity and clergy of the Diocese of Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) in celebration of the Diocesan Jubilee Year (2006), at the Parish of Our Lord of Mercy, Juarez, Mexico, September 24–26, 2006.
- “How Jesus Restores Adam's Royalty to You,” workshop at the Summer Conference for Applied Biblical Studies, Franciscan University of Steubenville, July 27, 2006.
- “How Catholics View the Bible,” a talk sponsored by and delivered to the joint Franciscan University-Wheaton College student ecumenical initiative, Franciscan University Fireside Lounge, April 1, 2006.
- “Christian Manhood,” a public talk sponsored by Conquer Through Love men’s household, Franciscan University of Steubenville International Room, March 29, 2006.
- “Qumran Self-Identity and the Eschatological Restoration of Israel,” paper delivered at “Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Scrolls: A Symposium in Honor of James C. VanderKam,” March 6, 2006, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- “Messianic Nuptiality in John 4,” presentation to orientation leaders, August 25, 2005, Franciscan University of Steubenville.
- “The Whole Enchilada: Eucharist as Temple in John,” at the Summer Conference for Applied Biblical Studies, Franciscan University of Steubenville, July 28, 2005
- “The Birds and the Bees in the Garden of Eden: Sexuality in the Old Testament”, at the Institute for Applied Biblical Studies Summer Conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, July 27, 2004

- “The Place of Wisdom Literature in Salvation History,” at the Mile-Hi Scripture Institute of the Denver Biblical School (Archdiocese of Denver), Denver, Colorado, July 12, 2004
- “Jesus and Jubilee: What is the ‘Acceptable Year of the Lord’ proclaimed in Nazareth? (Luke 4:16–22),” guest lecture, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 1, 2004
- “The Threefold Covenant with Abraham and Israel,” guest lecture for Biblical Foundations (THE 601 E), Franciscan University of Steubenville, Spring 2004
- “Principles for Teaching Scripture,” and “Evangelism is a Call for Everyone!” at the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend Catechetical Institute Day, Wauwasee, IN, October 25, 2003.
- Moderator, History of Interpretation Section, Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society Annual Meeting, Erie, PA, March 2003; presenting “The Restored Temple as ‘Built Jubilee’ in Ezekiel 40–48.”
- “Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Lenten Talks series, St. Sebastian Catholic Church, Byron Center, MI, March 12, 2003.
- ““The Restored Temple as ‘Built Jubilee’ in Ezekiel 40–48,” Midwest Regional Conference of the Society of Biblical Literature, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI, February 21–22, 2003.
- “The Final Redaction of Leviticus 25,” Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society Annual Meeting, Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, WV, March, 2002.

### **Teaching/Research Experience:**

- Franciscan University of Steubenville, Sept. 2004–Present
  - Assistant Professor of Theology (2004–2008)
  - Associate Professor of Theology (2008–Present)
    - THE 211: “Principles of Biblical Study I: Old Testament”
    - THE 212: “Principles of Biblical Study II: New Testament”
    - THE 413: “Old Testament Writings: Wisdom Literature”
    - THE 413: “Old Testament Writings: The Prophets”
    - THE 413: “Old Testament Writings: The Pentateuch”
    - THE 414/711: “New Testament Writings: Gospel of John”
    - THE 436: “Elementary Hebrew”
    - THE 601: “Biblical Foundations”
    - THE 710: “Old Testament Writings: Wisdom Literature”
    - THE 710: “Old Testament Writings: The Prophets”
    - THE 710: “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature”
- St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio
  - Research Fellow, July 2003–August 2004
  - Senior Fellow, September 2004–Present
- University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
  - Research Assistant, Qumran Bible (Hebrew) publication project, Spring 2003
    - \* Designed and coordinated the electronic formatting of parts of the Hebrew edition of the Qumran Bible project under Dr. Eugene Ulrich.
  - Teaching Assistant, *Wisdom Literature/Psalms*, Spring 2002
  - Teaching Assistant, *Foundations of Theology*, Spring 2001
    - \* Taught class sessions in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

- Research Assistant, Dead Sea Scrolls publication project, Spring 2001–Fall 2001
  - \* Collated Hebrew texts of Dead Sea Scroll fragments of Genesis through Deuteronomy in electronic format.
- Teaching Assistant, *Intermediate Hebrew*, Fall 2001
- Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - Teaching Assistant, Department of Old Testament, academic years 1996–1999
  - Research Assistant, Department of New Testament, academic year 1994–1995
- Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - Classics Department Tutor, academic years 1991–1993
- Calvin Christian High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - Teacher Aide, *Church History*, Spring 1991

### **Fellowships/Scholarships:**

- Faculty Enrichment Grant, Summer 2007 [for participation in the Fourth Enoch Seminar, Camaldoli, Italy]
- Presidential Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 1999–2003
- Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, Calvin Theological Seminary, 1998–1999
- Wevers Scholarship, Calvin Theological Seminary, 1994–1995
  - For excellence in biblical languages.
- Presidential Scholarship, Calvin College, 1989–1992
- National Merit Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Corporation, 1989–1990
- Sterling Scholarship, Honolulu Advertiser/Brigham Young Univ.-Hawaii, 1989–1990
  - First runner-up in general scholarship, state-wide, televised competition.

### **Other Awards:**

- Distinguished Alumnus Award, bestowed by Kalaheo High School, Kailua, Hawaii, July 18, 2009 (Recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Class of 1989)
- Faculty of the Year Award, bestowed by the Class of 2008 of Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Staff of the Year Award, bestowed by the Class of 2006 of Franciscan University of Steubenville.
- Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - Gysbert Voetius Award for excellence in scholastic theology, 1998
  - American Bible Society Award for excellence in biblical languages, 1997

### **Other Professional Experience:**

- Co-Pastor, Coit Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI, January 1995–August 1998
  - Pastored a multi-ethnic congregation in an inner-urban neighborhood.
  - Preached, counseled, taught scripture and catechesis, networked with community leaders, provided spiritual guidance for persons in drug rehabilitation and incarceration, fostered community economic initiatives.
  - Concurrently attended Calvin Seminary part-time, September 1995–May 1998.
- Interim Pastor, Ottewell Christian Reformed Church, Edmonton, AB, Summer 1994
  - Served as temporary pastor for vacant church.
  - Preached, counseled, visited sick and elderly.

**Languages:**

- Akkadian, Aramaic, French, German, Greek (classical), Hebrew (classical), Latin, Ugaritic.

**Professional Memberships:**

- Society of Biblical Literature
- Catholic Biblical Association

**Family Life:**

- Married to Dawn Michelle Bergsma (nee Koster) of Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Homeschool our six children: Peter Scott (b. 1995), Johannes Sietze (b. 1997), Hope Christina (b. 1998), Christian Emmanuel (b. 1999), Rose Maria (b. 2002), and Lucia Diane (b. 2004).