

Dr. Michael G. Sirilla
Professor of Systematic and Dogmatic theology
The Franciscan University of Steubenville
(740) 284-5340

Education

Ph.D. in Systematic Theology, 2008, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

- Dissertation: *St. Thomas Aquinas's Theology of the Episcopacy in his Commentaries on the Pastoral Epistles*
- Dissertation director: Fr. Joseph Komonchak.
- Major field: ecclesiology
- Minor concentrations: philosophy and patristics

M.A. in Theology, 1998, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH.

Employment

Franciscan University of Steubenville	Director of Graduate Theology	2015–2019
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Professor of Theology	2014–present
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Associate Professor of Theology	2010–2014
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Assistant Professor of Theology	2003–2010

Courses Taught

Undergraduate

- Foundations of Catholicism
- Theology of the Trinity
- Theology of Christ
- Theology of the Church
- Theology of the Sacraments
- Contemporary Questions in Theology (CQT): Faith and Reason
- CQT: Philosophy for Theology
- Great Christian Thinkers: St. Thomas Aquinas
- Christian Moral Principles

Graduate

- Dogmatic Theology I: Trinity, Christology, and Soteriology
- Fundamental Theology
- Theological Foundations
- Historical Foundations
- The Church in the Modern World
- Vatican II

- Fathers and Doctors of the Church: Augustine of Hippo
- Tradition and the Development of Doctrine
- Christology
- Sacraments
- Natural Theology
- The Trinity
- Theology of the Episcopacy in St. Thomas Aquinas
- The Church's Magisterium and its Interpretation

Books and book chapters

The Magisterium and its Interpretation: A Theological Handbook for Bishops, Clergy, and Theologians. Under contract with Emmaus Academic, forthcoming.

“*Lectio Scripturae* at the Heart of Aquinas’s Theology and Preaching,” in *Aquinas the Biblical Theologian*, proceedings of the 2019 conference at Ave Maria University, forthcoming.

The Ideal Bishop: Aquinas's Commentaries on the Pastoral Epistles. Foreword by Archbishop Augustine Di Noia, OP. Thomistic Ressourcement Series, volume 8. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2017.

“Critique of Cardinal Kasper’s Proposal,” in *From the Beginning: The Mission and Vocation of the Family in the Contemporary World.* Emmaus Road Publishing, 2015.

“Divinization for the New Evangelization” in *Divinization: Becoming Icons of Christ Through the Liturgy*, edited by Fr. Andrew Hofer. OP. Hillenbrand Press, 2015.

“Comments on Alexander W. Hall’s ‘The Burden of Proof: Aquinas and God Science’” in *Metaphysical Themes, Medieval and Modern Volume 11: Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics*, edited by Gyula Klima and Alexander W. Hall. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014: 117–22.

Articles

“The Development of St. Thomas Aquinas’s Theology of the Diaconate,” *The Thomist* (forthcoming; invited article submission).

“The Bishop as Icon of the Beautiful Jesus,” *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly* (forthcoming; invited article submission).

“Whether the Proposal to Give Communion to Divorced and Remarried Catholics Living in *More Uxorio* is a Development of Doctrine in Continuity with Tradition?” *Anthropotes* 33 (2017): 627-638.

“The Theological and Pastoral Purposes of Aquinas’s Biblical Commentaries,” *Biblica et Patristica Thoruniensia* 10 (2017) 3: 375-387.

Book Reviews

Pope Francis: The Legacy of Vatican II by Eduardo Echeverria in *Nova et Vetera* (forthcoming).

Known by Nature by Anna Bonta Moreland in *The Thomist* (77), Jan 2013: 162-65.

Characters in Search of Their Author by Ralph McInerny (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2000) in *Nova et Vetera* (English edition) 1 (2003): 494–97.

Papers Presented

“Bishop: Icon of the Beautiful Jesus,” presented at the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference in Montreal, Canada, September, 2019. Invited, plenary address.

“*Lectio Scripturae* at the Heart of Aquinas’s Theology and Preaching,” presented at the conference, Aquinas the Biblical Theologian, at Ave Maria University in Florida, February, 2019. Invited, plenary session.

“Aquinas on the Episcopacy as a State of Perfection,” presented at the third Thomas Aquinas session at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May, 2017.

“The Theological Purpose of Aquinas’s Biblical Commentaries,” presented at the international conference on Biblical Thomism at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland, April 2017.

Response to Dr. Mark Roberts on the topic: contingency in God, presented at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, November 16, 2016.

“Hierarchy for Spiritual Perfection in Dionysius,” presented at the Byzantine Seminary of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, September 28, 2016.

“Science, Philosophy, and Theology: Their Distinction and Interrelationship,” presented at the Science and Faith Conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, September 11, 2015.

Comments on Drs. Houser’s and Noone’s book on St. Bonaventure, *Commentary on the Sentences: The Philosophy of God*, presented at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI, May 15, 2015.

“The Dialogue between Faith and Reason in a Catholic University,” response to Dr. Susan K. Wood’s talk, presented at the symposium on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Franciscan University of Steubenville, March 5, 2015.

“Are Humans Machines?” Presented at the Science, Faith, and Philosophy conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 24, 2014.

“Divinization and the New Evangelization,” presented at the Mundelein Seminary Conference on Divinization, September 2013.

“Comments on Alexander W. Hall’s ‘The Burden of Proof: Aquinas and God Science,’” presented at the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics session, American Catholic Philosophical Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2, 2012.

“Metaphysics, the Natural sciences, and Creation: The Legacy of Thomas Aquinas,” presented in response to Dr. William Carroll’s paper delivered at the Science and Faith Conference: *Can Science Inform our Understanding of God?* Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2011.

“St. Thomas Aquinas’s Proofs from Motion in *Summa Contra Gentiles* I.13: Their nature and the Function of the Nominal Definition,” presented at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011.

“Theology as a ‘science’ for Aquinas,” presented at the St. Thomas Aquinas Center, Colorado University, Boulder, CO, February 26, 2010.

“How to read Aquinas,” presented at the St. Thomas Aquinas Center, Colorado University, Boulder, CO, February 27, 2010.

“An Excelling love of Christ, the principal criterion for Church office-holders in Jn 21:15-17,” presented at the Institute of Applied Biblical Studies, Steubenville, OH, July 2009.

Talk on how Aquinas develops theological insights in his biblical commentaries, presented at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009.

“The Biblical Basis for Bishops in Paul’s Pastoral Epistles,” presented at the 4th Annual Letter and Spirit Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 15, 2008.

“St. Paul and the Role of a Bishop: Reflections on 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus,” presented at the Institute of Applied Biblical Studies, Steubenville, OH, August 2008.

“The Priority of the Teaching Office for the Bishop,” presented at the annual conference of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Los Angeles, CA, June 2007.

Professional responsibilities

Peer reviewer for the following journals and presses:

- *The Thomist*
- *Nova et Vetera*
- *Linacre Quarterly*
- *International Journal of Systematic Theology*
- *The Catholic University of America Press*
- *Emmaus Academic*

Membership in professional societies

- Academy of Catholic Theology
- Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics
- Fellowship of Catholic Scholars
- St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology

University and departmental service

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| • Director of Graduate Theology | 2015–2019 |
| • Joint Task Force on Student Learning Outcomes of the Core | 2015–present |
| • Tenure and Promotion Committee | 2019 and
2015–2016 |
| • New Chapel Planning Committee | 2015–present |
| • Faculty Welfare Committee (elected for second term) | 2014–present |
| • Personnel Advisory Committee | 2013–2014 |
| • Student Culture and Engagement Committee | 2012–2014 |
| • Committee on Prioritizing Academic Programs | 2012–present |
| • Core Curriculum Committee | 2011–2016 |
| • Theology Task Force Committee | 2011–2014 |
| • Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee | 2011–2015 |
| • Committee to Develop MA Theology Research Intensive Track | 2011–2014 |
| • Task Force on Promotion and Tenure | 2011–2012 |
| • Theology Department Speakers Committee | 2008–2015 |
| • University Foundations Committee | 2008–2010 |
| • Theology Department Core Curriculum Committee, chair | 2008–2010 |
| • Educational Planning Committee | 2007–2010 |
| • Academic Awards Board | 2002–2006 |
| • Student Welfare Committee | 2002–2005 |