

Dr. Michael G. Sirilla
Professor of Systematic and Dogmatic theology
The Franciscan University of Steubenville
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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.
- Minor concentrations: historical theology and philosophy

M.A. in Theology, *magna cum laude*, 1998, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH.

B.A. in Theology and Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, 1996, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH.

Employment

Franciscan University of Steubenville	Professor of Theology	2014–present
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Director of Graduate Theology	2015–2019
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Associate Professor of Theology	2010–2014
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Assistant Professor of Theology	2003–2010
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Instructor of Theology	2002-2003
Christendom College	Adjunct Professor of Theology	2001-2002
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Adjunct Professor of Theology	2001 summer

Courses Taught

Undergraduate

- Foundations of Catholicism
- Christian Moral Principles
- 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

Graduate

- Dogmatic Theology I: Trinity, Christology, and Soteriology
- Fundamental Theology
- Theological Foundations
- Historical Foundations
- Biblical Hermeneutics
- 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 *Thomas Aquinas: Biblical Theologian*, edited by Michael Dauphinais and Roger Nutt. Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Academic, 2021.

“On the Moral Liceity of Publicly Correcting the Pope,” in *Defending the Faith Against Present Heresies*, edited by John R. T. Lamont and Claudio Pierantoni. Waterloo, ON: Arouca Press, 2021.

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

“Saint Thomas’s Theology of the Diaconate.” *The Thomist* 85 (2021): 539-54.

“The Bishop as Icon of the Beautiful Jesus,” *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly* 43 (spring 2020) 1: 81-90.

“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

Known by Nature by Anna Bonta Moreland in *The Thomist* 77 (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

“*Theosis* through the Eucharist in Dionysius and Aquinas,” presented at the conference, The Holiness of God and the Mystery of the Eucharist, at Ave Maria University, Florida, February 3, 2023. Invited, plenary session.

“The Good Bishop According to St. Thomas Aquinas,” presented at Divine Mercy Parish in Pittsburgh as part of the Profundum Speakers Series, November 2021.

Response to Fr. Luis Granados’ “The Truth of Our Destiny: Fragility, Ideals and Redemption,” presented at the Veritas Amoris conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville, June 2021.

“Christology: The Son of God Became a Man” and “Soteriology: Jesus is the Lord and Savior of Mankind,” presented at the Thomistic Institute Intellectual Retreat at the Immaculate Conception Seminary retreat center in Huntington, NY, September 2021.

“Why Did God Become Man? Examining the Incarnation through the Lens of the Cross,” presented at Iowa State University, March 2021. Invited by the Thomistic Institute chapter at Iowa State.

“God and the Mystery of Human Suffering,” presented at North Carolina State University, February 2020. Invited by the Thomistic Institute chapter at NC State.

“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.

Memberships

- Member, USCCB-Evangelical Christian Ecumenical Dialogue, 2022–present
- Thomistic Institute Speaker, 2020–present
- Academy of Catholic Theology
- Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics
- Fellowship of Catholic Scholars
- St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology

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*

University and departmental service

- Tenure and Promotion Committee (three terms) 2022–present
2019
- Core Curriculum Committee (four terms) 2015–2016
2020–present
2011–2016
- PhD Program in Theology Development Committee (chair) 2018–2019
- Director of Graduate Theology 2015–2019
- Joint Task Force on Student Learning Outcomes of the Core 2015–2017
- New Chapel Planning Committee 2015–2018
- Faculty Welfare Committee (three consecutive terms) 2014–2022
- Personnel Advisory Committee 2013–2014
- Student Culture and Engagement Committee 2012–2014
- Committee on Prioritizing Academic Programs 2012–2017
- 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