**RANDALL B. SMITH**

**Professor of Theology**

**Scanlan Professor Theology**

**University of St. Thomas, Houston**

 University of St. Thomas

 3800 Montrose Blvd.

 Houston, TX 77006

 Cell: (713) 363-0497

 Office: (713) 942-5059

 E-mail: rsmith@stthom.edu

**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. (August, 1998), Medieval Studies and Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

 Dissertation: *How the Old Law Showed Forth the Precepts of the Natural Law: A Commentary on Certain Questions Concerning the Law in the* Summa of Theology *of Thomas Aquinas*

Director: Ralph McInerny, Grace Professor of Medieval Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

Readers: Alasdair MacIntyre, David Solomon, Alfred Freddoso

M.M.S. (May, 1991), Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame

M.A., (May, 1987), Department of Theology, University of Dallas

 Thesis: *The Gospel of John and Neo-Platonic Metaphysics in Augustine’s* Literal Commentary on Genesis*: A Study in Patristic Scriptural Hermeneutics*

B.A., (May, 1981), Cornell College. Major: Chemistry

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Professor of Theology, University of St. Thomas, 2001-present** (tenure awarded 2005)

Undergraduate Courses taught:

 \* Christian Ethics and the Law

 \* Faith and Moral Development

 \* Modern Challenges to Christianity

 \* Teachings of the Catholic Church

 \* Honors Seminar: From Empire to Christendom

 \* Social Justice and the Church

Graduate Courses taught:

 \* Law and Grace in Aquinas (for the Center for Thomistic Studies)

 \* Community and the Human Person (for the Masters of Liberal Arts Program)

 \* Natural Law and Prudence (for the Center for Thomistic Studies)

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology**, **University of Notre Dame, 1998-2001**

**High School Teacher, Immaculate Conception Apostolic School, Center Harbor, NH, 1987-89**

Courses taught: World History, U.S. History, Chemistry, Latin, and English Literature and Composition.

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:**

Latin (classical and medieval), French, German, Classical Greek

**EXPERIENCE IN ACADEMIC EDITING:**

Research Assistant, Ambrosiana Library (Milan), University of Notre Dame, 1991-92

(Founding) Assistant Managing Editor, *Medieval Philosophy and Theology*, 1989-90

Assistant Editor, *Society of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy Newsletter*, 1989-90

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Moral Theology (esp. Natural Law and Virtue Ethics), History of Christian Thought, (esp. Patristic and Medieval), and History Philosophy (esp. Ancient and Medieval)

Other Areas of Interest: History of Biblical Exegesis, History of Sacred Architecture, New Urbanism, Theology and Science, Christianity and Culture

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**In Print:**

"Natural Law and Grace: How Charity Perfects the Natural Law," in *Faith, Hope, and Love: Thomas Aquinas on Living by the Theological Virtues*, ed. H. Goris, et al. (Leuven: Peeters, 2015), 233-257.

"Hope and History," in *Redeeming Philosophy: From Metaphysics to Aesthetics*, ed. John Conley, S.J. (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University Press, 2014), 173-199.

“If Philosophy Begins in Wonder: Aquinas, Creation, and Wonder,” *Communio* 41 (Spring 2014): 92-111.

“Thomas Aquinas on the Ten Commandments and the Natural Law,” in *The Decalogue and its Cultural Influence*, ed. Dominik Markl, S.J. (Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013).

“Thirteenth, Greatest of Centuries?” *Sacred Architecture* 22 (2012): 21-24.

“How to Read a Sermon by Thomas Aquinas,” *Nova et Vetera*, vol. 10, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 775-804.

What the Old Law reveals about the Natural Law According to Thomas Aquinas,” *The Thomist* vol. 75, no. 1 (January 2011): 95-139.

“On Penance, Absolution, and the Forgiveness of Sins,” *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* (November, 2011).

“The Hebrew Bible and Creation,” in Green Discipleship: Catholic Theological Ethics & the Environment**,** edited by Tobias Winright (Anselm Academic Press, 2011).

“Thomas Aquinas,” encyclopedia article in *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature*, ed. G. T. Kurian (The Scarecrow Press, 2010).

“Don’t Blame Vatican II: Modernism and Modern Church Architecture,” in *Sacred Architecture* (Fall 2007).

Book review of: Russell Hittinger, *The First Grace: Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World*, in *Crisis* (October 2003).

“Thomas Aquinas's Semiosis of the Old Law in Terms of the Natural Law,” in *Semiotics 2002*, ed. Scott Simpkins and John Deely (Ottawa, Canada: Legas, 2003), pp 185-201.

“The Semiotic Function of the Epigraph in Aquinas' Biblical Prologues and Sermons: A Mixing of Memory and Desire,” in *Semiotics 2001*, ed. Scott Simpkins and John Deely (Ottawa, Canada: Legas, 2002), pp.420-438.

**Forthcoming:**

“Christian Temperance and Mimetic Desire,” forthcoming in *Temperance,* ed. R. E. Houser (peer-reviewed, accepted for publication, and scheduled for print from Catholic University of America Press).

"Uncivil Discourse: The Simulacrum of Reasoned Discourse in the Modern Media's Ideological Junkspace," forthcoming in two parts in *Public Discourse*.

"Whatever Happened to the 'New Evangelization'?" forthcoming in *The New Oxford Review*.

**Current Projects in Process:**

*How to Read a Sermon by Thomas Aquinas*

This is a book-length study of Thomas Aquinas’s style of preaching. It is currently under review by Catholic University of America Press.

Divine Order and Human Justice in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*: *Philosophical Investigations of the Meanings of* Themis *and* Dikē *in the Homeric Epics*

This is a book-length study of the meanings of two key concepts which together reveal Homer's conception of justice in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. The manuscript is finished, and I am currently sending it out for consideration by various publishers.

*The Roots of the Natural Law Tradition: From Homer to Cicero*:

This is the first volume in a planned multi-volume set of readers of classic texts (with commentary) dealing with the natural law tradition from Homer to Pope John Paul II. Volume 2 will deal first with key biblical texts and then move to a consideration of patristic and early medieval thinkers, culminating with the work of Thomas Aquinas. Volume 3 will trace the development of the tradition from the late Middle Ages through the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation. The final volume will deal with contemporary developments since the Eighteenth Century. Volume 1 is in process.

*The Clockmaker God and the Myth of the God of the Gaps*

The image of the “clockmaker” God actually has a long and interesting history of which the historians who claim Newton as its originator seem largely unaware. The clockmaker analogy for God actually goes very far back in history, and yet its use to deny the existence of God is actually relatively recent. Indeed, one would be hard-pressed to find almost any example of it before the twentieth century, even in the works of hard-core Enlightenment philosophes such as Voltaire or Rousseau, both of whom accepted the clockmaker God analogy. In this volume, I trace the "clockmaker" analogy back to Cicero and then trace various formulations of it, especially the notion of the *machina mundi*, through history up to the relatively recent origins of the "absent God" interpretation of the "clockmaker" analogy. This book is approximately half-written.

**RECENT SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (since 2010):**

Forthcoming in December: “How Faith Perfects Prudence: Thomas Aquinas on the Wisdom of the Old Law and the Gift of Counsel” — plenary paper to be delivered at conference on “The Virtuous Life: Thomas Aquinas on the Theological Nature of Moral Virtue,” (16-19 December 2015), Thomas Instituut, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

“Retracing the Arts to the Sacred Scriptures in the Prologue to Thomas Aquinas’s Prologue to his *Commentary on John*” — plenary paper delivered at conference on “The Biblical Exegesis of Thomas Aquinas and its Contemporary Relevance,” (20-22 April 2015), Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun, Poland.

“John Paul II on Private Property and the Universal Destination of the World’s Goods” — paper delivered at the 15th Annual Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Conference: “Your Light Will Rise in the Darkness: Responding to the Cry of the Poor” (30 October – 1 November 2014).

“Thomas Aquinas on Why Charity is Necessary to Fulfill the Natural Law” — paper delivered at “Faith, Hope, & Love: Thomas Aquinas on Living by the Infused Virtues” conference at the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht, Netherlands (11-14 December 2013).

“Themis, Mother of Justice: *Themis* and *Dikē* in Homer” — paper delivered at the 13th Annual Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Conference: “The Crowning Glory of the Virtues:

Exploring the Many Facets of Justice” (8-10 November 2012).

“Thomas Aquinas on the Decalogue and the Natural Law” — invited lecture at “The Influence of the Decalogue: Historical, Theological and Cultural Perspectives, An International and Interdisciplinary Conference in Oxford,” sponsored by Heythrop College, London and the Faculty of Theology, Oxford (16-17 April 2012).

“Hope and Human Destiny” — plenary address at the 35th Annual International Meeting of the American Jacques Maritain Association, “Ransoming the Time: Human Nature, Earthly Destiny, and Christian Wisdom” (13-15 October 2011).

“Hope and History” — invited paper at “V Jornadas Internacionales de Teoría y Filosofía de la Historia: Las Causas en la Historia,” Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Viña del Mar, Chile (30 August – 2 September 2011).

“If Wonder is the Wellspring of Philosophy, then Christianity is the Best Foundation for Philosophy” — paper delivered at the annual Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Conference: “Younger than Sin: Retrieving Simplicity through the Virtues of Humility, Wonder & Joy” (18-21 November 2010).

“A New Model for University Management: Getting Rid of the “Middle Man,” — plenary address delivered at U-6 Forum on International Cooperation and Education, Anhui University, Hefei P.R. China (10-12 October 2010).

“Sovereignty and the Natural Law” — paper delivered at international colloquium on “La souverainete dans tous ses etats,” Institut Catholique d’Etudes Supérieures, La Roche Sur Yon, France (7-8 April 2010)

**Popular Publications (Both On-Line and In Print):**

For an up-to-date list, see my web site at: <http://t4.stthom.edu/users/smith/portfolio>.