

RANDALL B. SMITH

Professor and Archbishop J. Michael Miller Chair of Theology

Department of Theology
University of St. Thomas

rsmith@stthom.edu
1-713-363-0497

Education

Year	University	Degree
1998	Medieval Studies and Philosophy, University of Notre Dame	Ph.D., Medieval Theology and Philosophy Dissertation: <i>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</i> • Director: Ralph McInerny, Grace Professor of Medieval Philosophy, University of Notre Dame • Readers: Alasdair MacIntyre, David Solomon, Alfred Freddoso
1991	Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame	M.M.S. (Master in Medieval Studies)
1987	Department of Theology, University of Dallas	M.A. in Theology Thesis: <i>The Gospel of John and Neo-Platonic Metaphysics in Augustine's Literal Commentary on Genesis: A Study in Patristic Scriptural Hermeneutics</i>
1981	Cornell College	B.A. with a major in Chemistry

Academic Appointments

- Full Professor and holder of the J. Michael Miller Endowed Chair of Theology, Department of Theology, University of St. Thomas, 2001–present (tenure awarded 2005)
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 1998–2001
- High School Teacher, Immaculate Conception Apostolic School, Center Harbor, NH, 1987–89

Academic Administrative Appointments

- Director, International Catholic University, 2006–present
- Board of Directors, Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, 2019–2025
- Chair, University Curriculum Committee, 2007–2010
- Chair, University Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2020–2022

Fellowships and Rewards

- Research Fellow, Eucharistic Education Task Force, Cardinal Newman Society, 2023–2024
- Texas Fellow, Civitas Institute, University of Texas, Austin, 2022–2023
- St. Edith Stein Excellence in Research Award, University of St. Thomas, 2019

- Myser Fellow, University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, 2011–2012

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books

1. *Bonaventure's Journey of the Soul into God: Background and Commentary* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).
2. *From Here to Eternity: Reflections on Death, Immortality, and the Resurrection of the Body* (Emmaus Press, 2022).
3. *Aquinas, Bonaventure, and the Scholastic Culture of Medieval Paris: Preaching, Prologues, and Biblical Commentary* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).
4. *Întrupări ale înțelepciunii creștine*, trans. Petru Dimitriu (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2021). A book with a series of my articles on theology translated into Romanian.
5. *Why Believe? Answers to Life's Questions*, vol. 2 (Augustine Institute, 2018): I authored eight of the 15 chapters in this book on moral theology. See chapters 2 through 9, pp. 18 through 134.
6. *Reading the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas: A Beginner's Guide* (Emmaus Press, 2016), including analytical outlines of each of Thomas's extant sermons.

Endorsements and reviews of these books can be found [at this site](#).

Books in Process

1. *Mapping Bonaventure's Journey of the Mind into God* (Emmaus Academic; forthcoming Spring 2026)
2. *Holy Spirit or Hegelian Spirit: How German Philosophy Distorted Twentieth Century Catholic Moral Theology* (under contract with Word on Fire Press)
3. *Moralia Thomistica: Recovering Thomas Aquinas's Theology of Natural Right, Natural Justice, and Natural Law* (under contract with Emmaus Academic)

Journal Articles

1. "Thomas Aquinas: Master of Preaching," *Nova et Vetera*, vol. 14, no. 1 (Winter 2026): 265–294.
2. "Understanding the Context of the 'Natural Inclinations' and the Natural Law in *Summa Theologiae* I–II, q. 94, a. 2," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 99, no. 4, 1–17.
3. "Aquinas and Cicero on 'Natural Inclinations' and the Natural Law: Thomas Aquinas' Use of Cicero's *De officiis* in *Summa theologiae* I–II, Q. 94, A. 2," *The Thomist*, vol. 89, no. 3 (July 2025): 459–492.
4. "Bonaventure," in *The Adeodatus Handbook on Catholic Education and Culture: Volume 1: From Jesus the Teacher to St. John Henry Newman*, ed. A. Lessard, J. Staudt (Washington, DC: Catholic Education Press, 2025).
5. "In the Grip of a Picture: The Persistent Myth of the Newtonian 'Clockwork' Universe," *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, vol. 45, no. 1 (April 2024), 85–115.
6. "Bonaventure's *Reductio* of the Nine Choirs of Angels: How Bonaventure Compressed Two Monumental Traditions into Nine Words and Nine Short Phrases," *Nova et Vetera*, vol. 21, no. 2 (2023): 583–606.
7. "Bonaventure's Inception Address as Regent Master at Paris: *Omnium Artifex*" (translation and introduction), *Franciscan Studies*, vol. 80 (2022): 211–242.
8. "From Here to Eternity: Reflections on Death and the Afterlife in the Light of the Resurrection of the Resurrection of Christ," Forward in *Hope and Death: Christian Responses* (Emmaus Press, 2022), ix–xx.
9. Invited review of J. Budziszewski, *Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's "Treatise on Divine Law,"* in *New Blackfriars*, vol. 103, no. 1107 (September 2022): 697–700.
10. Invited review of Matthew Levering, *The Abuse of Conscience: A Century of Moral Theology*, in *Catholic Social Science Review*, vol. 27 (2022): 153–156.
11. "Natural Right, Natural Justice, and Natural Law in Aquinas," *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, vol. 44,

- no. 1 (Spring 2021): 63–104.
12. “Dividing in Order to Unite: Thomas’s *Resumptio* Address at Paris, *Hic est Liber*, and the Thirteenth Century *Divisiones Textus* of the Books of the Bible,” in [Thomas Aquinas, Biblical Theologian](#) (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Academic, 2021).
 13. “Augustine and the Trials of Fallen Friendship,” [Church Life Journal](#), September 4, 2020.
 14. “What Augustine Did Not Find in the Books of the Platonists,” [Logos](#) 23:4 (Fall 2020): 70–102.
 15. “Thomas Aquinas and Irenaeus on the Divine and Natural Law,” in [Biblica et Patristica Thoruniensia](#) 13 (2020): 175–187.
 16. “Initiating Young Friars into a Culture of Preaching: Thomas Aquinas and the Connections between Thirteenth Century Preaching and Biblical Commentary,” in [Initiation and Mystagogy in Thomas Aquinas](#), ed. H. Schoot et al. (Leuven: Peeters, 2019), 323–349.
 17. “Finding the Roots of Bonaventure’s Literary Style in Medieval Preaching,” [Nova et Vetera](#), Fall 2019 (Vol. 17, No. 4).
 18. “Clarifying the Virtues and Limits of Nationalism,” [Church Life Journal](#), September 27, 2019.
 19. “Thomas Aquinas’s *Principium* at Paris,” in [Towards a Biblical Thomism: Thomas Aquinas and the Renewal of Biblical Theology](#), ed. P. Roszak and J. Vijgen (Navarre, Spain: Eunsu, 2018), 39–60.
 20. “How Faith Perfects Prudence: Thomas Aquinas on the Wisdom of the Old Law and the Gift of Counsel,” in [The Virtuous Life: Thomas Aquinas on the Theological Nature of Moral Virtues](#) (Leuven: Peeters, 2017), 143–162.
 21. “What Lessons Do Thomas Aquinas’s Sermons Hold for Modern Preachers?” [Homiletic and Pastoral Review](#) (June 2017).
 22. “The Structure and Protreptic Function of Thomas’s Prologue to the Gospel of John,” [Nova et Vetera](#), vol. 15, no. 4 (Fall 2017): 1101–1149.
 23. “Giving Thanks for a Bountiful Harvest: Two New Books on the Natural Law,” [The Chesterton Review](#), vol. 41, nos. 3 & 4 (Fall/Winter 2015), 541–548.
 24. “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.
 25. “Hope and History,” in [Redeeming Philosophy: From Metaphysics to Aesthetics](#), ed. John Conley, S.J. (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University Press, 2014), 173–199.
 26. “If Philosophy Begins in Wonder: Aquinas, Creation, and Wonder,” [Communio](#) 41 (Spring 2014): 92–111.
 27. “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).
 28. “Thirteenth, Greatest of Centuries?” [Sacred Architecture](#) 22 (2012): 21–24.
 29. “How to Read a Sermon by Thomas Aquinas,” [Nova et Vetera](#), vol. 10, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 775–804.
 30. “What the Old Law reveals about the Natural Law According to Thomas Aquinas,” [The Thomist](#) vol. 75, no. 1 (January 2011): 95–139.
 31. “On Penance, Absolution, and the Forgiveness of Sins,” [Homiletic and Pastoral Review](#) (November 2011).
 32. “The Hebrew Bible and Creation,” in [Green Discipleship: Catholic Theological Ethics & the Environment](#), edited by Tobias Winright (Anselm Academic Press, 2011).
 33. “Thomas Aquinas,” encyclopedia article in [Encyclopedia of Christian Literature](#), ed. G. T. Kurian (The Scarecrow Press, 2010).
 34. “Don’t Blame Vatican II: Modernism and Modern Church Architecture,” in [Sacred Architecture](#) (Fall 2007).
 35. Book review of: Russell Hittinger, *The First Grace: Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World*, in [Crisis](#) (October 2003).
 36. “Thomas Aquinas’s Semiosis of the Old Law in Terms of the Natural Law,” in *Semiotics 2002*, ed. Simpkins and Deely (Ottawa, Canada: Legas, 2003), pp 185–201.
 37. “The Semiotic Function of the Epigraph in Aquinas’ Biblical Prologues and Sermons: A Mixing of Memory and Desire,” in *Semiotics 2001*, ed. Simpkins and Deely (Ottawa, Canada: Legas, 2002), pp.420–438.

Articles Forthcoming

1. “*Lumen Ecclesiae*: Pope Saint Paul VI on Thomas Aquinas, Light of the Church and Light of the World,”

Chapter 1 in *Thomas Aquinas Today: Still the Common Doctor?* (The Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming Spring 2026).

2. "The Purpose of the Prologue," in the *T&T Clark Handbook of Biblical Thomism*, ed. M. Levering, P. Roszak, and Jürgen Vijgen (New York: Bloomsbury, forthcoming Spring 2026).
3. "What is the Meaning of *Ius*, the Object of Justice," in *Thomism Now and Then*, a special edition of *The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, scheduled for Fall 2025, but delayed.
4. "Christian Temperance and Mimetic Desire," forthcoming in *Temperance*, ed. R. E. Houser (Catholic University of America Press)
5. "Eucharist, the Heart of Catholic Education," forthcoming in *The Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*
6. "William of Auxerre's Contributions to the Early Thirteenth Century Natural Law Tradition," forthcoming in *Nova et Vetera*.
7. "The Natural Law and Thomas Aquinas's Debt to Maimonides," forthcoming in *The Thomist*.

Popular Publications 2025–26

- ["Truth is a Good," *The Catholic Thing*, 3 February 2026](#)
- ["Evangelizing in Silence," *The Catholic Thing*, 20 January 2026](#)
- ["Incarnation Wonder," *The Catholic Thing*, 30 December 2025](#)
- ["Teaching Beauty," *Sacred Architecture*, vol. 48 \(Fall 2025\), 30-31](#)
- ["Annoyed and Frustrated at Mass," *The Catholic Thing*, 15 December 2025](#)
- ["Teaching Beauty," *The Catholic Thing*, 25 November 2025](#)
- ["Casual Sex, No Casual Dating, No Courtship," *Catholic World Report*, 15 November 2025](#)
- ["The 'Catholic Character' of Our Institutions," *The Catholic Thing*, 11 November 2025](#)
- ["About All That Rights Talk," *The Catholic Thing*, 28 October 2025](#)
- ["Demonstrating what? Protesting who? And why?" *Catholic World Report*, 22 October 2025](#)
- ["What Do We Owe?" *The Catholic Thing*, 14 October 2025](#)
- ["Pro-Choice 'Catholic'?" *The Catholic Thing*, 30 September 2025](#)
- ["Faith, Doubt, and the Dilemma of Being Human," *The Catholic Thing*, 16 September 2025](#)
- ["Dating Advice for Young Catholic Men," *The Catholic Thing*, 2 September 2025](#)
- ["The God of the Philosophers and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," *The Catholic Thing*, 19 August 2025](#)
- ["The Joy\(?\) of Working for the Catholic Church," *The Catholic Thing*, 5 August 2025](#)
- ["Traditional Liturgy," *The Catholic Thing*, 22 July 2025](#)
- ["Why Suffering?" *The Catholic Thing*, 8 July 2025](#)
- ["Letter and Spirit," *The Catholic Thing*, 24 June 2025"](#)
- [Why Do We Need a Creed?" *The Catholic Thing*, 12 June 2025](#)
- ["How Do People Even Do It?" *The Catholic Thing*, 26 May 2025](#)
- ["Insulating Yourself from Critique," *The Catholic Thing*, 13 May 2025](#)
- ["What if God Was One of Us?" *The Catholic Thing*, 30 April 2025](#)
- ["A Symphony of Easter Voices," *The Catholic Thing*, 15 April 2025](#)
- ["On Choosing Your Enemies," *The Catholic Thing*, 1 April 2025](#)
- ["Saint Bonaventure's Journey of the Mind into God," *The Catholic Thing*, 18 March 2025](#)
- ["Rights, Catholic Principles, and Prudence," *Catholic World Report*, 17 March 2025](#)
- ["Lent and Death: A Eulogy for David Solomon," *The Catholic Thing*, 4 March 2025](#)
- ["Immigration and the Inconceivable," *The Catholic Thing*, 18 February 2025](#)
- ["Whose Reform? Which Special Interest?" *The Catholic Thing*, 4 February 2025](#)

- ["Our \(Incoherent\) Post-Modern Condition," *The Catholic Thing*, 21 January 2025](#)
- ["Moral Blind Spots," *The Catholic Thing*, 7 January 2025](#)
- ["A House of Prayer? The Basilica of Sagrada Familia," *Sacred Architecture Journal*, vol. 46 \(2024\): 38-41.](#)

*For a full list of popular publications, see <http://t4.stthom.edu/users/smith/portfolio/>.

Selected Podcasts, Interviews, and Lectures

Radio Interviews

- Radio Interview, [The Virtuous Life](#), 27 October 2025
- Radio Interview, [LA Catholic Morning](#), 4 September 2025
- Radio Interview, [LA Catholic Morning](#), 3 January 2025
- Radio Interview, [LA Catholic Morning](#), 4 February 2026

Podcast Interviews

- Podcast Interview, [University of Notre Dame de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture](#), *Reading the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas: A Beginner's Guide*
- Podcast Interview, [University of Notre Dame de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture](#), *From Here to Eternity: Reflections on Death, Immortality, and the Resurrection of the Body*
- Podcast Interview, [Ignatius Press](#), "Who Influenced Aquinas' Understanding of the Natural Law?"

Lecture

- Recorded Lecture, "Thomas Aquinas' Creative Use of the Natural Law Tradition," lecture at the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture [Annual Conference](#) (starting 19:41).

Academic Editorial Appointments

- Consulting Editor, *Sacred Architecture Journal*, 2023–present
- (Founding) Assistant Managing Editor, *Medieval Philosophy and Theology*, 1989–90
- Research Assistant, Ambrosiana Library (Milan), University of Notre Dame, 1991–92