Matthew A. Allender
Growing Your Own Pharmaceuticals: Plants as Medicine from Pre-Modern Times to the American Pharmaceutical Industry
How have medicinal plants been used in pre-modern times as medicine by indigenous populations? What are the ethical considerations of development of plants into pharmaceuticals?

Brad Baldys
Refractions of Myself
How do we live for ourselves, others, and God?

Cecelia Bushway
Community & the Covid-19 Pandemic: How Community & Sacred Space Have Changed but Not Disappeared
How has pandemic living shifted and redefined our view of the relationship between community and sacred space?

Lucy Cobble
Raising the World of Nature to Eternity: How Human Existence Is Elevated by the Presence of Love
How does love inform man’s temporal, created existence, and how does that assist him in accessing eternity?

Matthew DiCarali
Nature, Food, & Community: The Art of Producing & Consuming
Is food simply something we need to survive, or does it have a more significant value? Does it matter how we grow it and how we share it with others, and can we responsibly and meaningfully?

Gabby Egidio
The Modern Blindness to the Invisible World
How has modern materialism impacted humanity’s self-understanding and path to happiness? What can be restored from traditional wisdom and the “invisible” higher faculties that transcend our reason and rationality?

Helena Gunther
Growing Up Too Fast
What does the “good childhood” look like and how have students of historically underserved backgrounds been robbed of this childhood in American school systems? How can we do better to promote human flourishing for all?

Grace Jang
Justice & Mercy
In a perfect system, what does justice and mercy look like?

Irene Koch
Breaking Through the Noise: Determining Your Purpose in a World of Tedium
How do we avoid slipping into this objectively good but also objectively “most terrible” lifestyle, where we do what everyone tells us we should do and end up a meaningless cog in the machine?

Billy Lay
One Love, Many Forms: On the Many Experiences of Love
Why do we experience love so differently in different contexts within our lives, yet still maintain a foundational idea of one Love?

Hannah Medsker
Art as Education: Promoting the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals
What is preventing us from achieving a sustainable way of life? How can public art change minds, hearts, and practices about sustainability?

Grace Metzger
Virtuous Dependence: Why & How We Need Other People
What do we lose when we pursue independence alone? What parts of ourselves cannot grow without a proper acceptance of dependence?

Jason Mitala
The Immediate Sublime
What is the immediate experience of the sublime, an emotion that evokes both positive (awe) and negative (emotionality)? Does such an experience come from God?

Erin O’Donovan
Reframing Your View of Work to Support Human Flourishing
How can you positively impact the world through financial work?

Olivia Pfeiffer
Love’s Labour’s Lost? The Shifting Relationship between Economic & Domestic Work
Has the pandemic served as the catalyst for a fundamental paradigm shift in the relationship between work and family life? What has been gained, and what has been lost?

Jack Roberge
Divine Exile: The Relegation of God to the Wilderness
Why has the idea that God is to be found in nature, to the exclusion of human creation, come to be, and what is it about our creations that has made this so?

Chris Saladino
The Reconciliation of Equality under Christianity & the Inequalities Found with Race in the United States
How does Christianity reconcile equality under God with the inequalities found with race in the United States?

Bridget Sullivan
The Liberation of the Tortured Artist
Must the artist be tortured to create great art? And if so, what is the true nature of this torture and are there any alternatives?

Carrie Sweeney
The Art Form That Keeps “Opening & Opening”: Poetry as a Way of Knowing
How is poetry a way of knowing? How has it been a particular way of knowing the fundamental aspects of life (or “the gateways”)?

Mary Swikle
Sacramentality amidst Profanity: The Creative & Erotic Sensibilities of the Human Person
What do epiphanies signify about the human person? What is the saturating force within epiphanies? Are all epiphanies sacramental? Are they necessarily erotic?
Robert Bulka  
**The Thrasymachus Effect: Personal and Political Effects of Philosophical Relativism**
What are the root causes, personal and political effects, and solutions to our twenty-first century epistemical crisis?

Gabriel Calvo  
**Divine Erotics: Whether God Loves Us Erotically**
Can we imagine eros without lack?

Declan Carolan  
**The Limits of Human Design: Robert Moses, the Levitt brothers, and the New Cities**
What do Levittown and New York City tell us about the limits of human design?

Andrew D’Onofrio  
**Neat Little Boxes: The Dangers and Shortcomings of Categorization**
Have statistics gone too far?

Erin Fabian  
**Ordinary World: How Can Heaven Be Made Out of the Hell of Other People?**
What is the point of the despair and anxiety we suffer by nature of being human? How do we go about healing? Can we?

John Greene  
**Recovering Charity: Contemplation in Caritas**
What is service (caritas) and what role does contemplation (leisure) play in it?

Logan Khelil  
**The Other Side of Despair**
What exactly is the other side of despair? How do we navigate and overcome despair in our lives to find the ‘beginning’ of life?

Corey Kuipers  
**In View of Shalom: Analyzing Political Forgiveness through a Religious Lens**
Is political forgiveness possible, or even desirable?

Casey O’Donnell  
**The Song of Creation: A Divine Love Song Transposed**
How would you characterize ‘the song’ that all of creation is singing? What is the purpose of created beauty and what is the nature of the relationship between the material and the immaterial?

Jessica Sardina  
**Beyond Allyship: The Radical Transformation of Friendship**
What does it take for us to go beyond ourselves and to realize our liberation is profoundly interconnected?

Dominic Sceski  
**Mysterium Orationis: The Christian’s Approach to Understanding Petitionary Prayer**
How does intercessory prayer actually "work”?

Bruno Shiffman  
**From Naïve Faith to Mature Hope: Rejecting Flawed Rationalizations of Evil**
What is the proper response to an existence in which evil, both natural and moral, occurs often and in ways that seem senseless to us?

Bernard Zitzewitz  
**Preserving the White Light: A Catholic Understanding of Knowledge and the Technocratic Paradigm Through the Lens of J.R.R. Tolkien**
Does Tolkien serve as a good case study for the political, economic, and ecological critiques presented by *Laudato Si’* and Wendell Berry?
Caroline Arnold *Insignes Pietate Virī* Virgil, Augustine, and Dante on the Virtue of Piety
What is piety? How does Christian revelation change our understanding of true piety, and why?

Gina Arnold Love and Dating on the College Campus
To what extent has dating on the college campus become dysfunctional and how might it be transformed for a better future?

Molly Bonini Exploring Restlessness through *Dancing After Hours*
How do we seek to still our restless hearts if not through spirituality?

Abigail Carr Finding Fullness in the True Self: When the Seeds of Christ Strip the False Self Away
What are the limitations of only living in the false self?

Quinn Dang On Humility and Beauty: Servitude in Excellence
Where is the proper place of human being in this reality?

Marikate Des Rosiers On Despair and Relationality
How do we navigate the ceaseless flow of our temporal life?

Christina Dietzler Tilling Soil in the Human Heart and Mind: Recovering the Ultimate Questions that Dispose Us Toward Seeking to Know and Love God
If “the desire for God is written in the human heart,” what causes us to forget, overlook or reject this reality?

Ashley Hock Controlling Consumerism: Labor as a Mean to a Useless End
How has modernity shaped our conception of work? How should we think about work in order to create a better society?

Connor Kovacs A Search for a Happiness
What is our final end?

Timothy Long Even the Mercy of the Lord Burns: Violence, Distortion, and Grace in Flannery O’Connor, Jacques Maritain, and Karl Barth
What is the strange relationship between violence and grace in Flannery O’Connor’s fiction?

Chaisen Petrino Know Thyself: It’s Complicated
Can we fully know ourselves?

Felicity Petruzzi And Other Stars
What is it like to be on the cusp of independent life?

Hannah Rao The Call to Holiness: Lessons from Irish Saints
What do early Irish saints have to teach us about the call to holiness?

Aidan Riess The Philosophical Roots of our Ecological Crisis
How has the impoverished view of reality present in modern philosophical thought led to what Pope Francis describes as the “Technocratic Paradigm?”

Kendall Smith The Quest for Joy Through Aspirations and Vocations
What are the true values of work and vocation as they relate to human happiness?

Timothy Warren Unplugged: An Examination of Digital and Physical Escapism
What are the different ways we escape from reality? Is one better or worse for our flourishing?

Rebeccah Zalar Love is All: The Different Dimensions and Intricacies of Humanity’s Most Intense Emotion
What kinds of love create a life well lived?
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Antoinette Arndt  The Art of Suffering
Can we make sense of the plight of human suffering? How do we teach ourselves to see the good, even in the most desperate of times?

Blaire Bernstein  The Nature of Cruelty: Spectators, Participants, and Casualties
What is the role of observing cruelty in the human experience? How does our participation in institutions that perpetuate cruelty affect our ability to be virtuous?

Eliza Clark  The Experience of Homelessness in Philadelphia
What is human dignity in relation to the experience of homelessness? Is human dignity upheld on the streets or within the social good services available in Philadelphia?

Briana Connolly  Ambition in Political Life
What kind of ambition is proper in politics? How can great historical figures serve as a model for virtuous ambition?

Nazelie Doghramadjian  Is Knowledge for You? Epistemic Injustice and Worldbuilding
How does epistemic injustice and intellectual segregation shape the type of knowledge some do or do not cultivate?

Morgan Hazel  ...But Why?: The Necessity of a Humanities Based Education in an Increasingly Competitive Society
How can an education centered around the values of the Humanities positively influence our society?

Patrick Hudak  Acedia, Psychopathology, and the Human Person: Exploring Walker Percy's The Moviegoer and the Necessity of Meaning
How can psychological ailment be understood within the realm of spirituality? More specifically, in what ways is the sin of acedia, "a sadness about the spiritual good," relevant to understanding mental illness as a human phenomenon?

Simran Kripalani  Death and Dying: The Literature, Philosophy, & Practices of Adult & Pediatric End-of-life Care
Can you ever die a "good death," and, if so, what factors contribute to dying a "good death"? Does this change in the pediatric setting? How can healthcare professionals aid in end-of-life care?

Jordan McDonald  The Tension of Technology: How Technological Progress Has Altered the Course of the Environment and Humanity
With society's continued push towards technological progress, has the depletion and neglect of the natural world hindered the human person's ability to live the good life?

David Miranda  Beauty and Restlessness: The Human Struggle Against, and Reconciliation With, Epiphany and Divine Ascent
What is the role of beauty in the human engagement of restlessness for God? Why is it that humans struggle to properly orient themselves to earthly and divine beauty?

Laura Spence  The Still Point of the Turning World: T. S. Eliot, Wendell Berry, and Memory
What is the role of memory in a human life? Does Hannah Coulter's intensely nostalgic vision of the world hold her hostage or deepen her understanding of her relationship with family and place?

Ethan Swain  God With Us: The Eucharist and Human Deification
Can the theological concept of deification provide us with a deeper understanding, reverence, and awe, for the gift of the Eucharist and its effects?

Vaishnavi Warrier  The (Sacred) Sound of Music: Music as a Catalyst for Spiritual Transcendence
Can music initiate or intensify spiritual experiences, helping us understand the divine in a more wholesome way within boundaries of religion?

Rebecca Walters  From Genesis to the Gospel of John: Biblical Themes and their Key Passages
How can one use certain passages to highlight central themes of the Bible?

Elizabeth Williams  Universal Particularities: Exploring Cultural-Linguistic Understandings of Human Rights in the United States and Italy
International human rights law attempts to create "universal" legislation. Can philology help us understand cultures and languages in an attempt to pursue the universal human good?
Eric Aldieri
“Where Time and Eternity Spatter Each Other with Foam”: Signs of the Sacred and the Beautiful Impossibility of Home
How can music and narrative cultivate an *apprenticeship* to signs of the divine which lie within otherwise profane, material objects?

Gabriella Berman
The Family in Crisis: John Locke, the Contraceptive Mentality, and a Christological Response
How does our understanding of marriage reflect our understanding of the human person?

Luke Bozich
Transposition through Travel: Understanding Middle Earth through the Experience of Architecture and the Other
How do the observations on travel to foreign lands and architectural forms and spaces help to heighten one’s understanding of the world?

Trevor Davis
On Virtuous Memory: Properly Aligning Present with Past
How can we realize a life guided by virtuous memory in a culturally broken age?

Stephanie Edwards
Is Contemplation Enough?
If the *telos* of human life is to exist in a multi-faceted *Eudaimonia*, what different goods or values constitute this and how are they ordered?

Paul Elhallal
“Righteousness and bliss shall kiss one another”: The Reconciliation of Justice and Mercy through the Paschal Mystery
How is the apparent contradiction between justice and mercy reconciled within the sacramental life of the Church?

Luke Hensley
“A Priceless Treasure”: Death, Justice, and the Revitalization of Ethics in *The Brothers Karamazov*
How can a person be both guiltless and guilty at the same time? What determines “guilt”?

Nicole Kim
Proper *Eudaimonia*: The Struggle between Art, Beauty, and Humanity
If beauty exists in the world through art, how is it possible to see well in such a world where art is used as a mechanism of oppression in society?

Lauren Kloss
Literary Synesthesia and the Creation of Wonder
With reference to the phenomenon of synesthesia, how does literature helps us break conventional notions and create wonder/radical amazement?

Madeleine Messinger
Till We Have Love: An Exploration of Love and Deification in C.S. Lewis’s *Till We Have Faces*
Can both beauty and dread be ascribed to the divine? Furthermore, how can this help us understand the relationship of the human and the divine?

Isabel Nelson
Manners and Morals in *Mansfield Park*: Religion and Transcendence in Jane Austen
What is the role of religion according to the characters of *Mansfield Park*, and is their account satisfying? What should be the relationship between religion and literature?

Regina Paparo
Altruism vs. Love: The Case for a Christian Understanding of Service
What is the relationship between selflessness and altruism?

Bella Perrino
Conscious Capitalism: Locating Ourselves within a Material World
Can we reconcile community as “the vital activity of communizing” with modern capitalism?

Connor Ritchie
Developing a Porosity for *Caritas*: An Exploration into Theology, Literature, and Philosophy to Witness Its Supreme Value
Giving due to tradition, literature, and philosophy, what is *caritas*, how does one personify it, and what is its metaphysical value?

Katie Stepanek
“The Inconsolable Secret”: Uncovering Joy as Hidden in C.S. Lewis’ *Till We Have Faces*
Should we expect Joy to be the primary interpretive key for C.S. Lewis’s writing, especially for his self-proclaimed masterpiece *Till We Have Faces*?

Tony Triggiano
Tasting Italy: Pursuing the Good of Italian Cuisine
Looking at the case of Italy and Italian culture, under what cultural and societal conditions does cuisine ennoble man’s state, bringing him to this level of spiritual appetite and satiety?

Emily Wilson
“The Spirit of Celebration”: Reclaiming Leisure and Liturgy amid Postmodern Busyness
How can the human person reclaim space for leisure and celebration?

Matthew Zarenkiewicz
What Is to Be Done?: Religion and Politics in the U.S.
How should religious speech be used in political conversations in the United States?
Amanda Cialino  Markets Over Relationship? Human Dignity and the Economic Way of Thinking
What role does economic thinking play in human relationships, and more specifically, those formed in the context of service?

Cecilia Franko  How Technology Has Replaced Our Lost Community
With the rise of capitalism, how have society and community been negatively impacted? Does this effect modern architecture?

Olivia Hamilton  Communitas: How Spaces Shape Community at Villanova
How do architecture and feelings of community intersect? How does community manifest itself through the buildings and spaces at Villanova?

Bernard Jacobson  Poor Gods: The Artist as Divine Imitator
How does man’s desire to create art reflect his relationship with God?

Ali Laird  Sticky Little Leaves: Non-Locality, Non-Euclidian Geometry, and Positive Knowing in The Brothers Karamazov
If chaos theory suggests that stability arises in a world ruled by entropy, can we affirm a kind of order in tragedy, without negating the reality of suffering?

John Liberatore  “Taking me seriously”: The Unheard Mind of the Emerging Adult
What is the significance of the journey that is the Emerging Adulthood? How is mentorship of significant positive impact on the journeying emerging adult?

Katrina Marks  The Meaning of Memory: A Philosophy of Autobiography
How does the human person make meaning through the narratives of memories? How do memories challenge what the human person understands as reality?

Caitlin Mitchell  Difficult Conversations: Doctor Patient Conversations about Death and the Dying Process
How do the difficult conversations we have with loved ones shape the conversations we have with doctors, and how should doctors have these difficult conversations?

Ann Pollack  Human Free Will and the Nature of God
Does the omniscient and omnipotent nature of God limit the human captivity for free will? How is human free will compatible with the Christian conception of God?

Mary Frances Roth  What Does It Mean To Do Fulfilling Work?
What is meaningful work?

Adam Vincent  The Baptism of Homo Economicus
If humanity is doomed to its worst expectations for itself, how can theological visions of human nature support alternative economic systems?

Kate Walsh  Instead of Tears, Give Deeds: Anger as a Positive Political Emotion
Do modern people simply not believe in justice? Why are so many not moved to do what they can?

Emily Walthouse  Sometimes the Answers are Simple
What role can the concept of simplicity play in combating the diagnosis of modernity as “everybody’s disease” in Wendell Berry’s Hannah Coulter?

Jennifer White  Beauty in the Face of Tragedy
Is it possible to possess a vocation to pursue beauty in a tragic world or is to do so a dereliction of sacred duty to mankind?

Hindley Williams  Awe in the Stars: “There Will Be Time”
What is the role of awe in the human life? What is the effect of living without awe?