Draft Program
Please note: all sessions in EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Friday, October 16, 2020

SESSION I: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

1. Prayer and Holiness in Aquinas and the Thomist Tradition

Psalms of the Philosophers: Do Thomists Pray when They Do Philosophy?
Josh Merlo, University of Buffalo

Unifying Thinking and Devotion: Ratio Inferior et Superior in Aquinas’s Theology
Robert Elliot, Boston College

Thomas Aquinas on Prayer and Jubilant Embodiment
Dylan Belton, Villanova University

The Holiness of St. Joseph
Gregory LaNave, Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies

2. The Early Augustine

Augustine of Hippo’s Eudaemonic Counsel
Ellen Charry, emerita, Princeton Theological Seminary

Mundus sensibilis and mundus intelligibilis in Augustine: De Ordine, II
Maurizio Filippo Di Silva, Universidade Federal do Paraná

Definition and Ontology in Augustine’s De beata vita
Stephany (Stevie) Hull, Brown University

Salubris Fides: The Role of Faith in the Early Augustine and Neoplatonism
Christopher Mooney, University of Notre Dame

3. Faith and Life in Byzantine Christianity

The Personal Faith of the Emperor Theodosius I
Thomas Brauch, Central Michigan University

Christ the Praying Beggar in Gethsemane: Incarnation, Demonstration, and Mystery in Maximus’s Opuscula
Kevin Clarke, St. Patrick’s Seminary and University

Virtue and Wisdom: Maximos the Confessor’s Ascetic Spirituality and its Contemporary Possibilities
Aaron Ebert, Duke University
The Reciprocity of Thought and Prayer in Christian Asceticism: A Panel Discussion

Poverty, Temptation, Stigmata: Ascetic Thoughts and Prayers
Sam Mickey, Theology and Religious Studies department at the University of San Francisco

The Energetics of Prayer, Thought, and Asceticism in Evagrius
Jacob Given, Theology doctoral student, Villanova University

The Epistemological Significance of Via Negativa and Contemplation
Adam Robbert, doctoral student, California Institute of Integral Studies

Session II: 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

The Theology of Thomas Aquinas

The Avoidability of First Movements in Aquinas: An Instance of the Impact of Theology on Philosophical Reasoning
Jordan McFadden, independent scholar

The Holy Spirit in Aquinas’s Account of Capital Grace
Matthew Messer, University of Notre Dame

Do the Words Instinctus and Auxilium Refer to the Same Reality for St. Thomas?
Gilbert Stockton, Felician University

Nature and Grace in the Ordo Caritatis: Preferential Love according to Thomas Aquinas
Austin Wilson, Duke University

Augustine on the Trinity

Augustine’s Trinitarian Anthropology
Gabriel Calvo, Villanova University

Three Levels of the Word in Augustine’s De Trinitate IX.10.15
Lisa Holdsworth, Memorial University of Newfoundland

The Role of God in Augustine’s Search for the Trinity
Jillian Marcantonio, Duke University

Aesthetics and Sensation in Eastern Christian Thought

Prayer as Seeing: An Exploration of the Aesthetics of Contemplation and Glossolalia
Michael Kamenicky, Lee University

What a Difference a Trace Makes: Knowing, Being, Begotten Word, and Proceeding in the Performatives of Byzantine Liturgy
Timothy Kelleher, St. Sophia Orthodox Theological Seminary
Nicholas Kabasilas and the Sacramental Re-Ordering of Thought
Daniel Stauffer, University of Notre Dame

8. Mystical Theologies in Islam and Christianity

Extending Thoughts and Prayers in Friendship on the Mystical Journey to God
Elizabeth Adams-Eilers, Temple University

Existence as Worship: The Embodied Cosmologies of Ibn 'Arabi and Bonaventure
Megan Hopkins, Boston College

LUNCH BREAK, 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SESSION III: 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

9. Creative Fidelity: Dialogues in the Tradition, Thinking in Love

Love and the Limits of Autonomy: Some Reflections on Platonic Freedom in Augustine and Iris Murdoch
Paul Camacho, Villanova University

The Primacy of the I Am: Augustine Mediating Aristotle and Kierkegaard on Interpersonal Selfhood and Intrapersonal Communion
Erik van Versendaal, Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts

Self-Knowledge as Interpersonal Knowledge in Buber and in Aquinas's Trinitarian Theology
Michael Higgins, St. Jerome Institute

10. Augustine's Confessions

Confession as an Act of Bittersweet Love and Memory
Zoe Belinsky, independent scholar

Ostia Revisited: The Conversation between Neoplatonic Thought & Christian Prayer in Confessions 9
Anthony Dupont, Catholic University Leuven (Belgium)

Deformed and Redeemed Memory: Augustine on the Psychology of Moral Struggle in Romans 7
Zach Howard, Durham University

Memory, Prayer, and Liturgy in Augustine's Confessions
Chungsoo J. Lee, The Antiochian House of Studies

11. Early Scholastic Theology
Peter Abelard’s Doctrine of the Trinity: An Integrated Vision
Matthew Neumann, University of Chicago

Anselm on Christ’s Resurrection: A Necessary Part of our Salvation
Vincent Davila, University of Notre Dame

Scientia Secundum Pietatem: Albertus Magnus, the Bible, and Theology as a Practical Science
Jonathan Gaworski, The Catholic University of America

12. Early Medieval Celtic Theology & Culture

The Geographical Extension of the Irish Mission in Scotland, 6th-7th Centuries
Catherine Bodin, McDaniel College

Contemplation and Sacred Space: Liminal Place as Transformative Space in Early Medieval Celtic Texts
June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

13. Egyptian Imaginaries in Patristic and Medieval Thought and Prayer

The Alexandrian Jewish Origins of Immaterial Spirit
Daniel Austin Napier, independent scholar

Philosophy as Egyptian woman in Clement of Alexandria and Gregory of Nyssa
Aron Reppmann, Trinity Christian College

Aemulatio and the Egyptian Desert in Raymond of Capua’s Vita of Catherine of Siena
Robert Sweetman, Institute for Christian Studies

SESSION IV:

Opening comments by Adele Lindenmeyr, Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University

PLENARY ADDRESS 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Natalie Carnes
Associate Professor of Theology
Baylor University

Bearing Witness:
Rhymes in Christian Art and Asceticism
14. **Visions of Hell and Purgatory**

*Grieving with God: A Look at the Quality of Divine Dependence in Dante’s Inferno*

William Kuncken, Villanova University

*Subpanel:*

*That They may be Delivered from Their Sin: Purgatory and Prayer for the Dead*

Organized by Nathan Bradford Williams

*The Litany of the Dead in Dante’s *Purgatorio* 13*

Stephen Chase Pepper, University of Cambridge

*Intercessory Prayer in Balthasar’s Purgatory*

Nathan Bradford Williams, University of Toronto

15. **Asceticism, Prayer, and Mysticism in Patristic Thought**

*From Cultic Sacrifice to Ascetic Thought: Internalizing Prayer in Clement of Alexandria*

Christopher Denny, St. John's University (NY)

*Why We Do Not Know What to Pray for As We Ought, and How the Spirit Intercedes: Mystical and Apocalyptic Trends in the Reception History of Romans 8:26–27*

Joshua Heavin, University of Aberdeen

*Soul on Fire: The Theology of Prayer in the Work of John Cassian*

Galina Krasskova, Fordham University

16. **Fidelities (2)**

*Origen Contra Deconstruction: A Postmodern Patristic Apologia*

Ryan Haecker, Peterhouse, University of Cambridge

*Desire and the Unity of Being*

Tyler Holley, University of Aberdeen

*Psychedelic Therapy for the Dying: The New *Ars Moriendi*?*

Kasey Kimball, Boston College

17. **Mystical Theology**

*Following the Naked Christ Nakedly: The Dominican Life as *Alter/ Secunda Christī* in the Thirteenth Century*

Liam Farrer, University of Toronto
When Thought is Bliss Prayer is Joy: Ruusbroec's Interior Life in *Die geestelike bruocht*
Glen Lewandowski, Augustinian Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross

Mysticism and Political Action in Catherine of Siena
F. Thomas Luongo, Tulane University

18. **Augustine: Theology and Exegesis**

All these things I prayed for: The Interplay of Thought and Prayer in Augustine’s Soliloquies
Anthony Queiros, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum - Rome

Augustine’s Use of Ambrose in His Argument for Original Sin Against the Pelagians
Stuart Squires, University of St. Thomas (Houston)

History in Crisis? How Augustine Reads John’s Apocalypse
Andrew Gertner Belfield, Boston College

“To grieve with a sorrow that will let itself be assuaged” (s. 172.3): Purifying Emotion in Augustine of Hippo’s s. 172-173 and s. 396
Joseph Grabau, University of the Incarnate Word and Mexican American Catholic College

**Session VI: 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

19. **The Time and Shape of Prayer and Thought**
Organized by Terence Sweeney

It Only Takes a Moment: Affective Prayer in the Cloud of Unknowing
Terence Sweeney, Villanova University and Collegium Institute

Mend of the Mind: Medieval Mysticism as Philosophy
Katherine Apostolacus, Villanova University

The Inconspicuous Event of Grace: Sketches for a Phenomenological Reading of Aquinas
Humberto González Núñez, Villanova University

20. **Thought and Prayer in St. Bonaventure: A Panel Discussion sponsored by The Bonaventure Studium**
Organized by Katherine Wrisley Shelby, Providence College

Thought and Prayer in the *Brevioloquium* and the *Commentary on the Sentences*  
Benjamin Winter, Divine Word College

Thought and Prayer in the Inaugural Sermon, *Christus unus*, and *De triplex via*
Catherine Levri, Franciscan University of Steubenville

Thought and Prayer in the *Collations*
Gregory LaNave, Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies
*Note: the panel above is discussion-centered. Each paper will be relatively brief, all to be followed by longer discussion*

21. **Split Session**

21a. **Vision, Art, and Prayer**

*The Doubled Image in Medieval and Renaissance Culture*
Mary D. Edwards, Pratt Institute

*Early Christian Visual Prayer: Celebration of the Resurrection*
Linda Sue Galate, Drew University, Fellow

21b. **Affectivity as Theology and Ethics**

*Making Fun: Humor, Affect, and Ugolino Brunforte’s The Life of Brother Juniper*
Ailie Posillico, Villanova University

*Thoughts and Prayers, or Something More? Affective Meditation as Ethical Critique in The Book of Margery Kempe*
Erin Risch Zoutendam, Duke University

22. **Early Modern History, Theology, and Culture**

*Know Thyself, Dissect Thyself: A Genealogy of Self-Knowledge through Renaissance Art History and Anatomical Dissection*
Kimbell Kornu, Saint Louis University

*Lex Orandi, Lex Disputandi: The Church’s Prayers as Contentious Authorities in Early Reformation Theological Debate*
Alyssa Evans, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Shakespeare’s Poetics of the Poor: Madness, Poverty, and Folly in King Lear and Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*
Kyler Schubkegel, Yale Divinity School

23. **Fidelities (3): Receiving Augustine**

*“We Praise Thee”: Edith Stein’s Empathic Envisioning of Ambrose and Augustine*
Matthew Chominski, Archmere Academy, the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein

*“Redeamus ad cor”: The Augustinian Foundations of Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*
Shane Owens, Franciscan University of Steubenville
LUNCH BREAK, 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Offering a dramatic recorded reading of an original play:

24. **The Messenger**, Written by Anne Patricia Minicozzi, MFA, MA, Augustine and Culture Seminar Program (ACSP), Villanova University. Read by ACSP faculty and Theater students.

"The Messenger" is a story about the particular purpose God has in mind for each of us. Condemned to death by Emperor Trajan in 107 A.D. for being a Christian and bishop, St. Ignatius of Antioch is taken to Rome in chains, to be fed to the lions in the Coliseum in Rome. Along the way he writes several letters to Christian communities, which are extant. Ignatius encounters the “prodigal son,” and collaborates with several female deacons of Christian house churches they maintain. Through the play we learn how Ignatius helps these early Christians to understand “the particular purpose God has in mind for each of us.”

Session VII: 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

25. **Split Session**

25a. **The Body at Prayer in Syriac Theology**

*The Prayer of Pain and The Question of ‘Embodiment’: Isaac of Nineveh’s Eschatological Asceticism*
Alexander Hurtsellers, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

*The Body Language of the Prayer on Aphrahat*
Yongjia Yuan, Boston College STM

25b. **Discursivity and Immediacy: The Monastic Mind in Thought and Prayer**
Organized by C. Tyler Cohen

*The Τρόποι of Mind: St. Maximus the Confessor on Mind, Knowing and Prayer in Soterioeconomic Context*
C. Tyler Cohen, Emmanuel Christian Seminary

*Becoming Theoria in John Cassian*
Andrew Nichols, University of Aberdeen

26. **The Theology of Bonaventure**

**Speculative Questions in Mapping the Extent of Thought and Prayer with Bonaventure and the Areopagite**
Luke Togni, independent scholar

**Bonaventure and the Question of Monastic Theology**
27. **Augustine and Prayer**

*Augustine on Importance of Prayer in a Christian Life*
Ho Thi Nguyen, doctoral student, Villanova University

*St. Augustine on the Efficacy of Christian Prayer and Exorcism Against Demonic Affliction and Assault*
Seamus O'Neill, The Memorial University of Newfoundland

*Augustine of Hippo Models Female-Male Equality in the Desolation of Widowhood and Prayer*
Robert Parks, Ohio Dominican University

28. **Women Mystics of the Beguinage and Helfta**

*Hadewijch of Antwerp on Reason, Will, and the Virtuous Life*
Robin Landrith, Boston College

*Between Wakefulness and Dreaming: Temporality, Authorship, and Devotion in Hadewijch’s Two Bodies*
Katherine Sepulveda, Villanova University

*The Creative Shape of Redemption: *Creatio ex nihilo* in Gertrude of Helfta’s *Legatus*
Erica Ridderman, Duke University

29. **Patristic Theology**

*Tertullian of Carthage and the Storied Flesh of Christ*
J. Columcille Dever, University of Notre Dame

*Diversity or Disorder: Athanasius and Origen on Differentiation in Creation*
Patrick Haley, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Knowledge has many meanings: Basil’s Epistemology and His Engagement with Natural Philosophy*
Eugenia Torrance, University of Notre Dame

*Illumined Revelation: Gregory of Nazianzus on Scripture & the Divinity of the Holy Spirit in Oration 31*
J. Caleb Little, Baylor University
Session VIII:

Plenary Session 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Emmanuel Falque
Faculté de philosophie
Institut catholique de Paris

The ‘Poem’ of the Breviloquium:
Thought and Prayer in Saint Bonaventure

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

Session IX: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Roundtable Discussion

All Conference Events will conclude by 11:30 AM.