

CURRICULUM VITAE
Rev. Thomas Vincent Berg, M.A., Ph.D.
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Degrees

PhD, (Philosophy) Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, May 1999
Dissertation: The Value Ontology of Dietrich von Hildebrand: Toward a Reform of the Contemporary Notion of Value

Director: Fr Michael Ryan, LC, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy

MA in Liberal Studies, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, May, 1997

Concentration in Political Science

Thesis: Human Nature and the American Democratic Experiment

Director: Dr Giulio Gallarotti, Dept of Government

PhL, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, June 1996

Concentration in Systematic Philosophy

Thesis: Human Goods and the Incommensurability Thesis in the Natural Law Theory of John Finnis

Director: Fr Kevin Flannery, SJ

PhB, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, June 1994

BA, The University of the State of New York, June 1993

Completed all credits for the major in Spanish Literature at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1983-1986; "Marquette in Madrid" study program at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain, 1985-86

Areas of specialization & research: (1) Moral philosophy: natural law theory, the Grisez-Finnis school of natural law theory; (2) general medical ethics; (3) beginning-of-life issues in bioethics: hESC research and "alternative sources" approaches; ontological and moral status of the human embryo.

Areas of competence: History of moral thought; philosophies of Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Von Hildebrand, Searle; philosophy of mind; value philosophy; phenomenology; philosophical anthropology; fundamental issues in bioethics.

Languages: Spanish (bilingual); Italian (proficient); Latin (proficient); Greek (moderate).

Teaching Experience

1997 – 2009—Professor of Moral Philosophy, Center for Higher Studies of the Legion of Christ, Thornwood, NY.

Courses and seminars taught

1998 to 2009: General Ethics
Seminar in preparation for final oral comprehensive examination
Epistemology
The Ontological and Moral Status of the Human Embryo
Cartesian Dualism: the Philosophical, Cultural and Moral Aftermath
Law, Order and Reason: Questions 90-97 of the Prima Secundae
Two Rival Anthropologies: Aristotle and Descartes
Von Hildebrand's What is Philosophy?
Introduction to Value Theory
Logic

Fall 2000—Adjunct faculty member of the Institute for Psychological Sciences, Arlington, VA. Taught "The Integration of the Human Person: Christian Perspectives," a 3-credit graduate course exploring the historical roots and cultural consequences of anthropological dualism, and constructing in its wake a holistic framework for an adequate and integrated conception of human personhood.

1991 – 1993—Assistant professor of classical humanities at the Legionaries of Christ Center for Humanities, Cheshire, CT. Taught Advanced English Composition, 4th year Latin, Western Civilization, and Public Speaking.

1989 – 1991—Academic Director, Immaculate Conception Junior High School Center Harbor, NH. Taught 7th grade English, 9th grade English composition, 1st year Latin.

Scholarship

Articles in journals and professional periodicals

With Maureen Condic, "Emerging Biotechnology, the Defense of Embryonic Human Life, and Altered Nuclear Transfer," *The Linacre Quarterly*, v. 75, no. 4 (November 2008): 268–290.

"The Moral Morass Around In Vitro Fertilization," *Ethics & Medics*, v. 33, no.11 (November 2008), 3-4.

With E. Christian Brugger, "Abortion and Contraception in Catholic Moral Teaching: A Reply to Recent Objections," *Josephinum Journal of Theology*, v.15, no. 2 (August 2008), 335-354.

"A reply to Malcolm Byrnes," *Colloquy, National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, v. 6, no. 2 (Summer 2006), 203-205.

"Human Brain Cells in Animal Brains: Philosophical and Moral Considerations," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, v. 6, no. 1 (Spring 2006), 89-107.

"Considerations of the Soul in Western Thought: Can Science Dialogue with Aristotle and Aquinas?" *Fu Jen Religious Studies*, no. 10 (Winter 2004), 17-49. Reprinted with permission and published in the collection *Scienza e Fede*, no. 6, *Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum* (ISBN 88-89174-28-5).

"The Personhood of the Human Embryo," *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* v. 103, no. 7 (April 2003), 10-19.

Articles in preparation for publication

"Value and Good: the Past Prominence and Future Prospects of the Philosophical Category of Value," (Spring 2010)

"Man's Openness to the Absolute in Karl Rahner's Hearers of the Word: a Contemporary Critique," (Spring 2010)

"The Still Valid MacIntyrian Analysis of What Ails Contemporary Moral Discourse," (Summer 2010)

Encyclopedia entries

"Value Ethics," "Virtue Ethics," "Philosophy of Value," in the Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy, eds. J. Varacalli, S. Krason, & R. Myers (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press), July 2007.

Books edited

With Edward J. Furton, Human Embryo Adoption: Biotechnology, Marriage and the Right to Life, National Catholic Bioethics Center, December 2006.

Contributions to books

Foreword to Laraine & Art Bennett, The Temperament God Gave You: The Classic Key to Knowing Yourself, Getting Along with Others, and Growing Closer to the Lord. Sophia Press, 2005.

Books in preparation for publication

By Reason & Virtue: A Systematic Moral Philosophy in the Natural Law Tradition: A complete treatise in natural law theory giving a scholarly, philosophical expression to the natural law theory of Germain Grisez, John Finnis, and Joseph Boyle for undergraduate majors in philosophy, and particularly for Catholic seminarians as preparation for their study of moral theology. The work will also countenance some of the most recent contributors to contemporary discussions of natural law theory and will respond to critics of the Grisez school. (Completed manuscript forthcoming, May 2010).

An extended essay on Joseph Cardinal Ratzger/Benedict XVI's recent reflections on the nature and vocation of human reason in light of modernity's reductionist account of reason. The works will analyze and offer a synthetic overview of several of Benedict's most recent essays and lectures on the matter. (August 2010).

Professional Activity

Invited lectures & papers delivered

May 23, 2008, New York, NY: "'Right to Treatment' vs. 'Right to Conscience': Problems with Our Moral Categories." Presented at the Bioethics International & IHEU – New Dilemmas in Medicine Conference, United Nations Plaza. Panel III: Saying 'No' to Patients: Medical Professionals as Conscientious Objectors.

April 18, 2008, Buffalo, NY: "Emerging Biotechnology, Moral Judgment, and Altered Nuclear Transfer." Niagara University/Eastern regional meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers.

January 25, 2008, Ypsilanti, MI: "Emerging Biotechnologies, Moral Judgment, and the Defense of Embryonic Human Life." Ave Maria School of Law - Distinguished Lecturers Series.

January 24, 2008, South Bend, IN: "Emerging Biotechnologies, Moral Judgment, and the Defense of Embryonic Human Life." University of Notre Dame School of Law – sponsored by the Jus Vitae Right to Life organization.

October 6, 2007, Atlanta, GA: "Human Embryo Adoption: Marriage, Technology and the Right to Life." Annual meeting of the Catholic Medical Association.

October 4, 2007, Cumming, GA: "Embryo-Destructive Research: Are there Alternatives?" Parent Association of Pincrest Academy Catholic School.

April 11, 2007, Baltimore, MD: "Embryo-Destructive Research: Are there Alternatives?" Presented to 40 members of Legatus of Baltimore.

March 21, 2007, Covington, KY: "Whatever Happened to Conscience?" Sponsored by The Newman Club of Northern Kentucky University.

October 7, 2006, Thornwood, NY: "The Meaning of Believing: Faith in the Thought of Benedict XVI". Presented at the National Men's Convention of the Regnum Christi Movement.

September 27, 2006, Raleigh, NC: "Defending Human Dignity." Presented at the Christian Businessmen's Leadership Roundtable.

September 15-16, 2006, Dayton, TN: "What Makes Man Moral?" Delivered at the Bryan Center for Critical Thought and Practice, fall seminar: "What is Man That Thou art Mindful?"

November 27, 2004, Taipei, Taiwan: "Considerations of the 'Soul' in Western Thought: Can Science Dialogue with Aristotle and Aquinas?" Delivered at The International Conference on Cosmology—Religion and Science in Dialogue, sponsored by Fu Jen Catholic University.

October 24-25, 2003, Steubenville, OH: "The Value-Language Phenomenon and the Imminent Tasks of Catholic Moral Philosophy." Delivered at the annual national conference of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists.

July 17-19, 2003, Chicago, IL: "Biotech and the Status of Human Embryo: Is Dialogue Possible?" Delivered at the 10th annual national conference of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity (Remaking Humanity? Biotech Challenges for Healthcare, Science and the Church).

June 14, 2003, Thornwood, NY: "Spiritual Discernment—Part II" Lecture delivered via video-conferencing to lay spiritual guides of the Regnum Christi Movement.

October, 12, 2002, Thornwood, NY: "Spiritual Discernment—Part I" Lecture delivered via video-conferencing to lay spiritual guides of the Regnum Christi Movement.

May 13, 2002, Thornwood, NY: "Our Human Makeup and the Spiritual Life." Lecture delivered via video-conferencing to lay spiritual guides of the Regnum Christi Movement.

December 28, 2001, Thornwood, NY: A two-part lecture entitled "An Overview of Some Current Moral Issues Regarding Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research" to 90 members of the Legion of Christ as part of a 4-day, in-house workshop on bioethics.

Workshops and seminars administered

December 26-30, 2008, Edgerton, WI: 13 lectures in a series entitled "Issues in Bioethics" to 60 members of the Legionaries of Christ in a weeklong on-going formation seminar.

April 8-9, 2005, Regina, SA.: "Medicine and Moral Decision Making" at the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza, sponsored by the Catholic Physicians Guild of Regina, Saskatchewan, under the auspices of the Westchester Institute. A 13-hour seminar for healthcare professionals accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for CME units.

April 29-May 1, 2004, Irvington, TX.: "Catholic Morality in the Modern World." An 8-hour seminar for faculty of the Highlands School of Irvington.

July 7-10, 2003, Los Angeles, CA: 8 lectures on "Issues in Bioethics" to faculty and staff of the Escuela de la Fe.

November, 2002, Regina, SA: A weekend bioethics workshop for the Catholic Physicians Guild of Regina, Saskatchewan, organized and presented under the auspices of the Westchester Institute. Topics: "The Human Person and the Question of Human Dignity"; "Morality, Medical Practice, and the Status of the Human Embryo."

June, 1998, Thornwood, NY: A five-day workshop via teleconferencing to 45 education professionals, members of the "Centro de Asesoría Pedagógica" of the Anáhuac University of Mexico. The course was entitled Antropología filosófica con algunos aspectos de ontología de la Persona, and consisted of 10 lectures.

April, 1999, Greenville, RI: 12 lectures on General Ethics and the Natural Law to 27 members of the Mater

Ecclesiae Institute.

August, 1998, Dallas, TX: 7 lectures on Christian Anthropology to the 140 participants of the third annual Integer Course for headmasters, administrators, and educators of primary and secondary schools administered by the Legion of Christ.

December, 1997, Thornwood, NY: 9 lectures in a series entitled "Considerations of the Natural Law & Basic Principles of Christian Morality" to 40 members of the Legionaries of Christ in a weeklong on-going formation seminar.

Westchester Institute Scholars Forums organized and directed

November 6-7, 2008, Washington, DC: The eighth Scholars Forum on the topic of natural law and the Catholic Magisterium.

April 10-11, 2008, Washington, DC: The seventh Scholars Forum on the topic of brain death.

May 16-18, 2007, Washington, DC: The sixth Scholars Forum on the topic of defining the human embryo.

October 26-27, 2006, Washington, DC: The fifth Scholars Forum on the topic of the current state of de facto unions in light of Catholic moral and sacramental theology.

March 2-3, 2006, Washington, DC: The fourth Scholars Forum on the definitions of embryo and organismic human life.

November 3-4, 2005, Washington, DC: The third Scholars Forum on the topic of condom use to prevent the spread of HIV.

April 28-29, 2005, Washington, DC: The second Scholars Forum on the topic of altered nuclear transfer.

October 28-29, 2004, Washington, DC: The first Scholars Forum on the topic of heterologous embryo transfer.

Participation in conferences, colloquia, and scholarly gatherings

May 13, 2007, New York, NY: Panelist. New York University School of Journalism, Institutes for Journalists, entitled "Cells and Souls."

January 20, 2006, Washington, DC: Participated in the annual Healthcare Right of Conscience Working Group Conference at the Family Research Council. Reported on the progress being made with adult stem cells and "pluripotent stem cells" as alternatives to destroying human embryos.

June 21, 2005, Washington, DC: Round table participant. Religious and Ethical Reflections on the End of Life. Sponsored by the Culture of Life Institute and the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

March 7-8, 2005, Rome, Italy: Participant. "The Global State of Stem Cells and Cloning." Sponsored by the Culture of Life Institute, the Discovery Institute, The Federalist Society, and the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum.

November 13-14, 2001, Rome, Italy: Participant. "The Stem Cell Dilemma: For the Good of All Human Beings?" sponsored by the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum.

Conference sessions organized or chaired

September 20, 2008, Washington, DC: Culture of Life Institute. "The Culture of Life vs. The Culture of Death: From Humanae Vitae to Cloning and Assisted Suicide." Moderator for Panel Two: From Contraception to the Commodification of Humanity.

Articles in Christian and secular press*

“Scrambled Ethics,” National Review Online, June 2, 2009
“Don’t Know Nothing,” National Review Online, March 26, 2009
“Economy Matters, Life Matters,” National Review Online, October 8, 2008
“The Bio-Logic of Coming to Be,” National Review Online, September 15, 2008
“New York’s \$600 Million Question,” National Review Online, May 12, 2008
“Secularism and Religious Fanaticism Make Dangerous Bedfellows,” The Journal News, April 13, 2008
“The Future is Now,” National Review Online, November 20, 2007
“Monkey Business,” National Review Online, November 15, 2007
“Of Cybrids, Hybrids and Chimeras,” National Review Online, October 23, 2007
“Ugly New World” National Review Online, September 10, 2007
“Six Stem Cell Facts,” (with Robert P. George), The Wall Street Journal, March 14, 2007
“Secular Humanists to the Rescue,” National Review Online, December 13, 2006
“We Need Answers,” National Review Online, September 11, 2006
“A Step Toward Clarity,” National Review Online, July 7, 2006
“Should Vatican alter Condom Stance?” New York Daily News, May 14, 2006
“Hitting Rewind,” National Review Online, May 10, 2006
“Cloning After Hwang,” In Depth, National Catholic Register, January 29, 2006

* Since November 2006, author of a regular e-column With Good Reason available at www.westchesterinstitute.net

Institutional leadership

1998 – present. Founder and Executive Director of The Westchester Institute for Ethics and the Human Person, dedicated to fundamental research on the Western moral tradition.

September 2000 – December 2002. Senior coordinator of the taskforce overseeing the launch of the University of Sacramento.

1989 – 1990. During tenure as Academic Director of the Immaculate Conception Apostolic School in Center Harbor, New Hampshire, a minor seminary for boys, grades 7 through 9, oversaw the foundation and accreditation of the congregation’s seminary high school in Cheshire, CT, for grades 10 through 12.

Appointments and board memberships

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| September 2007 – present | Member, Ethics Committee, Empire State Stem Cell Board |
| 2005 – 2008 | Member, Board of Trustees, The University of Sacramento, Sacramento, CA |
| 2002 – 2009 | Member, Board of Directors, The Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Arlington, Va. |

Television & radio appearances and area lectures

Frequent guest speaker at parishes on bioethical and healthcare ethics issues; commonly interviewed on radio and television as an expert on diverse bioethical issues including stem cells, cloning, and “living wills”; frequent contributor to National Review Online, and has published or been quoted in dozens of news sources including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The Washington Post

Other

2008 – present. Contributing editor. The Linacre Quarterly of the Catholic Medical Association.

2007 – present. Editor. The Westchester Institute White Paper Series.

2004 – 2009. Editorial consultant to the National Catholic Register

January 2003 – 2005. Consultant for the launch of the University of Sacramento.

September 2000 – December 2002. Senior coordinator of the taskforce overseeing the launch of the congregation's first university in the United States, the University of Sacramento.

January 1997 – December 1998. Advisor to National Consultants for Education, an organization founded to provide assistance to independent Catholic schools across the US and Canada in the area of curriculum, school operations, administration, and teacher formation.

March 2000 – May 2001; January 2003 to May 2005. Pre-Cana marriage preparation and "3-to-Get-Married" program coordinator. Directed numerous one-day and three-day marriage preparation programs for over 500 engaged couples and gave presentations on marriage and human sexuality, and the sacramentality of marriage.

2001 – 2009. Retreat master—Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Have directed several multiple-day retreats for diocesan clergy and laity.

Confessor and spiritual director for laity and diocesan clergy.

Membership in scholarly societies

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| 2008 –present | International Association of Catholic Bioethicists |
| 2006-present | The Society of Christian Philosophers |
| 2002-present | American Catholic Philosophical Association |
| 2002-2007 | Fellowship of Catholic Scholars |
| 2003-present | National Catholic Bioethics Center |
| 2003-2004 | The Hastings Center |
| 2003-2004 | Society of Catholic Social Scientists |

