

Nathan Lefler

1029 North Webster Avenue
Scranton, PA 18510
570-344-2372 (home); 202-669-6818 (cell)

Curriculum Vitae
March 2011

Department of Theology and Religious Studies
The University of Scranton
Scranton, PA 18510

Office Phone: (570) 941-6544
leflern2@scranton.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., The Catholic University of America, Systematic Theology: conferred May 17, 2008

Dissertation title: **“Saint Aelred of Rievaulx and Saint Thomas Aquinas on Friendship: A Comparison of Monastic and Scholastic Theology”**

Director: James A. Wiseman, OSB, S.T.D.

MAR, Yale Divinity School, 1999, *cum laude*.

BA, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, 1992, *cum laude*.

Honors:

Board of Trustees Fellow (CUA)
Member Phi Beta Kappa
Marvin H. Pope Prize for Biblical Hebrew (Yale Divinity School)
College Honors Scholar (University of Chicago)
National Merit Scholar

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Scranton, Department of Theology/Religious Studies

Courses Taught

T/RS 122: Theology II – Christian Theology (x10)
T/RS 544/484: Liturgical and Sacramental Development
T/RS 330Z: Christ in Tradition and Culture
T/RS 333Z: Friendship and the Christian Life
T/RS 222: Introduction to Christian Worship
T/RS 584/484: The Doctrine of Grace

Instructor in Theology, School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, summer 2007

Course Taught

TRS 260: Christianity and Culture (“An introductory exploration of the complex relationship between Christianity and culture, through the lens of a range of primary texts, from the Old Testament to the dawn of the 21st century.”)

Over 450 hours of classroom teaching, in addition to several hundred hours of private tutoring as a GRE and GMAT Instructor for The Princeton Review, 2005 to present.

PUBLICATIONS:

"Saint Augustine's Hermeneutics of Friendship: A Consideration of *De Utilitate Credendi*, 10-13, with Special Reference to *Confessions*, Book VIII," accepted for publication in *Augustinian Studies*, vol. 41/2 (2011)

"*The Tragedy of King Lear: Redeeming Christ?*" *Literature and Theology*, June 2010

"The Melchizedek Traditions in Hebrews," *Pro Ecclesia*, Winter 2007

"Cruciform Beauty: Revising the Form in Balthasar's Christological Aesthetic," *Logos*, Fall 2006

"Sign, Cause, and Person in St. Thomas's Sacramental Theology: Further Considerations," *Nova et Vetera*, Spring 2006

"Hearts of Flesh: The Epistemological Donum of Christian Personalism," *Fides Quaerens Intellectum*, Spring 2003

Acknowledgment: By Paul Kahn, in Paul W. Kahn, *Law and Love: The Trials of King Lear* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000), for "particularly useful criticisms" of his manuscript (Acknowledgments page)

Currently under review:

Dissertation, by The Catholic University of America Press

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Presentations:

"A Curricular Experiment in Sacramental Edification and Instruction," at the annual meeting of the Society for Catholic Liturgy, Houston, TX, January 27-29, 2011.

Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton, January, 2011.

George Bernanos's *The Diary of a Country Priest*, for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton, June, 2010

The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton, June, 2009

Presented a paper entitled "St. Augustine's Hermeneutics of Friendship: A Consideration of *de Utilitate Credendi*, 10-13, with an Eye to the Author's Own Conversion in *Confessions*, Book VIII" at Villanova University's Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies (PMR) Conference ("Faith and the Ways of Knowing"), 2007.

Presented a paper entitled "The Metaphysical Structure and Meaning Of *Lectio* in St. Bonaventure's *Incendium Amoris* (1259-60)" at PMR ("Structure, Space, and Meaning: The Walls and Portals of Premodern Worlds"), 2006

Research Assistantships:

Research Assistant to professors in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America, Fall 2003 to Spring 2007.

Research Assistant to Father Francis Martin, Chair of Catholic-Jewish Theological Studies in the Intercultural Forum at the John Paul II Cultural Center, 2002-2004.

SERVICE:

Gave evening seminar on two short stories by Flannery O'Connor ("The River" and "The Displaced Person") for seniors at St. Gregory's Academy, April 2, 2011.

Presented on George Bernanos's *The Diary of a Country Priest* for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton (paid), June 2010.

Presented on Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton (paid), January 2010.

Gave evening seminar on the film *The Quarrel* for seniors from St. Gregory's Academy, April 30, 2010.

Gave evening seminar on the film *Ushpizin* for seniors at St. Gregory's Academy, March 26, 2010.

As a member of my department's preliminary interviewing team for a tenure-track faculty search, travelled to attend the Society of Biblical Literature's Annual Meeting, November 20-23, 2009.

Assisted two out of three evenings at annual parish picnic, Immaculate Conception and Christ the King parish, July 9 and 10, 2009.

Instrumental in bringing Thomas Storck, to campus to speak on issues of Catholic Social Teaching, especially as pertains to culture and economics, April 2010.

Have written recommendations of various kinds (the majority academic) for thirty former students, 2008-2010.

Asked and agreed to serve as adviser to second year (sophomore) class of theology majors, beginning Fall 2009.

Directed and saw through to successful completion and defense, Masters thesis of Stephen Fitzpatrick, Fall 2009. Served as reader for another Masters student: successfully defended, December 2010. Currently directing a third Masters thesis, nearing completion and planning to defend, Spring 2011.

Attended week-long Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (paid), June, 2009.

Presented on the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins for Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of Scranton (paid), June 2009.

Helped organize a guest lecture by a Jesuit colleague, Father Wilfrid Okambawa of West Africa ("Thinking as a Form of Prayer"), April 2009.

Member of Library Committee, serving as Faculty Liaison between the department and the Library, early Spring semester 2009 to the present.

At the invitation of the university's debate society, served as a faculty judge for a formal debate about whether contraceptives should be made available on a Catholic Christian university campus, December 4, 2008.

Gave evening seminar on three short stories by Flannery O'Connor ("The Artificial Nigger," "A Temple of the Holy Ghost," and "Parker's Back") for seniors at St. Gregory's Academy, November 14, 2008.

Theological Consultant to the Knights of Columbus, paid to write letters answering biblical, dogmatic, moral, and pastoral questions, 2002-2003.

Worked as full-time live-in Assistant to developmentally disabled adults at L'Arche Daybreak, Richmond Hill, Ontario, June 1996-August 1998.

National AIDS Hotline Information Specialist (English line, 30-36 hrs/wk; training and experience in NAH TDD [Tele-Device for the Deaf] service on fill-in and on-call basis), August 1992-August 1994.

Rapporteur for Seminars on Forgiveness, part of the Carolina Seminars sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill, 1992-94 academic years; made the final formal seminar presentation in the Spring of 1993.

ACTIVITIES:

Member of Communion and Liberation Choir, 2005 to spring 2008.

Participant in a group that meets to read Shakespeare's plays aloud, 2004 to spring 2008.

Volunteer work at the Little Sisters of the Poor nursing home, 2005-2006.

Presented a paper for the graduate student Paper Readings series in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, November 2005.

Member of University Chorus, University of Chicago, 1990-92.

Studied at Goethe Institute in Schwäbisch-Hall, Germany, Summer 1991 (Passed exams for German proficiency; accredited by University of Connecticut).

Bicycled 3904 miles from West to East Coast with best friend, Summer 1989.

Graduate of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, 1988.