



“From the history of the earliest philosophers. . . owing to their wonder, men . . . first began to philosophize. . . They wondered . . . about the phenomena of the moon and those of the sun and the stars, and about the genesis of the universe.”

Aristotle, Metaphysics 1.1.982b11-17.



**Jeffrey Dirk Wilson in the Black Sea below Odesa, Ukraine
March A.D. 2024**

“For natures such as mine, a journey is invaluable: it enlivens, corrects, teaches, and cultivates.” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



“The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add an useful plant to its culture.”

Thomas Jefferson

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Areas of Specialization:

Ancient Greek Philosophy
Classical Metaphysics
Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence:

Art and Language
Epistemology
Ethics
Human Nature

Academic Experience:

Research Associate Professor, The School of Philosophy of the Catholic University of America:
2023 - present.

Collegiate Associate Professor (formerly Clinical Associate Professor), The School of Philosophy of the Catholic University of America; courses taught: "The Classical Mind," "The Modern Mind," "Nature and Human Nature," "Metaphysics," "Philosophy of Art" "Philosophy of Knowledge," "Philosophy of Human Nature," "Philosophy of Religion," "Philosophy of Natural Right and Natural Law," "Political Philosophy," "Philosophy of Language" "Senior Seminar: The Metaphysics of Beauty": 2015 - 2023.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America:
2009 - 2015.

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, St. Mary's Seminary and University, School of Theology;
course taught: "Metaphysics": winter-spring 2013.

Lecturer (full-time), Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland; courses taught:
"From Cosmos to Citizen," "From Self to Society," "Moral Philosophy": 2007 - 2009.

Lecturer, The School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.;
courses taught: "The Classical Mind," "The Modern Mind": 2005-2006, fall 2006."

Member, Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): 2001 - 2007.

Teacher, Carpathian English Summer School, Ukrainian Catholic University: July, 1998.

Visiting Appointments:

Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine:
Fall Semester 2025; course taught: "Introduction to Classical Metaphysics."

Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, Poland:
Summer Semester 2024; M.A. courses taught: "Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," "John Henry
Newman's *Grammar of Assent*."

Non-Resident Professor, Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada, Spain): 2021 - 2023.

Formal Education:

Doctor of Philosophy, dissertation: *From Concrete to Concept: How Greek Philosophers*

Conceptualized Homeric Depiction; directed by Dr. Matthias Vorwerk, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (2004 - 2005 spent at the University of Paris-X at Nanterre with work at the Sorbonne and other Paris faculties): degree conferred October 31, 2009.

Licentiate in Philosophy, thesis: "Homer's Paradigm of Being: A Philosophical Reading of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*," supervised by Dr. Richard F. Hassing, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.: 2004.

Master of Letters, thesis: "An Historical and Theological Commentary on 'On Consideration' by St. Bernard of Clairvaux," supervised by Sir Richard W. Southern, University of Oxford, England: 1983.

Master of Divinity, thesis: "Pre-Conquest Old English Sermons on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary," supervised by Dr. Milton McCormick Gatch, Union Theological Seminary, New York (including one year of work at New College, University of Edinburgh): 1979.

Bachelor of Arts, Bowdoin College (junior year abroad at Hamburg University, Germany and a brief period of special study at Trinity College, University of Glasgow, Scotland), High Honors in German: 1976.

Other Experience:

Secular Benedictine Oblate, Pluscarden Abbey, Scotland: August 2001 - present.

Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): June 10, 1979-May 1, 2007.

Interim Pastor, West Grove Presbyterian Church, West Grove, Pennsylvania: 2006 - 2007.

Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, York, Pennsylvania: 1986 - 2004; Stated Supply: 1983 - 1986.

Member, Permanent Judicial Commission for the Synod of the Trinity: 2003 - 2007.

Chair, Area IV Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of Donegal: 1999 - 2002; member: 1992 - 1998.

Wine and Spirits Editor, *Kinesis* (a now-defunct literary magazine), 1995 - 1997.

President, County Council of Harford County, Maryland: 1990 - 1994.

Newspaper columnist: 1983 - 2005.

Farmer: lifelong.

Master's Theses Directed:

Nicholas Shiver. "Obtaining Knowledge through Reliable Sources of Authority: A Look into the Epistemology of John Henry Newman in *An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent*." School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America. Completed May 2020.

Aaron Joseph Kelly. "The Teleology of Friendship According to Cicero and St. Aelred of Rievaulx." School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America. Completed May 2018.

Publications

Academic (Philosophy)—

Edited Book:

Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1g6q93p>

Book Chapters:

"Re-Homing the Human: Reflections Arising from *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*."

In *The Gift of Creation: Theological Reflections on Ecology, Metaphysics and Politics*. Edited by Mátyás Szalay. Eugene: OR: Pickwick Publications, 2024: 45-67.

“The Invention of Gothic Architecture as Epistemic Break.” In *The Legacy of Neoplatonic Philosophy: From Ancient Aesthetics to 20th-Century Film*. Edited by Gina Zavota. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024: 93-109.

“*Gorgias* as *Reductio ad absurdum* Argument: Socrates, True Politician but Failed Teacher?” In *Liberty, Democracy, and the Temptations to Tyranny* in the Dialogues of Plato. Edited by Charlotte C. S. Thomas. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2021: 171-193.

“Introduction: Mystery and Intelligibility.” In *Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom*. Edited by Jeffrey Dirk Wilson. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021: 1-29. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1g6q93p.4?seq=1>

“Wonder and the Discovery of Being: Homeric Myth and the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy.” In *Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom*. Edited by Jeffrey Dirk Wilson. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021: 82-109. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1g6q93p.7?seq=1>

“Pinocchio and the Puppet of Plato’s Laws.” In *Civic Republicanism, Enlightenment and Modernity: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics*. Edited by Geoffrey Kellow and Neven Brady Leddy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016: 282-304.

Articles:

“Newmanovo zakotvenie v posthumeovskej realistickej metafyzike,” *Acta facultatis theologiae Universitatis Comenianae Bratislavensis*. 22/2 (2025): 1-16.

“Communities of Transmission: The Texts of Aristotle from Antiquity to the Renaissance.” *Revista Portuguesa de Filosofia* 80/1-2 (2024): 637-82. ARTICLE DOI https://doi.org/10.17990/RPF/2024_80_1_0637

“A Catholic Philosophy of Writing.” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 27/3 (2024): 104-126. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/932883>

“Use of the Empirical Method by John Henry Newman and Arthur Conan Doyle.” *Newman Studies Journal* 19/2 (2022): 5-22.

“A Proposed Solution of St. Thomas Aquinas’s ‘Third Way’ through *Pros hen* Analogy.” *Philotheos* 19/1 (2019): 85-105.

“Wonder and the Discovery of Being: Homeric Myth and the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy.” *The Review of Metaphysics* 70/3 (March 2017): 411-33.

“Plato’s Educational Paradigm Shift: From Authority to Dialectic.” In Proceedings of the 2016 3rd International Conference on Education, Language, Art and Inter-cultural Communication (ICELAIC 2016). Edited by Eric McAnally et. alia. January 2017.

“A Consideration of Roland Barthes’s *The Pleasure of the Text*: From an Erotics to an Agapics of Reading.” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 56, no. 4 (December 2016): 469-86. Online First: https://www.pdcnet.org//pdc/bvdb.nsf/purchase?openform&fp=ipq&id=ipq_2016_0056_0004_0469_0486&onlyautologin=true

“Plato on Homer: Heroic Liars and the Concept of Injustice in *Hippias minor*.” *Bulletin of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia. Philosophy Series* 2016, No. 2 (Summer 2016): 95-101.

“Vico’s Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom.” *Clio A; Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History* 41, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 339-58.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

“Being.” Revision of article originally by Ralph Matthew McInerny. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012 - 13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Distinctions, Kinds of.” Revision of article originally by John Joseph Glanville. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012 - 13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Scientism.” Revision of article originally by Edward Quinlisk Franz. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012 - 13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

Academic (Theology)—

“Svätý John Henry kardinál Newman: náčrt jeho života a doby.” *Acta facultatis theologicae Universitatis Comenianae Bratislavensis*. 22/1 (2025): 1-14.

“St. Aelred of Rievaulx’s Model of Spiritual Friendship as a Paradigm for Ecumenical Conversation.” In *Friendship as an Ecumenical Value: Proceedings of the International Conference Held on the Inauguration of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Lviv, 11-15 June 2005)*, edited by Antoine Arjakovsky and Marie-Aude Tardivo, 157-167. Lviv: Ukrainian Catholic University Press, 2006.

“Husbandry: A Treatment of Genesis 1:24-31.” *The Register* 3/2 (2001): 76-81.

“Preaching as Pastoral Care.” In *Beside Still Waters*, edited by J. Stephen Muse, 157-180. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2000.

“Reformed Christians: *Quo Vadamus?*” *The Register* 2/1 (2000): 73-76.

“Telling Time By Prayer.” *Pastoral Forum* 15/1 (1997)

“The Dawning Silence.” *The Expository Times* 97/6 (March 1986): 173-74.

“The Prayer of Naked Living.” *The Expository Times* 93/1 (October 1981): 20-21.

“The Integrity of John 3:22-36,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 10 (1981): 34-41.

Book Reviews:

Verene, Donald Phillip. *The Rhetorical Sense of Philosophy*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021. *The Review of Metaphysics* 76/2 (December 2021): 369-370.

Lucas, George. *The Ordering of Time: Meditations on the History of Philosophy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020, *The Review of Metaphysics* 75/1 (September 2021): 150-152.

Rosemann, Philipp W. *Charred Root of Meaning: Continuity, Transgression, and the Other in Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/4 (June 2019): 807-808.

Wilford, Paul T. and Kate Havard. *Athens, Arden, Jerusalem: Essays in Honor of Mera Flaumenhaft*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/2 (December 2018): 403-404.

Verene, Donald Phillip. *Metaphysics and the Modern World*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2016, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/1 (September 2018): 157-158.

Verene, Donald Phillip. *Vico’s “New Science”: A Philosophical Commentary*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015, *The Review of Metaphysics* 70/4 (June 2017): 795-797.

Verene, Donald Phillip. *Moral Philosophy and the Modern World*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2013, *The Review of Metaphysics* 68/2 (December 2014): 448-450.

Widder, Nathan. *Political Theory after Deleuze*. New York: Continuum, 2012, *The Review of Metaphysics* 67/3 (March 2014): 672-674.

Cooksey, Thomas L. *Plato's "Symposium": A Reader's Guide*. New York: Continuum, 2010,
The Review of Metaphysics 65/1 (September 2011): 150-152.

Berg, Steven. *Eros and the Intoxications of Enlightenment: On Plato's "Symposium."* Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010, *The Review of Metaphysics* 64/3 (March 2011): 625-627.

Non-academic publications—

“A Pilgrimage to Częstochowa,” *The Catholic Thing*, July 12, 2025:
https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2025/07/12/a-pilgrimage-to-czestochowa/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=fb5732ef4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_07_01_02_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_769a14e16a-fbd5732ef4-619636894&mc_cid=fb5732ef4&mc_eid=585178d59a.

“The Tragic Case of Conan Doyle.” In *The Best of Sherlock Holmes: With an Introduction and Classic and Contemporary Criticisms*. Edited by Trevor Lipscombe. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2024.

“Dancing through *Heaven's Gate*.” *Oxford Today* (on-line). August, 2014.

“Aristotle on the Family: Philosophy in the Catholic Church.” *The Crosier* 1, no. 1 (2014): 9-14.

Invited Lectures:

“St. John Henry Cardinal Newman: A Sketch of His Life and Times” and “Newman’s Groundwork for a Post-Humean Realist Metaphysics,” Comenius University of Bratislava, Slovakia at its Nitra campus, March 10, 2025.

“Aristotle’s Politics of Friendship,” Episcopal Theological College and Hungarian Academy for Science in Pécs, Hungary, March 5, 2025, and Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary, March 6, 2025.

“A Catholic Philosophy of Writing,” Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, Poland, June 3, 2024 (also at University of Dallas, April 26, 2023 and The Catholic University of America, April 17, 2023).

“Communities of Transmission: The Texts of Aristotle from Antiquity to the Renaissance,” Ukrainian Catholic University, March 8, 2024 (also at The Catholic University of Portugal, October 31, 2023).

“The Invention of Gothic Architecture as Epistemic Break,” School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, October 14, 2022.

“Realist Metaphysics and Epistemology in St. John Henry Cardinal Newman’s Grammar of Assent,” in the post-graduate course (virtual) at Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca and Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada), “Wojtyla and Realist Phenomenology,” March 10, 2022, also at The Catholic University of Portugal, October 30, 2023.

“A Philosophical Archeology of *Iliad* 2:1-277: How Plato and Aristotle Proof-Text Homer.” Northeast Catholic College: Warner, New Hampshire, November 10, 2017.

“Political Theology: A Clear and Present Danger—Lessons from Nazism to the Present.” Washington College: Chestertown, Maryland; March 8, 2011.

Academic Conferences and Presentations:

Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia: “Recovering Reality in the British Empirical Tradition after Hume.” March 22, 2025.

A round table and book launch for a new translation into Hungarian of Thomas Molnar’s *The America Way of Life: A Critique of the Ideal State*, Ludovika University in Budapest, Hungary, March 7, 2025.

Repairing the Wounds of War: What Is Just Peace in Ukraine? An international on-line conference organized by the Ukrainian Catholic University in cooperation with the University of Notre Dame: “The Teleology of Nationhood.” December 10, 2024.

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Annual Conference. “Beyond Panofsky and Kidson on Dionysius and Suger.” June 19, 2024.

Diaspora, Community, Solidarity at the Instituto de Filosofia Edith Stein (Granada): “Communities of Transmission: The Texts of Aristotle from Antiquity to the Renaissance;” **Invited Speaker:** June 27-July 1, 2022.

The Gift of Creation Symposium: Theological Reflections on Ecology, Metaphysics, and Poetry at the Instituto de Filosofia Edith Stein (Granada) and the Pontifical University of John Paul II (Krakow): “Re-homing the Human;” **Invited Speaker:** June 28-30, 2021.

Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at Seattle University: “Aristotle’s Best Constitution”: March 29, 2019.

Liberty and Tyranny in Plato Conference at Mercer University: “*Gorgias as Reductio ad absurdum* Argument: Socrates, True Politician but Failed Teacher;” **Invited Speaker:** March 19-20, 2019.

Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at the Hillel Center, Harvard University: “Proposed Resolution of St. Thomas Aquinas’s Third Way to Prove the Existence of God: The Contingency of Secondary Analogates”: April 1, 2017.

Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at St. John’s College, Annapolis, Maryland: “The Discovery of Being: From Homeric Myth to the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy”: March 18, 2016.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: “A Political Archeology of *Iliad* 2.1-277”: November 14-16, 2013.

“The Last Chapter” at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: “The *Nicomachean Ethics* through the Rear-View Mirror: 10.7-8”: October 3-4, 2013.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts: “Aristotle’s Natural Political Justice”: November 15-17, 2012.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: “Aristotle’s Politics of Friendship”: November 16-18, 2011.

Vico and the Humanist Tradition Seminar held by the Institute for the History of Philosophy of the Department of Philosophy at Emory University; **Invited Participant:** June 6–17, 2011.

Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University: “Foucault as Inverted Neo-Platonist in ‘A Preface to Transgression’”: March 11-12, 2011.

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy in conjunction with the American Philological Association annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas: paper given on “Aristotle on Food as Definitively Human Artifact”: January 6-9, 2011.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts: paper given on “Erik Peterson’s ‘Monotheism as Political Problem’”: November 11-13, 2010.

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy annual meeting held at Fordham University: paper given on “The Mean of Mixed Polity in Plato’s *Laws*”: October 15-17, A.D. 2010.

Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University: “The Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom”: March 13-14, 2009.

Faith and the Disciplines Conference held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia: invited speaker on faith and teaching politics: July 16-20, 2008.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv: invited speaker in the international conference on “Friendship: An Ecumenical Value,”: June 11-15, 2005.

Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.: invited participant in the

Williamsburg Consultation on “Is There a Reformed Tradition?”: May, 1999.
Public lecturer on politics, agricultural policy, and international issues: 1996 - 2008.

YouTube Lectures:

“Christianity in Ukraine,” St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, Hickory, Maryland, February 2, 2026: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ndHnPdeMlw&t=2882s> .

“The Life and Times of St. John Henry Cardinal Newman,” St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, Hickory, Maryland, December 1, 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UruiK77sXgI&t=136s> .

Honors and Grants:

Visiting Scholar, National Institute for Newman Studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: 2023.

1895 Award for Service to the School of Philosophy: 2023.

Lecturer Development Grant, The Catholic University of America: 2019.

Aristotle Prize, Metaphysical Society of America: 2009.

Pastoral Study Grant from the Louisville Institute for the project, “The Contemplative Congregation: Moving Monasticism Out of Doors”: 2000.

Hitchcock Prize in Church History, Union Theological Seminary: 1979.

Roothbert Fellow: 1978.

Faculty Activities:

Led graduate student German reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America: Schleiermacher’s introductions to Plato’s dialogues, 2011 - 12; Past German Reading Exams 2012 - 2013; Walter Benjamin, “Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers” 2013; Past German Reading Exams 2014 - 2019.

Participant in Greek reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America: Plotinus. Ennead 5.1 (10), 2010 - 2011; Platonic myths, 2011-12.

Mentored senior honors thesis: Kayla Garry. *The Contemplative Philosophy and Theology of the 12th Century Cistercian Mystics*. Mount St. Mary’s University: 2009 - 2010.

Participant in Greek reading group: Aristotle. *On the Parts of Animals*, Book 1. The Catholic University of America: 2009 - 2010.

Led faculty reading group: Jean Leclercq. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. Mount St. Mary’s University: 2007 - 2008.

Languages:

Reading, writing, speaking—

German

French

Reading—

Latin

Greek

Memberships:

American Catholic Philosophical Association.

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies.

Metaphysical Society of America (2009 - 2025)—Executive Council: 2018 - 2025.

—Delegate to the American Academy of Learned Societies, 2025.

—Findlay Book Prize Committee 2018.

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy.

