

Edmund Michael Lazzari

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Mandatum

Granted by Most Rev. Mark Eckman, Bishop of Pittsburgh, September 26, 2025

Primary Research Interests:

Science Engaged Theology/Thomism

(esp. divine action, miracles, AI/machine learning, astrobiology, deep time)

Muslim-Christian Dialogue (esp. Said Nursi, the Ash'arite Tradition, and engagements in science)

Catholic Systematic Theology (esp. Theological metaphysics, Christology, theological anthropology, Contemporary Thomism, St. John Paul II, Bl. Fulton Sheen)

Functions of Philosophy in Theology

Full-Time Academic Employment

Non-Tenure Track Faculty, Department of Catholic Studies, 2026-present

Principal Education

Ecclesiastical Degrees

STL, Santa Clara University (ant. October 2026)

PhL (MA equiv.), Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, May 2014

with studies under Thérèse-Anne Druart, John Rist, Msgr. John F. Wippel, and Msgr. Robert Sololowski,

PhB, Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, May 2013

Civil Degrees

PhD, Religious Studies, Systematic Theology Concentration, Marquette University

Successful Defense 3 October 2023, Degree Conferred 5 January 2024

Committee: Irfan Omar (director), Rev. Cathal Doherty SJ, Mark F. Johnson, Ignacio Silva (Austral/Oxford)

MA, Islamologie, l'Institut dominicain d'études orientales (Cairo, Egypt)/Domuni University (in progress, ant. 2027)

MA, Theology, Old Testament Concentration St. Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie), May 2018

with studies under Rev. Joseph Leinhard, SJ, Rev. Thomas Berg, and Rev. Gregory Tatum, OP

BA, Music, St. Bonaventure University, May 2017

Publications and Research

Monographs

Miracles in Said Nursi and Thomas Aquinas: Non-Noninterventionist Approaches to Divine Action and the Sciences. Routledge Science and Religion Series. London: Routledge, 2025.

Nominated for 2026 International Society for Science and Religion Book Award

Why Nature Matters: Unlocking Catholic Doctrine through Commonsense Philosophy.

Chicago: New Priory Press, 2022.

Edited Volume

The Thought of Fulton Sheen (In Progress, Interest from CUA Press)

Peer Reviewed Academic Articles

"Multiple Incarnations and the Scandal of Particularity," Review-Essay of *Astrobiology and Christian Doctrine* by Andrew Davison, *Nova et Vetera* 24 (2026): 661–680

"Is Jesus Physically Present in the Eucharist? Or How Not to Teach Berengarius" *Religions* 16 (2025): 1497, <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16121497>

"The Divine Nature Is Not a Cause among Causes: A Response to Kittle and Sollereeder." *Theology and Science* 23 (2025): 543–555. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14746700.2025.2514304>

"AI/ML Chatbots' Souls, or Transformers: Less than Meets the Eye,"

- New Blackfriars* 105 (2024): 47-50. <https://doi.org/10.1017/nbf.2023.9>
- “Laws of Science, *Ṭabīʿaʿ*, and the *Mânâ-yî harfî*: Can There Be An Islamic Aristotelianism?”
Katre: Interational Human Studies Journal 8 (2023): 29-40.
<https://doi.org/10.53427/katre.1386193>
- “Why Angels and Aliens Do Not Receive the Sacraments,”
New Blackfriars 103 (2022): 678-685. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nbfr.12737>
- “Virtual Catholicism? A Phenomenological and Psychosomatic Critique,”
Antiphon 25.3 (2021): 318-331. <https://doi.org/10.1353/atp.2021.0028>
- “John Finnis's Philosophical Ethics in the Catholic Tradition: A Response to Recent Criticism,” *Lex Naturalis* 6 (2021): 51-86.
- “Renewability and Land-Ethic: The Proto-Ecological Ethics of *Rerum Novarum*,”
Asian Horizons 15.2 (2021): 394-406.
- “An Anscombian Approach to Beauty in Sacred Music,”
Antiphon 22.3 (2018): 243-261. <https://doi.org/10.1353/atp.2018.0023>
- “Would St. Thomas Aquinas Baptize an Extraterrestrial?”
New Blackfriars 99 (2018): 440- 457. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nbfr.12319>

Peer Reviewed Book Chapter

- “Missions to Extraterrestrials,” in *Jesuits in Science Fiction*, ed. Richard Feist.
 Vernon Press Series in Philosophy. Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, 2024.

Other Scholarly Work

- “Miracles and the Natural Sciences,” *Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology*
<https://www.ect.org/en/article/miracles-and-the-natural-sciences>
- “The Cosmic Catastrophe of History: Patristic Angelology and Augustinian Theology of History in Tolkien's 'Long Defeat,’” *Journal of Tolkien Research*, 14.2.5 (2022): 1-9
- “The Hymns of Lauds,” *Sacred Music* 143.1 (Spring 2016): 7-25
- “Apophaticism and Nature in St. Gregory of Nyssa’s 'On Not Three Gods,’” *Dunwoodie Review* 39 (2016): 149-162
- “An ‘Intellectual’ Conversion in the Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas,” *Dunwoodie Review* 38 (2015): 84-95.

Invited Book Reviews

- Creation Through Evolution: New Perspectives from Thomistic Philosophy and Theology*, ed. Nicanor Austriaco, *Nova et Vetera* (In Progress)
- Reimagining the Catholic University with Pieper, Newman, and Dawson: Contemporary Insights on Liberal Learning and Leisure* by Leonardo Franchi and Timothy P. O’Malley, *Newman Studies* (In Progress)
- Wisdom in Bonaventure's Hexameron: Philosophical Problems, Theological Solutions* by Kevin Winter, *Nova et Vetera* (Forthcoming)
- Immortal Souls: A Treatise on Human Nature* by Edward Feser, *Nova et Vetera* (Forthcoming)
- Matter and Mathematics: An Essentialist Account of the Laws of Nature* by Andrew Younan
Nova et Vetera (English), 23 (2025): 1151-1155
- Emergence: Towards a New Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science* by Mariusz Tabaczek
Nova et Vetera (English) 22 (2024): 1049-1053.
- Divine Action and Emergence: An Alternative to Panentheism* by Mariusz Tabaczek
Nova et Vetera (English) 21 (2023): 1430-1435.

In Progress

- Monograph on Mystical Symbolism of the Sciences for Science-Engaged Theology (In Progress)
- Response to Persian Neo-Sadrian Criticisms of Neo-Thomism Divine Action (In Progress)
- “Obediential Potency and the Gratuity of Being: Thomistic Metaphysics after Ferdinand Ulrich

and St. John Paul II" (Submitted for Initial Review)
With Saifuddin Dhuri, "Pandemics, Vaccines, and Moral Theology: A Comparative Study of Islamic (MUI) And Catholic Approaches" (Submitted for Initial Review)

Read Academic Languages (est. CEFR Reading Competency)

Latin, Attic Greek [High Honors, National Greek Exam, 2014], Biblical Hebrew, Fuṣḥa Arabic (B.2), Spanish (B.2), French (B.2), German (A.2), Turkish (B.1), Persian (A.2)

Invited Lectures

Lecture on Said Nursi and Miracles, Center for Arab and Islamic Studies, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY. TBD.

"Symbolic Theology in the Dionysian Tradition: Ps.Dionysius, Maximus, Aquinas, and Bonaventure," *From Dionysius and Maximus to Aquinas and Palamas*, University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary), Mundelein, IL. September 3-5 2026

"Idolatry or Communion? The Qur'an and St. Thomas Aquinas on the Trinity" Thomistic Institute Lecture, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. May 4, 2026.

"Would St. Thomas Aquinas Baptize an Extraterrestrial?" Thomistic Institute Lecture, George Washington University, Washington, DC. April 22, 2026.

"The Resurrection and the Flesh: Heavenly Life in St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body," Thomistic Institute Lecture, Benedictine College, March 19, 2026

"The Mystical Body of Christ," Thomistic Institute Lecture, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL. February 11, 2026.

"History of the Debate on Divine Action," *Divine Action Online Series*, Project for Science and Religion, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy (online), December 9, 2025.

"Do AI Neural Networks have Souls?" Thomistic Institute Lecture, University of Houston, Houston, TX. October 1. 2025.

"Would St. Thomas Aquinas Baptize an Extraterrestrial?" Thomistic Institute Lecture, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. September 10, 2025.

"Do AI Neural Networks Have Souls? or Transformers: Less Than Meets The Eye," Thomistic Institute Lecture. George Washington University, Washington, DC. April 23, 2025.

"Do Christians, Muslims, and Jews Worship the Same God?" Thomistic Institute Lecture. University of Houston, Houston, TX. April 9, 2025.

"Who can We Baptize? The Implications of Extraterrestrial Life and the Sacramental Life," Thomistic Institute Lecture. University of North Texas, Denton, TX. March 28, 2025

"The Trinity: The Heart of the Christian Life," Thomistic Institute Lecture. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. February 19. 2025

"Human Evolution and the Catholic Church," Gumberg Library and the Grefenstette Center, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA. February 18, 2025.

Selected Conference Presentations

"M(i)(e)metic Mathematics and the Act of Faith: Newmanian and Thomistic Analyses of 'Reasoning' in Computer Programs, ANNs, Human Deductions, and Human Assent" Academy of Catholic Theology Conference, May 19-21, 2026

"Pandemics, Vaccines, and Moral Theology: A Comparative Study of Islamic (MUI) And Catholic Approaches" International Annual Conference On Fatwa Mui Studies Acfs-9 2025, Majelis Ulama Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia (Online). July 25-27, 2025.

"Reading the Book of Nature: Quranic and Bonaventurian *ayāt/similitudines* of God in Nature," Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group International Summer Conference, Blackfriars and Campion Halls, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. May 29-31, 2025.

"Obediential Potency and the Gratuity of Being: Thomistic Metaphysics after Ferdinand Ulrich

- and St. John Paul II," *Thomas Aquinas (1): Thomas Aquinas and Modern Questions*, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-10, 2023.
- "Laws of Science, *tabī'a'*, and the *mânâ-yı harfî*: Can There Be An Islamic Aristotelianism?" 12th Annual Graduate Conference, Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Istanbul, Türkiye, August 11, 2023
- "'Bonnie and Buxom in Bed and Board'? Pre-Tridentine Wedding Vows and the Anglo-Norman Additional Promise of Obedience," *Political Liturgies in the High Middle Ages: Beyond the Legacy of Ernst H. Kantorowicz* Panel, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11-13, 2023
- "The Cosmic Catastrophe of History: Augustinian Theology of History and Patristic Angelology in Tolkien's 'Long Defeat,'" *Tolkien and Evil* Panel, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 9-14, 2022 (Online)
- "God's Patience: A Biblical Attribute in Light of Cosmological and Evolutionary Explosions," *The Great Waters of the Kingdom of Matter: Faith, Religion, Science, and Reality*, Paper Presentation, *Lumen et Vita* Spring Conference, Boston College, March 26, 2022 (Online).
- "Substantial Form and *Actus Essendi*: Avenues and Obstacles on the Way from Philosophy of Science to Natural Theology," *Natural Theology in the 21st Century*, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford, July 15-17, 2021, (Online).
- "Miracles, Laws of Science, and the Epistemological Stance of the Theologian," *Development of Doctrine: Revelation, Magisterium, and Human Person* Conference, Paper Presentation, St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, Rochester, NY, June 10-12, 2021, (Online).
- "Can One Be Rationally Convinced of the Truth of Christianity? A Case Study in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas," *The Question of Belief* Panel, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 10-15, 2021, (Online).
- "Scripture as Story: The Pedagogical Advantages of Literary Difference," Society for Biblical Literature-American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Regional Conference, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN, April 9-11, 2021 (Online).
- "Virtual Catholicism? An Anthropological and Sacramental Critique," *Pandemic & Religion*, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, February 27, 2021, (Online).

Teaching Experience

As Instructor of Record:

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (Fa. 2022-present)

CATH 496: Indep, Study "Conversion in the Decadent Literary Movement", Dept. Catholic Studies

CATH 365: Catholic Faith and the Sciences, Depts. of Catholic Studies and Theology

CATH 205: I Believe: The Catholic Faith, Dept. of Catholic Studies

CATH 101: Introduction to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Dept. of Catholic Studies

THEO 143: Global and Cultural Perspectives (World Religions), Dept. of Theology

Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA (Sum. 2026-present)

DSMT 103: Catholic Social Teaching, School of Diaconate Studies

La Roche University, Pittsburgh, PA (Sp. 2023)

RELS 1003: World Religions, Dept. of Philosophy and Theology

PHIL 1018: Understandings of the Human Person, Dept. of Philosophy and Theology

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI (Jan. Term 2023)

THEO 1001: Foundations in Theology, Dept. of Theology (Online)

Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD (Fa. 2018-Summer 2024)

PHL 1010: Introduction to Philosophy, Dept. of Humanities, Philosophy Area
PHL 1330: Ethics, Dept. of Humanities, Philosophy Area, (Online)
Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD (Sp.2019-Sp. 2020)
PHIL 203: Philosophy in the Modern Age, Dept. of Philosophy
PHIL 103: Foundations of Philosophy, Dept. of Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (Jan.-Feb. Term 2018)
The Philosophy of God of Thomas Aquinas (Graduate and Undergraduate),
Independent Activities Period Course (non-credit), Modality: In-Person
As Faculty Co-Director (with James Swindal), Duquesne University:
Giavanna Altmeyer, "The Problem of Evil," Catholic Studies Major Senior Thesis

Academic Society Memberships

Affiliate Member, Sacra Doctrina Project, 2026-present
Academy of Catholic Theology, 2025-present
Affiliate Faculty Member, Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law,
Duquesne University 2024-present
Regular Member, Aquinas and 'the Arabs,' International Working Group, 2024-present
American Academy of Religion, 2021-present
Thomistic Institute, 2021-present

Selected Professional Service

Advisor, Muslim Student Association, Duquesne University, 2026-present
Peer Reviewer for *New Blackfriars*, 2026-Present
Peer Reviewer for *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, 2025-present
Treasury Administrator, Catholic Studies Consortium, 2024-present
Peer Reviewer for *TheoLogica*, 2024-present
Program Coordinator, Catholic Studies in Rome, 2024-present
Faculty Outreach Coordinator, Consortium for Catholic Studies, 2024-present
Consortium for Interreligious Dialogue Faculty Member, Duquesne University,
2023-present
Peer Reviewer for *Humanistica Lovanensia Journal of Neo-Latin Studies*, 2023-present
Phi Beta Kappa Community Member, Marquette University, 2020-2023
Della Ratta Award Selection Committee, Phi Beta Kappa Faculty, Mount Saint Mary's University
(Emmitsburg), Spring 2019

Additional Education

Additional Summative Research Projects

MA Theology Thesis: "The Identity of *Bene ha'Elohim* in Genesis 6: Text and Reception from
Alexandria to Beowulf," directed by Rev. Eugene Pentiu. PhD, ThD
BA Music Capstone: "Mass of the Annunciation with Propers from AD 600-2015," directed
by Laura Peterson, MM and Jennifer Donelson, DMA
PhL Thesis: "John Locke and John Finnis on the Grounding of Natural Rights," directed by V.
Bradley Lewis, PhD

Additional Courseswork

Introduction to Digital Humanities Course, Harvard University (Harvardx Online), June 2023
Bioethics Continuing Education Course, Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC, Fall
2019
Ecclesiology (Graduate), Domuni International Dominican University (Online), Toulouse,
France, Fall 2017

Sacred Music Courses (Graduate), St. Cecilia Academy for Pastoral Musicians of St. Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie), Yonkers, NY, 2015-2016
Instrumental Conducting (Undergraduate), Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, Spring 2014
Franciscan Hagiography (Graduate), Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY, Spring 2011
Francis E. Kelley Oxford Programme, Trinity College, University of Oxford, 2010

Awards and Honors

Duquesne University

President's Staff Professional Development Award for studies at IDEO (Cairo), 2026

Thomistic Institute

Thomistic Institute Speaker List 2024-present

Full Travel awards and Speaking Stipends for travel to invited lectures

Ryan Newman Center at Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburgh

St. Gregory the Great Vocal Fellowship (sacred music grant), 2023

Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, 2023

Full Travel Grant for the 12th Annual Graduate Conference, August 6-12, 2023

Marquette University, 2020-2023

David J. Lawrence Tuition Scholarship, Department of Theology, Fall 2023

Supplemental Research Grant, Department of Theology, Spring 2023

Graduate Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Spring 2023

Teaching Fellowship (Full tuition and living stipend), 2020-2023

St. Joseph's Seminary, 2014-2016

Msgr. Edward M. Connors Scholarship (Full tuition, room, and board), 2014-2016

National Knights of Columbus McGivney Scholarship (national merit award), 2015-2016

The Catholic University of America, 2011-2014

Basselin Fellowship (Full tuition, room, and board for undergraduate and graduate studies in philosophy), 2011-2014

Summa cum laude, 2013

Phi Beta Kappa, 2013

Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy honors society), 2013

St. Bonaventure University, 2009-2011, 2017

General Excellence in the Arts Curriculum (for highest GPA in Arts and Sciences), 2017

Summa cum laude, 2017

Presidential Scholarship (highest merit scholarship awarded by the university), 2009-2011

Music Talent Scholarship (highest merit scholarship awarded by the music dept.), 2009-2011

Theology Department Scholarship (highest merit scholarship awarded by the theology dept.), 2009-2011

Phi Eta Sigma (First-year honors society), 2010

Work Experience

Duquesne University, Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member, Department of Catholic Studies, 2026-present

Duquesne University, Catholic Studies Teaching Fellow and Assistant Coordinator of External Activities, 2024-2026

La Roche University, Adjunct Professor of Theology, 2024

Pittsburgh Public Schools, Substitute Teacher, 2023

Duquesne University, Adjunct Professor of Theology, 2022-2024

Prince George's Community College, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, 2018-present

Marquette University, Teaching Fellow, Theology Department, 2020-2023
 Mount St. Mary's University, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, 2019-2020
 St. Mary's Catholic School, Social Studies and Religion Department Head, 2018-2019 Fellowship of
 Catholic University Students, Campus Missionary (at the University of
 Mary Washington and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), 2016-2018
 Archdiocese of New York, Seminarian, 2011-2016
 Minisink Valley Central Schools, Substitute Teacher, 2010-2012

Selected Professional Development

“How is AI Transforming Our Communities?” Fifth Annual Tech Ethics Symposium, Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law, Duquesne University, October 27-28, 2024.
 “The Prophet Muhammad’s Relations with Christians & What They Mean Today,” by Dr. Craig Considine, Duquesne University Consortium for Muslim-Christian Dialogue, October 11, 2023.
 Graduate Student Roundtable with Dr. Oliver O'Donovan, Trinity International University, April 21, 2022.
 Graduate Student Roundtable with Dr. Angela Franks, Marquette University, December 1, 2021
Communio Open Reading Group, St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, 2022
 Graduate Student Roundtable with Dr. Rowan Williams, Marquette University, April 13, 2021
 International Symposium on the Aesthetic Dimensions of Science: Beauty, Awe, and Wonder in Scientific Inquiry, The Catholic University of America, June 3, 2019
 Thomistic Philosophy Workshop, Mount Saint Mary College (Newburgh), June 14- 17, 2018
 Veterum Sapientia Living Latin Immersion, The Catholic University of America, August 2-8, 2015
 “Educating Young People in Justice and Peace,” Catholic Social Teaching Seminar, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations-Path to Peace Foundation, New York City, May 20-25, 2012

Academic References

<p>Irfan A. Omar, PhD irfan.omar@marquette.edu +1 (414) 288-3746 Professor of Theology Marquette University Milwaukee, WI, USA</p> <p>Mark F. Johnson, MSL, PhD mark.johnson@marquette.edu +1 (414) 288-7646 Associate Professor of Theology Department of Theology Marquette University Milwaukee, WI, USA</p>	<p>Ignacio Silva, DPhil IASilva@austral.edu.ar +54 9 11 5101-8287 Research Associate Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion University of Oxford Oxford, UK Professor of Theology and Sciences Director, MA and PhD Programs Philosophy and the Foundations of Science Universidad Austral Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p>Matthew Levering, PhD mjlevering@yahoo.com +1 (847) 281-7067 Professor and James N. Jr. and Mary D. Perry Chair of Theology University of St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein, IL, USA</p>
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