

JOSHUA HREN PH.D.

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EDUCATION

Fall 2009- May 2012: Ph.D. in English, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM)

- Areas of emphasis, extended to include: **Creative Writing; Political Philosophy and Fiction**, particularly the Moral Imagination, Aristotle, Plato, Homer, Aquinas, Dante, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Alasdair MacIntyre, Pierre Manent, Jane Austen, and Tolkien; **Religion and Literature**, particularly Augustine, Dante, Dostoevsky, Flannery O'Connor, John Henry Newman, James Joyce, Bernanos, David Foster Wallace, Dana Gioia, and René Girard; **Classical Rhetoric**, particularly Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine
- **Ph.D. granted in May 2012.**

May 2009: M.A. in English, UWM (4.0 GPA)

July 2005: B.A. in English, UWM

- Summa Cum Laude
- Minor in Comparative Literature

EMPLOYMENT

2021, summer-ongoing: Co-Founder of the Master of Fine Arts at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Tenured Professor (Full Professor as of Fall, 2026)

- Proposed vision of MFA, developed overarching course of study and curriculum, and planned courses, Recruited students, co-hosted Summer Writers Institute, recruited visiting speakers and thesis readers. Teaching Graduate Fiction Workshop, The Art of the Novel, Art and Metaphysics of Fiction, the Catholic Imagination in Modern American Literature, Seminar on Dostoevsky and the Eternal Questions, and others
- Core Fellow: Along with colleagues, developed a revised undergraduate core, and developed online versions of the Literature core. Regular meetings to develop everything from an educational vision to curricula maps and content to the bylaws of the Core Fellows.
- Served on multiple hiring committees for Core Fellows and in the MFA

2025-present: Scholar-in-Residence at the St. Irenaeus Institute for Catholic Thought

- Taught seminar on St. Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle* at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Newman Center
- Designed "Introduction to Catholic Studies" course and worked with administrators at UW-Milwaukee to establish course as a Religious Studies offering in Spring of 2026. In Spring of 2026 I will teach the course, which introduces students to a range of Catholic thought and culture—from St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas to Dante, from St. Teresa of Avila to Pascal, from Pierre Manent to Krzysztof Kieślowski, and concluding with Pope Benedict XVI's "Regensburg Address."
- Organized Public Guest Lecture "Plato's *Republic* and Ours" at UW-Milwaukee, February 2026

2017-June 2021: Co-Founder and Assistant Dean of the Honors College at Belmont Abbey College

- **Recipient of the Adrian Award for Faculty Teaching Excellence, 2019-2020**
- Assistant Director of the Honors College at Belmont Abbey
 - Along with colleagues, designed course of study for and co-founded the Honors College. Engaged in promotional efforts ranging from composing and helping to design advertisements and brochures to recruiting and interviewing prospective students. Facilitated Honors College retreats and extracurricular events.

- Teaching a broad range of philosophical, literary, and theological books in the Honors College (Augustine and Aquinas, Homer and Virgil, Al Farabi and Avicenna, Dante, and others) as well as Rhetoric, Creative Writing, and Fiction Writing in the English Department
- Developed “Art of Fiction” course as well as a Great Books Prison Ministry Course
- Co-directed, designed, and taught in “Schola,” a summer Great Books camp for high schoolers
- Developed and led Great Books evening seminars—free and open to any highschool students (online)
- Directed *Agora*, the student literary journal, organized and hosted evenings of poetry and music
- Served on several hiring committees, including for the Provost.

April 2013-Present: Founder, Editor-in-Chief, Wiseblood Books

- Applying for grants and cultivate relationships with donors
- Editing and layout, formatting, web design
- Sort through query letters and solicited materials to select publishable fiction, poetry, and essays
- Soliciting reviews, blurbs, introductions, interviews, and manuscripts for publication
- Publicity and marketing: press kits, working with Small Press Distribution, establishing book readings
- Developed a summer “Writer-in-Residency” program devoted to helping promising writers bring their fiction to fruition.
- Accounting and budgeting
- Customer service
- Published nationally and internationally recognized writers such as Pierre Manent, Michael D. O’Brien, Dana Gioia, Patrick Deneen, R.R. Reno, and Julia Yost, and have cultivated a distinctive, highly-regarded catalogue.

2016-2017 Academic Year: Assistant Professor of English at George Fox University

- Coordinated and Taught HUMA 205: Literature and Philosophy, sections on Tolkien and Philosophy, Dostoevsky and the Eternal Question, and Jane Austen Among the Philosophers
- Taught Fiction Writing, Ancient Literature, Introduction to the Liberal Arts, and Introduction to Literary Studies
- Advised two Senior Research Projects, Serving on Conference on Christianity and Literature committee

August 2014-June 2016: Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies and English at the University of Mary

- Taught multiple sections of Composition II, Seminar on Dostoevsky, multiple sections of Catholic Studies 101, Critical Theory, Catholic Studies Capstone, several Tutorials, and others
- Laid the foundations and co-taught the first classes for what would become the Gregorian Scholars Honors Program. Served as Honors Program Mentor, recruited Honors students, organized and facilitated multiple colloquia for the University of Mary's Honor's Program
- Developed, launched, and oversaw the Catholic Studies Student Leadership Program
- Participated in two Search Committees
- Developed and facilitated two Catholic Studies Immersions/Retreats

January 2012-June, 2016: Managing Editor, *Dappled Things: A Quarterly of Ideas, Art, and Faith*

- Read slush pile and select fiction and poetry that will undergo the editorial board's voting process.
- Communicate with authors through rejection letters, acceptance letters, or advice for improving stories
- Discuss and vote on selected stories with other members of *Dappled Things'* editorial board
- Closely edit poetry and fiction selected by the board
- Develop Editing and Publication Schedule for Each Issue, copy-edit and send final proof to printer

- Conceived of and helped launch J.F. Powers Prize for Short Fiction
- Facilitated increase in staff and worked with president and editor-in-chief to bring on five new editors in 2013
- Organized regular full-staff video-conference, thereby congregating all *Dappled Things* editors for first time in magazine's history.

January 2013-January 2014: Fiction Editor, *Relief Journal*

- Read slush pile and select fiction that underwent the editorial board's voting process.
- Communicated with authors through rejection letters, acceptance letters, or advice for improving stories
- Discussed and voted on selected stories with other members of *Relief's* editorial board

August 2011-December 2012: Adjunct Instructor of English, Concordia University Wisconsin

- Taught total of four sections of English 103, "Culture and Civilization: Antiquity to the Present," a survey course with distinct emphasis on Sophocles, Aristophanes, Plato, Biblical Literature, Augustine, Machiavelli, Shakespeare, and Flannery O'Connor
- Taught one section of English 104 "Introduction to Writing" with an emphasis on Classical Rhetoric and Political Rhetoric, especially Plato, Gorgias, Thucydides, and contemporary political speeches.
- Taught one section of English 251: Writing Practicum, with an emphasis on the Philosophy of Language

January 2012-August 2012: Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant, Professor Van Pelt, UW-Milwaukee

August 2011-January 2012: Graduate Assistant, Language Resource Center, UW-Milwaukee

- Regularly edited, proofread, and contributed to successful grant proposals.
- Liaison between the LRC and the four UWM language departments to assist faculty in learning and utilizing online educational programs and tools.
- Assisted the LRC director with technology workshops in teaching programs such as Adobe Premiere, Jing, Eyejot, Audacity, Quiz-Break, and Desire to Learn (UWM's online education program).

August 2008-Spring 2011: Teaching Assistant in Comparative Literature & Religious Studies, UW-Milwaukee

- Spring, 2011: Teaching Assistant for Comparative Lit. 135: Apocalypse: Experience of the Extreme.
- Fall, 2010: Discussion leader, weekly quiz and exam grader for four sections of Religious Studies 101
- Fall, 2009: Discussion leader, weekly quiz and exam grader for four sections of Religious Studies 101
- Spring 2009: Grader and Online discussion facilitator in Comparative Literature 135: Apocalypse—the Experience of the Extreme, Co-teach and Grade Online Version of Comparative Literature 133.
- Fall, 2008: Help convert Comparative Literature 133: The Literary Imagination into online course
- Record lectures using the Audacity audio program and transcribe into Word Document format

Spring 2010: Adjunct Instructor of English, UWM

- Taught *Introduction to Creative Writing 233* (a hybrid course introducing students to reading, the "workshop" model, and writing fiction, poetry, epistolary, and parable).

Summer 2010: Research Assistant to Professor Bill Van Pelt, UWM

- Read and provided extensive critical annotations for key texts on Globalization and Conservation/Environmental Rhetoric
- Developed undergraduate and graduate-level courses and designed the online materials for the courses

September 2006-August 2008: Volunteer Coordinator & Chaplain, St. Ben's Community Outreach to Homeless

- Organized volunteers for a large community meal feeding 300-500 persons per night, six nights per week
- Served as counselor, resource-agent, and spiritual aid for homeless and impoverished women and men
- Lead weekend-long retreats for high school and college-age youth
- Tutored persons earning their G.E.D. certificates at Milwaukee Area Technical College
- Provided editorial assistance and research for grant proposals, and edited legal documents for homeless persons, as well as autobiographical/poetry manuscripts written in prison or in homeless shelters
- Managed, prepared food bags for, and completed intake at Friedens, a satellite pantry

August 2005-July 2007: Teacher & Library Assistant, Messmer High School

- Taught small groups of ninth graders composition and critical reading skills
- Co-taught a senior seminar instructing students to conduct research for and compose a college-level academic paper
- Supervised “Saturday School”: mentored and tutored students in need of additional academic support, particularly Latino students
- Co-coordinated an after-school Creative Writing Workshop

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Testing the Spirits: Finding Faith in Contemporary Fiction* (forthcoming from Catholic University of America Press, in 2027)
- *More than a Matter of Taste: The Moral Imagination & the Spirit of Literature* (forthcoming from Word on Fire, in Spring of 2026)
- *Faith in the Furnace of Doubt: Dana Gioia’s Visionary Poetics* (forthcoming from Catholic University of America Press, in Spring of 2026)
- *The Hôtel-Dieu: A Novel* (forthcoming in 2027 from Angelico Press)
- *Blue Walls Falling Down: A Novel* (Angelico Press, October 2024)
- *Infinite Regress: A Novel* (Angelico Press, February 2022)
- *Contemplative Realism: A Theological-Aesthetical Manifesto* (BXVI Institute, February 2022)
- *How to Read (and Write) Like a Catholic* (TAN Books, May 2021)
- *Last Things, First Things, & Other Lost Causes*, poetry chapbook (Little Gidding Press 2022)
- *In the Wine Press: Short Stories* (Angelico Press, May 2020), First Place in the Catholic Media Association 2020 Book Award (Anthologies)
- *Middle-earth and the Return of the Common Good: J.R.R. Tolkien and Political Philosophy*, (Cascade Books, 2018)
- *This Our Exile: Short Stories* (Angelico Press, 2018)
Honorable Mention in the 2018 *Christianity and Literature* Book of the Year Award

Selected Essays and Book Reviews

- Forthcoming: “James Joyce’s Scrupulous Nationalism,” a review of *James Joyce: A Political Life*, by Frank Callanan, forthcoming in *Portico*

- **Commissioned:** "Poetry and Sanctity," in *Word on Fire's Magazine*, 2026
- "What Art Does Covid and the 2020 Riots Justice?" in *The Wall Street Journal*, 2025
- "Transcending the Tragic Sense of Life: Joseph Conrad's Crooked Cross," in the University of Notre Dame's *Church Life Journal*, 2025
- "James Joyce's Debt of Love," in *Catholic World Report*, 2025
- Review of *Jane Austen and the Price of Happiness*, by Inger Brodey, in *The Hedgehog Review*, 2025
- "Trying to Make You See": Dostoevsky's Idiot's Spiritual Tutorial, in *Plough*, 2025
- Review of *Annihilation: A Novel*, by Michel Houellebecq, in *First Things*, 2024
- Review of *James Joyce and Samaritan Hospitality*, by Richard Rankin Russell, & *Joyce, Aristotle & Aquinas*, by Fran O'Rourke, in *Literary Matters*, 2024
- "Testing the Spirits of Jon Fosse's *A Shining*," in *First Things*, 2023
- "The Afterlife of Coetzee's Secular *Commedia*," in *Notre Dame's Church Life Journal*, 2023
- "Taking the Persecutor's Side," on Brian Nelson's new translation of *The Swann Way*, by Marcel Proust, in *Notre Dame's Church Life Journal*, 2024
- "More than a Mortal God": A Review of Vinson Cunningham's *Great Expectations*, in *Current*, 2024
- Review of Jason M. Baxter's Translation of *The Divine Comedy: Inferno* in *Catholic World Report: "Saving Dante from the Classicists,"* 2024
- "The 'Gospel' of Edward P. Jones' Living 'Dead,'" in *America*, 2024
- "Fail Better, James Joyce," Review of *James Joyce: A Life*, by Gabrielle Carey, in *America* 2024
- "Eugene Vodolazkin's Angel of History: A Review of A History of the Island," 2024
- "Flaubert's Anti-Sentimental Sex": Review essay on Raymond MacKenzie's translation of *Sentimental Education & The Letters of Gustave Flaubert* (NYRB), in *The Hedgehog Review*, 2024
- "Hölderlin's Successful Failure: A Review of Hölderlin's Madness: Chronicle of a Dwelling Life, 1806-1843, by Giorgio Agamben," forthcoming in *The European Conservative*, 2024
- "The Novel is Dead. Long Live the Novel!: A Review of The Novel, Who Needs It? by Joseph Epstein," in *New Polity*, 2023
- "Every Mann: A Review of New and Selected Stories, Thomas Mann, translated by Damion Searls," in *The University Bookman*, 2023
- "Man Laughs, God Weeps: On Milan Kundera and the Spirit of the Novel," in *The European Conservative*, 2023
- "Cormac McCarthy's *De Profundis*," in *The Englewood Review of Books*, 2023
- "In Search of Ordinary Time," in *Genealogies of Modernity*, 2023
- "A Cartography of Redemption": Review of Heimito von Doderer's *The Strudlhof Steps*, in *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, 2022
- "Communion on Pathless Solitudes: Review of *The Making of Poetry: Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Their Year of Marvels*, by Adam Nicholson," in *The Los Angeles Review of Books*
- "Prisoner of War in the Machine Paradise: Review of *Bernanos: His Political Thought and Prophecy*, by Thomas Molnar," in *New Polity*, 2023
- **Commissioned:** "The Suffering Cure: On Georges Bernanos' *The Diary of a Country Priest*," in *Word on Fire's Magazine*, 2023
- "All That's Left is This Foundation Stone," Review of *The Commonwealth: Poems* by Dan Rattelle, in *The University Bookman*, 2022
- "Radical Sympathies: Review of *Fathers and Children*, by Ivan Turgenev," in *The European Conservative*
- "David Foster Wallace's Denomination of Joy": Review of *Something to Do With Paying Attention*, in *America*, 2022
- "Henry James and the Secular Pilgrim," in *The European Conservative*, 2022
- "Toni Morrison's Many-Colored Lamb: Review of *Recitatif*," in *The Englewood Review of Books*, 2022
- "An Ancient Descent into a Modern Hell: Dana Gioia's 'The Underworld' Under the Influence," in *FORMA*, 2022
- "The Bad Religion of David Foster Wallace's 'Good People,'" in *Public Discourse*, 2022
- **Commissioned:** "Mystery That is the World's Least Hidden Thing," Review of *The Harvest and the Lamp*, by Andrew Frisardi, in *Presence*, 2022

- "Death Comes for Ross Douthat: Review of *The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery*," in *The Lamp*, 2022
- "The Catholic Writer of the Future," Review of *Many-Colored Fleece: An Anthology of Twentieth Century Fiction* by Sister Mariella Gable, O.S.B., in *Dappled Things*, 2022
- **Commissioned** Review of Jonathan Franzen's *Crossroads: A Novel*, in *Law & Liberty*, November 2021
- **Commissioned** Review Essay "Finding Dante in the Infernal Midwest: Randy Boyagoda's *Dante's Indiana*," in *Law & Liberty*, Fall 2021
- **Commissioned** Essay "The Silence of the Poets: Dana Gioia and the Transcendence of Verse," in the Word on Fire Institute's *Evangelization & Culture*, Fall 2021
- Review Essay "'God, if there was a God' in Phil Klay's *Missionaries*," in *The University Bookman*, Summer 2021
- Review Essay "The Stones Cry Out: *The Image: A Novel in Pieces*, by Steven Faulkner," in *National Catholic Register*
- "Cosmic Scope and Expansive Vision: Interview with Joshua Hren and James Matthew Wilson: Founders of the New Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing," forthcoming in *Dappled Things*
- Essay "Irony that Gives a Damn" in *Public Discourse*, June 2021
- Essay "More than a Matter of Taste: Hildebrand & Henry James" in *The Hedgehog Review*, June 2021
- Essay "Marriage Prospects with David Foster Wallace," in Notre Dame's *Church Life Journal*, Summer 2021
- Review Essay "George Saunders on Story" in *First Things*, Winter 2021
- Essay "Caroline Gordon Lost and Found: *The Malefactors*," *America Magazine*, Spring 2021
- Review Essay "Acolyte of Ambition: Balzac's *Lost Illusions* and *Lost Souls*," in *Law and Liberty*, Winter 2021
- Essay "Mistakes Were Made: Apocalypse of Truth in *A Canticle for Leibowitz*," in *Catholic World Report*, Winter 2021
- Review: "Dana Gioia's *Studying with Miss Bishop*" in *America Magazine*, Summer 2021
- Essay "For Whom Chekhov's Bell Tolls" in *Catholic World Report*, Winter 2020
- Essay "Christopher Beha's Capacity for God: *What Happened to Sophie Wilder Revisited*" in *The University Bookman*, Winter 2020
- Essay "Portrait of a Paralyzed Priesthood: James Joyce's 'The Sisters,'" forthcoming in *Dappled Things*
- Review Essay "Cracks of Faith in the Secular Self: Christopher Beha's *The Index of Self-Destructive Acts*," in *Catholic World Report*, October 2020
- Essay "The Artifice of Race and the Art of Grace" on Flannery O'Connor, in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2020
- Essay "The Wounded Surgeon: Dana Gioia's 'Special Treatments Ward,'" in *Catholic Arts Today*, June 2020
- Essay "What Waugh Saw in America: An Anglo-American Romance," in *America* magazine, April 2020
- Essay "The Pallor of our Plagues: Katherine Anne Porter's *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*" in *Crisis*, April 2020
- Essay "Hemingway's Crucifying Weakness" in *First Things*, February 2020
- Essay "The Ends of the Novel," in *Dappled Things*, Spring 2020
- Essay "Kerouac's Beatific Visions" in *First Things*, January 2020
- Essay "Peace in a Plastic World" in *First Things*, December 2019
- Essay "What the Catholic Novel Could Become: Randy Boyagoda's *Original Prin*," in *The University Bookman*, December 2019
- Essay "Kissing the Crucified: Catholic Charity for the Capitally Punished," in *America*, January 2020
- Essay "Having and Halving the Truth: John Henry Newman on Liberalism and its Liberally-Educated Discontents," *New Oxford Review*
- Essay "Thank you for the Light, F. Scott Fitzgerald," in *First Things*, Fall 2020
- Essay "Christ-Haunted George Saunders" in *First Things*, Spring 2019
- Essay "A Fires-Stained Cathedral Gargoyle: Léon Bloy and the Catholic Literary Tradition,"

in *Dappled Things*, Winter 2018, **Won Second Place in the Jacques Maritain Prize for Non-Fiction**

- “The Problem of Pity: Misguided Mercy and Dante’s Infernal Purgation,” in *Touchstone*, March 2019
- “Beauty Will Not Save the World But the Literature You Save May Be Your Own: Catholic Literature, Dead or Alive?” in *America*
- Essay “Feasts of Doubt or Feasts of Faith?: Dana Gioia’s ‘All Souls’ and ‘Pentecost,’” Feature in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2018.
- Review “Under Cosmopolitanism and Outside: Daniel Rattelle’s *The Sleeping House*, in *Dappled Things*
- Review of *Into the Deep: An Unlikely Catholic Conversion*, by Abigail Favale
- Article “The Apocalypse of Beatitude: Modern Gnosticism and Misplaced Faith in Dostoevsky’s *The Possessed*” in *Voegelin View*, March 2018
- “A Dank, Dimly-Lighted Place: Affliction, Beauty, and Being at Home in the World,” in *Dappled Things*, Spring 2018
- Essay “Tailor-Made for Sin: Hiding Guilt with Garments of Legal Fictions,” Feature in *Touchstone*, Winter 2018
- Interview with *Catholic World Report* regarding Wiseblood Books, Summer of 2017
- Entries on “René Girard,” “J.F. Powers,” and “Nathan W. Scott” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, November 2016
- Review of Witt and Richards' *The Hobbit Party: The Vision of Freedom that Tolkien Got and the West Forgot* in *Gilbert Magazine*, Summer 2015
- “Our Essential Displacement and the Reparation of Fiction: Interview with Joseph O'Brien,” in *Dappled Things*, Spring 2013

Peer Reviewed Articles / Book Chapters

- Article: “*Finnegans Wake* and the Phoenix Culprit: Here Comes Everybody’s Original Sin,” in *LOGOS: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*
- “Low Comedy and High Theology in James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*,” forthcoming in *Renascence: Essays on Literature and Ethics, Spirituality and Religion*
- Article: “Marcel Proust’s Sacramental Sacrifice” in *LOGOS: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 2025
- Solicited Chapter: “Kitsch and the Common Good,” forthcoming in the book *Notes on Kitsch*, Dispatch, 2026.
- **Solicited Article**: “The Presence of Privation in Dana Gioia’s ‘Homecoming,’” in *Christianity & Literature*, 2025
- Article “Men Becoming Gods in ‘Style’: Gioia and Girard on Divinized Desire,” in *Contagion: A Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture* (2023)
- **Solicited Chapter**: “David Foster Wallace’s Denomination of Joy,” in *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader, Volume II*, December, 2025
- **Commissioned** Chapter: “Caroline Gordon Lost and Found,” *An Introduction to the Forgotten, Familiar, and Timeless Women Novelists of the Catholic Imagination*, Word on Fire Publishing (2024)
- **Commissioned** Chapter: “The Duties of Details,” *Believing in Writing: Craft Essays from Writers of Faith*, Word on Fire Publishing (2027)
- **Commissioned** Chapter: “‘Faith’s Ardor in an Air Conditioned Tomb’: Dana Gioia’s Sights of the Unseen in a Secular Age,” in *Dana Gioia: Poet and Critic*, Edited by John Peede (2024)
* An earlier version of this essay appeared in *Presence* in 2019.
- **Commissioned** Article “Living on the Fat of the Faith: On Founding an MFA at the University of St. Thomas” in *Christianity & Literature*, Fall 2021
- Article “Climbing to God on ‘The Burning Ladder’: Dana Gioia’s *Via Negativa*,” in *Religion and the Arts*, March 2019
- Article “Acquisitive Imitation and the Gift Economy: Escaping Reciprocity in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The*

- *Hobbit*, in *Contagion: Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture*, Fall 2017
- Chapter, "Between the Beatific Vision and a Vision of Man in Rebellion: Catholic Literature Revisited," in *Renewal of Catholic Higher Education: Essays on Catholic Studies in Honor of Don J. Briel*, Fall 2019
- Article "Tolkien and the Technocratic Paradigm" in *New Blackfriars*, July 2017
- Article "The Genealogy of *Ressentiment* and the Achilles' Heel of Humanitarianism: Love of Mankind from the *Iliad* to *The Idiot*," in *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, 2014
- Chapter "The Sound and the Fury, Symbolizing Something: The Paradoxical Miracle at the Limits of Language: Maritain, Percy, and *The Moviegoer*," in *Redeeming Philosophy: From Metaphysics to Aesthetics*, 2014
- Article "Truth and Lies in a Chestertonian Sense: Father brown and the Fault of the Depraved Saint" in *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, Winter 2012-13

Poems

- Poem "Signs of Contradiction," **commissioned** by Bishop Robert Barron's *Evangelization & Culture* journal, Fall 2024
- Poem "How to Shoulder What Remains," in *National Review*, 2022
- Poem "After You Went and Died," in *Ekstasis*, 2022
- Poem "Agnus Dei," in *The Catholic Thing*, 2022
- Poem "Civilize the Sacrifice," in *Commonweal*, 2022
- Poem "My Burden Light" in *Catholic Arts Today*, 2022
- Poem "Mysterium Iniquitatis," in *The European Conservative*, 2022
- Poem "But From the Beginning it Was Not So," **commissioned** by Bishop Robert Barron's *Evangelization & Culture* journal, Fall 2020
- Poem "The Nuclear Winter" in *Commonweal*, June 2019
- Poem "The Banality of Evil," in *First Things*, Fall 2018
- Poem "The Lesser Angels of Our Nature," in *First Things*, June 2018
- Poem "In Secular Saeculorum," in *First Things*, February 2018
- Poem "Sanguine" in *First Things*, Summer of 2017
- Poem "Meditation on Modern Mathematics and the Music of Spheres," in *Presence*, April 2017
- Poem "Gehenna" in *First Things*, June 2016
- Poem "A Story in Ashes" in *Dappled Things*, Summer 2010
- Poem "itinerant intimacies" in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2009
- Poem "Proof of the Immortality of the Soul with Reference to Beeswax Soap" *Dappled Things*, Fall 2011

Fiction

- Short Story "Horseradish" in *Clarion Magazine*, Fall 2019, **Nominated for Pushcart Prize**
- Short Story "Their Fire is Not Quenched," in *Windhover*, September 2019
- Short Story "Tears in Things," in *Dappled Things*
- Short Story "Up and Down and Up Again" in *Windhover*, Spring 2019
- Short Story "The Terrible Speed of Mercy," in *Wisconsin's Emerging Writers: An Anthology of Fiction*, Fall 2018
- Short Story "Master and Slave" in *Windhover*, Fall 2018
- Short Story "In a Better Place," *Windhover*, Spring 2018

- Short Story “Gates of Eden” in *Windhover*, Fall 2017
- Short Story “Pawned” in *Cobalt Literary Magazine*, Summer of 2017
- Short Story “The Man Watching,” in *Windhover*, Spring 2017
- Short Story “Sick at the Thought” & Short Story Finalist “Inferno” in *Adelaide*, Spring 2017
- Short story “Copper” in *Ink & Letters*, Winter 2016
- Short Story “Sacré-Cœur” in *Dappled Things*, **Nominated for Pushcart Prize**
- Short story “Heavyweight” in *Aethlon Literary Journal*, Winter 2015-16 edition
- Chapter III of novel *In the Wine Press* in *Dappled Things*, Winter 2013
- Selection of my translation of Leon Bloy's *La Femme Pauvre* published in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2012
- Short story “Control” in the 6.1 issue of *Relief*, Summer 2013
- Short story “Wrecking Ball” as “Editor’s Choice” in 5.2 edition of *Relief*, January 2012
- Chapter II of novel *In the Wine Press* in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2011
- Story “Wrecking Ball” received honorable mention in *Glimmer Train’s* 2010 Short Story Award
- Chapter I of novel *In the Wine Press* in *Dappled Things*, Fall 2010
- Stories “She Scarce Is” & “Everything Must Go” Top-25 in *Glimmer Train’s* Fiction Open, 2009-2010

SELECTED CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- **Invited** seminars for Penn State’s Collegium Institute
- **Invited** television appearance on EWTN in 2021
- **Invited** appearance on the Word on Fire podcast in 2023
- **Invited** lecture on the Moral Imagination at the Well-Read Mom National Conference, 2024
- **Invited** reading from my novel *Blue Walls Falling Down* and panel conversation on my book *Contemplative Realism* at BXVI Institute Retreat, Summer 2025
- **Accepted** “Faith in the ‘Ugly Jesus’: From Dostoevsky’s *The Idiot* to Flannery’s *Why do the Heathen Rage?*” at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture Conference, 2025
- **Accepted** A Classical Descent into a Contemporary Hell: Tradition and the Individual Talent in Dana Gioia’s “The Underworld,” a distillation of my book *Faith in the Furnace of Doubt: Dana Gioia’s Visionary Poetics*, at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture Conference, 2025
- **Invited** to Moderate “Fiction as Icon: A Conversation with Catholic Novelists” at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture
- **Invited** lectures, workshops, and readings at the biannual Catholic Imagination Conference, ongoing
- **Invited** panel on my book *How to Read (and Write) Like a Catholic* at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture Conference, 2021
- **Accepted** panel on my book *Contemplative Realism: A Theological-Aesthetical Manifesto*, at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture Conference, 2022
- **Accepted** panel on my “J.M. Coetzee’s Secular *Commedia*” at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture Conference, 2023
- **Invited** lecture at the Adeodatus Conference on Catholic Education 2025
- **Two** evenings of storytelling, reading from my novels *Infinite Regress* and *Blue Walls Falling Down*, sponsored by the Milwaukee Archdiocese, Fall of 2022 and Fall of 2024
- **Invited** panel conversation at Fieldstead and Company Salon in Los Angeles, CA, 2025
- **Invited** lectures at The Alcuin Institute, 2022
- **Invited** conversation on Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture podcast
- **Invited** webinar through the Scala Foundation
- **Invited** webinars and podcasts through Catholic Culture
- **Invited** seminars on “The Christ-Centered Short Story,” hosted by Catholic Literary Arts, December 2020, will include seminars on Tolstoy’s “Master and Man” and Flaubert’s “A Simple Heart”
- **Invited** reading from my second short story collection, *In the Wine Press* at Strake Jesuit in Houston, Texas February 2020
- **Invited** lecture “Between the Beatific Vision and a Record of Man in Rebellion Imitating the Action of

Grace,” at Our Lady of Walsingham Ordinariate Parish in Houston, Texas, February 2020

- **Invited** reading from my short story collection *This Our Exile* and workshop on fiction writing at the 2020 *Windhover* Writing Festival, February 2020
- **Invited** to host a roundtable discussion of my book *Middle-earth and the Common Good: Tolkien and Political Philosophy* at the 2020 New England Political Science Association Conference.
- **Invited** to deliver the Margaret Syers Memorial Lecture, “Middle-earth and the Return of the Common Good: Tolkien’s Ethics,” at Schreiner University, February 2020
- **Invited** Reading from my short story collection *This Our Exile* at Cannongate High School, Oct. 2019
- **Invited** Paper, “Making Privation Present: Evil Incarnate in the Poetry of Dana Gioia” at the Theology and Literature Panel of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers, October 2019
- **Invited** Lecture: “Christic Imaginations” at the Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination conference, Loyola University Chicago, September 2019
- **Invited** Lecture “The Problem of Sméagol and the Return of the Common Good: Just Mercy in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*,” as well as facilitation of short seminar discussion on justice in *The Hobbit* for the Committee on Catholic Social Thought at Loyola University Maryland, October 11-12, 2018
- **Invited** Lecture “The Literature You Save may be Your Own: Forging an Idiom of Continuity in the Catholic Literary Tradition” and Reading from my short story collection *This Our Exile* at the Catholic University of America’s Contemporary Catholic Writers Reading and Discussion Group, September 12, 2018
- “The Politics of Tragedy: Plato’s Athenian Atlantis, Tolkien’s Númenorian Atalantë, and the Nazi Reich,” at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI in May of 2017
- **Invited** as panel member on two separate panels. One alongside Randy Boyagoda on the Future of Catholic Literature in a Secular Age, and one on David Foster Wallace and Walker Percy at “Trying to Say ‘God’: Reenchanted the Literary Imagination” at the University of Notre Dame, June 2017
- “You Are Beauty: Exploring the Catholic Imagination,” at the University of Notre Dame, **invited** booth for Wiseblood Books, November 10-12, 2016
- “Tolkien and the Technocratic Paradigm,” at Reading the Catholic Cosmos in the Classroom at the Arizona State University, October 2015
- “Acquisitive Imitation and the Gift-Economy: Escaping Reciprocity in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*” at the Colloquium on Violence and Religion at Saint Louis University in July of 2015
- “The Apocalypse of Beatitude: Modern Gnosticism and Misplaced Faith in Dostoevsky’s *The Possessed*,” at a Catholic Studies Colloquium at Arizona State University, April, 2015
- “New Catholic Literati” Panel Member at the Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination Conference at the University of Southern California, March 2015
- “Between the Beatific Vision and Man in Rebellion” at the University of Mary’s Catholic Studies Conference in August of 2014
- “Love of Mankind: The Genealogy of *Ressentiment* and Achilles’ Heel of *Amour-Propre*” March 2013 at “Conference on the Cardinal Virtues,” Viterbo University, Wisconsin.
- “The Sound and the Fury, Symbolizing Something: The Paradoxical Miracle at the Limits of Language: Percy’s Semiotics and *The Moviegoer*” at Maritain Association Conference in Notre Dame, Oct. 2011.
- “Truth and Lies in a Chestertonian Sense: The Fault of the Depraved Saint, ” Reading Across the Fault Lines: History, Politics and Literature, University of St. Thomas, May 2011
- “Political Theology and Sovereign Democracy,” AMA Conference, Walsh University, October 2010
- “Cloaked Kings, Revealed Brothers: The Scapegoat in Joseph and Oedipus,” International Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Notre Dame University, July 2010

REFERENCES

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