

Matthew Richard Petrusek

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EDUCATION**The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

- PhD, 2013
- Dissertation: “Catholic Social Ethics and the (In)vulnerability of Human Dignity”
- Advisor: Dr. William Schweiker. Readers: Dr. Franklin I. Gamwell and Dr. Jean Bethke Elshtain
- Qualifying Exams in: Theological Ethics, Philosophical Ethics, Ethics and the Political Life, and Anthropology and Sociology of Religion: From Colonialism to Globalization

Yale University, New Haven, CT

- Master of Arts in Religion, Concentration in Ethics, summa cum laude, 2005
- Honors: Class of 1954 Scholarship, Z. Marshal Crane Scholarship

Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

- Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Politics and Medieval and Renaissance Studies, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 2002
- Honors Thesis: “The Invisible Mendicant: Perceptions of Poverty in William Langland’s *Piers Plowman*”

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**Loyola Marymount University, Department of Theological Studies, Los Angeles, CA**

- Assistant Professor of Theological Studies (summer 2013-present)

The University of Chicago, Humanities Program, Chicago, IL

- Writing Intern in Philosophical Perspectives, fall 2009-winter 2013

St. Augustine College, Humanities Department, Chicago, IL

- Adjunct Professor, fall 2010-spring 2013

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT**Loyola Marymount University**

- THST 6060 (Graduate, *Foundations to Theological Ethics*, fall 2013, spring 2015 [Orange County], spring 2016, fall 2016 [Orange County])
- THST 4091 (Undergraduate, *Human Dignity as a Foundational Moral Principle*, fall 2015)

- THST 398 (Undergraduate, *God and the Political Order*, summer 2014, fall 2014, summer 2015, summer 2016)
- THST 1060 (Undergraduate, *God and the Good: An Introduction to Christian Ethics*, fall 2013, spring 2014, summer 2014, fall 2014, spring 2015, summer 2015, summer 2016, fall 2016)

The University of Chicago

- HUMA 19100 (Undergraduate, writing seminar within *Philosophical Perspectives*, fall 2009-winter 2013).

St. Augustine College

- PHI 220 (Undergraduate, *Ethics*, fall 2009-spring 2013)
- ENG 203 (Undergraduate, *American Literature and Culture*, fall 2011-fall 2012)

MASTERS THESES/PASTORAL SYNTHESIS PROJECTS DIRECTED

Joe Kim, "Theological Aesthetics and the New Evangelization," Loyola Marymount University, Fall 2016.

Katherine Brown, "Love Choosing Wisely: Virtue and Conscience in the Moral Life," Loyola Marymount University, Spring 2016.

Anthony Mbagabu, "Human Dignity as the basis of Just Wage in the Light of *Rerum Novarum* and John A. Ryan: A Critical Approach," Loyola Marymount University, Spring 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Co-editor, with Jonathan Rothchild, *Dignity and Conflict: Contemporary Interfaith Dialogue on the Value and Vulnerability of Human Life* (under review at University of Notre Dame Press).

Peer-Reviewed/Refereed Articles in Journals and Books:

"Introduction," co-authored with Jonathan Rothchild, in *Dignity and Conflict: Contemporary Interfaith Dialogue on the Value and Vulnerability of Human Life* (under review at the University of Notre Dame Press)

"Protestant and Orthodox Perspectives on Dignity: A Response," in *Dignity and Conflict: Contemporary Interfaith Dialogue on the Value and Vulnerability of Human Life* (under review at the University of Notre Dame Press)

"Making the Fundamental Option Fully Free: How Human Capabilities Help Clarify Karl Rahner's Conception of Justice," *Philosophy and Theology*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (2017), forthcoming.

“The Image of God and Moral Action: Challenging the Practicality of the *Imago Dei*,” *Studies in Christian Ethics*, (2017) 30 (1): 1-27, DOI: 10.1177/0953946816674150.

“Human Capacities and the Problem of Universally Equal Dignity: Two Philosophical Test Cases and a Theistic Response,” *Journal of Moral Theology*, (2016) 5 (1): 37-64.

“The Relevance of Karl Rahner’s View of Dignity for the Catholic Social Thought Tradition,” *Philosophy and Theology*, (2015) 27 (2): 513-538, DOI: 10.5840/philtheol201511542.

“In Memoriam: Jean Bethke Elshtain,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2014) 82 (1): 15-21, DOI: 10.1093/jaarel/lft098.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Articles:

“The Gift and the Goal: Defining Dignity in the Catholic Social Thought Tradition,” article to be submitted to *The Journal of Moral Theology*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The (Un)touchables: Four Paradigms of Moral Vulnerability and Why They Matter,” *Graduate Theological Studies Journal and Newsletter*, spring, 2017.

“Evangelizing the World: Pope Francis through the Prism of Pope Paul VI.” *Graduate Theological Studies Journal and Newsletter*, spring, 2014.

“Habemus Sanctum: Catholic Church Recognizes Two Former Popes as Saints.” *Sightings*. Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, the University of Chicago, April 14, 2014.

“La Dignidad Humana: Don y Desafío.” A four-part series in the Spanish-language weekly newspaper, *Cristo Hoy* (Argentina), Feb. 15, 2014.

“The Common Good and Public Education: Is It Wrong to Send Your Child to Private School?” *Sightings*, Martin Marty for the Advanced Study of Religion, the University of Chicago, Feb. 6, 2014.

“Reason in the Season? Rationality and the Difficulty of Religious Neutrality.” *Sightings*, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, the University of Chicago, Dec. 13, 2012.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of E. Christian Brugger, *Capital Punishment and Roman Catholic Moral Tradition*, second edition (University of Notre Dame, 2014), *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, (2016) 85 (2): 421-423, DOI: 10.1017/S0009640716000329

Review of James F. Keenan, S.J., *University Ethics: How Colleges Can Build and Benefit from a Culture of Ethics* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2015), *Theological Studies*, (2016) 77(3): 758-760, DOI: 10.1177/004505639.

Review of Franklin I. Gamwell, *Existence and the Good: Metaphysical Necessity in Morals and Politics* (SUNY, 2012), *Symposia: The Journal of the Department for the Study of Religion University of Toronto* (2013) V.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Encountering without Essentializing: How Pope Francis Helps Us Go Beyond the Post-Colonial Critique of Discourse about the ‘Other’”, paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (western region), March 20, 2017.

“Specifying the ‘Space’ Necessary to Exercise the Fundamental Option: How Human Capabilities Clarify Karl Rahner’s Conception of Justice,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA), San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 7-10, 2016.

“The Image of God and Moral Action: Challenging the Practicality of the *Imago Dei*,” paper presented for The University of Chicago Writer’s Group at the annual meeting of The Society of Christian Ethics (SCE), Toronto, Canada, January 7th, 2016.

“The Gift and the Goal: Rationally Reconstructing ‘Human Dignity’ in the Catholic Social Thought Tradition,” paper presented at the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA), Milwaukee, WI, June 13, 2015.

“Universal and Practical? Reading *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* through the Prism of *Gaudium et Spes*,” paper presented as part of a panel entitled, “Catholicism’s Contribution to Human Flourishing in *Gaudium et Spes*: Contemporary Trajectories and Challenges,” at the conference, *The Church in the Modern World: Teaching and Understanding Gaudium et Spes after 60 Years*, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, March 13, 2015.

“Grounding Human Dignity in Thomistic Natural Law: Possibilities and Challenges,” paper presented at the Society of Christian Ethics (SCE), Chicago, IL, Jan. 9th, 2015.

“Human Capacities and the Problem of Universally Equal Dignity: A Theistic Response,” paper presented at the Pacific Section of the Society of Christian Ethics (PSCE), Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7, 2014.

“Is Employment a Human Right? Amartya Sen and Catholic Social Thought on the Problem of Joblessness,” paper presented at the 2013 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Midwest regional conference, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 13, 2013.

“Human Dignity and the Condition for the Possibility of Human Rights,” paper presented at Indiana University’s Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institution’s 40th Anniversary Symposium, *Humanitarianism and Human Rights in the 21st Century*, Bloomington, IN, Oct. 11, 2012.

“Catholic Social Ethics and the (In)vulnerability of Human Dignity,” keynote address given for the Northeast Oregon Theological Conference, *Christian Faith in the 21st Century*, La Grande, OR, Oct. 14, 2011. Also gave two additional public lectures at the Conference: “Catholic Ethics and the Economy” and “The Catholic Definition of Human Life and the Alternatives.” Conference presided over by Bishop Emeritus William S. Skylstad, former Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Domestic Policy Committee.

SELECT INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLIC TALKS,

“Catholic Ethics: The Basics and Beyond,” all-day presentation to be given to lay Church leaders, sponsored by the Diocese of Reno. Reno, Nevada, to be given May 6, 2017.

“Head or Heart? Reason and the Will in Catholic Theology,” lecture given for the Diocese of San Bernardino. Aquinas High School, San Bernardino, CA, March 22, 2017.

“Your Eyes Will be Opened: The Origins of Sin and the Possibility of Virtue,” lecture given for the Diocese of San Bernardino. Aquinas High School, San Bernardino, CA, February 22, 2017.

“Faith on the Go: Theology in an Age of Distraction,” lecture given for the Diocese of San Bernardino. Aquinas High School, San Bernardino, CA, January 24, 2017.

“Catholic Moral Theology at the Ballot Box,” featured speaker at LMU’s Campus Ministry-sponsored event, “Voting with a Conscience.” Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, November 3, 2016.

“The Catholic Conception of Mercy: A Reflection on the Prodigal Son,” presentation given to the Los Angeles Catholic-Hindu Dialogue group. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, October 20, 2016.

“Response to *Francis, Bishop of Rome: The Gospel for the Third Millennium* and *Go Into the Streets: The Welcoming Church of Pope Francis*,” presentation as part of a panel sponsored by LMU’s Academy of Catholic Social Thought and Imagination. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, April 18, 2016.

“Catholic Social Thought and Just Employment: General Principles and the Difficulties of Applying Them,” presentation as part of a panel entitled “Just Employment at LMU and Beyond” at LMU’s 2015 CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and Bellarmine Forum. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, October 22, 2015

“Ignatian Pedagogy in Action.” Talk given to national group of college counselors as part of LMU Office of Admission event, *LA Palooza*. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, September 28, 2015.

“Principios de Interpretación Bíblica Desde una Perspectiva Etica Teológica.” Panelist for Loyola Marymount University’s 2015 Summer Scripture Seminar, “The Difficult Texts/ Los Textos Dificiles.” Gave presentation in Spanish. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 22 August 2015.

“Is It What You Know or Who You Are? Defining LMU’s Distinctive Approach to Higher Education.” Talk given to prospective/admitted students and parents during one of LMU’s “Enhanced Campus Visits,” Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, March 30, 2015.

“The Foundations of Catholic Moral Theology.” Series of four lectures given to Lay Mission Helpers students and staff, Lay Mission Helpers Mission House, Los Angeles, CA, March 20 and March 23, 2015.

“From Recipient, to Participant, to Creator: The Meaning and Value of a Liberal Arts Education at LMU.” Talk given to prospective/admitted students and parents during one of LMU’s “Enhanced Campus Visits,” Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, April 15, 2014.

“Context as Text from an Ethical Perspective,” lecture given at The Graduate Theological Studies Annual Fall Gathering, *The Word Becomes Flesh: Context as Text*, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 6, 2013.

“The Ground and Goal of Catholic Social Thought,” public lecture given as part of the Catholic Theological Union’s Lecture Series, *Catholic Social Teaching and Mission: Living The Values of the Reign of God*, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL, Feb. 18, 2013.

“At the Crossroads of Moral Vulnerability and Moral Responsibility: Locating the Person in the Ethics of Vatican II and its Legacy,” public lecture given at St. Agnes Catholic Church as part of the Catholic Theological Union/Southeast Chicago Parish lecture series, *Vatican II*, Chicago Heights, IL, Feb. 4, 2013.

“The Problem of Human Worth and A Theological Response,” lecture given to faculty members, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL, Nov. 7, 2012.

“Cynicism, Realism, and Sober Hope: Notes from a Year Studying Global Poverty,” public talk given for Washington and Lee’s Shepherd Program on Poverty and Human Capability, Lexington, VA, Feb. 9, 2005.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

“Commentary on Pope Francis’s Comments on Donald Trump.” Provided commentary for a special segment of KCALS/CBS 2’s nightly news broadcast, Los Angeles, CA, February 17, 2016.

“Commentary on Pope Francis’s Trip to Mexico.” Provided live commentary during KCAL 9/CBS 2’s nightly news broadcast, Los Angeles, CA, February 16, 2016.

Quoted in *Arizona Republic* newspaper article, “As Governor Doug Ducey prepares to meet pope, how does he navigate demands of faith, realities of governing?” Sept 22, 2015.

“Commentary on Pope Francis’s Mass in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.” Gave live running commentary in Spanish on Pope Francis’s theology and the significance of his trip to Bolivia during a special edition of Noticias MundoFox national news broadcast with Rolando Nichols, MundoFox National Headquarters Television Studio, Los Angeles, CA, July 9, 2015.

“Commentary on Pope Francis’s Mass in Quito, Ecuador.” Gave live running commentary in Spanish on Pope Francis’s theology and the significance of his trip to Ecuador during a special edition of Noticias MundoFox national news broadcast with Rolando Nichols, MundoFox National Headquarters Television Studio, Los Angeles, CA, July 7, 2015.

“Current Reflections on Pope Francis.” Featured on Noticias MundoFox national Spanish-language news broadcast hosted by Carolina Sarassa and Rolando Nichols, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 30, 2014.

“Has Benedict the XVI’s Resignation Created a Positive Change for the Catholic Church?” Debate participant on *Verdad o Mentira?* (national news program in Spanish), Noticias MundoFOX, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 11, 2014.

“Has Pope Francis Changed the Catholic Church?” Debate participant on *Verdad o Mentira?* (national news program in Spanish), Noticias MundoFOX, Redondo Beach, CA, Dec. 2, 2013.

“The Church’s Understanding of Exorcism.” Part of a Panel on *Sin Límites* hosted by Elizabeth Espinosa (program in Spanish), CNN Español, Torrance, CA, Nov 14, 2013.

“The Church’s Response to the Sexual Abuse Scandal and the Canonization of Pope John Paul II.” Part of a panel on *Sin Límites* hosted by Elizabeth Espinosa (program in Spanish), CNN Español, Torrance, CA, Sep. 25, 2013.

“Pope Francis’s Interview with *America Magazine*.” Part of a panel on *Sin Límites* hosted by Elizabeth Espinosa (program in Spanish), CNN Español, Torrance, CA, Sep. 20, 2013.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

- Recipient of LMU’s Faith and Justice Curriculum Development grant to develop a course entitled “Serving Faith by Promoting Justice: Exploring the Meaning of LMU’s Mission,” summer 2016.
- Selected to represent LMU at the 2016 United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Conference, *The New Evangelization: Science and Faith*, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., March 2016.

- Selected as one of Loyola Marymount University's inaugural Academy of Catholic Thought and Imagination fellows for fall of 2015.
- Inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa honor society, 2015.
- Selected as Loyola Marymount University's representative at *Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life*, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, Summer 2014.
- Martin Marty Center Jr. Fellowship, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2012-2013. Tuition plus stipend to advance and present dissertation research within The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion.
- Summer Foreign Language Study Grant, University of Chicago Divinity School, Summer 2009.
- Thomas J. Watson Fellow, the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, August 2002-August 2003. \$22,000 to conduct independent international research on poverty issues in Argentina, India, Nepal, Poland, Norway, and Tanzania.

SELECT SERVICE

- Reviewer for the journal *Philosophy and Theology* (2017)
- Reviewer for the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (2014, 2016)
- Member of Steering Committee for the Development of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at LMU (2016-present)
- LMU Trustee and Presidential Fellowship Selection Committee (2014, 2015, 2017)
- Vatican II at 50 Committee Chair (2014-2015)
- Member of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2014-present)
- Theological Studies Jim Fredericks Fellowship Selection Committee (2016)
- Theological Studies post-doctoral Faculty Fellows selection committee (2015)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- The American Academy of Religion
- The Society of Christian Ethics
- The Catholic Theological Society of America

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- Editor/Research Assistant. The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Sept. 2010-January 2012. Created the index for Franklin I. Gamwell's book, *Existence and the Good: Metaphysical Necessity in Morals and Politics* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011).
- Coordinator of Co-Curricular Education, Shepherd Program on Poverty and Human Capability. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA. Aug. 2005-July 2006.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (speaking [language spoken at home], reading, writing)
- French (reading)