

Daniel McInerny, PhD

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Christendom College
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Primary Areas of Research

The philosophy of art and beauty in the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition.

Experience

August 2019-present

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Christendom College

August 2014-June 2019

Teacher of English and Drama, Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, Dumfries, VA. Full-time beginning fall of 2015.

July 2011-July 2015

Freelance writer at Daniel McInerny Productions, LLC. Highlights:

- October 2013-March 2014, served as editor of English edition of the Catholic news site, *Aleteia*.
- Fall 2012-October 2013, wrote regular pieces for *Aleteia* and served as chairman of its board of experts.

August 9, 2009-May 15, 2011

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Great Texts Program,
Baylor University

September 1, 2003-July 31, 2009

Associate Director, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture

September 1, 2005-May 20, 2009

Concurrent Professional Specialist, Department of Philosophy,
University of Notre Dame

September 1, 2003-August 31, 2004

Myser Fellow, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture

September 1, 2002-August 15, 2003

Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar, Liberty Fund, Inc., Indianapolis,
Indiana.

June 1, 2000-June 30, 2002

- Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas (Tenure and promotion awarded spring 2000)
- Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas
- Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (PhD program in philosophy)

August 1994-May 2000:

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Center for Thomistic Studies (PhD program in philosophy), University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.

Education

PhD Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, 1994.

Dissertation: “The Place of Luck in Ethics: An Aristotelian Approach”

Director: Dr. Russell Hittinger

MA Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, 1989, *magna cum laude*.

Thesis: “Art, Nature, and Imitation in the Philosophy of Aristotle”

Director: Msgr. Robert Sokolowski

BA English, University of Notre Dame, 1986, *cum laude*.

Graduated from St. Joseph’s High School in South Bend, Indiana, 1982.

Monographs

The Way of Beauty: A Philosophical Reflection (Word on Fire Academic, 2024).

The Difficult Good: A Thomistic Approach to Moral Conflict and Human Happiness, Moral Philosophy/Moral Theology Series, edited by Romanus Cessario, O.P. and Joseph Koterski, S.J. Fordham University Press, 2006.

As Editor

January 2001-June 30, 2002. General Editor, *Thomistic Studies*, a series of scholarly texts on St. Thomas Aquinas and the Thomistic tradition sponsored by the Center for Thomistic Studies and published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

Editor, *The Common Things: Essays on Thomism and Education*. The American Maritain Association; distributed by The Catholic University of America Press, 1999.

Articles & Book Chapters

“Literature as Tradition-Constituted Inquiry.” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, vol. 28, no. 1 (Winter 2025).

“The Catholic Novel about The End of the World: Some Notes for a Sequel.” An essay to appear in a festschrift for Russell Hittinger in a volume intended to be considered under peer review by The Catholic University of America Press, edited by Scott Roniger.

“Imagining Catholic Culture in the 21st Century.” Submitted for a volume on Catholic social teaching to be considered under peer review by The Catholic University of America Press, edited by Fr. Paul Dudzinski.

“Fortitude and the Conflict of Frameworks.” In Timpe and Boyd, eds., *Virtues & Their Vices*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Internal Needs, *Endoxa*, and the Truth: An Aristotelian Approach to the Popular Screenplay.” *Film-Philosophy* 17.1 (2013): 281-295.

“Poised Strength.” In Cessario, Titus, and Vitz, eds., *Philosophical Virtues and Psychological Strengths*. Sophia Institute Press, 2013.

“Poetic Knowledge and Cultural Renewal.” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, vol. 15, no. 4 (Fall 2012): 17-35.

“Freaks, Fertility, and Cultural Fiasco.” In Fehring and Notare, eds., *Science, Faith, & Fertility: The Third Conference on Ethical Fertility Health Management*. Marquette University Press, 2012.

“Commentary on Steven A. Long’s *The Teleological Grammar of the Moral Act*,” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, vol. 8, no. 1 (2010): 201-207.

“Identity, Divine Filiation, and the Eucharist.” *Assembly: A Journal of Liturgical Theology*, vol. 35, no. 2 (March 2009): 29-32.

“Sloth: The Besetting Sin of the Age?” *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, vol. 12, no. 1 (Winter 2009): 38-61.

“The Upward Journey of the Soul: A Comment on John M. Rist’s *Real Ethics*.” In Di Blasi, Hochschild, and Langan, eds., *Ethics without God? The Divine in Contemporary Moral and Political Thought*. St. Augustine’s Press, 2008.

“Hierarchy and Direction for Choice.” *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly* (Winter 2003): pp. 24-34. Reprinted in Di Blasi, Hochschild, and Langan, eds., *Virtue’s End*. St. Augustine’s Press, 2008.

“Natural Law and Conflict.” In Mark J. Cherry, ed., *Natural Law and the Possibility of a Global Ethics*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003.

“The Novel as Practical Wisdom.” In Alice Ramos, ed., *Maritain and the Arts*. The American Maritain Association; distributed by The Catholic University of America Press, 2000.

“Deliberation About Final Ends: Thomistic Considerations.” In Thomas S. Hibbs and John O’Callaghan, eds., *Recovering Nature: Essays on Natural Philosophy, Metaphysics and Ethics in Honor of Ralph M. McInerny*. University of Notre Dame Press, 1999.

“A Humble and Trembling Movement: Creative Intuition and Maritain’s Philosophy of Education.” In Daniel McInerny, ed., *The Common Things: Essays on Thomism and Education*. The American Maritain Association; distributed by The Catholic University of America Press, 1999.

“Divinity Must Live Within Herself: Aquinas and Nussbaum on Transcending the Human.” *International Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 37, no. 1 (March 1997): 65-82.

“Electric Technology and Poetic Mimesis.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, vol. 70 (1996): 95-104.

“The Accuracy of Aristotle’s Definition of the Soul.” *The Thomist*, vol. 60, no. 4 (October 1996): 571-593.

Conference Papers and Lectures

“Does Tradition-Constituted Inquiry Apply to the Arts?” Paper chosen for the 2020 annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 5, 2020.

“Keeping Faith in the Philosophy of Stories.” The Catholic Artist Society’s Art of the Beautiful Lecture Series: “Essence, Form, Experience—Exploring How the Catholic Faith Informs the Arts,” The Catholic Center at New York University, February 11, 2017.

“The Purpose and Power of Children’s Literature.” Invited talk in the Catholic Imagination and the Arts Series sponsored by the Office of Mission and Ministry, Villanova University, October 7, 2014.

“Children’s Literature and the Golden World.” Invited lecture in the Fall 2013 Catholic Literature Lecture Series sponsored by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, September 10, 2013.

“Can This Be Another Catholic Moment in the Arts?” Invited talk to Gregorian Fellows at Benedictine College, November 16, 2012.

“Picturing Fortitude: Popular Cinema and the Confrontation with Evil.” Invited speaker, Benedictine College, November 15, 2012.

“On Mysteries and the Higher Mystery.” Invited plenary speaker at the Faith, Film, and Philosophy Conference, Gonzaga University, September 29, 2011.

“Sucking the Life From Our Children: Hollywood and the Romance of the Living Dead.” Invited plenary speaker at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture’s 2010 annual Fall conference, “Younger Than Sin: Retrieving Simplicity through the Virtues of Humility, Wonder & Joy,” University of Notre Dame, November 18-20, 2010. Also delivered to the Gonzaga University Socratic Club, September 29, 2011.

“Poetry as Prophetic Politics.” Invited plenary speaker at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, Walsh University, Canton, OH, October 14-16, 2010.

“Freaks, Fertility, and Cultural Fiasco.” Invited speaker at the interdisciplinary conference, “Human Fertility: Where Faith and Science Meet III,” hosted by the Institute for Natural Family Planning, College of Nursing, Marquette University, Milwaukee, July 15-17, 2010.

“Picturing Happiness, Or, Can Poetry Cure the Ills of 21st Century Culture?” Invited lecturer in the annual Hilary Term Aquinas Seminar at Blackfriars College, Oxford, February 25, 2010.

“Aristotle Goes Hollywood.” Invited plenary speaker at the annual “Faith, Film and Philosophy” conference sponsored by Gonzaga University’s Faith and Reason Institute and Whitworth University, November 6, 2009.

“Lost in the *Junoverse*.” Paper chosen for the second annual “Faith, Film and Philosophy” conference sponsored by Gonzaga University’s Faith and Reason Institute and Whitworth University, October 29-November 1, 2008.

“Commentary on Steven A. Long, *The Teleological Grammar of the Moral Act* (Naples, FL: Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University, 2007),” an invited contribution to a panel devoted to Professor Long’s book held at the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, University of Notre Dame, October 26, 2007.

“Sloth: The Besetting Sin of the Age?” Invited paper discussed at “The Capital Vices in the Christian Tradition” workshop, sponsored by Rebecca DeYoung, associate professor of philosophy at Calvin College, and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame, August 1-3, 2007.

“Natural Law and Economic Freedom: The Challenge of Distributism.” Invited speaker, Thomistic Institute sponsored by the Jacques Maritain Center, University of Notre Dame, July 2004.

“Hierarchy and Direction for Choice” and “Comment upon John M. Rist’s *Real Ethics*.” Invited speaker, Thomistic Conference on “Ethics Without God,” sponsored by the Jacques Maritain Center, University of Notre Dame, in collaboration with Fondazione Rui’s VI European Seminar of Philosophical Studies, July 2003.

“It’s A Wonderful Life: The Film Industry as Source of Renewal.” Paper chosen for the conference, “From Death to Life: Agendas for Reform,” sponsored by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, September 2002.

“Natural Law and Conflict.” Invited speaker at conference sponsored by St. Edward’s University (Austin, Texas) on natural law theory, Fall 2001.

“John Paul II and/or Aristotle: Person and Polis in Recent Catholic Social Teaching.” Invited speaker at second annual conference of the John F. Henning Institute on Catholic Social Thought (St. Mary’s College, Moraga, California), Winter 1998.

“The Novel as Practical Wisdom.” Paper chosen for the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, Fall 1997.

“Aquinas’s Understanding of Aristotle’s Dialectic.” Invited speaker at the Fourth Thomistic Institute held at the University of Notre Dame, July 1997.

“What Sort of an Essentialism Does a Virtue Theory Need?” Paper chosen for the annual meeting of the Metaphysical Society of America, spring 1997.

“Pagan and Christian Conceptions of Courage: A Conflict of Traditions?” Paper chosen for the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, fall 1996.

“Aquinas and Moral Luck.” Invited speaker at the Third Thomistic Institute, University of Notre Dame, July 1996.

“Aquinas and Moral Luck.” Paper chosen for the 31st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, spring 1996.

“A Humble and Trembling Movement: Creative Intuition and Maritain’s Philosophy of Education.” Paper chosen for the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, fall 1995.

“Evening Without Angels: Aquinas and Nussbaum on Transcending the Human.” Paper chosen for the 30th International Congress on Medieval Studies, spring 1995.

“Postmodern and Aristotelian Approaches to Tragic Conflict and Moral Worth.” Paper chosen for the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, fall 1993.

Courses Taught, Undergraduate

University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas (1994-2002)

Philosophy of the Human Person
 Ethics
 Ancient Philosophy
 Medieval Philosophy
 Aristotle
 Plato: The Re-Invention of Love
 Ethics and Literature
 Senior Seminar for Philosophy Majors

University of Notre Dame (2005-2009)

Ethics and Imagination
 The Natural Law: An Introduction

Baylor University Great Texts Program (2009-2011)

The Medieval Intellectual Tradition

Christendom College (2019-present)

Introduction to Philosophy
 Philosophy of Human Nature
 History of Modern Philosophy
 Ethics & Imagination
 Philosophy of Art & Beauty
 Philosophy of Culture
 Philosophy of Technology
 Senior Thesis

Courses Taught, Graduate

Center for Thomistic Studies, the PhD program in philosophy at the University of St. Thomas (1994-2002)

Aquinas's Commentary on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
 Aquinas and the Themes of the *Poetics*
 Practical Rationality: Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume
 Virtue Ethics
 Modern Moral Philosophy

During my years in the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, I was also the director of several MA theses and one doctoral dissertation.