

Jared Ortiz
Hope College
Department of Religion

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Employment

Hope College, Holland, MI
Chair of Religion Department, 2024-Present
Lavern '39 and Betty DePree '41 Van Kley Professor of Religion, 2023-Present
Professor of Religion, 2022-Present
Associate Professor 2018-2022
Assistant Professor, 2012-2018

Saint Benedict Institute, Holland, MI
Executive Director and Co-Founder, 2013-Present

Education

The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Theology, 2012
Master of Arts in Historical and Systematic Theology, 2009

St. John's College, Annapolis, MD
Master of Arts in Liberal Arts, 2005

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Bachelor of Arts in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts, 2000

Books

The Nicene Creed: A Scriptural, Historical, and Theological Commentary. Co-author with Daniel Keating (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2024).

With All the Fullness of God: Deification in Christian Tradition, editor (Lanham, MD: Lexington Press/Fortress Academic, 2021).

Deification in the Latin Patristic Tradition, editor (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2019).

You Made Us for Yourself: Creation in St. Augustine's Confessions (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016).

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Book Chapters and Articles

“The Early Latin Fathers and Augustine.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Deification*, edited by Paul Gavrilyuk, Andrew Hofer, and Matthew Levering (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024).

“The Whole Christ: Deification in the Catholic Tradition.” In *With All the Fullness of God: Deification in Christian Tradition*, edited by Jared Ortiz (Lanham, MD: Lexington Press/Fortress Academic, 2021).

“Intellectual Disability and the Sabbath Structure of the Human Person.” In *Creation and the Problem of Evil*, edited by George Kalantzis, Matthew Levering, and David Luy (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

“Turning Worshipers into Gods: Deification in the Latin Liturgy.” In *Deification in the Latin Patristic Tradition*, edited by Jared Ortiz (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2019).

“Deification in the Latin Fathers.” In *Called to Be the Children of God: The Catholic Theology of Human Deification*, edited by David Meconi and Carl E. Olson (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2016).

“The Deep Grammar of Augustine’s Conversion,” *Studia Patristica* 70 (2013).

“Creation in the *Confessions*.” In St. Augustine, *The Confessions: Ignatius Critical Editions*, edited by David Vincent Meconi (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2012).

Popular Essays

“Death and Life in the Nicene Creed.” Catholic World Report, May 20, 2025. On how the Creed calls us to die. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2025/05/19/death-and-life-in-the-nicene-creed/>

“What translation of Augustine’s *Confessions* should I read?” [UPDATED] *Catholic World Report*, November 11, 2024. On ten good translations of the *Confessions*. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/01/25/what-translation-of-augustines-confessions-should-i-read/>

“God, gods, and becoming gods.” *Catholic World Report*, October 5, 2022. On true and false deification. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2022/10/05/god-gods-and-becoming-gods/>

“Why We Are Restless.” *Church Life Journal*, June 6, 2022. On our modern discontent. <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/why-we-are-restless/>

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“Education for Eternity.” *Catholic World Report*, May 29, 2021. Slightly revised Hope College commencement address.

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/05/29/education-for-eternity/>

“Why and how to read Augustine’s *Confessions*.” *Catholic World Report*, February 6, 2021. On the spiritual value of reading the *Confessions* and tips for approaching it. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/02/06/why-and-how-to-read-augustines-confessions/>

“What translation of Augustine’s *Confessions* should I read?” *Catholic World Report*, January 25, 2021. On eight good translations of the *Confessions*. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/01/25/what-translation-of-augustines-confessions-should-i-read/>

“Augustine on True Worship and the Ecclesial Heart.” *Catholic World Report*, February 18, 2020. On Augustine’s rich and integral understanding of worship. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/02/17/saint-augustine-on-true-worship-and-the-ecclesial-heart/>

“Augustine, Consolation after Rape, and the Reshaping of Society.” *Catholic World Report*, November 25, 2019. On Augustine’s reconceiving rape and reshaping the values of Christian Roman society. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/11/25/augustine-consolation-after-rape-and-the-reshaping-of-society/>

“Saint Augustine Contra Suicide.” *Catholic World Report*, September 29, 2019. On Augustine’s arguments against suicide. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/09/29/saint-augustine-contra-suicide/>

“Spectacles for the People.” *Catholic World Report*, August 25, 2019. On sexual confusion, the coercion of conscience, and how Augustine teaches us to respond. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/08/25/spectacles-for-the-people/>

“Sex in the Garden.” *Catholic World Report*, August 5, 2019. On Augustine’s view of sex. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/08/05/sex-in-the-garden/>

“How Catholics Have Always Believed and Taught Deification.” *Public Orthodoxy*, August 6, 2019. On deification in the Latin Patristic tradition. <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2019/08/06/catholics-always-taught-deification/>

“Silence and Apostasy.” *Catholic World Report*, January 4, 2017. On Shūsaku Endō’s *Silence*. <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/01/04/silence-and-apostasy/>

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Select Presentations

1. “Artificial Intelligence v. Ascetic Intelligence: What St. Benedict Can Teach Us About AI.” Presented at the Cultura Vitae Lecture Series at the University of Saint Francis, Ft Wayne, Indiana, November 12, 2025.
2. “In the One We Are One: Christian Unity and Augustine’s City of God.” Presented at the Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago, Illinois, September 10, 2024.
3. “Sex in the Cities: True and False Worship in Augustine’s *City of God*.” Presented at the International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom, August 8, 2024.
4. “Integrity, Creation, and a Restless Heart: Augustine’s Contribution to Philosophy” (Invited). Presented at the Lumen Christi Institute’s “Faith and Reason Series,” Chicago, IL, November 9, 2023.
5. “The Truth Will Set You Free: Christ, Creeds, and Commitment in a Confused Age” (Invited). Presented at Hope College’s Critical Issues Symposium, Holland, MI, September 27, 2023.
6. “The Radical Doctrine of One God: Reading the Nicene Creed in Context” (Invited). Presented at the Augustine Institute, Denver, CO, April 20, 2023.
7. “The Church’s Restless Heart: From Creation to Deification in Augustine’s *Confessions*” (Invited). Presented at the University of Dallas, Irving, TX, January 24, 2023.
8. “Baseball, the Creed, and the Mystery of One God” (Invited). Presented at Hope College’s 2022-2023 Arts and Humanities Professorial Lecture Series, Holland, MI, September 22, 2022.
9. “Consolation after Rape as the Foundation of a New Republic: Augustine’s *City of God*, Book I.” Accepted for the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 23, 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
10. “Are the Great Books Good for Us? Liberal Education and the Christian Tradition” (Invited). Presented at the Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago, January 18, 2020.
11. “Intellectual Disability and the Sabbath Structure of the Human Person” (Invited). Presented at the Chicago Theological Initiative’s “Creation and the Problem of Evil Colloquium,” Wheaton, IL, March 23-24, 2018.
12. “What Can Catholics and Protestants Learn from One Another Today?” (Invited). Presented at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, October 5, 2017.

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13. “All Things Hold Together: A Great Books Education and the Catholic Tradition” (Invited). Presented at the Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago, Chicago, May 17, 2017.
14. “‘Our Frailty is Made Eternal’: Deification in the Latin Sacramentaries.” Presented at the North American Patristic Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 25, 2016.
15. “A Vision for a Christ-Centered Liberal Arts Education.” Presented at the Hope College Continuum Scholars Lecture Series, Holland, Michigan, November 19, 2015.
16. “‘Who is this that rises up all in white?’: Deification in the Latin Liturgy.” Presented at the International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, August 11, 2015.
17. “Deification in Latin Patristic Thought.” Presented at the North American Patristic Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 23, 2014.
18. “Turning Worshipers into Gods: The Christian Understanding of Salvation” (Invited). Presented at the Aquinas College Catholic Studies Colloquium, Grand Rapids, March 26, 2014.
19. “Rethinking Augustine’s Reception of the Platonists.” Presented at the North American Patristic Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 25, 2013.

Teaching

Hope College (Undergraduate)

REL 100 The Mystery of the Incarnation
IDS 100 Holiness and the Intellectual Life
REL 161 The Mysteries of Christianity
REL 241 History of Christianity: From the Annunciation to the Reformation
REL 267 Introduction to Catholic Christianity
REL 268 Theology of the Human Person
REL 295 Heidelberg Catechism (co-taught)
REL 349 The Faith of the Early Church
REL 369 Reading Scripture Theologically
REL 369 Theology of St. Augustine
REL 440 Becoming Holy in the Early Church: Monks, Martyrs, and Marriage
REL 460 Augustine’s *City of God*

Calvin Prison Initiative (Undergraduate)

ML 111 Church in Historical Context I

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Augustine Institute (Graduate, Online)

HIST 521 History of the Ancient World and Formation of Christian Culture

HIST 524 The Dividing of Christendom and the Renewal of Christian Culture

CATE 601 Augustine and the Renewal of Catechesis

Awards and Honors

Character Forward Research Grant for “Showing and Telling Virtue: A Commentary on the *Rule of St. Benedict*,” Hope College, 2025

Jacob E. Nyenhuis Individual Faculty Research Grant for “Commentary on the Nicene Creed,” Hope College, 2021

Commencement Speaker, selected by Hope College graduating class, 2020 (address delivered May 2021)

Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award, selected by the Hope College graduating class, 2020

Jacob E. Nyenhuis Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Grant for “Sex in the *City of God*,” a faculty-student collaborative project Hope College, 2020

Mellon Grand Challenges Initiative Research Grant for “Augustine on the Body and Disability,” a faculty-student collaborative project, Hope College, Summer 2019

Haworth Fund Research Grant for “Politics and Sanctity in Augustine’s *City of God*,” a faculty-student collaborative project, Hope College, Summer 2019

Mellon Grand Challenges Initiative Grant for “Theology of the Human Person” course development in the “Disability in Contemporary Society” collaborative project, Hope College, 2017

Towsley Research Scholar Fellowship, Hope College 2015-2018

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Scholars Program Award for Mentoring, Hope College, 2015

Jacob E. Nyenhuis Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Grant, Hope College, 2014

Mellon-Helis Fellowship for Studies in Early Christianity, The Center for the Study of Early Christianity at the Catholic University of America, 2010-2012

Johannes Quasten Scholarship, The Catholic University of America, 2006-2010

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Associations

The New Ressourcement Journal
Board of Advisors, 2023-Present

Academy of Catholic Theology, 2016-Present
Board Member, 2022-2023

North American Patristic Society, 2009-Present

American Society of Church History, 2011-2013

Events Organized

Saint Benedict Institute Events. Organized more than 80 events including lectures, ecumenical dialogues, panel discussions, immersion trips, retreats, seminars, discernment groups, and scholar study days, Hope College, 2014-Present.

“Courtship, Marriage, and Sex.” Dinner and seminar for students organized in collaboration with the Saint Benedict Institute, February 2019-2022

“Disability and Human Nature.” Day of Study organized in collaboration with the Saint Benedict Institute, Hope College, February 2, 2019.

“Hope for Restoration: Radical Hospitality and Prison Reform.” Conference organized in collaboration with the inmates of R.A. Handlon Correctional Facility and Calvin Prison Initiative, Hope College, March 4, 2017.

“Gay and Christian: Exploring Vocation, Friendship, and Celibacy.” Symposium organized in collaboration with the Saint Benedict Institute, Hope College, February 22, 2016.

“Homosexuality and Anthropology.” Day of Study organized in collaboration with the Saint Benedict Institute, Hope College, February 20, 2016.

“Deification in the Latin Patristic Tradition.” Workshop organized at the International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford, August 11-13, 2015.

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Related Experience

Calvin Prison Initiative, Ionia, MI
Adjunct Professor, 2018

St. Jerome Academy, Hyattsville, MD
Volunteer Chair of Curriculum Committee, 2010 – 2013
Curriculum available at: <https://catholicliberaleducation.org/2018/07/11/the-education-plan-for-saint-jerome-academy/>

Touchstones Discussion Project, Annapolis, MD
Project Assistant, 2003 – 2005
Edited and authored *Remember My Chains: Readings on Prisons, Prisoners, and God*, written as work for hire

St. Ann's Academy, Washington, D.C.
Latin Teacher, 2006 – 2009

Lighthouse Christian Academy, Stevensville, MD
Latin and Great Books Teacher, 2005 – 2006

St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, Chicago, IL
Great Books Teacher, Summers 2002, 2003

Inner-City Teaching Corps, Chicago, IL
Fourth Grade Teacher, 2000 – 2002