Dennis A. Castillo
dcastillo[at]stmarys.edu
St. Mary's Seminary & University

Education

B.A. from Michigan State University, 1981. Dual majored in History and Religious Studies.

M.A. from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, December 1982.

Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, August 1990. Doctoral Dissertation: "A Leaven in the World: The Second Vatican Council and American Lay Catholicism." Dissertation Advisor: Martin E. Marty.

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor of History & Theology at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, MI (1986-94)

Associate Professor of Church History at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI (1994-2000)

Professor of Church History at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY (2000-2020)

Professor of Church History, St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, MD (2022–)

Administrative Experience

Academic Dean, St. Mary's College (1997-1999)

Academic Dean, Christ the King Seminary, (2001-2003 and 2007-2015)

Coordinated re-accreditations by the Association of Theological Schools and the Middle States Association in 2002 and 2012.

Associate Dean of Assessment and Accreditation, St. Mary's Seminary & University, (2022–).

Pastoral Experience

Part-time Director of Religious Education at St. Francis De Sales Church in Chicago, 1982-83.

Director of Religious Education at St. Alphonsus Church in Chicago, 1983-86.

Senior Associate for Ministry Formation at Catholic Health Services of Buffalo, 2020-21.

Director of Faith Formation at Queen of Heaven Parish in West Seneca, NY, 2021-22.

Professional Memberships

American Catholic Historical Association and the American Historical Association

Inter-Faith Experience

Greater Detroit Inter-Faith Round Table, 1995 – 2000

CKS representative for Jewish-Christian Dialogue of Buffalo, 2000 – 2006.

Presentations to Permanent Deacon candidates and spouses on "Christianity and other Religions" and "Ecumenism" 2008 to 2011.

Community Service

In collaboration with the Oblate Sisters of Providence, convinced the City of Baltimore to redress past neglect of the work of this African-American community of women religious. On October 30, 2023 the Baltimore City Council held a ceremony honoring the Oblate Sisters for their services to the community.

Presentations

Numerous presentations to parishes and other communities on church history and topics of concern to the Catholic community. These have included: tours of religious art collections, religion and American politics, the pedophilia crisis, inter-religious conflict, Pius XII and the Holocaust, and the response of Catholic healthcare to past and present pandemics. Presentations since 2022:

- Podcast on "The Battle of Lepanto and the Feast of Our Lady of Victory" for the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory in the Diocese of Buffalo on September 12, 2023.

- Presentation entitled "Faithful to Creed and Constitution: American Catholicism in the Early 20th Century" at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore as part of the *Cathedral Colloquium* series on November 6, 2023.

- Zoom presentation on Buffalo Church History for Family of Parishes #21 held at Blessed Trinity Church in Buffalo, NY on January 22, 2024.

- Participated in a podcast on "Understanding the Spanish Inquisition," on May 1, 2024 for the *Faith at the Frontiers* program.

- Presentation on "Understanding Catholicism," to the staff at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center on June 4, 2024.

- Presentation on the Venerable Fr. Nelson Baker to Blessed Trinity Church in Buffalo, New York on January 13, 2025 via Zoom

- Presentation titled "Beating Swords into Scalpels: The Transformation of the Knights of Malta" to the Baltimore region of the Order of Malta on March 10 2025 at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen in Baltimore, MD.

- Presentations on "The History of Papal Elections" at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen in Baltimore, MD on May 5, 2025 and via Zoom at Blessed Trinity Church in Buffalo, NY on May 7, 2025.

Papers Given at Academic Conferences

- "The Changing Role of American Lay Catholics," presented to the Aquinas Academy at St. Mary's College on December 10, 1990.

- "Socio-Economic Causes for the Priest Shortage in the United States: 1942-1962," Midwestern meeting of the American Academy of Religion at Western Michigan University, 1993.

- "The Maltese Revolt of 1798-1800 and the Counter-Revolution," presented to the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies at Marquette University, 1993.

- "The Role of Church History in Theological Education," presented at the Conference on Theological Education in the Catholic Tradition at Marquette University on August 7, 1995.

- "The Priest's Revolt of 1775: The Maltese Clergy and the Knights of St. John," Great Lakes Historical Conference at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1995.

- "Malta and the Treaty of Amiens," presented at the Great Lakes Historical Conference at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 2, 1998.

- "The Maltese Community of Detroit," presented at the Conference on Michigan Local

History at Wayne State University in Detroit on April 8, 2000.

- "The Origin of the Maltese Falcon: Charles V and the 1530 Act of Donation," presented at the New York Association of European Historians at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY in 2000.

- "Immigration and the Temperance Movement in Detroit," presented at the Great Lakes Historical Association at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI in 2000.

- "The Enduring Legacy of Maria Monk," presented at the American Historical Association Conference in San Francisco, California on January 6, 2002.

- "The Santa Marija Convoy: Faith and Endurance in War-Time Malta," American Catholic Historical Association Spring Conference at Marquette University, Milwaukee in 2007.

- "Lion of God: John Timon, C.M., The First Bishop of Buffalo," DeAndreis-Rosati Lecture, sponsored by the Office of Mission and Values at DePaul University, Chicago in 2007.

- "Across the Battle Lines: The Vatican and Malta, 1940-43," at joint meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association/Canadian Catholic Historical Association in Toronto in 2011.

- Chaired panel on "Recent 18th and 19th Century Research," at joint meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association/Canadian Catholic Historical Association in Toronto in 2011.

- "Vatican II at Fifty: Historical Background," Vatican II Symposium at Christ the King Seminary on October 23, 2012.

- Chaired a panel and offered comments on Catholicism in Western New York at the Spring meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association Stonehill College in 2013.

- " '…there are others we should dislike more.': The Vatican-British conflict over Maltese episcopal appointments, 1936-1943, presented at the American Catholic Historical Association conference in Washington, D.C. on January 2, 2014.

- "The Very Last Crusade: The Knights of Malta and the Greek War of Independence," at the American Catholic Historical Association Conference in New York City on January 4, 2015.

- January 7, 2016 presented academic paper titled "To assist "their little brothers and sisters of the Belgian nation": The American Catholic Response to Benedict XV's Appeal for Belgian Children" at the American Catholic Historical Association in Atlanta, Georgia.

- January 10, 2016 chaired panel titled "Transatlantic Catholicism in the Nineteenth Century" at the American Catholic Historical Association in Atlanta, Georgia.

- July 6, 2016 presentation on "The Catholic Church in the Modern World" for the *Be the Light Youth Theology Institute* at Canisius College.

- January 5-8, 2017 at the joint meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association/American Historical Association. Organized and chaired the panel entitled "Before Buffalo: John Timon's Early Ministry."

- Organized the Legacy of Bishop Timon Conference held at Christ the King Seminary on September 22, 2017.

- September 22, 2017 presentation on "Buffalo's first Catholic Bishop" at the Legacy of Bishop Timon Conference held at Christ the King Seminary.

- January 5, 2018 presented "Bishop Timon, Sisters of Charity Hospital, and the Cholera Epidemic of 1849" at the American Catholic Historical Association conference in Washington, D.C.

- April 23, 2022 presented "The Sisters of Charity & the 1832 Cholera Epidemic in Philadelphia," at the American Catholic Historical Association conference at the University of Scranton.

- January 7, 2023 presented "A Tale of Two Earthquakes: The Knights of Malta and Disaster Relief in 1789 and 1908" at the American Catholic Historical Association conference in Philadelphia.

- Organized panel on teaching Catholic history at the American Catholic Historical Conference meeting in New York on January 3, 2025. Presented a paper entitled "Teaching Catholic History in Pastoral Ministry programs."

Publications: Articles

- "Lay Ministry and the Vocation Crisis," *Review for Religious*, 44 (July 1985).

- "The Origin of the Priest Shortage: 1942-1962," *America*, 167 (October 24, 1992). Commented upon by Peter Steinfels in *The New York Times* on November 14, 1992.

- "The Maltese Cross," *The Priest*, 49 (June 1993). Reprinted in *Catholic Digest.*

- "Maltese Nationalism, the Knights of St. John, and the French Occupation of 1798-1800," *The Catholic Historical Review*, 79 (July 1993).

- "The Parousia and Discipleship," *The Priest*, 51 (December 1995).
- "The Pontificate of John Paul II," *The Priest*, 55 (October, 1999).
- "The Enduring Legacy of Maria Monk," *American Catholic Studies* 112 (Spring-Winter 2001).
- *American Decades: Primary Sources*, Gale Research (2003). Following chapters: Religion in the 1910s, Religion in the 1920s, Religion in the 1980s, and Religion in the 1990s.
- "The Jesuits," *Conspiracy Theories in American History: An Encyclopedia*, ABC-CLIO (2003).
- "Women of Malta and War," *Encyclopedia of Women and War*, ABC-CLIO (2005).
- Introduction to reprint of Gerald Forton's *A History of the Diocesan Labor College of Buffalo, New York, 1939-59*, Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, 2008.
- "Pope Benedict XVI to commemorate the shipwreck of St. Paul," *Western New York Catholic*, April 2010.
- "Foreign support for the American Mission," published October 22, 2013 in America (online edition).
- "A Broken World: Benedict XV and the First World War," America, (July 21, 2014).
- 8 articles for *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.
- "Remembering Buffalo's first Catholic bishop, John Timon," published April 16, 2017 in *The Buffalo News*.
- "Bishop Timon, Sisters of Charity Hospital, and the Cholera Epidemic of 1849," published in 2020 by *Vincentian Heritage.*
- "A Devotion Beyond Comprehension: The Catholic Church and the 1832 Cholera Epidemic in Baltimore," published by *U.S. Catholic Historian* in the Winter 2024 issue.
- "Catholic History in Seminary Formation," published in *Seminary Journal* (Spring 2025).

Publications: Books

A Catechist's Guide to the Early Church, published by Twenty-Third Publications, 2005.

The Maltese Cross: A Strategic History of Malta, published by Greenwood, 2006.

Edited *The Life and Times of John Timon: The First Bishop of Buffalo*, the work of the late Leonard Riforgiato. Published by the Edwin Mellen Press, 2006.

For the Spread of the Kingdom: A History of Christ the King Seminary, 1857-2007, published by Café Press, 2008.

The Santa Marija Convoy: Faith and Endurance in War-Time Malta, 1940-42, published by Lexington Books, 2012.

Papal Diplomacy from 1914 to 1989: The Seventy-Five Years War, published by Lexington Books, 2020.

Honors and Awards

Christ the King Seminary President-Rector's Medal, 2015.

2019 recipient of the Christ the King Catholic Seminary Alumni Award.

Doctor of Humane Letters conferred by Christ the King Seminary May 14, 2021.