

## Curriculum Vitae

Martin Laird, O.S.A., S.T.L., Ph.D.  
Professor of Early Christian Studies  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies  
Villanova University  
Villanova, PA 19085  
U.S.A.  
e: [martin.laird@villanova.edu](mailto:martin.laird@villanova.edu)

### Born

15 January 1959, Tulsa, OK, U.S.A

### *Educational History*

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1999    | Ph.D., University of London (supervisor Dr. Anthony Meredith, S.J., External Examiner, Dr. Rowan Williams).  |
| 1997-98 | Non-Degree Seeking Student, Oxford University (matriculation, 1997).   |
| 1994    | Diploma in Patristic Studies, Institutum Patristicum «Augustinianum», Rome. (required extra year of course work for promotion to doctoral research). |
| 1993    | S.T.L., Patristics, Institutum Patristicum «Augustinianum», Rome.<br>(S.T.L.= License in Sacred Theology)  |
| 1989    | M.Div., Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, U.S.A.  |
| 1986    | M.A., Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, Systematic Theology.  |
| 1981    | B.A., Villanova University.  |
| 1977    | High School Diploma, Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Tulsa, OK.  |

### *Language Study and Proficiency*

Reading and Speaking: Italian, German, French.  
Reading: Latin, Greek, Spanish.

## ***Employment History***

1998—present Villanova University, Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

2012—present Professor of Early Christian Studies

2005—2012 Associate Professor

1998—2005 Assistant Professor

1998. St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford, Trinity Term, Tutor in Theology.

1995-98. St Hugh's Charterhouse (Carthusian monastery), Parkminster, West Sussex, England.  
Lecturer in Patristics

1994. Istituto Vincenzo Pallotti, Rome, Visiting Lecturer in Early Church History.

1986-1988, 1989-1990 Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Tulsa, OK.  
Instructor: Latin and English

## ***Publications***

### **Books**

Martin Laird. *An Ocean of Light: Contemplation, Transformation and Liberation*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. (2 single blind peer review)

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Sunlit Absence: Silence, Awareness, and Contemplation*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. (2 single blind peer review)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Into the Silent Land*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.  
(2 single blind peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Gregory of Nyssa and the Grasp of Faith: Union, Knowledge, and Divine Presence*. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2004; soft cover edition 2007. (2 single blind peer reviewed.)

Book in progress. *Our Naked Fragility: Contemplation and the Gentle Life* (under discussion with Oxford University Press.

### **Edited Books.**

Martin Laird and Sheelah Treflé Hidden, editors. *The Practice of The Presence of God: Theology as a Way of Life*. London: Routledge, 2017.

### **Books I have translated into English.**

Clément, Olivier. *A Different Rome? An Orthodox Looks at the Papacy*. Translated by Martin Laird. Hyde Park, New York: New City Press, 2003 (from French).

Leloup, Jean Yves. *Being Still: A Forgotten Mystical Tradition*. Translated and Edited by Martin Laird. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2003 (from French).

### **My Books Translated into Other Languages.**

#### *Into the Silent Land*

French: *Voyage au Pays du Silence*. Trad., Alain Sainte-Marie. Éditions du Carmel, Toulouse, 2011.

Polish: *W Krainie Ciszy*. Tr. Przekład Tomasz Mucha. Kraków: Ksieza Jesuici, 2014.

Spanish: *En la Tierra Silenciosa*. Trad. Beatriz Canals. Madrid: PPC Editorial, 2017.

Slovenian: *V Tiho Deželo*. Trad. Marija Zlatnar Moe. Laud Logos: Ljubljana, 2016.

Swedish: *Resa Till Stillhetens Land*. GAudete förlag. 2018.

Italian: *Nella Terra del Silenzio*. Bescia: Edizioni Queriniana, 2021.

Korean: (forthcoming)

#### *A Sunlit Absence*

Hungarian: *Napsütötte Hiány. Fordította Sziegeti-Cseke Zsuzsa*. Magyarország: Sarutlan Kármelita Nővérek, 2015.

Polish: *Glebia Serca*. Tr. Dr. Jacke Prusak. Kraków: Ksieza Jesuici, 2016.

Spanish: *Una Ausencia Iluminada*. Trad. Beatriz Canals. Madrid: PPC Editorial, 2017.

French: *Absence Lumineuse*. Trad. Alain Sainte-Marie. Éditions du Carmel, Toulouse, 2018.

Swedish (forthcoming)

Korean (forthcoming)

#### *An Ocean of Light*

Spanish, *Un Océano de Luz*, Trad. Beatriz Canals. Madrid: PPC Editorial, 2020.

### **Articles and Chapters.**

Laird, Martin. "Western Christianity and Meditation: 400-1400" in *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*. Edited by Miguel Farias, et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021, 144-162.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Prayer" in *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Catholic Theology*. Edited by Lewis Ayres, et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019, 346-357.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Down by the Lover's Well: Gregory of Nyssa and Annie Dillard on Divinization." In *Mystical Doctrines of Deification: Case Studies in the Christian Tradition*. Edited by Rob Faesen and John Arblaster. London: Routledge, 2018, 35-45 (single blind reviewed).

\_\_\_\_\_. "Dew on the Locks of the Beloved: Faith and Knowledge in Gregory of Nyssa," in *Proceedings of the XIII International Colloquium on Gregory of Nyssa*. Leiden: Brill, 2018, 170-179 (single blind review).

\_\_\_\_\_. "Etching the Ineffable in Vowels: On the Return of Contemplation to Theology." (double blind review) in *The Practice of The Presence of God: Theology as a Way of Life*. Edited by Martin Laird and Sheelah Treflé Hidden. London: Routledge, 2017, 96-108.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Augustinian Tradition" in *The Bloomsbury Guide to Christian Spirituality*. Edited by Peter Tyler and Richard Woods, O.P. London: Bloomsbury, 2012, 57-67. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Gregory of Nyssa and Divinization: A Reconsideration." *Studia Patristica* 47 (2010): 39-47. (peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Logophasis" in *The Brill Dictionary of Gregory of Nyssa*. Edited by Giulio Maspero, et al. Leiden: Brill, 2010, pp. 254-256. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Darkness" in *The Brill Dictionary of Gregory of Nyssa*. Edited by Giulio Maspero, et al. Leiden: Brill, 2010, pp. 203-205. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Solitude: Being with God Alone, Together." in *Notes from a Monastery: The Sacred Way Every Day*. St. Meinrad, IN: Abbey Press, pp. 1-8. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Eckhart and Silence." *The Eckhart Society Newsletter*. June 2009: 6-8. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Continually Breathe Jesus Christ: Stillness and Watchfulness in the *Philokalia*." *Communio* 34 (2007): 243-263. (peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Fountain of His Lips: Gregory of Nyssa's *Homilies on the Song of Songs*." *Spiritus* 7 (2007): 40-57. (blind reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Under Solomon's Tutelage: The Education of Desire in the *Homilies on the Song of Songs*." *Modern Theology* 18 (2002): 507-525. (blind reviewed). Reprinted in *Re-Thinking Gregory of Nyssa*. Edited by Sarah Coakley. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2003, pp. 77-96.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The 'Open Country Whose Name is Prayer': Apophysis, Deconstruction, and Contemplative Practice." *Modern Theology* 21 (2005): 141-155. (blind peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. “'Whereof We Speak': Gregory of Nyssa, Jean-Luc Marion and the Current Apophatic Rage.” *Heythrop Journal* 42 (2001): 1-12. (blind peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. “‘By Faith Alone’”: A Technical Term in Gregory of Nyssa.” *Vigiliae Christianae* 54 (2000): 61-79. (editor reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. “Apophasis and Logophasis in Gregory of Nyssa.” *Studia Patristica* 37 (2001) peer reviewed).

\_\_\_\_\_. “Gregory of Nyssa and the Mysticism of Darkness: A Reconsideration.” *Journal of Religion* 79 (1999): 592-616 (blind peer reviewed).

\_\_\_\_\_. “Cassian's Conferences Nine and Ten: Some Observations Regarding Contemplation and Hermeneutics.” *Recherches de théologie ancienne et médiévale* 62 (1995): 145-156 (editor reviewed).

\_\_\_\_\_. “The Diaphanous Universe: Mysticism in the Thought of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.” *Studies in Spirituality* 4 (Neijmegan) (1994): 206-235 (peer reviewed)

\_\_\_\_\_. “Human Energy Becoming Cosmic Energy.” *The Teilhard Review* 21 (1986): 38-45.

### **Works in Progress:**

*Our Naked Frailties: Contemplation and the Gentle Life* (under discussion with Oxford University Press (this will be volume 4 in my contemplation series).

“The Mind’s Genuflection: Divine Darkness and Divine Teaching in Gregory of Nyssa.”

### **Public Addresses (a selection)**

I have been engaged in a great deal of public speaking over the decades throughout the US, UK, and The Republic of Ireland. *Far too many for me to remember and to list here.* I list some of the more recent or meaningful invitations to speak.

“Buddhism in Practice and Inter-monastic Dialogue,” International Society for Bhutanese Studies, Oxford University, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Other keynote speakers included, The Venerable Lopen Gembo Dorji; The Venerable Lam Lotay Singay; His Eminence Dralop Rinpoche Sangay Dorji.

Inmates of Folsom State Prison, (Contemplative Prison Fellowship), Folsom, CA., 2018.

“Festival of Faiths: Silence as Doorway to Compassion.” Louisville, KY, May, 14-19, 2013, Keynote Address. Other keynote speakers included His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Rabbi Arthur Green.

Inmates of San Quentin Prison (Contemplative Prison Fellowship), San Quentin, CA., 2014, 2016, 2017.

“Dew on the Locks of the Beloved: The *In Canticum Canticorum* on Faith and Knowledge.” A keynote address at XIII International Colloquium on Gregory of Nyssa, Rome, 17-20, September 2014.

“Down by the Lover’s Well: Gregory of Nyssa and Annie Dillard on Divinization.” A keynote address, Theosis/Divinization: Doctrines of Divinization East and West. January 29-31, 2015. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Other keynote speakers included His All Holiness Bartholomew I, Patriarch of Constantinople, Dr. Rowan Williams (104<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge University).

- (7) Public Lecture: “How to Become a Theologian: Gregory Nazianzen’s *Orations* 27 and 28. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 9 December 2015.

### **Fellowships Held**

Bruno Kessler Institute, Trent, Italy Summer Research Fellowship, 2008.

Yip Fellowship, Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Spring, 2015.

Visiting Fellowship, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Fall, 2015.

Visiting Academic, Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Winter/Spring 2020.

### **Professional Organizations**

North American Patristic Society, member.

Association Internationale d’ Études Patristiques, member

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, member.

The Eckhart Society, member.

Mystical Theology Network, member.