

DEEPAN A. RAJARATNAM, M.T.S.

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EDUCATION

May 2022 (Expected)	PhD, <i>Theological Studies</i> , Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
May 2016	M.T.S., Boston College <i>School of Theology and Ministry</i> , - Chestnut Hill, MA
May 2011	B.S. <i>Aerospace Engineering</i> , University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
	▪ Minors: Philosophy & Mechanical Engineering
Languages	French (in progress), German, Greek, Latin

CERTIFICATIONS

In Progress	<i>Ignatian Pedagogy Fellow</i> , Ignatian Pedagogy Academy (Saint Louis University)
	▪ A multi-year process that develops teaching practices and approaches particular to the long tradition of Jesuit education.
In Progress	<i>University Teaching Certificate</i> , Reinhart Center (Saint Louis University)
	▪ Certification which promotes transformative teaching through the completion of education coursework, the development of a teaching philosophy, and the cultivation of teaching competencies.
Mar 2014	<i>Candidate for National Youth Ministry Certification</i> , National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders
	▪ National process that recognizes an individual's human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral competencies as they pertain to youth ministry
Dec 2013	<i>Certified Catechist</i> , Catechetical Formation Program, Diocese of Nashville, TN
	▪ Three-year diocesan formation and certification program facilitated by Aquinas College involving workshops, lectures, and reflections on creed, morality, prayer, sacraments, and teaching methods
May 2011	<i>Virtus Certified: Protecting God's Children</i> , Diocese of Knoxville, TN
	▪ National program which forms participants through monthly training modules to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods offenders use to abuse, and critical steps to prevent child sexual abuse

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Nov 2019	<i>The Spirit Has Called Me, the Church Should Install Me: The Theologian as an Ecclesially Repositioned Public Intellectual</i> , American Academy of Religion (San Diego, CA)
May 2019	<i>Liberating the Spirit: The Sensus Fidelium as a Phenomena Oriented toward Black Liberation</i> , College Theology Society (South Bend, IN)
March 2019	<i>Liberating the Spirit for Mission: An Understanding of the Sense of Faith through Black Liberation Theology</i> , Midwest American Academy of Religion (Muncie, IN)
March 2019	<i>"Is it Racism or the Spirit? An Application of James Cones' Missional Theology to the Catholic Concept of the Sensus Fidelium,"</i> Minority Scholars of Religion and Theology Student Conference (St. Louis, MO), March 2019
April 2018	<i>"The Theological Vocation in Light of Vatican II: The Theologian as Ecclesial Minister,"</i> Saint Louis University Graduate Student Research Symposium, (St. Louis, MO)
March 2018	<i>"Pope Francis' Vision of A Poor Church for the Poor: An Unpredictable, Open-Ended, and Spirit-Driven Process,"</i> American Academy of Religion Midwest (Muncie, IN)
March 2018	<i>"The Ecclesial Character of Dissent,"</i> Minority Scholars of Religion and Theology Student Conference (St. Louis, MO)

- Feb 2018 “*Taking on the Smell of the Sheep: An Ecstatic Congruence between the Bishop’s Sensus Fidei & his Local Church’s Sensus Fidelium*,” Lumen et Vita, Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)
- Jan 2017 “*Particular & General Judgement: A Singular Event United through the Metaphor of Sleep*,” Lumen et Vita, Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Sept 2017 – May 2018 “*Young Catholic Scholars*,” Catholic Student Center (Washington University)
Round table discussion series with future professionals (undergraduate and graduate students) which explores the intersection of theology, the humanities, and the sciences.
- Jan 2018 “*Deep Theology: Faith, Reason, Tradition*,” Theology on Tap (Archdiocese of St. Louis)
This talk explored the compatibility of faith and reason by comparing three similarities in the scientific process and the development of doctrine.
- March 2017 “*The Call to Holiness*,” Summit (Diocese of Nashville, TN)
This talk explored the universal call to holiness in both its personal and communal dimensions by relating personal holiness with the pursuit of social justice.
- Feb 2017 “*Racism & Christian Responsibility*,” Belmont University (Nashville, TN):
As a panelist with other Nashville faith-leaders, I discussed experiences of racism in the United States and examined the responsibility of Christians and churches to address racism in their own congregations and society at large.
- Oct 2016 “*I Believe in the Catholic Church*,” Theology on Tap (Murfreesboro, TN):
In communion ecclesiology, the ecclesial community is understood as the primary locus of the Spirit’s work and encounter with the Trinitarian GOD through ordered ecclesial relationships and sacraments. Through this lens, this talk explored the relationship between the person of faith and the faith community in relationship to doctrine and ecclesial praxis.
- Jul 2016 “*A Community of Missionary Disciples*,” Theology on Tap (Franklin, TN):
This talk explored the centrality of mission to all ecclesial activity and as a universal call to all disciples intimately related to our call to holiness.
- Feb 2014 “*Beatitudes: Interpretation and Application*,” St. Philip Catholic Church (Franklin, TN):
This talk examined the differences between the beatitudes as presented by both Matthew and Luke as a means to interpret their meaning and apply their principles.
- Jul 2013 “*Youth Ministry Today: Crisis & Opportunity*,” Serra Club (Williamson County, TN):
This talk not only examined the staggering attrition and challenges of youth ministry in the U.S. today (such as identifying as ‘spiritual but not religious’), but also included examples of innovative ministry praxis and strategy which were able to effectively engage youth and families in the current situation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES

- Spring 2019 (Mini-Term) *Ecclesiology*, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Summer 2018 *The Theology of Pope Francis: Teachings on Mission, Mercy, and the Marginalized*, Discipulus Course, Office of Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of St. Louis

LECTURES

- Spring 2018 Lectured on *Sensus Fidei* and Conscience, Saint Louis University
- Spring 2018 Lectured on Scripture and Catholic Dogma, Saint Louis University

WORK EXPERIENCE

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Aug 2018 – May 2019 *Digital Presence Development*, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University

- Deployed Hi-Def video & wireless technologies to record DTS Guest Speakers
 - Develop content for DTS podcast “Crafting Theology”
 - Developed social media strategies to publicize DTS speakers, podcasts, & events
 - Revise DTS website with new and up-to-date content
- Aug 2018 – May 2019
 July 2017 – May 2018
 July 2017 – May 2018
- Research Assistant*, Dr. Randy Rosenberg, Saint Louis University
Research Assistant, Dr. Elizabeth Block, Saint Louis University
Research Assistant, Dr. David Meconi, Saint Louis University

CAMPUS MINISTRY

- Aug 2014 – May 2016
- Graduate Ministry Corps*, Office of Campus Ministry, Boston College
- Reimagined and executed Boston College’s primary spiritual retreat for first-year students.
 - Acclimated students to Boston College’s Jesuit identity by facilitating engagement and integration of Ignatian spirituality into students’ lives
 - Collaborated with fellow corps members and Residential Life staff to cultivate faith, identity, and community in the first-year campus of Boston College
 - Cultivated meaningful relationships with students while serving as a role model and conversation partner
 - Conceptualized new ministry model and initiatives to engage first-year students

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Oct 2011 – Aug 2014
- Youth Ministry Activities Coordinator*, St Philip Catholic Church, Franklin, TN
- Served 6th-12th grade students and their parents by facilitating the formation of young Catholics who have a firm understanding of the Church’s teachings, actively participate in the Sacraments, and contribute to the Catholic faith community at large
 - Modernized communication by using weekly emails and social media platforms such as Facebook (for parents) and Instagram (for students)
 - Supervised part-time interns and several volunteer teams
 - Created a robust retreat schedule, including 2 annual high school retreats, an annual confirmation retreat, and a youth conference with 500+retreatants and 200 volunteers, through a combination of parish and diocesan initiatives
 - Developed Sacrament-focused retreats, activities, and programs by incorporating Reconciliation into weekly youth nights, and offering monthly adoration for teens
 - Crafted a peer ministry program which enabled 10th–12th to engage in relational ministry, share testimony, and facilitate small group discussion
 - Doubled the number of weekly participants from 75 to 150
 - Launched an overseas youth mission trip program for upperclassmen which included formation in Catholic social teaching and local cultural familiarity

ACADEMIC SERVICE & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Aug 2018 – Present
 May 2019 – Present
 May 2018 – April 2019
 May 2018 – April 2019
 May 2018 – April 2019
- Section Chair*, Undergraduate Papers, Midwest American Academy of Religion
Co-Chair, Theology Student Action Committee
Theology Representative, Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University
Social Committee, Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University
GSA Representative, Theology Student Action Committee

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Jan 2017 – Present
 Jan 2017 – Present
 Apr 2017 – Present
 Nov 2012 – Present
- Member*, American Academy of Religion
Graduate Student Member, The College Theology Society
Member, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership
Member, National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders

HONORS

Aug 2019 – May 2020	<i>Religion & Public Life Fellowship</i> , Lived Religion in the Digital Age (Saint Louis University)
Mar 2019	<i>Alpha Epsilon Lamda</i> , The National Honor Society of Graduate and Professional School Students (Saint Louis University)
Feb 2018	<i>Alpha Sigma Nu</i> , National Jesuit Honors Society (Saint Louis University)