

## MARIA GWYN McDOWELL

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### EDUCATION

- PhD      Theological Ethics, 2010  
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
Dissertation: *The Joy of Embodied Virtue: Toward the Ordination of Women to the Eastern Orthodox Priesthood*  
Director:      Dr. Francine Cardman, Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry  
Readers:      Dr. Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College  
                 Dr. Aristotle Papanikolau, Fordham University  
                 Dr. John Behr, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- MDiv      Theology, 1999  
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California
- BA      Religion, 1994  
Pitzer College, Claremont, California

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- University Fellowship, Boston College, 2002-2005  
James F. and Barbara Beré Merit Scholarship, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996-1999  
Lowell W. Berry Fellowship, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1995  
Katie Lawson Memorial Award, Pitzer College, 1993

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant, Boston College  
*Ethics, Religion, and International Politics*, 2005; Dr. David Hollenbach, S.J., instructor  
*The Religious Quest: Comparative Perspectives I and II (Judaism and Christianity)*, 2004-2005; Dr. Ruth Langer, instructor  
Teaching Assistant, Fuller Theological Seminary  
*Homiletics*, 1998-1999; Dr. Marguerite Shuster, instructor

### TEACHING AREAS

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| <u>Primary Areas:</u> Theological Ethics | <u>Secondary Areas:</u> Systematic Theology |
| Catholic Social Teaching                 | Theological Anthropology                    |
| Eastern Orthodox Ethics                  | Liberation Theologies                       |
| Feminist Ethics                          | Sacramental Theology                        |
| Gender Theory                            | Christian Spirituality                      |
| Political Philosophy                     |   |

## PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

“Persuasion or Compulsion: Eastern Orthodoxy and Religious Freedom.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2011.

“Virtuous Icons: Unique Persons or Gender Stereotypes?” Conference: “Women and Church, East and West.” The Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Loyola Marymount College, Los Angeles, CA March 5-6, 2010. Short description and complete video available here: <http://deiprofundis.org/node/87>.

“Orthodox Human Rights?” Panel presentation: ‘American’ Orthodox Ethics in Western Public Life: Human Rights, Reconciliation, and War.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2009.

“Embodied Virtue: Male and Female Priests,” Conference: Women in Orthodoxy: Past Roles -- Future Paradigms, The Sophia Institute, Union Seminary, New York City, NY December 2008, 158-167.

“Gender and Priesthood in Gregory of Nazianzus,” Orthodox Theological Society in America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, June 2008.

“Seeing is Becoming: ‘Icon’ and Ethics,” Annual American Academy of Religion Meeting, Eastern Orthodox Studies Section, San Diego, CA, November 2007

“Christian Interpretations of Exodus 3: The Burning Bush,” Guest Lecturer for *Religious Quest*, Boston College, 2006. Assignment and images available online at: [http://mariagwyn.com/lectures/burning\\_bush/bb-00.htm](http://mariagwyn.com/lectures/burning_bush/bb-00.htm)

“Tradition, Change, and the Life of the Faithful in Fr. Dumitru Staniloae,” Annual American Academy of Religion Meeting, Eastern Orthodox Studies Section, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005

“Justice as Asceticism,” St. Mary Orthodox Church Lenten Lecture Series, Cambridge, MA, March, 2004. Available online at: <http://www.antiochian.org/justice-asceticism>, PDF: <http://www.antiochian.org/assets/asset.php?type=assetLink&id=2429>

“Ambiguity and Mystery: The ‘More’ of God,” St. Mary Orthodox Church Lenten Lecture Series, Cambridge, MA, March, 2003. Available online at: <http://mariagwyn.com/home/lectures/ambiguity-mystery>

## PUBLICATIONS

Standard articles: “Sexual Ethics,” “Deaconess,” “Communion of the Saints”; Notations: “Virgins,” “Widows,” “Mystery,” “Nicholas the Wonderworker”; Short notices: “Archdeacon,” “Protodeacon,” “Elder,” “Catechumen,” “Iconostasis,” “Pantocrator Icon,” “Pentecost,” “Metanie,” in *The Encyclopedia of Eastern Orthodox Christianity*, John McGuckin, ed. Wiley-Blackwell, February, 2011.

“Virtuous Icons: Priests as Unique Persons or Gendered Stereotypes?” in *Women and Church, East and West*, Huffington Ecumenical Institute, LMU, Forthcoming, 2010.

“Embodied Virtue: Male and Female Priests,” in *Women in the Eastern Christian Tradition*. Papers of the Sophia Institute (Academic Conference, New York, December 2, 2008), ed. J. Lasser, Ann Arbor: Edward Brothers, 2009, pp. 158-167.

*Variations on a Theme by Mary Shelley*. Co-authored with Mark O'Connor, Director of the Honors Program, Boston College, 2007. Description available online at:

[http://idesweb.bc.edu/ides/website/projects/shelley\\_project](http://idesweb.bc.edu/ides/website/projects/shelley_project)

“The Newness of the Spirit: the Ordination of Men and Women,” *The Word: a publication of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese*, May 2004, pp. 9-11. (Not peer reviewed). Available online at:

<http://www.stnina.org/journal/onl/feat/mgm-newness>

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

My primary interest is in developing an Orthodox theological ethic that addresses modern issues in contemporary theological language and concepts. I am particularly interested in the possible intersections of gender theory, liberation theologies and Orthodox spirituality and sacramental theology in the formation of theories of justice, human rights and the common good.

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING/RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

*Instructional Design Resident*, a Davis Grant-funded position, co-administered by Instructional Design and eTeaching Services and the Honors Program, Boston College, Jan. 2006-May 2007

*Graduate Web Assistant*, Instructional Design and eTeaching Services, Boston College, Sep. 2004-Dec. 2005

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish, intermediate reading and speaking skills

French, intermediate reading and basic speaking skills

German, basic reading skills

Biblical Greek, basic reading skills

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society of Christian Ethics

Orthodox Theological Society of America

American Academy of Religion

## **SELECTED SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE**

Secretary, Orthodox Theological Society in America, 2009-present

Editorial Board, *The St. Nina Quarterly*, 2007-present