JOHN PETER KENNEY

Professor of Religious Studies

Saint Michael's College Colchester, Vermont 05439

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Degrees:

1974 A.B. Bowdoin College: Classics and Philosophy
summa cum laude, Highest Honors in Philosophy

1982 Ph.D. Brown University: Religious Studies
Western Religious Thought Program

Teaching Appointments:

1976-78 Teaching Assistant, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University
1980-81 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, Reed College
1981-86 Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities, Reed College
1986-92 Associate Professor of Religion and Humanities, Reed College
1992-95 Professor of Religion and Humanities, Reed College
1995- Professor of Religious Studies, Saint Michael's College

Administrative Appointments:

1982- 86 Chair, Department of Religion, Reed College
1988- 92 Chair, Department of Religion, Reed College (second term)
1983- 84 Chair, Division of Philosophy, Religion and Psychology, Reed College
1995- 05 Dean of the College, Saint Michael's College

Academic Honors and Fellowships:

1973 Phi Beta Kappa
1973-74 Surdna Foundation Fellowship in Classics
1974-75 Charles Carroll Everett Graduate Fellowship
1975-76 University Fellowship, Brown University
1981 Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship
1982 ARCO Foundation Research Fellowship
1984-85 National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship:
"The Foundations of Neoplatonic Theology"
1984-85 Visiting Scholar, Harvard Divinity School
1988-89 Vollum Senior Faculty Research Fellowship, Reed College
1990 Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award
1991-92 National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship:
"The Theistic Epistemology of St. Augustine."

2008 Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award, Saint Michael's College

Research Interests: Philosophy of Religion, Early Christian Studies

Publications:

Books:

Mystical Monotheism
A Study In Ancient Platonic Theology
Brown University Press/University Press of New England.
Hanover and London, 1991(paperback edition, 2002).

The Mysticism of Saint Augustine: Rereading the Confessions
Routledge. New York and London, 2005 (hardback/paperback).

Book- Edited:

The School of Moses: Studies in Philo and Hellenistic Religion
Scholars Press: *Studia Philonica* Monographs, Vol. I. Atlanta, 1995.

Books –Under Contract/Forthcoming:

Mystical Monotheism – revised second edition. Crossroad/Herder&Herder

One God: How Classical Theism Emerged. Crossroad/Herder&Herder

Contemplation and Classical Christianity: A Study in Augustine. Oxford U. Pr./UK

Articles/Chapters:

"Monotheistic and Polytheistic Elements in Classical Mediterranean Spirituality," *Classical Mediterranean Spirituality*, ed. by A. H. Armstrong, (New York: Crosssroad Press, 1986).

"Divinity and the Intelligible World in Clement of Alexandria," *Studia Patristica*, XXI, (Leuven: Peeters Press, 1989).

"Theism and Divine Production in Ancient Realist Theology" *God and Creation: An Ecumenical Symposium*, ed. by David Burrell and Bernard McGinn (South Bend, Notre Dame University Press, 1990).

"The Platonism of the Tripartite Tractate," *Neoplatonism and Gnosticism*, ed. by R. T. Wallis and Jay Bregman (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992).

"Proschresis Revisited: An Essay in Numenian Theology," *Origeniana Quinta*, ed. by R. J. Daly (Leuven: Peeters Press, 1992).

"The Critical Value of Negative Theology," *Harvard Theological Review*, 86.4. October, 1993.

"The Presence of Truth in the Confessions," *Studia Patristica*, XXVII (Leuven: Peeters Press, 1993).

"Mysticism and Contemplation in the Enneads," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (Vol. LXXI, No. 3, 1997).

"St. Augustine and the Invention of Mysticism," *Studia Patristica*, XXXIII (Leuven: Peeters Press, 1997).

"The Greek Tradition in Early Christian Philosophy:" in *The Columbia History of Western Philosophy*, ed. by Richard Popkin (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999).

"Ancient Apophatic Theology," in *Gnosticism and Later Platonism: Themes, Figures, Texts*, edited by Ruth Majercik and John D. Turner (Atlanta : Society of Biblical Literature, 2000).

"St. Augustine and the Limits of Contemplation," *Studia Patristica*, XXXVIII (Leuven: Peeters Press, 2001).

"Augustine's Inner Self," *Augustinian Studies*, 32.1, January, 2002.

"Transcendentalism in the *Confessions*," *Studia Patristica*, XLIII (Leuven: Peeters Press, 2006).

"Commentary on Stern-Gillet" ("Consciousness and Introspection in Plotinus and Augustine"), *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, Vol. XXII, 2006.

"Confession and the Contemplative Self in Augustine's Early Works," *Augustinian Studies* 38:1, 2007

"Augustine: Mystic and Monk," *Blackwell Companion to Augustine*, ed. by Mark Vesey (forthcoming).

"Pagan Monotheism and Augustine's Early Works," *Studia Patristica* (forthcoming).

"The *Contradictores* of *Confessions* XII," in *Augustine and Philosophy*, ed. by Phillip Cary and Kim Paffenroth (Lexington Books, forthcoming).

Articles in Translation:

"La presencia de la verdad in las *Confesiones," Augustinus: San Agustín en Oxford* (4.°), XL, No. 156-159 (Madrid: 1995).

"San Agustín y el descubrimiento del misticismo," *Augustinus: San Agustín en Oxford* (5.°), XLIV, No. 172-175 (Madrid: 1999).

"San Agustín y los límites de la contemplacíon," *Augustinus: San Agustín en Oxford* (6.°), XLVIII, No. 188-191 (Madrid: 2003).

"Trascendentalismo en las *Confesiones*," *Augustinus: San Agustín en Oxford* (7.°), LII, No. 204-207 (Madrid: 2007).

Encyclopedia Articles:

"Marius Victorinus" in Routledge *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1998).

"Tertullian" in Routledge *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1998).

"Patristic Philosophy" in Routledge *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1998).

Abbreviated versions of these articles in the *Concise Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1999).

Dissertation:

Plotinus and the Via Antiqua: A Study in Philosophical Theology UMI: Ann Arbor, 1982.

Reviews:

Pseudo-Plato, Axiochus, J. P. Hershbell, *Ancient Philosophy*, V, 1, Spring, 1985.

Neoplatonism and Christian Thought, ed. D. J. O'Meara, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, LIV, 1; Spring, 1986.

From Philo to Origen: Middle Platonism in Transition, Robert M. Berchman, *The Journal of Religion*, 66.4; October, 1986.

The Christ and the Bodhisattva, ed. by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. and Steven C. Rockefeller, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 113.3.

Women in World Religions, ed. by Arvind Sharma, J*ournal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol.113.3.

The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium, Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol.113, 3.

Plotinus: An Introduction to the Enneads, by Dominic J. O'Meara, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review/Bryn Mawr Medieval Review*, August, 1993.

The Emergence of Christian Theology, by Eric Osborn, *Journal of Religion*, 75.1, January, 1995.

The Origin of the Soul in St. Augustine's Later Works, by R. J. O'Connell, *Ancient Philosophy* XV, 2, Fall, 1995.

Augustine's Philosophy of Mind, by Gerard O'Daly, *Ancient Philosophy* XV, 2, Fall, 1995.

Augustine, by Christopher Kirwan, *Ancient Philosophy* XV, 2, Fall, 1995.

Origen and the Life of the Stars, by Alan Scott, *Ancient Philosophy* XV, 2, Fall, 1995.

Augustine: The Confessions, by Gillian Clark, *Ancient Philosophy* XV, 2, Fall, 1995.

Augustine and the Limits of Virtue, by James Wetzel, *Journal of Religion* 75.3, July, 1995.

Beauty and Revelation in the Thought of Saint Augustine, by Carol Harrison, *Journal of Religion* 75.3, July, 1995.

Desire and Delight: A New Reading of Augustine's Confessions, by Margaret R. Miles, *Journal of Religion* 75.3, July, 1995.

Philosophy in Christian Antiquity, by Christopher Stead, *Journal of Religion* 77. 3, April, 1997.

Moses The Egyptian: The Memory of Egypt in Western Monotheism, by Jan Assman, *American Historical Review*, June, 1999.

Reading Neoplatonism: Non-discursive thinking in the texts of Plotinus, Proclus, and Damascius, by Sara Rappe, *The Journal of Religion* (83.1, January, 2003).

The Cambridge Companion to Augustine, ed. by Eleanore Stump and Norman Kretzman, *Ancient Philosophy* XXIII, 1, Spring, 2003.

The Augustinian Tradition, ed. by Gareth Matthews, *Ancient Philosophy* XXIII, 1, Spring 2003.

Augustine And His Critics, ed. by Robert Dodaro and George Lawless, *Ancient Philosophy* XXIII, 1, Spring, 2003.

A Companion to the Confessions of St. Augustine, by John M. Quinn, O. S. A., *Augustinian Studies*, vol. 35, No. 1, 2004.

A Reader's Companion to Augustine's Confessions , ed. by K. Pattenroth and R. P. Kennedy, *Augustinian Studies*, vol. 35, No. 2, 2004.

Sacred Space in Early Medieval Neoplatonism, by L. Michael Harrington, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, vol.57, no.2, April, 2006.

Other Publications:

"Monotheism Revisited: How the God of the Philosophers has Returned to the Academy," *Reed Magazine*, February, 1993.

"A Question of Religion," *Dialogue*: The Catlin Gabel School Magazine, Fall, 1993.

"The Suicide State," *First Things*, 52, April, 1995.

"After Neoscholasticism," Review of *Contending With Modernity: Catholic Higher Education In the Twentieth Century*, by Philip Gleason, *First Things*, 67, November, 1996.

"The Secularized Christian Academy," Review of *The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of College and Universities from their Christian Churches*, by James Tunstead Burtchaell, *First Things*, 86, October, 1998.

"Mozart Without Music," Review of *Saint Augustine*, by Gary Wills, *First Things* 99, January, 2000.

"Identity", in *Celebrating a Century*, (WDG Publishing, Cedar Rapids, IA, 2003).

"Moving Away From Religion Towards Christianity," Interview with *Zenit* (on-line Vatican News Service), June 19, 2007. Republished in *Indian Catholic*, *Catholic Online*, *Katholiko* (Philippines).

Papers:

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March, 1981: "Classical Theism and Plotinian Neoplatonism."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Philosophy of Religion section, December, 1981: "Platonism and the Varieties of Realist Theology."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Philosophy of Religion section, December, 1982: "Mystical Monotheism."

Oxford University, Ninth International Patristics Conference, September, 1983: "Middle Platonism and Realist Theology."

American Academy of Religion; Society of Biblical Literature, Portland Area Seminar, October, 1983: "Philo and Middle Platonism."

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December, 1983: "The Divine Ideas in Middle Platonism."

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Sixth International Congress, "Neoplatonism and Gnosticism," University of Oklahoma, March, 1984: "The Platonism of the Tripartite Tractate."

Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, Boise State University, March, 1986: "Platonism in Late Antiquity: A Taxonomy for Medievalists."

American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Theology and Philosophy of Religion section, April, 1986: "Christian Platonism and the Via Antiqua."

The University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame, Symposium in Comparative Religious Thought ("God and Creation"), April, 1987: "Theism and Divine Production in Ancient Realist Theology."

Oxford University, Tenth International Patristics Conference, August, 1987: "Divinity and the Intelligible World in Clement of Alexandria."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, December, 1987: "The Contemplative Monotheism of Plotinus."

American Academy of Religion, Pacific Northwest Region, Theology and Philosophy of Religion section, April, 1988: "Two Types of Western Monotheism."

American Academy of Religion; Society of Biblical Literature, Portland Seminar, October, 1988: "Philo's Concept of Deity."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, November, 1988: "Hypostases in the Early Enneads."

Colloquium Origenianum Quintum, Boston College, August, 1989: "Prochresis Revisited: An Essay in Numenian Theology."

Northwest Conference in Philosophy, Lewis and Clark College, November, 1989: Response to 'Chaos in Plotinus' by George Seidel, O.S.B."

Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting 1989, Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section, Panel Discussion: "Gnosticism and Platonism."

Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting 1990, Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section, Response to " Plato's Timaeus and Gnostic Cosmology" by Einar Thomassen.

Oxford University, Eleventh International Patristics Conference, August, 1991: "The Presence of Truth in the Confessions."

American Academy of Religion; Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, 1991, joint session: Platonism and Neoplatonism Group and Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism section: "Distentio Animi: Body, Time, and the Contemplative Soul in the Confessions."

American Catholic Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting, May, 1992: "The Mysticism of Plotinus."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, November, 1992, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group: "A. H. Armstrong and the Critical Value of Negative Theology."

Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, November, 1993, Gnosticism and Later Platonism Seminar, Response to "The Derivation of Matter in Monistic Gnosticism" by Einar Thomassen.

International Society for the Classical Tradition, Third International Meeting, Boston University, March, 1995: "Anti-Platonism in Augustine's *Confessions*."

American Academy of Religion; Society of Biblical Literature, Pacific Northwest Region, History of Christianity Section, April, 1995: "Anti-Platonism in Augustine's *Confessions.*"

Oxford University, Twelfth International Patristics Conference, August, 1995: "St. Augustine and the Invention of Mysticism."

Harvard University, American Academy of Religion, New England, Maritime Regional Meeting, March, 1996: "Ancient Apophatic Theology: A Reconsideration."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, November, 1996, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group: "Platonism and Spiritual Purification in St. Augustine's *Confessions*."

Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, November, 1997, Gnosticism and Later Platonism Seminar, "Ancient Apophatic Theology."

Oxford University, Thirteenth International Patristics Conference, August, 1999, Master Theme Lecture: "St. Augustine and the Limits of Contemplation."

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, November, 1999, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group: "Apophanaticism."

North American Patristics Society, Annual Meeting, May, 2001: "Augustine and the Inner Self."

Oxford University, Fourteenth International Patristics Conference, August, 2003: "Transcendentalism in the *Confessions.*"

University of Exeter, Conference on Pagan Monotheism in the Roman Empire, August, 2006: “Plotinus and the Foundations of Pagan Monotheism.”

Oxford University, Fifteenth International Patristics Conference, August, 2007, Workshop Lecture: "Pagan Monotheism and Augustine’s Early Works.”

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, November, 2007, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group: “Pagan Monotheism and the Foundations of Christian Platonism.”

American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, November, 2008, Joint Session:Platonism and Neoplatonism Group and the Augustine and Augustinianism Section: Panel Discussion on *Inner Grace* (Oxford U. Pr. 2008) by Phillip Cary.

Franciscan University of Steubenville, Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: The Legacy of Neo-Platonism: “Platonism and the *Soliloquia* of Saint Augustine.”

Invited Lectures:

Bowdoin College, Departments of Philosophy and Religion, April, 1980: "Plotinus and Classical Theism: Some Reflections on the Development of Platonism."

Reed College Philosophy Colloquium Series, December, 1980: "The Demotion of the Demiurge."

Portland Medieval Studies Group, October, 1982: "The Platonisms of the Third Century."

Western Oregon State College, Department of Humanities, February, 1983: "Neoplatonism and Western Mystical Philosophy."

Western Oregon State College, Department of Humanities, November, 1983: "Alternative Concepts of God in Western Philosophical Theology."

Western Oregon State College, Department of Humanities, January, 1987: "Platonism and Contemporary Religious Thought."

Warren Wilson College (NC), Humanities Lecture Series, November, 1988: "Soul and the Divine in Ancient Platonism."

Reed College, Eliot Conference in Religion, "The Study of Mysticism," March, 1989: "Contemplation and the Mystical Monotheism of Plotinus."

Western Oregon State College, Department of Humanities, May, 1990; Seminar: "Contemporary Studies in Mysticism."

Reed College, Presidential Inaugural Lecture, March, 1993: "The Invention of Mysticism in Augustine's *Confessions*."

St. Vincent College and Seminary, Scholar in Residence, October, 1993: "Original Sins."

Whitman College (WA), Humanities Lecture, November, 1993: "The Invention of Mysticism in Augustine's *Confessions*."

Brown University, Wayland Collegium Lecture and Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar, March, 1994: "The Invention of Mysticism: Ancient and Modern Constructions."

University of Chicago, Divinity School, May, 1994: "The Mysticism of Plotinus: A Re-examination."

University of Tennessee, Department of Religious Studies, November, 2000: "The Emergence of Christian Mysticism."

Reed College, Eliot Memorial Lecture, February, 2003: "Ancient Transcendentalism: Platonic and Christian."

Washington Theological Union, Augustine Lecture, October, 2003: "The Mysticism of Saint Augustine."

The Catholic University of America: Center for the Study of Early Christianity Conference on Early Christian Studies and the Academic Disciplines, June 2005: "Rehellenization: Ancient Philosophy and Early Christian Studies."

Saint Anselm College: Philosophy Department Lecture and Faculty Seminar, October, 2005: "Contemplation in *Confessions VII-IX* ."

Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Boston College, March, 2006: Response to "Introspection: Plotinian and Augustinian" by Suzanne Stern-Gillet

Villanova University, Reconsiderations II Conference, September, 2006: "Confession and the Contemplative Self in Augustine's Early Works."

Administrative Activities:

Programs

Christian A. Johnson Foundation: Educational Leadership Program. Seminar for College and University Deans, August, 2000.

Project Director: AAHE New Pathways Post-Tenure Review Mini-Grant Program at Saint Michael's College, 2000-2001.

Colloquium Presenter: The Lexington Seminar: Educational Leadership Program, Apen Wye River Center, January 2006.

Lectures

Saint Michael's College, Convocation Address, October, 1999: "At the End of Modernity."

Saint Anselm College, *Delta Epsilon Sigma Address*, January, 2000: "The End of Modernity."

AAHE Faculty Roles and Reward Conference, Post-Tenure Review Assembly, February, 2001: "Redesigning Faculty Evaluation in Liberal Arts Institutions."

Saint Michael's College, Convocation Address, November 2001: "A Safeguard Against Wickedness."

Saint Michael's College, *Phi Beta Kappa* Address, *Gamma* of Vermont, April, 2005: "American Catholics and the Intellectual Life."

Lyceum Society of Vermont, "De titulis adfixis: Benedict XVI, Christian Humanism, and Popular Wisdom" August, 2008.

Other Academic Activities:

Co-founder/Chair: AAR Annual Meeting Group, "Platonism and Neoplatonism," 1983-87; 2009-

Steering Committee Member, SBL Annual Meeting Seminar: "Gnosticism and Later Platonism," 1992-1998.

Steering Committee Member, AAR Annual Meeting Section: "Augustine and Augustinianisms," 2000 -2003.

Steering Committee Member, SBL Annual Meeting Seminar: "Rethinking Plato's *Parmenides*." 2003-07

Fellowship Panelist (Religion): National Endowment for the Humanities, 1987, 1988, 1992, 2006.

Seminar Director: National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Seminar, Saint Anselm College, June, 2006.

Manuscript Referee: State University of New York Press; University Press of New England; Cambridge University Press, Routledge.

Article Referee: *Ancient Philosophy; Journal of Religion; Journal of the American Oriental Society; Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses.*

Phi Beta Kappa :

President*: Beta* of Oregon, 1987-88.

President: *Gamma* of Vermont, 2007-08.

Vice-President: *Gamma* of Vermont, 2006-07.

Chapter Delegate: National Triennial Councils, 1982, 1985, 2003, 2006.

Member, Senate Nominating Committee, New England District, 2005.

Chapter Historian: *Gamma* of Vermont, 2005-06.

Chair, Membership Committee, *Gamma* of Vermont, 2005-07.

Community Service:

Member: Board of Trustees Education Committee, Catlin Gabel School, Portland OR, 1987-1989.

Member: Principal Search Committee, Rice Memorial High School, South Burlington VT, 1997-98.

Chair: Superintendent of Schools Search Committee, Diocese of Burlington VT, 2009.

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion

- Platonism and Neoplatonism Group
- Augustine and Augustinianism(s) Seminar

North American Patristics Society

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies