

Johann Marie Vento
Professor, Religious Studies and Theology
Department of Religious Studies, Theology and Philosophy
Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ
ventoj@georgian.edu

Education

Fordham University , Bronx, New York	
Ph.D. in Theology	2000
Specialization in Systematic Theology	
Washington Theological Union , Washington, District of Columbia	
M.A. in Theology	1990
Specialization in Church History	
University of Maryland , College Park, Maryland	
B.A. in English and German, <i>cum laude</i>	1987

Awards

Virginia Graham Class of '31 Award for Teaching Excellence	2019
Faculty Summer Research Grant, Georgian Court University	2006
Faculty Fellowship, Georgian Court University	2004-2005
Faculty Summer Research Grant, Georgian Court College	2003
Faculty Summer Mini-Grant, Georgian Court College	2002
Presidential Scholarship, Fordham University	1991-1994
University Scholar, University of Maryland	1983-1987

Experience

Georgian Court University , Lakewood, NJ	2001-Present
Professor , Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy	2014-Present
Associate Professor , Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy	2008-2014
Assistant Professor , Department of Religious Studies	2001-2008
Chair , Department of Religious Studies	2003-2006
Chair , Department of Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy	2007-2013
Chair , Department of Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy	2017-Present
Assistant Dean , School of Arts and Sciences	2010-2011
Teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Religious Studies and in an interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program. Courses include: Women and Religion, Religion in America, Shaping Lives: Women and Gender, Christian Tradition, Comparative Monotheisms, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Method in Theology, Religious Education, and Family Violence; chaired a middle states self-study working group,	

served on faculty committees including curriculum committee, mission and planning, service learning, faculty development task forces, and faculty search committees.

As Chair: direct undergraduate major and graduate program in theology; conduct faculty classroom observations, yearly evaluations, and faculty searches; develop curricula, oversee department schedule, manage department budget, moderate the Theta Alpha Kappa honor society, sponsor university-wide speakers, panels, and film screenings. **As Assistant Dean:** worked collaboratively with the Dean on long-range planning, revision of faculty evaluation process, and development of plagiarism policy.

Elijah Inter-faith Institute, Jerusalem, Israel 2007-2012
Participated in the Institute Think Tank; facilitated interfaith dialogue among an international group of religious leaders at the bi-annual meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders.

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA 2000-2001
Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies

Newton Country Day School, Newton, MA 1999-2000
Faculty
Moderated sophomore class, member of sophomore team, taught sophomore and senior religion classes.

National Conference for Community and Justice, New York, NY
Program Director, Seminarians Interacting 1998-1999
Facilitator, Seminarians Interacting 1990-1998
Facilitated a structured dialogue among graduate students in theology from varied Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions at annual conference. **As Director:** Recruited and trained staff, conducted dialogue workshops, planned and facilitated the four-day conference for 100 participants.

Highbridge Community Life Center, Bronx, NY 1994-1997
Program Director
Directed ten programs that delivered direct social services to at-risk populations. Developed curriculum for CDC-funded HIV prevention education program. Supervised staff of twelve.

St. Joseph College, Patchogue, NY 1993-1994
Adjunct Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Fordham University, Bronx, NY 1993-1994
Lecturer, Department of Theology

Publications

Edited Volumes

Facing the World: Political Theology and Mercy. Edited by John K. Downey, Steven Ostovich, and Johann M. Vento. Paulist Press, January 2018.

Liturgy and Power. Edited by Brian P. Flanagan and Johann M. Vento. Orbis Press, 2017.

Essays

“Mercy, Power, and Women’s Agency: A Feminist Theological Reflection on Tarantism,” Conference for Mercy High Education D. C. Roundtable, 2021. Available at <https://mercyhighered.org/dc-roundtable/>. Accessed January 28, 2023.

“Bystander Mercy: Interrupting Sexual Violence,” in *Facing the World: Political Theology and Mercy*. Edited by John K. Downey, Steven Ostovich, and Johann M. Vento, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, January 2018.

“The Sacramentality of Inter-Religious Friendship,” in *Friendship Across Religions: Interfaith Perspectives*, ed. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015.

“Feminist Theology: Toward Human Flourishing,” in *Common Good, Uncommon Questions: A Primer in Moral Theology*, ed. Timothy Backhaus and William C. Graham, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2014.

“Teaching World Religions Without Teaching ‘World Religions,’” co-authored with Reid Locklin and Tracey Tiemeier, *Teaching Theology and Religion*, April 2012.

“Formation(s) of the Mystical-Political in the Age of Globalization: Suffering as Agentive Choice in Dorothee Soelle and Talal Asad,” in *Religion, Economics, and Culture in Conflict and Conversation* (Annual Volume of the College Theology Society), Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2011.

“Feminism and Inter-religious dialogue in the New Political Theology,” *Horizons*, 34 (Fall 2007).

“Not in Vain: Metz’s Memory of Suffering and the Problem of Violence Against Women,” *In Missing God: Cultural Amnesia and Political Theology*, ed. John K. Downey, Jürgen Manemann, and Steven Ostovich, Berlin, Germany: Lit Verlag, 2006.

“Forgiveness and Violence Against Women,” *Jnanadeepa: Pune Journal of Religious Studies* 6:1 (January 2003).

“Violence, Trauma, and Resistance: A Feminist Appraisal of Metz’s Mysticism of Suffering unto God,” *Horizons* 29 (Spring 2002).

“The Challenge of Feminism,” in *Sacred Adventure: Beginning Theological Study*, ed. William C. Graham, Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1999.

Book Reviews

Jesus and the Holocaust: Reflections on Suffering and Hope, by Joel Marcus. *Theological Studies*, Vol. 79(2), (June 2018): 468-469.

Invincible Spirits: A Thousand Years of Women’s Spiritual Writings, by Felicity Leng, *Catholic Books Review*. Available at <http://CatholicBooksReview.org>.

Christine de Pizan and Biblical Wisdom: A Feminist-Theological Point of View by Bonnie A. Birk. *Catholic Books Review*. Available at <http://CatholicBooksReview.org>.

Forgiveness and Abuse: Jewish and Christian Reflections, by Marie M. Fortune and Joretta L. Marshall, Editors. *Catholic Books Review*. Available at <http://CatholicBooksReview.org>.

Limits of Liberation: Feminist Theology and the Ethics of Poverty and Reproduction, by Elina Vuola . *Catholic Books Review*. Available at <http://CatholicBooksReview.org>.

Out of the Depths. Women's Experience of Evil and Salvation, by Ivone Gebara. *Catholic Books Review*. Available at <http://CatholicBooksReview.org>.

Jesus in Solidarity with his People: A Theologian Looks at Mark, by William Reiser. *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 37.2 (2002): 214-215.

Presentations

“Living Mercy in the ‘Culture of Indifference,” Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA, April 3, 2018.

“Mercy Spirituality,” Twelve lectures given at Mercy International Centre, Dublin, Ireland, June 19-23, 2017.

“Mercy Spirituality,” Five lectures given at the Pastoral Institute, St. Alphonsus Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ, July 11-13, 2016.

“From Practice to Praxis: Habitus, Formation, and Political Theology,” at “God’s Politics: The Persistence of the Theological-Political,” held at *Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie Hannover*, Hanover, Germany, May 15-18, 2014.

“Formation for Spiritual Midwifery,” at Symposium for Spiritual Midwifery, held at Capital Health Medical Center, Trenton, NJ, June 22, 2012.

“Violence Against Women and Formation for Solidarity: Practice Theory and Political Theology,” at “God’s Politics: The Persistence of the Theological-Political,” held at *Forschungsinstitut für Philosophie Hannover*, Hanover, Germany, May 17-20, 2012.

“Race and Diversity: Historical, Cultural, and Theological Roots,” at Georgian Court University Critical Concerns Week, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, November 2, 2011.

Respondent to “Simone Weil: Transforming Violence into Love,” by Matthew Halbach, at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Iona College, New Rochelle, NY, June 2011.

“Formations of the Mystical-Political: The Mysticism of Suffering as Agentive Choice in Dorothee Soelle and Talal Asad” presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, University of Portland, Portland, OR, June 2010.

Panel Convener, “An Inter-religious Dialogue about Women and Religion,” Women’s Awareness Week, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, November 2009.

“Teaching World Religions without Teaching World Religions: Women and Religion” presentation at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, June 2009.

“Thomas Merton as Political Theologian” presented at Scholarship Day, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, March 2009.

“Pain, Piety, and Practice; Lay Women’s Religious Interpretations of Trauma and Recovery” presentation at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Salve Regina University, Providence, RI, 2008, May 2008.

Respondent to “Islamic Women and Modern Society” by Winifred Whelan, at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Salve Regina University, Providence, RI, 2008, May 2008.

“The Future of Political Theology” Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH, June 2007.

“Anne Askew’s Use of Autobiography as a Hermeneutic of Creative Imagination for Liberation” presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Regis University, Denver, CO, June 2006.

“The Responsibility of Catholic Education in Women’s Human Rights, Locally and Globally,” Panel Discussion for Women’s Leadership Forum, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, April 27, 2006.

“Dorothy Day,” Women of Spirit Lecture Series, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, April 18, 2006.

“Violence Against Women: A Theological Perspective,” Faculty Research Discussion Group on Women and Gender, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ, March 14, 2006.

“The Bible and Catholic Social Justice Teaching,” Mount St. Mary’s Academy, Wachung, NJ, January 13, 2006.

“The State of Feminist Theology in India,” presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, June 2003.

“Suffering and Salvation: Toward a Feminist Political Theology of the Cross,” presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, St. John’s University, Queens, NY, June 2002.

“Aggression, Retribution, and Reconciliation: A Christian Perspective,” presentation made as part of a panel entitled Aggression, Retribution, and Reconciliation: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives, at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ, November 2001.

“A Feminist Appraisal of Metz’s Mysticism of Suffering unto God,” presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, University of Portland, Portland, OR, June 2001.

Research Interests

Practice theory, theology, and spiritual formation
Violence, trauma, and healing
Inter-religious dialogue
Political theology, feminist theologies, and popular religion

Service

Service to University Committees:

- Virginia Graham Award for Teaching Excellent Committee, 2020-Present
- Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, 2015-2018
- Disciplinary Standards Task Force, 2015-2016
- Executive Officers of the Faculty Assembly, Secretary, 2014-2015
- Mission and Planning Advisory Board, 2012-2013
- Graphic Arts Search Committee, Spring 2010
- Chair, Director of Dance Search Committee, Summer 2009
- Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee, 2007-2010
- Mission Integration Advisory Board, 2006-2008
- Mission Integration Board Committee, 2006-2008
- Service Learning Task Force, 2005-2006; 2003-2004
- Curriculum, Committee, 2002-2004
- New Student Orientation, 2003
- Faculty Concerns, Secretary, 2002-2003
- President's Resource and Allocation Advisory Board, 2002-2004
- Faculty Development Task Force, 2003-2004
- Mercy Core Values Task Force, 2001-2002
- Middle States Self Study Working Group: Administration, 2007-2008, Chair

Faculty Advisor, Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Ambassador Program, 2006-2007

Service to the Academy

President-Elect, College Theology Society, 2022-Present
Vice-President, College Theology Society, 2017-2019
External Reviewer, Department of Theology, St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ, July 2018
External Reviewer, Department of Theology, Marymount University, Arlington, VA, March 2016
Co-convener, College Theology Society Annual Convention, 2016
Co-convener, Mysticism and Politics Section, College Theology Society, 2011-2014
Co-convener, History of Christian Life and Thought Section, College Theology Society, 2008-2011
Co-convener, Women and Religion Section, College Theology Society, 2002-2006
Co-convener, Bi-annual symposium, New Jersey Consortium of Graduate Programs in Theology, 2004

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion, Catholic Theological Society of America, College Theology Society

