

Curriculum Vitae

Jennifer Erin Beste
Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture
Professor of Theological Ethics
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture, Professor of Theological Ethics, College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University, 2012-present

Associate Professor of Theological Ethics, Xavier University, 2008-2012

Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics, Xavier University, 2003-2008

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religious Ethics, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, 2003

M.Div., Theology and Ethics, *Summa Cum Laude*, Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, 1997

B.A., Biology, *Summa Cum Laude*, Christ College Honors Scholar, Valparaiso University, 1993

PUBLICATIONS

Books

College Hookup Culture and Christian Ethics: The Lives and Longings of Emerging Adults (Oxford University Press, 2018).

God and the Victim: Traumatic Intrusions on Grace and Freedom (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Articles and Book Chapters

"New Horizons for Justice in Theologies of Childhood and Children." *Theological Studies* 86, no. 1 (2025): 56-83.

"Toward a New Theology of Children: Flipping the Script on Adult-centric Narratives." *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (published online February 19, 2025).

"Accountability, Healing, and Trust: Developing a Just Response to Catholic Clergy Sexual Abuse," *Accountability, Healing and Trust: Interdisciplinary Reflections for Ministry in the Midst of the Catholic Sex Abuse Crisis*, Kim Belcher and David Clairmont (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2025).

"Critical Reflections on the Discourse of a Traumatized Church," *Gathered Together: Theology in a Post-Traumatic Church*. John Sheveland, ed. (Orbis, 2023).

"The Next Frontier: Developing a Child-Informed Theology of Children," Georgetown Collaborative Forum on the Theology of the Child, Children's Care and Protection. April 24, 2023.

“Envisioning a Just Response to the Catholic Clergy Abuse Crisis,” *Theological Studies* 82:1 (2021): 29-54.

“Justice for Children: New Directions for Responding to the Catholic Clergy Abuse Crisis,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (40: 2 (Fall/Winter 2021): 345-362.

“Hookups, Human Flourishing, and Happiness.” *Sex, Love, and Families: Catholic Perspectives*. Edited by Julie Hanlon Rubio and Jason King. Liturgical Press Academic: Collegeville, MN, 2020, 9-22.

“Integrating Christian Ethics with Ignatian Spirituality,” *Studies in Christian Ethics* 33, 1 (February 2020): 61-67.

“Jesus at a College Party,” *The Christian Century* 136:4 (February 13, 2019): 30-33.

“Poverty of Spirit within Party and Hookup Culture: Undergraduates’ Engagement with Johann Metz,” *Horizons* 44:1 (2017): 108-36.

“Longing for More: Examining College Hookup Culture,” *Concilium: International Journal of Theology*, Solange Lefebvre, Maria Clara Lucchetti Bingemer, Silvia Scatena, eds. Lodong: SCM Press, 2015.

“Courageously Confronting the Dark Reality of Child Porn,” *Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: a Holistic Approach*. La Verne Tolbert, ed. (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2014).

“Catholic Second Graders’ Spirituality in the Context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation,” *Children’s Spirituality: Theology, Research, and Practice*. Don Ratcliffe and Kevin Lawson, eds. (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2012).

“Children Speak: Catholic Second Graders’ Agency and Experiences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation,” *Sociology of Religion*. 72:3 (Autumn, 2011): 327-50.

“Empowering College Students to Integrate Ignatian Spirituality Within Their Sexual and Relational Lives.” *Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Connections E-Newsletter*. (February 2011).

“Catholic Children’s Experiences of Scripture and the Sacrament of Reconciliation through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.” *Children in Religion: A Methods Handbook*, Susan Ridgely Bales, ed. (New York: NYU Press, 2010).

“Catholic Second Graders’ Artistic Expression of Sin and Forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation,” *Practical Matters: Ethnography and Theology*. Issue 3 (Spring 2010).

“The Status of Children within the Roman Catholic Church,” *The Child in American Religions*, ed. Don Browning and Bonnie Miller-McLemore. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2009): 56-70.

“Mediating God’s Grace Within the Context of Trauma: Implications for a Christian Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse.” *Review & Expositor*. 105:2 (Spring 2008): 245-260.

“Promoting Authentic Hope.” *What’s the Point? Clinical Reflections on Care That Seems Futile*. David Smith, Charles McKhann, Christiana Peppard, Thomas Duffy, and Stanley Rosenbaum, eds. 9 Nov. 2007. Yale University, Center for Bioethics.

(co-authored with Margaret Farley), “Roman Catholic Perspectives on Medical Futility.” *What’s the Point? Clinical Reflections on Care That Seems Futile*. David Smith, Charles McKhann, Christiana Peppard, Thomas Duffy, and Stanley Rosenbaum, eds. 9 Nov. 2007. Yale University, Center for Bioethics. “Limits of the Appeal to Women’s Experience Reconsidered.” *Horizons*. 33:1 (Spring 2006): 54-77.

“The Limits of Poststructuralism for Feminist Theology.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. 22:1 (Spring 2006): 1-20.

“Recovery from Sexual Violence and Socially Mediated Dimensions of God’s Grace: Implications for Christian Communities.” *Studies in Christian Ethics*. 18:2 (2005): 89-112.

“Instilling Hope and Respecting Patient Autonomy: Reconciling Apparently Conflicting Duties.” *Bioethics*. 19:3 (2005): 215-231.

“Receiving and Responding to God’s Grace: A Re-Examination in Light of Trauma Theory.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*. 23:1 (Summer 2003): 1-19.

DVD/VIDEO

Ignatian Spirituality and Sexuality.” (The video is a pedagogical resource for educators exploring the intersection between Christian spirituality, sexuality, and healthy relationships.) Please see <http://www.xavier.edu/mission-identity/conway-institute/conway-faculty-fellow.cfm>. Fall 2010.

“Hooking Up?” (The purpose of this video is to educate college and high school students about the realities of hookup culture by having them listen solely to college students’ perspectives and experiences about hookup culture, the relationship between hookups and sexual violence and its effects, and ideas about how to create a sexually just college campus community.) Fall, 2011 (revised).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SCHOLARLY LECTURES

“Creating Child-Safe Cultures: Reframing Catholic Approaches to Children, Sexual Education, and Bystander Intervention,” Leuven University “Breaking Cultures of Silence” conference. Leuven: April, 2025.

“Toward a New Theology of Children: Flipping the Script on Adult-centric Narratives.” The Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago: January 2024.

“Twenty Years Since the Dallas Charter.” (co-presenter with Jason Berry, Nicole Winfield, and Terrence McKiernan) Georgetown University. Washington D.C.: November 2022

“Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse: Theological Reflections.” Catholic Theological Society of America. Atlanta: June 2022.

“Restoring Accountability, Healing, and Trust in Light of Clergy Sex Abuse: Identifying Necessary Reforms.” Opening Plenary for Accountability, Healing, and Trust: Conversations in Theology, Psychology, and Law Conference. Notre Dame University: March 2022.

“Siding with Priest-Perpetrators Over Sexual Abuse Victims: The Role of Catholics’ Lived Theology.” Gender, Sex, and Power: Towards a History of Clergy Sex Abuse in the U.S. Catholic Church Conference. Notre Dame University: March 2022.

“Re-envisioning Our Relationship with Children in Light of the Abuse Crisis.” Fordham University: September 27, 2021.

“Situating Justice for Children Within the Broader Context of Clergy Sexual Abuse.” Catholic Theological Society of America. June 2021.

“Envisioning a Just Response to the Catholic Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis.” Flannery Endowed Lecture, Gonzaga University: February 25, 2020.

“Justice for Children: New Directions for Responding to the Catholic Clergy Abuse Crisis.” Society of Christian Ethics. Washington D.C.: January 2020.

“The Missing Piece: Children’s Justice as the Focus for Responding to the Clergy Abuse Crisis.” American Academy of Religion. San Diego: November 2019.

“Christian Ethics: Teaching and Formation.” Plenary Speaker for Central Conference Panel, Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, London School of Theology: September 2019.

“Hookups, Happiness, and Justice: Challenges and Prospects.” Lawler Endowed Lecture, Creighton University: April 2, 2019.

“Fulfillment and Justice: A New Approach for Fostering Sexual Justice in Christian Communities.” Caldwell Endowed Lecture, Louisville Seminary: November 9, 2018.

“Deconstructing Masculinity.” Panel Presentation. Louisville Seminary, November 9, 2018.

“College Parties, Hookups, and Happiness: What College Students Really Think,” Sacred Heart University, February 24, 2018.

“Why Catholic Adolescents and Young Adults are Leaving the Church: A Response to *Going, Going, Gone*,” College Theology Society: St. Paul, MN, June 2018.

“Creating a Sexually Just Culture,” Marquette University, March 2018.

“Justice for Children in the Catholic Church: Reflections on Identity and Difference, Fragmentation and Unity,” Catholic Theological Society of America. San Diego, June 2014.

“Longing for More: A Christian Ethical Analysis of College Party Hookup Culture.” Society of Christian Ethics. Seattle, January 2014.

“Power Dynamics, Spirituality, and Justice for Children in the Catholic Church,” 13th International Conference on Children's Spirituality. Leuven, Belgium: July 2013.

“Courageously Confronting the Dark Reality of Child Pornography: How Christian Communities Can Mediate God’s Grace and Foster Holistic Recovery for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors,” Plenary Address, Society for Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives. Chicago, June 2012.

“Contemporary College Hookup Culture and Christian Theology.” Plenary Address, St. Louis University Annual Undergraduate Marriage, Family, and Dating Conference. St. Louis, April 2012.

“Does Hookup Culture Foster Happiness and Social Justice on College Campuses?” Marquette University Annual Mission Week. February 2012.

“Sexist Norms on Steroids: College Women’s Social and Sexual Reality,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

“The Challenge of Child-Centered Research for Catholic Ethics,” Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, Trent, Italy, July 2010.

“Children Speak: Second Graders’ Experiences of Sin, Forgiveness, and Moral Agency in the Sacrament of Reconciliation,” Society of Christian Ethics, San Jose, CA, January 2010.

“Catholic Children’s Spiritual Experiences within the Context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation,” Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Chicago, IL, June 2009.

“Catholic Second Graders’ Artistic Expression of Sin and Forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.” Emory University’s “Ethnography and Theology” Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 2009.

“Children’s Encounter with the Bible through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

“Assumptions of Children’s Religious and Moral Nature in the Catholic Tradition.” *The Child in American Religions Working Group* led by Don Browning and Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Atlanta, GA, March 2006.

“Conceptions of Children’s Moral Agency in Contemporary Catholicism.” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2004.

“False Hope and Authentic Hope: The Challenge for Care Providers.” Yale Bioethics Center Lecture, Yale University, April 2004.

“Overcoming Barriers to Palliative Care.” American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 2002.

“Receiving and Responding to God’s Grace: A Re-examination in Light of Trauma Theory.” Society of Christian Ethics, Vancouver, Canada, January 2002.

Medical Ethics Lectures, Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, CT. I served as a medical ethicist for Waterbury Hospital from June 2000 to September 2001. I was responsible for ethics consultation and periodic lectures in medical ethics to the Hospital Ethics Committee.

“Instilling Hope and Respecting Patient Autonomy,” Feminist International Association of Bioethics, London, September 2000.

“Therapeutic Privilege: Sinful Deception or Christian Compassion?” American Academy of Religion, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Working Member, “Collaborative of Global Children’s Issues,” Georgetown University, January 2023-present

Journal Referee, *Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* (January 2007-2017)

Reviewer, Rutgers University Press, 2017

Co-Founder of Fieldwork and Ethics Interest Group, Society of Christian Ethics (2008-2016)

Board Member, Society of Christian Ethics (2011-2014)

Board Member, Society for Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives (2010-2013)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CSBSJU Summer Collaborative Grant with an Undergraduate Researcher, 2022.

Research Scholar, University of Notre Dame Cushwa Center Working Group, “Gender, Sex, and Power: Towards a History of Clergy Sex Abuse in the U.S. Catholic Church.” University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana April 2020-April 2022

Research Fellow, Luce Research Fellows Colloquium three-year project on *Catholicism and the Common Good*, Henry Luce Foundation 2017-2020

CSBSJU Summer Collaborative Grant with an Undergraduate Researcher, 2019.

CSBSJU Summer Collaborative Grant with an Undergraduate Researcher, 2015.

Collegeville Institute Resident Scholar, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Fall 2012

Louisville Institute Sabbatical Fellowship, January-August 2012.

Xavier University Women of Excellence \$6,000 Grant, “Transforming Sexual Culture at Xavier University,” 2011-2012 academic year.

Xavier University Conway Pedagogical Sabbatical Fellowship, “Ignatian Spirituality and Sexuality” programming, Fall 2010

Xavier University Women of Excellence \$10,000 Grant, “Transforming Sexual Culture at Xavier University,” 2010-2011 academic year

Xavier University Jesuit Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship, “*Children Speak: A Child-Centered Approach to Christian Ethics*,” Spring 2010.

Xavier University Women of Excellence \$10,000 Grant, “Creating Relationships of Justice and Care,” 2009-2010 academic year.

Xavier University Dean’s Grant for Theology Faculty Summer Seminar, “The Social Reality of Sexual Violence and Hookup Culture on College Campuses,” 2008

Xavier Research Summer Fellowship 2008.

Xavier Research Sabbatical, Fall 2006.

Xavier Research Summer Fellowship 2004.

Robert M. Leylan Prize Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University, 2001-2002.

John Enders Grant, Yale University, Summer 1999.

John Perry Miller Research Fellowship, Yale University, Summer 1998.

Doctoral Fellowship, Yale University, 1997-2001.

The Carpenter Scholarship, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1994-1997.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Justice in Sexuality and Relationships (THEO 349J), College of Saint Benedict and St. John’s University

Catholic Moral Theology (THEO 390), College of Saint Benedict and St. John’s University

Christian Sexual Ethics (THEO 340), College of Saint Benedict and St. John’s University

Directed Study, M.A. Theology Program, Xavier University

Directed M.A. Theses and Comprehensive Exams, M.A. Theology Program, Xavier University

Theological Foundations (THEO 111), Xavier University
Methods in Ethics (THEO 303), Xavier University
Christian Sexual Ethics (THEO 313), Xavier University
Marriage and the Family (THEO 310), Xavier University