

CHRISTOPHER M. BELLITTO, Ph.D.

Office: Kean University
History Department: Willis 205
1000 Morris Avenue
Union NJ 07083
cbellitt@kean.edu

Academic Experience

Kean University, Union NJ

Assistant Professor of History 2004—present; tenured 2009
Assistant Chair, History Dept. 2007-2009

Paulist Press, Mahwah NJ

Academic Editor 2001-2004 on staff; 2004-present “at large”

St. Joseph's Seminary Institute of Religious Studies, Yonkers NY

Assistant Professor of Church History and Associate Dean: 1996-2001
(N.b. This was a non-tenure-track position.)

Adjunct Professor

Fordham University 2002-2004
College of Mount Saint Vincent 1998
St. Joseph's Seminary Institute of Religious Studies 1995-1996

Fordham University, Bronx NY

Teaching Fellow, History Department 1993-1995

Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx NY

English Teacher 1988-1990

Jesuit mission, Chuuk: Federated States of Micronesia

Reading Teacher Summer 1989

Books: Author

Wisdom of the Aged: Biblical Perspectives on Old Age (in progress)

101 Questions and Answers on Popes and the Papacy. Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2008

Church History 101: A Concise Overview. Liguori MO: Liguori Publications, 2008

Ten Ways the Church Has Changed. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2006

The General Councils: A History of the Twenty-One Church Councils from Nicaea to Vatican II. Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2002

Renewing Christianity: A History of Church Reform from Day One to Vatican II. Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2001

Nicolas de Clamanges: Spirituality, Personal Reform and Pastoral Renewal on the Eve of the Reformations. Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2001

Lost and Found Catholics: Voices of Vatican II. Cincinnati OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1999

What Every Catholic Should Know About the Millennium. Liguori MO: Liguori Publications, 1998

Co-author, with Karen P. Bellitto. *Instructor's Manual to Outlooks and Insights. A Reader for College Writers*, 4th ed., eds. Paul Eschholz and Alfred Rosa. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995

Books: Editor

Co-editor, with D. Zachariah Flanagan. *Reassessing Reform: An Historical Investigation into Church Renewal* (in progress; proposal under consideration with Catholic University of America Press)

Co-editor, with Thomas M. Izbicki and Gerald Christianson. *The Church, the Councils, and Reform: The Legacy of the Fifteenth Century*: Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2008

Co-editor, with Louis I. Hamilton. *Reforming the Church Before Modernity: Patterns, Problems, and Approaches.* Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing, 2005

Co-editor, with Gerald Christianson and Thomas M. Izbicki. *Introducing Nicholas of Cusa: A Guide to a Renaissance Man.* Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2004

Co-editor, with Thomas M. Izbicki. *Nicholas of Cusa and His Age: Intellect and Spirituality* (Studies in the History of Christian Thought, vol. 105). Leiden, The Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 2002

Co-editor, with Thomas M. Izbicki. *Reform and Renewal in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Studies in Honor of Louis Pascoe, SJ* (Studies in the History of Christian Thought, vol. 96). Leiden, The Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 2000

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Co-author, with Frank Argote-Freyre, "The Fall of Rome and U.S. Immigration: Historical Case Study or Political Football?" (under review at [History Compass](#))

"The Reform Context of the Great Western Schism: Successes, Failures, and Decisions Deferred," in *A Companion to the Great Western Schism (1378-1417)*, eds. Joëlle Rollo-Koster and Thomas M. Izbicki. Leiden, The Netherlands: E. J. Brill (forthcoming 2009)

Signed entries in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, ed. Daniel Patte. New York: Cambridge University Press (forthcoming 2010): Councils of Constantinople, Lateran Councils, Vatican Council I

Signed entries on www.patheos.com: "Roman Catholicism: Origins" and "Roman Catholicism: Historical Developments." (posted May 2009)

"*Per viam rationis...per legem vite: Pierre d'Ailly and the Last of the Fathers.*" *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 44 (2009): 65-76

“Councils and Reform: Challenging Misconceptions,” in *The Church, the Councils, and Reform: The Legacy of the Fifteenth Century*, eds. Thomas M. Izbicki, Gerald Christianson, and Christopher M. Bellitto, 291-312. Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2008

“A Christian Humanist’s Mirror to Princes: Nicolas de Clamanges and the Restoration of Justice During the French Civil War.” Revue d’histoire ecclésiastique 102 (2007): 100-123

“*Il conciliarismo*,” in *Il Cristianesimo Grande Atlante*, eds. Giuseppe Alberigo, Giuseppe Ruggieri, and Roberto Rusconi. Vol. 3, *Le Dottrine*, pp. 1092-1101. Turin: UTET, 2006

“Church History Today: Comforting the Afflicted and Afflicting the Comfortable,” in *The Church and Human Freedom: Forty Years After Gaudium et spes*, ed. Darlene Fozard Weaver, 1-20. Villanova PA: Villanova University Press, 2006.

“Ancient Precedents and Historical Case Studies: Recent Reform Scholarship.” Catholic Library World 75 (June 2005): 277-89

“Teaching the Church’s Mistakes: Historical Hermeneutics in *Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past*.” Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society 32 (2005): 123-35

“Revisiting Ancient Practices: Priestly Training Before Trent,” in *Medieval Education*, eds. Ronald B. Begley and Joseph W. Koterski, 35-49. New York: Fordham University Press, 2005

“Humanist Critiques of Scholastic Theology: Continuities in Medieval Educational Reform,” in *Truth as Gift: Studies in Honor of John R. Sommerfeldt*, eds. Marsha Dutton, Daniel M. LaCorte, and Paul Lockey, 483-501. Kalamazoo MI: Cistercian Publications, 2004

“Where Do We Go From Here? Six Lessons from the History of Church Reform.” Catholic Library World 73 (March 2003): 178-82

Signed entries in *Historical Dictionary of Late Medieval England*, eds. Ronald H. Fritze and William B. Robison. Westport CT: Greenwood, 2002: Robert Kilwardby (301-2), Model Parliament (348-49), *Modus Tenendi Parliamentum* (349-50)

“Ambivalence and Infallibility at the Council of Constance.” Cristianesimo nella storia 22 (2001): 5-21

“The Challenge of Church Reform: Historical and Linguistic Perspectives.” The Dunwoodie Review 23 (2000): 23-34

“The Rhetoric of Reform: Nicolas de Clamanges’ Images of the End” in *Reform and Renewal in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Studies in Honor of Louis Pascoe, SJ*, eds. Thomas M. Izbicki and Christopher M. Bellitto, 141-54. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2000

Signed entries in *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Theologians*, eds. Patrick W. Carey and Joseph T. Lienhard. Westport CT: Greenwood, 2000: Pierre d’Ailly (146-47), Jean Gerson (209-10), Marsilius of Padua (351-52), Nicolas de Clamanges (385-86)

"The Spirituality of Reform in the Late Medieval Church: The Example of Nicolas de Clamanges." Church History. Studies in Christianity and Culture 68 (1999): 1-13

"How the Middle Ages Helped Make Representative Government: A Bibliographic Guide for the Classroom." Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching 7 (1999): 5-21

Signed entries in *A Global Encyclopedia of Historical Writing*, 2 vols., ed. D.R. Woolf. New York: Garland, 1998: Bede (1:81), Ranulf Higden (1:410), Marianus Scotus (2:594), Enguerrand de Monstrelet (2:631), Jean de Wavrin (2:935)

"The Early Development of Pierre d'Ailly's Conciliarism." Catholic Historical Review 83 (1997): 217-32

- Awarded the Peter Guilday Prize by the American Catholic Historical Association

"Incomplete Pictures: Religion in High School Textbooks on European History." The Social Studies 87 (1996): 274-80

"Chivalry: A Door to Teaching the Middle Ages." The History Teacher 28 (1995): 479-85

Book Reviews

Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching: Mary Gerhart and Fabian E. Udoh, eds., *The Christianity Reader* (forthcoming)

The Catholic World 243 (2009): online: Frank Coppa, *Politics and the Papacy in the Modern World*

Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies 83 (2008): 710-12: Ulrich Horst, *The Dominicans and the Pope: Papal Teaching Authority in the Medieval and Early Modern Thomist Tradition*

LOGOS: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies 48 (2007): 280-84: Ramsay MacMullen, *Voting About God in Early Church Councils*

Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society 34 (2007): 375-76: William Magdes, ed., *Vatican II Forty Years Later*

Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire 85 (2007): 485-86: Yelena Matusевич, *Le Siècle d'or de la mystique française*

Catholic Historical Review 93 (2007): 641-42: Peter J. Casarella, ed., *Cusanus: The Legacy of Learned Ignorance*

Catholic Historical Review 93 (2007): 363-64: Roger Haight, *Christian Community in History*. Vol. 1, *Historical Ecclesiology*

Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching 12 (2005): 81-86: Evelyn A. Mackie and Joseph Goering, eds., *Editing Robert Grosseteste*

History: Reviews of New Books 33 (2005): 76: Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History*

Catholic Historical Review 90 (2004): 589-90: Norman Tanner, *Was the Church Too Democratic? Councils, Collegiality and the Church's Future*

The Sixteenth Century Journal 34 (2003): 811-12: Kathleen Garay and Madeleine Jeay, trans., *The Life of Saint Douceline, Beguine of Provence*

The Sixteenth Century Journal 34 (2003): 927-28: Kathleen M. Comerford and Hilmar M. Pabel, eds., *Early Modern Catholicism*

History: Reviews of New Books 31 (2003): 121: Michael Frassetto, ed., *The Year 1000: Religious and Social Response to the Turning of the First Millennium*

Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture 71 (2002): 187-88, David A. Flory, *Marian Representations in the Miracle Tales of Thirteenth-Century Spain and France*

History: Reviews of New Books 30 (2002): 71-72: Walter Simons, *Cities of Ladies: Beguine Communities in the Medieval Low Countries, 1200-1565*

The Dunwoodie Review 24 (2001): 225-27: "Rethinking the Reformations"

History: Reviews of New Books 29 (2001): 78: Keith Whitlock, *The Renaissance in Europe: A Reader*

History: Reviews of New Books 29 (2001): 77: Robert Bireley, *The Refashioning of Catholicism, 1450-1700*

Catholic Historical Review 86 (2000): 668-69: Deborah A. Fraioli, *Joan of Arc: The Early Debate*

History: Reviews of New Books 28 (2000): 73: Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations Sourcebook*

Catholic Historical Review 85 (1999): 620-21: Régine Pernoud and Marie-Véronique Clin, *Joan of Arc. Her Story*, trans. Jeremy duQuesnay Adams

History: Reviews of New Books 27 (1999): 128-29: John A.F. Thomson, *The Western Church in the Middle Ages*

The Dunwoodie Review 22 (1999): 251-53: "Keepers of the Keys: Recent Books on Popes and the Papacy"

The Sixteenth Century Journal 29 (1998): 1227-29: Marcia L. Colish, *Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition*

Catholic Historical Review 84 (1998): 760-61: J.H. Burns and Thomas M. Izbicki, eds., *Conciliarism and Papalism*

America 5 December 1998: 26-27: John Lukacs, *A Thread of Years*

History: Reviews of New Books 26 (1998): 210: Eamon Duffy, *Saints and Sinners. A History of the Popes*

History: Reviews of New Books 26 (1998): 211: Karen Louise Jolly, *Tradition and Diversity: Christianity in a World Context to 1500*

The History Teacher 31 (1998): 418-19: David Nicholas, *The Growth of the Medieval City*

The Sixteenth Century Journal 28 (1997): 892-94: R.N. Swanson, *Religion and Devotion in Europe c.1215-c.1515*

History: Reviews of New Books 25 (1997): 99-100: Johan Huizinga, *The Autumn of the Middle Ages*, trans. Rodney J. Payton and Ulrich Mammitzsch

The Dunwoodie Review 20 (1997): 109-15: "A Guide to Reading Church History"

History: Reviews of New Books 24 (1996): 123: R.W. Southern, *Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe*. Vol. 1, *Foundations*

The Sixteenth Century Journal 26 (1995): 1048-49: Valerie I.J. Flint, *The Rise of Magic in Early Medieval Europe*

History: Reviews of New Books 24 (1995): 28-29: Mary C. Mansfield, *The Humiliation of Sinners. Public Penance in Thirteenth-Century France*

Papers, Panels, Public Lectures

"The Wisdom of the Aged? Medieval Jews and Christians Consider Biblical Patriarchs and Matriarchs." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2010 (proposal submitted)

Organizer and commentator: "Basel and Vatican II: Similarities and Differences." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2010 (proposal submitted)

"The Wisdom of the Aged? Medieval Jews and Christians Consider Biblical Patriarchs and Matriarchs." Iona College, New Rochelle NY, September 2009

"Roman Catholicism's 21 General Councils." Fordham University, NYC, April 2009

Chair and commentator: "The Papacy—Its Friends and Foes in the Later Middle Ages." American Catholic Historical Association, NYC, January 2009

Co-Chair, Conference Organizing Committee: "Reassessing Reform: Medieval Models of Change. Celebrating Gerhart Ladner's *The Idea of Reform* After Fifty Years." Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, October 2008

"Editing Collections of Articles, or Look Before You Leap." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2008

Panelist: "Teaching Vatican II: Challenges, Possibilities, Methods." College Theology Society, Newport RI, May 2008

“*Per viam rationis...per legem vite*: Pierre d’Ailly and the Last of the Fathers.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2006

Panel organizer: “Nicholas of Cusa: Cusanus and the Historical Perspective of Art.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2006

“The Early Church as Model Church: Nicolas de Clamanges and the *ecclesia primitiva*.” American Catholic Historical Association, Philadelphia PA, January 2006

“Church History Today: Comforting the Afflicted and Afflicting the Comfortable.” Villanova University, September 2005

“Catholic Education in the United States: A Brief History.” Graduate-level workshop for teachers offered by Archdiocese of NY’s Department of Education in affiliation with Fordham University’s Graduate School of Education, October 2005, February and June 2004, March and July 2003

“Tradition: The Greco-Roman Heritage, Ancient Principles, and Historical Developments in the Catholic Ethos.” Education for Parish Service program affiliated with Trinity College (Washington DC), Norwalk CT, April 2005

“Crises in the History of the Church: What Can We Learn?” Colloquium on Renewing the Church, Holy Cross College, November 2004

“Lessons from Ancient Christianity: Participation in the Early Church.” Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, October 2004

Conference Organizing Committee: “Reform and Obedience: The Authority of Church, Council, and Pope from the Great Schism to the Council of Trent.” Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, October 2004

“Historical Hermeneutics in `Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past’ ” (International Theological Commission).” Catholic Theological Society of America, Reston VA, June 2004

“Law and Order: Reforming Society in Late Medieval France.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2004

Panel organizer and panelist: “Soundbite Scholarship: How Can Church Historians Help Journalists Tell the Church Scandal Story?” American Catholic Historical Association, Washington DC, January 2004

“Fixing France: A Humanist’s Advice on Restoring Order during the French Civil War.” Fordham University, October 2003

“Counseling the King: Royalty’s Role in Peace and Justice during the French Civil War.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2003; panel co-organizer, “The Politics and Power of Church and State in European and Non-European Communities”

“Beyond the Academy’s Walls: Publishing Outlets and Public Outreach.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2003

“Trent and Vatican II: Do the Caricatures Persist?” American Catholic Historical Association, University of Scranton, March 2003; panel organizer, “Trent and Vatican II: Interpretations-Perceptions-Implications”

Conference co-organizer: “*Ecclesia Semper Reformanda: Vatican II, Aggiornamento, and Church Reform Before Modernity. A Conference on the 40th Anniversary of Vatican II.*” Fordham University, August 2002; panel chair, “*Lumen gentium: Christian Spiritual Life During Reformations*”

“Challenging Conciliar Infallibility: A Case Study from Constance.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2001; panel organizer, “Authority and Sovereignty: Sources, Defenses, Challenges”

“Looking Back, Moving Forward: Religious Perspectives on the Journey into the Third Millennium.” The Monuments Conservancy Symposium on Public Monuments and Human Values, NYC, March 200

Panel chair: “Women Religious and Social Action.” American Catholic Historical Association, Boston MA, January 2001

“Continuities in Clerical Education: Paris-Constance-Trent.” Fordham University, March 2000

Invited colloquium participant: “Law, Liberty, and the Rise of the West.” Arlington VA, February 2000
 “Future Directions of Reform Research.” American Catholic Historical Association, Washington DC, January 1999; panel co-organizer, “Gerhart Ladner’s *The Idea of Reform: Forty Years After*”

“Peace, Union, and the Holy Spirit: Nicolas de Clamanges’ Hopes and Fears for the Council of Constance.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 1998

Panel organizer and chair: “Abbots, Bishops, and Friars: Agents and Models of Ecclesiastical Reform.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 1997

“Nicolas de Clamanges: *Reformatio personalis* as the Foundation of Church Reform during the Great Schism.” American Catholic Historical Association, NYC, January 1997; panel co-organizer, “Medieval Reform and Renewal: Papers in Honor of Louis B. Pascoe, SJ”

“Creating a Climate for Reform: Nicolas de Clamanges on the End.” Columbia University, October 1996

“*Per Christi ambulare vestigia: Nicolas de Clamanges on the Reform of Christian and Cleric.*” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 1996

“The Meaning of the Millennium: What the Past Can Teach.” Conference on the Year 2000, St. Joseph’s Seminary Institute of Religious Studies, March 1996

“A Call to Reform: Nicolas de Clamanges’ Use of Medieval Apocalypticism.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 1995

"Transforming a Medieval Legacy: Marsilius of Padua's Program for the Laity." International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 1994

"University, Crown, and Papacy: Pierre d'Ailly and the Politics of the Early Schism." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 1994

Popular Publications

Articles in America, Commonweal, U.S. Catholic, Catholic Library World, Catholic Heritage, St. Anthony Messenger, Liguorian, Our Sunday Visitor, Washington Journalism Review, *et al.*

Staff Reporter, Newsweek On Campus, and Assistant Editor, Newsweek, 1987-1988; reporting internships at Newsweek, New York Newsday, The News-Times (Danbury CT), 1986-1987

Professional and Community Service

Outreach: Dr. Bellitto is often used as a media resource and has appeared on The History Channel, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, local cable and network TV news programs, and local and national radio programs. He has been quoted in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, *et al.* He frequently offers public lectures on history and religion. He was the host of "The Religion Factor," a one-hour talk and call-in radio program airing biweekly on WVOX 1460AM in the suburban New York City market (2001).

Executive Committee: American Cusanus Society, 2001-present

Editorial Associate: American Cusanus Society Newsletter, 1999-present

Peer Reviewer: Dr. Bellitto has reviewed book manuscripts for Harper San Francisco, Eerdmans, Rowman and Littlefield, and Liguori Publications; and article manuscripts for Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching and Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society.

Faculty Consultant, Educational Testing Service: graded essays and drafted questions for Advanced Placement European History Exam, 1995

Textbook Revision Reviewer, Houghton Mifflin: two college-level history textbooks, 1994 and 1997

Honors and Awards

- Untenured Faculty Research Initiative, Kean University, 2005-2006, 2007-2008
- Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Kean University Chapter, Fall 2005
- Medieval Fellow, Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, 2003-2004
- Humane Studies Fellow, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University: 1995-1996 (non-residential)
- Fordham University: Presidential, Tuition Remission Scholarships: 1991-1996
Graduate Assistantship, 1991-1993
- Phi Alpha Theta: Dr. John Pine Memorial Award, 1994

- Catholic Press Association First Place: Best Papal Coverage 1995 (*St. Anthony Messenger*)
Second Place: General interest newsletter 1994 (*Youth Update*)
Third Place: History/Biography 2002 (*Renewing Christianity*)
- Roothbert Fund Fellow, 1993-1995

Education

- Ph.D. Fordham University 1997 History
- M.A. Fordham University 1993 History
- B.A. New York University 1987 Journalism, Politics (majors); Classics, Religion (minors)
- *magna cum laude*
 - Phi Beta Kappa, 1986