Rev. James Platania, S.S.L., S.Th.D.

Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey

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SPECIALIZATION: Pentateuch; Exodus; biblical law and narrative; legal hermeneutics

COMPETENCE: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; narratology; Catholic studies

EDUCATION

S.Th.D. in Biblical Theology, *summa cum laude*, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (October 2024)

Dissertation: *Inventing Shabbat: Moses as Agent of Legal Innovation in the Narrated World of Exodus 15:22–16:36*. Director: Jean-Pierre Sonnet, S.J.

Doctoral research in Rome, February 2019–June 2022, and in New York, 2023–2024.

S.S.L. in Sacred Scripture, *magna cum laude*, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome (October 2016)

Thesis: *The Wrath and the Patience of God: An Exegetical Investigation into Yhwh's Anger, Moses' Intercession (Exodus 32:7–14) and Yhwh's Merciful Character (Exodus 34:6–7)*. Director: Dominik Markl, S.J.

Semester of study, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Fall 2013.

S.Th.B., *summa cum laude*, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (June 2012)

Thesis: *A Patristic Synthesis of Theology in the Light of the Ressourcement Theologians*. Director: Joseph Carola, S.J.

French language study, Sorbonne University, Paris, Summer 2010.

M.A. in Philosophical Studies, *summa cum laude*, Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland (May 2009)

Thesis: *Creation, Evolution and Cosmic Purpose*. Director: Thane Naberhaus, Ph.D.

B.S.B.A. in Finance, *summa cum laude*, Boston University (May 2005)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Bellarmine Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation in Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University (2024)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor, Core Curriculum, Seton Hall University (August 2024–present)

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University (July 2016–February 2019; July 2022–July 2023)

Director, Msgr. James Turro Seminary Library; Chair, Library Committee; Chair, ATS Self-Study for Standard 6 (Library Services); Interim Chair, Department of Biblical Studies (Fall 2017).

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Research Affiliate, Columbia University Libraries, New York (August 2023–July 2024)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Inventing Shabbat: Moses as Agent of Legal Innovation in the Narrated World of Exodus 15,22–16,36. Forschungen zum Alten Testament II 182. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2027. 335 pp. ISBN 978-3-16-200263-1. (forthcoming November 2026)

Other Writing

"The Progression of Modern Cosmological Arguments for God's Existence: From the Big Bang to the Anthropic Principle." *Tolle Lege*. (2009)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Moses the Interpreter (provisional title). A study of the Pentateuch's characterization of Moses as interpreter and mediator of divine teaching, and of its implications for law, narrative, and legal innovation.

PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

Academic

"Moses the Scribe? Techniques of Legal Innovation Reflected in Narrative (Exodus 12–16)." Columbia University Hebrew Bible Seminar, New York (January 11, 2024)

"Genesis and the Ancient Near East." University of Pennsylvania Collegium Institute, Philadelphia (July 27, 2018)

Public

"Abraham, Our Father in Faith." Islamic Center of Morris County, Rockaway, New Jersey (February 22, 2017)

"The Way of Beauty in the Writings of Joseph Ratzinger." Saint Paul Inside the Walls Benedict XVI Institute, Madison, New Jersey (July 7–9, 2015)

More than thirty invited talks, guided visits, and retreats for parish and student audiences in the Tri-State area, Jerusalem, and Rome. (2013–present)

TEACHING

Seton Hall University, Core Curriculum (2024–present)
Journey of Transformation (first-year students); Christianity and Culture in Dialogue (second-year students).

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University (2016–2019; 2022–2023)
Pentateuch; Prophetic Literature; Spirituality of the Old Testament; One Bible, Two Testaments (course developed); Biblical Hebrew; Biblical Greek.

ECCLESIAL SERVICE

Parochial Vicar, Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham Township, New Jersey (August 2024–present)

Censor Librorum, Diocese of Paterson

Catholic Chaplain, Catholic Athletes for Christ (August 2023–present); New York Giants (August 2024–present)

Chaplain, Young Catholic Professionals (August 2024–present)

Director of Campus Ministry, St. John's University Rome Campus (September 2019–July 2022)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND LANGUAGES

Catholic Biblical Association; Society of Biblical Literature.

Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, Biblical Aramaic, Latin; Italian (fluent reading and speaking); French, German, Spanish (research reading).

EARLY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Finance and management in New York and London, 2004–2007, including Financial Analyst, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York (2006–2007).