



**INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI/ Personal Information**

Fr. Michael Baggot was received into the Catholic Church on the Easter Vigil of 2003, after a high school conversion from agnosticism. He then graduated *summa cum laude* from Christendom College with a B.A. in Philosophy, before working in Rome as a Resident Director for the school's study abroad program. In 2013, he received a Licentiate in Philosophy



*summa cum laude* from the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome. In 2017, he received a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology *summa cum laude* from the same institution. Prior to entering the seminary, Baggot reported on prominent bioethical issues as a reporter. He spent his initial period of seminary formation near Cologne, Germany. He later worked as an assistant for the *Curso de Hispanidad* in Mexico City and as a teacher at Pinecrest Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, before returning to Rome for further studies. He has worked as the Correspondent of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights from 2011-2019, during which time he has penned articles for the organization's website and for the scholarly journal *Studia Bioethica*. In 2015, he began contributing to the journal of religion and public life *First Things*. In 2016, he began teaching in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical University *Regina Apostolorum*. In 2016-2017, he also acted as a tutor of the *Sinderesi* program that aids university students in the discernment of contemporary social issues. Baggot received *summa cum laude* for his doctoral dissertation "Transhumanism, Thomism and True Perfection: A Thomistic Evaluation of the Admirable Aspirations and Lamentable Limitations of the Technocentric, Postmodern, Secular, Liberal Worldview of the Oxford Transhumanists" at the Pontifical Athenaeum *Regina Apostolorum* in the Faculty of Bioethics in June 2021. He is currently Assistant Professor of Bioethics at Regina Apostolorum and Adjunct Professor of Theology at the Christendom College Rome program. He is also Research Scholar at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights in Rome, Italy. His writings have appeared in *First Things*, *Studia Bioetica*, *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, and *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*. He is editor of and contributor to the book [\*Enhancement Fit for Humanity: Perspectives on Emerging Technologies\*](#) (Routledge, 2022).

**Nome e Cognome/Name**

Michael Baggot



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**Telefono/Telephone** +3906665271  
+393402383109

**E-mail** michael.baggot@upra.org

**Social Network** Michael Baggot (LinkedIn, Facebook)

**Nazionalità/ Nationality** Statunitense/American

**Data di nascita/ Date of birth** 18/05/1985

**ISTRUZIONE E  
FORMAZIONE/Education**

**Doctorate in Bioethics** 2017-2021  
Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum  
*titolo della tesi:* “Transhumanism, Thomism, and True Perfection: A Thomistic Evaluation of the Admirable Aspirations and Lamentable Limitations of the Technocentric, Postmodern, Secular, Liberal Worldview of the Oxford Transhumanists”  
*10.0/10.0 summa cum laude*

**Baccalaureato in Teologia** 2014-2017  
Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum  
*titolo della tesi:* “The Theo-drama of Salvation History: A mystagogical reading of the Sistine Chapel in its theological unity for the contemporary pilgrim”  
*9.9/10.0 summa cum laude*

**Diploma in Bioetica** 2014-2015  
Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum

**Licenza in Filosofia** 2012-2014  
Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum  
*titolo della tesi:* “Man’s Journey to God: Reflections on Man’s Pre-Philosophical, Introspective, and Metaphysical Approaches to God”



9.7/10.0 *summa cum laude*

**Bachelor's in Philosophy**

2003-2007

Christendom College

*Thesis title: "Rising with Two Wings: Man's Knowledge of God and Reality through Common Sense, Philosophy, and Revealed Religion"*

*3.9/4.0 summa cum laude*

**MADRELINGUA** English  
/mother tongue

**ALTRE LINGUE/Other**  
languages

Italiano

Español

**ESPERIENZE PROFESSIONALI DI  
INSEGNAMENTO /Teaching**

**An Analysis of the Oxford Transhumanists**

2022-present

*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

[Syllabus](#)

**Teologia morale**

2021-present

*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

[Sillabo](#)

**Introduction to Moral Theology (THEO 302)**

2018-present

*Christendom College*

[Syllabus](#)

**Etica Generale (BIOP 2051)**

2018-presente

*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

[Sillabo](#)

**Apologetics and the New Evangelization (THEO 301)**

2017-present

*Christendom College*



[Syllabus](#)

**Catholic Worldview** 2017-present  
*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

[Syllabus](#)

**Philosophy Synthesis Seminar (FILS1A02)** 2016  
*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

[Syllabus](#)

**Religion** 2011-2012  
*Pinecrest Academy*

**PROGETTI DI RICERCA/ Research Interests**

**Transhumanism, Thomism, and True Perfection: A Thomistic Evaluation of the Admirable Aspirations and Lamentable Limitations of the Technocentric Secular Postmodern Worldview of the Oxford Transhumanists** 2017-2021

*Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum*

- Summary of doctoral research: Transhumanism is the logical development of a secular humanist materialism that has spawned recent schools of radical self-invention like transgenderism. Transhumanism's frightening advocacy of human self-extinction in the name of evolutionary development should shift our analysis from the critique of any given Silicon Valley proposal toward the underlying philosophical presuppositions that motivate intelligent men to invest large sums of money in endeavors that seem like the stuff of science fiction scripts. The criticism of the secular humanism that undergirds transhumanism also provides the opportunity to see how the Thomistic synthesis offers a surprisingly relevant response and corrective to the fantasies of the techno movement. In short, this thesis is a critical analysis of transhumanism as a technocentric secular postmodern worldview in response to which the Thomistic integrated vision of the natural moral law virtue ethics offers a sure path to the human improvement transhumanism purports to provide. Hence, the work does not pretend to be an exhaustive study of all the themes of transhumanism nor the contributions of all of the movement's major authors. Likewise, a detailed treatment of all intra-transhumanist debates among proponents of the movement regarding nuances of the worldview is beyond the scope of this present study. The work will cite a wide variety of authors to illustrate key tenets of the technocentric secular humanism that informs the movement. In particular, the present study will give a certain privileged attention to the Oxford School of transhumanism insofar as Nick Bostrom, Julian Savulescu, and their collaborators usually



provide the most systematic philosophical presentation of key points of the transhumanist worldview. Likewise, the text will draw heavily upon contemporary Thomistic thinkers to assess the legitimate desires for transcendence in the transhumanist outlook and as a corrective to the limits of the technocratic secular vision. Again, the present work does not aim to resolve the numerous disputed questions among Thomistic thinkers. Instead, the present study proposes a creative retrieval of Thomistic thought to present a richer vision of human flourishing and a sure guide to transcendent bliss that both fulfills and surpasses the expectations of the transhumanist worldview. Thus, the Thomist does not induce the secular transhumanist to suppress his aspirations for greatness; instead, he invites the wayward transhumanist to cultivate and order his desires toward the true goods that will bring him the eternal life for which he only confusedly but rightfully longs. Overall, this work provides a unique presentation of how the Thomistic synthesis of metaphysics, natural theology, anthropology, and virtue-centered ethics overcomes the limited perspective of the dominant technocratic paradigm to show man's unique dignity and destiny for beatitude.

#### **PUBBLICAZIONI/ Publications**

BAGGOT, M., "A Thomistic Proposal to Move Beyond the Posthuman and Toward Human Perfection," in *Transhumanismo: ¿Homo sapiens o cyborg?*. Editorial UFV. Madrid 2022 (forthcoming).

BAGGOT, M., "A Thomistic Assessment of Contemporary Transhumanism as a Postmodern, Secular, Liberal Movement" in BAGGOT, M. (ed.) *Enhancement Fit for Humanity: Perspectives on Emerging Technologies*. Routledge. New York 2022.

BAGGOT, M.– GARCÍA A.–CARRARA A.–THAM, J. (ed.) *Enhancement Fit for Humanity: Perspectives on Emerging Technologies*. Routledge. New York 2022.

THAM, J.– MELAHN L. – BAGGOT, M. "Withdrawing critical care from patients in a triage situation." *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*. January 4, 2021.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11019-020-09999-4>.

BAGGOT, M., "The Human Person: A Bioethical Word by Francis Etheredge." *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. Autumn 2020.  
<https://doi.org/10.5840/ncbq202020354>.

BAGGOT, M. – BINDI, S. – COSMANO, L. – PISANI, M. "After Quantum Physics: Shaping a New Cosmology." SANGALLI, S. (ed.) *Beyond the Limits: Consequences of Technological Revolution in Society*. Gregorian & Biblical Press. Rome 2017.



BAGGOT, M. "No, Junior, the Catholic Church is not the same as ISIS." *First Things*. December 16, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/12/no-junior-the-catholic-church-is-not-the-same-as-isis>.

BAGGOT, M. "Between the Capitals of the World." *First Things*. September 30, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/09/between-the-capitals-of-the-world>.

BAGGOT, M. "On Roman Holy Days." *First Things*. September 14, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/09/on-roman-holy-days>.

BAGGOT, M. "Mother Teresa's Inspiration Day and Ours." *First Things*. September 8, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/09/mother-teresas-inspiration-day-and-ours>.

BAGGOT, M. "Dottore della Chiesa Subito!" *First Things*. September 2, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/09/dottore-della-chiesa-subito>.

BAGGOT, M. "Lectio Divina and the Facebook Newsfeed." *First Things*. August 25, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/lectio-divina-and-the-facebook-newsfeed>.

BAGGOT, M. "The Nones and the Buffered Self." *First Things*. August 24, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/the-nones-and-the-buffered-self>.

BAGGOT, M. "The Digital Triptych." *First Things*. August 19, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/the-digital-triptych>.

BAGGOT, M. "Dressing for Others." *First Things*. August 17, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/dressing-for-others>.

BAGGOT, M. "Cardinal Sarah's Liberal Liturgical Vision." *First Things*. August 15, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/cardinal-sarahs-liberal-liturgical-vision>.

BAGGOT, M. "What Men who Left Seminary Taught me about Women's Ordination." *First Things*. August 9, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/what-men-who-left-seminary-taught-me-about-womens-ordination>.

BAGGOT, M. "The Danish Girl: Transgender Apologetic, or Rebuttal?." *First Things*. August 5, 2016. <https://www.firstthings.com/blogs/firstthoughts/2016/08/the-danish-girl-transgender-apologetic-or-rebuttal>.

BAGGOT, M. "Review of *Living the Truth in Love: Pastoral Approaches to Same-Sex Attraction*." *First Things*. March 2016.



BAGGOT, M. "Pope Francis and the Promotion of the Human Person in Mass Media." *Studia Bioethica*. Vol. 9. January 2016.  
<https://riviste.upra.org/index.php/bioethica/article/view/3576/2696>.

BAGGOT, M. "Review of *Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms*." *First Things*. November 2015.

BAGGOT, M. "Are Science and Faith in conflict? From Galileo and Darwin to current bioethical debates." *Studia Bioethica*. Vol. 6. No. 2. March 2014.  
<https://riviste.upra.org/index.php/bioethica/article/download/3104/2300/>.

#### PRESENTAZIONE/PRESENTATIONS

BAGGOT, M. "Procreative Beneficence's Disregard for Dignity in the Pursuit of an Improved Humanity." The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference "I Have Called You by Name: Human Dignity in a Secular World." November 13, 2021.

BAGGOT, M. "A Thomistic Proposal to Move Beyond the Posthuman and Toward Human Perfection." Congreso Razón Abierta 2021. June 18, 2021.

BAGGOT, M. "Thomism, Transhumanism, and True Perfection." Congresso Online de Tomismo. January 29, 2021.

BAGGOT, M. "From Transgenderism to Transhumanism to Transfiguration." Catholic Apologetics Virtual Conference. October 23-25, 2020.

#### SERVIZI PROFESSIONALI/Professional Services

**Chaplain and Tour Guide (Italy study abroad program)** 2018-present  
*Benedictine College*

- Celebrate Masses, hear confessions, offer spiritual guidance to study abroad students.
- Organize Rome itinerary with Program Directors.
- Explain important historic sites.

**Art and Faith Tour Guide** 2016-2017  
*Vatican Museums*

- Guided tours on an itinerary that included the Pio Clementino Museum (classical antiquity), the Gallery of the Candelabras, the Gallery of the Tapestries and the Gallery of the Geographical Maps (Renaissance Art), the Raphael Rooms, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.



**Assistant** 2010-2011  
*Lumen Institute*

- Organized bible studies, film discussions, retreats, and other formative activities for local businessmen interested in growing in their faith in an environment of fraternal support.

**Pharmacist Assistant** 2008  
*CVS Pharmacy*

- Identified and distributed patient prescriptions in accord with company privacy policies.

**Resident Director (Rome campus)** 2007  
*Christendom College*

- Mentored junior students during their Italian study-abroad program through personal contact that addressed various areas of spiritual, academic, and emotional growth the program facilitated.
- Assisted program directors by organizing tours, grading quizzes, and implementing discipline policies.

**Head Resident Assistant** 2006-2007  
*Christendom College*

- Mentored college students and guided the activity of fellow male resident assistants on campus.
- Responsibilities included consistent, personal contact with all enrolled male students; scheduling and directing duties of other male resident assistants; active participation in student council activities; promotion of healthy dormitory life; prudent enforcement of campus disciplinary policies.

**Summer Camp Counselor** 2006-2007  
*Christendom College*

- Mentored high school seniors and juniors attending the two-week college programs.  
Responsibilities included organizing cultural, athletic, and recreational trips; altar server training; personal dialogue with students.





**SERVIZI IN UNIVERSITÀ/University Service**

**Research Scholar**

2021-present

*UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights*

- Conducted research on in the field of emerging technologies.
- Was main editor of a collection of chapters devoted to themes of emerging technologies and human enhancement.

**Correspondent**

2011-2019

*UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights*

- Wrote news articles for the organization's website [www.unescobiochair.org](http://www.unescobiochair.org) and scholarly articles for the journal *Studia Bioethica*.
- Reviewed a series of talks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion in Rome.

**Assistant of the *Curso de Hispanidad***

2011

*Sacerdos Institute*

- Accompanied US diocesan priests and seminaries during their immersion program in the Spanish language.
- Helped to organize tours and other cultural activities in Mexico City.

**REFERENZE/References**

**Alberto García Gómez**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights

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**Daniel Musso**, Executive Director of the Center for International Education of Benedictine College

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**DATA DI AGGIORNAMENTO/UPDATE**

24.1.22

**DATI PERSONALI/  
Personal Details**

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo 30 giugno 2003, n. 196 "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali".