



# Catholic Studies at Candler

## Strengthen lay leaders.

Our mission is to educate faithful and creative Catholic lay ecclesial ministers for leadership in the academy, the Church, and the world.

## Learn from luminaries.

Distinguished Catholic speakers and faculty inspire relevant conversations rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

## Join a diverse community.

Engage the living Catholic Church in a richly multicultural and ecumenical context in a rapidly growing Catholic region of the U.S.

## Master skills for ministry.

Candler's Contextual Education program marries thought and action by blending hands-on ministry, classroom learning, and critical reflection.

## Catholic Studies at Candler prepares lay leaders and scholars for service in the Catholic Church, the academy, and the world.

In a time when the center of U.S. Catholicism is shifting to the Southeast, Candler School of Theology at Emory University offers cutting-edge formation in one of the most diverse and rapidly expanding Catholic contexts in the country.

### Concentrate Your Studies

Candler students enrolled in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program may select a concentration in Catholic Studies to focus and deepen their studies. The Catholic Studies concentration provides students with a series of

courses that will prepare them for leadership in Catholic parishes, schools, non-profits, and other contexts. From parish liturgists and catechists to Catholic school teachers and campus ministers, the Catholic Studies concentration provides excellent pastoral formation for lay ecclesial ministers from a range of backgrounds and interests.

### The Aquinas Center

The Aquinas Center of Theology at Candler provides a Catholic scholarly presence, ecumenical in spirit, for the benefit of Emory University,

the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and the region. Candler's affiliation with The Aquinas Center enhances the Catholic presence at Candler and provides a wide range of resources for the formation of Catholic leaders. In the coming years, we will welcome some of the finest Catholic scholars and practitioners in the world to campus as guest lecturers, presenters, and professors, including renowned theologian Sr. Elizabeth Johnson and President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at the Vatican, Cardinal Kurt Koch.

### Ecumenical in Spirit

Candler is one of the most ecumenically diverse theological schools in the country. Exploring the Catholic tradition alongside students and faculty from other Christian

denominations uniquely equips Catholic lay ecclesial ministers and scholars for service and research in the multicultural context of the 21st century.

### A Destination University

Your educational experience won't end at Candler's doors. Candler is an integral part of Emory University, perennially

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SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

Real

ranked among the nation's top 25 research institutions and one of the top 100 universities in the world. Opportunities are limited only by your imagination as you draw on the academic, cultural, and social resources of a university that includes religion in the conversation. Take classes in Emory's Graduate Division of Religion. Consider a dual degree in theology and public health, bioethics, law, social work, development practice, or business. Immerse yourself in the archives of Flannery O'Connor, housed at Emory's Rose Library. Attend lectures by public figures like Jimmy Carter and His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, who serve as Presidential Distinguished Professors at Emory. Deepen your understanding of the Catholic tradition as you build relationships with those of other faiths from around the world.

### Rigorous Academics

Learn from highly respected scholars who have a true love of teaching both in and out of the classroom. Candler's faculty features renowned theologians who are at the forefront of academic research and seasoned and influential thought leaders who have a particular passion for teaching and research shaped by pastoral work on the ground with living, breathing communities. Whether your vocation is in the academy, the Church, or beyond, Candler's faculty will provide you with rigorous formation necessary for the future.

### Real-World Experience

Candler is about more than just academics. It's about getting students involved with real issues that affect real people. Our Contextual Education program is one of the key places where theory and practice meet. Students

spend two years working in varied ministry settings, such as churches, hospitals, and non-profits, to prepare them for Christian service. They participate in mentor-led reflection groups that help them process their experiences and grow into passionate leaders

who serve the church with both confidence and humility.

### Contact Us

For more information about Catholic Studies at Candler, contact Dr. Tony Alonso, Director of Catholic Studies, at [antonio.alonso@emory.edu](mailto:antonio.alonso@emory.edu).

## Associated Faculty

The faculty associated with Catholic Studies at Candler are recognized for their scholarship and leadership within the academy, the Church, and ecumenical arenas:

**Dr. Tony Alonso**  
*Director of Catholic Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture*

**The Rev. Dr. Steffen Lösel**  
*Associate Professor of Systematic Theology*

**Dr. Philip L. Reynolds**  
*Charles Howard Candler Professor of Medieval Christianity; Aquinas Professor of Historical Theology*

**Dr. Susan Reynolds**  
*Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies*

## Catholic Student Voices



"Because of its focus on contextualized learning, Candler's MDiv program gave me the opportunity to work with Catholic ministries across the archdiocese. After working with world-renowned scholars, I feel prepared for further PhD studies in Systematic Theology."

—Byron Wratee, MDiv '18



"Being in the classroom with students from other Christian denominations is a rewarding experience that allows you to find commonalities in beliefs while simultaneously deepening your understanding of the Catholic tradition. In a pluralistic world, engagement with other faith traditions will be a part of any future career in the Church or the academy."

—Sarah Kothe, MTS '18



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