R. Bentley Anderson, S.J.

# Education

Ph.D. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

M.Div. Regis College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto

M.A. Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey

B.A. Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina

# Work experience

2023-present Professor and Stephen J. Duffy Chair in Catholic Studies, Department of

Religious Studies, Loyola University New Orleans

2010-2023 Department of African & African American Studies, Fordham University, New York

2009-2010 *Loyola Chair in Humanities*, Fordham University, New York

2001-2009 Department of History, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

# Publications

*Black, White, and Catholic: New Orleans Interracialism, 1947-1956*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University

Press, 2005, paperback edition, 2008.

“‘To Save a Soul’: Catholic Mission Schools, Apartheid, and the 1953 Bantu Education Act.” Special

Issue: “Christianity and Politics in 20th Century Africa,” *Journal of Religious History* 44 (June

2020): 149-67.

“Numa Rousseve, Jr.,: Creole, Catholic, and the Society of Jesus.” *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits*

42 (Winter 2010).

“Pamphleteering Against Prejudice: The Catholic Press Attacks Jim Crow in 20th Century America.”

*American Catholic Studies* 120 (Summer 2009): 1-26.

“Pride and Prejudice in New Orleans: Joseph Fichter’s *Southern Parish*,” *U. S. Catholic Historian*

24 (Fall 2006): 23-46.

“Black, White, and Catholic: Southern Jesuits Confront the Race Question, 1952.” *Catholic*

*Historical Review* 91 (July 2005): 484-505.

“Prelates, Protest, and Public Opinion: Catholic Opposition to Desegregation, 1947-1955.”

*Journal of Church and State* 46 (Summer 2004): 617-44.

“‘A Sound Mind and A Sound Body’: The Don Bosco Boys Club of Selma, Alabama, 1947-1964.”

*Journal of American Ethnic History* 22 (Winter 2003): 50-75.

# Presentations and Panel Participation

“Challenging Jim Crow Catholicism: New Orleans College Students versus the Archbishop,”

American Catholic Historical Association, New Orleans, January 7, 2022

“Student Activism and Racial Justice in the Age of Jim Crow,” Keynote speaker, Presidential Forum, Loyola University New Orleans, February 12, 2020

“‘To Save a Soul’: Catholic Mission Schools, Apartheid, and the Bantu Education Act of 1953,” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 5, 2018

“JFK, clergy, and civil rights,” American Catholic Historical Association, Denver, January 7, 2017

“Race, Religion, and Apartheid: Denis Hurley, the Church, and Race Policy in 1950s South Africa,”

American Catholic Historical Association, New Orleans, January 4, 2013

“Religion and the Civil Rights Movement,” La Salle University, Philadelphia, October 2, 2012

"The Bishops Speak: Discrimination and the Catholic Conscience," Fulbright Specialist, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, June 17, 2011

"Prejudice and Practice: the Roman Catholic Church and Race,” Fulbright Specialist, University of

Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, June 13, 2011

“King, Catholics, and Civil Rights: Deconstructing the Historical Narrative,” Fordham College

Lincoln Center campus, February 2, 2010, and Rose Hill campus, February 23, 2010

“The Roman Threat: Church and State in Apartheid South Africa.,” Association of African Studies, New Orleans, November 21, 2009

“Race and Religion in the Trans-Atlantic World: Catholics and Apartheid in Post-World War II

South Africa,” Fordham, Lincoln Center, November 4, 2009, and Rose Hill, December 1, 2009

“Jesuits and the Race Question,” Centennial Celebrations of the New Orleans Province of the

Society of Jesus (1907-2007), Loyola University New Orleans, June 13, 2008

“Pamphleteering Against Prejudice: The Catholic press attacks Jim Crow in 20th Century America,” American Catholic Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 4, 2008

“New Orleans Catholics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the Post-WWII Years,” University

of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, November 6, 2007

“The Catholic Experience in Selma, Alabama: The Mystical Black Body of Christ,” 2nd annual

History Round Table Discussion, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama, March 13, 2007

“Jesuits and Jim Crow Catholicism: The Society of Jesus and Racial Segregation,” International

Conference of the Society of Jesus, “From Spirit to Structure: The Constitutions and the

Formation of Jesuit Culture,” Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, October 18, 2006

“Pride and Prejudice: Joseph Fichter’s *Southern Parish*,” American Catholic Historical Association,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 6, 2006

“A Question of Race: U.S. Southern Catholics and Segregation, 1945-1965,” Xavier Center for

Historical Research, Povorim, Goa, India, January 27, 2005

“*Father Knows Best*: Prelates, Protest and Public Opinion,” Cushwa Center for the Study of

American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, November 6, 2003

“Hulan Jack and the Rise of Catholic Resistance,” American Catholic Historical Association,

Chicago, Illinois, January 4, 2003

“Black and Catholic in Selma, Alabama: Black youth, Nelson Ziter, S.S.E., and the Don Bosco

Boys Club of Selma,” American Catholic Historical Association, San Francisco, January 6, 2002

“Black, White, Catholic: Joseph Fichter, SJ, and Collegiate Interracialism, 1948-1956,” Lecture Series of The Jesuit Center, Loyola University New Orleans, April 14, 1999

“Black, White, and Catholic: Southern Collegiate Interracialism, 1948-1956,” Louisiana Historical

Association, Alexandria, Louisiana, March 12, 1999

“*Norman Francis is a Negro*: Integrating Loyola Law,” American Catholic Historical Association,

Marion College, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 28, 1998

# Fellowships, Honors, Awards, and Offices

2011 Fulbright Specialist Program, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa (June 2011)

2005 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities publishing grant recipient

# Professional Service

2020-2021 member, Task Force on “Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, Ursuline Academy,

New Orleans, Louisiana (subcommittee: Academic Affairs)

2011-2018 Executive Secretary-Treasurer, American Catholic Historical Association

2011 member, Executive Committee, American Catholic Historical Association

2010-2016 member, Board of Trustees, Loyola University New Orleans

**Research Interests**

My current research focuses on the Roman Catholic church’s response to the race question in twentieth- century South Africa and the Southern United States.

# Professional Memberships

2021, Silver Lifetime member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)