

Columbus, OH

Davenport College

Major(s): Religious Studies

Family: My wife Theresa and I have been married for forty years. We have five adult children—Catherine, Teresa, Maria, Paul and David. Their spouses are Bryan, Nathaniel, Valerio, and Chelsea. We currently have eight grandchildren—Louise, Bianca, Amalia, Sam, Zuri, Maddalena, and Robbie, and the youngest, Eloise, who arrived in March of this year.

Yale Experience: Being at Yale was both challenging and rewarding. I enjoyed taking in the view of the cupolas from the top of the Architecture building, strolling with friends on the old campus and in the Davenport courtyard, and then devouring oily pizza at the local dive. It was exciting participating in the liturgies and directing plays at St. Thomas More Chapel (*The Selfish Giant*, *Jonah*, *The Prodigal Son*), and being Bougrellas for the Davenport drama ensemble in the zany play *Ubu Roi*. It was fun memorizing Russian lyrics for the Yale Russian Chorus, and singing to rapt audiences in Woolsey Hall. We even belted out spirituals like “Ain’t That Good News!”

There are so many lectures I still recall—Freccero’s Dante class (*Lasciate ogni speranza voi ch’ entrate!*), a Michelangelo class by Seymour describing the David statue staring at the “unseen enemy,” Sydney Ahlstrom’s Religious History of the American People, Yaroslav Pelikan on the esoteric doctrines of the Eastern Fathers, George Lindbeck rambling on about the Documents of Vatican II while looking out the window and smoking his pipe, and Louis Dupré speaking about the love mystics with such tender admiration, as if they were close friends. My writing and communication skills were greatly enhanced during my four years at Yale, along with my never-ending appreciation for music, drama, art, and architecture.

Life Since Yale: Having raised our family for over thirty years in Stirling, New Jersey, my wife and I were close enough to Connecticut to stop in New Haven on the way to New England. In particular, it has always been a treat to visit the Yale Art Gallery, the Center for British Art and the restored Sterling Memorial Library. Our favorite of all is the Beineke—we loved the way the natural light pours through the marble wall panels, and discovering treasures such as St. Thomas More’s reflection about setting the “world at naught” which he scribbled in his prayer book from the 1500’s.

I pursued a career in business rather than academics, eventually developing an expertise in long-term care



This is a photo of our family attending our daughter Maria’s wedding in Umbria, Italy, June 16, 2018.

and disability insurance. This allowed us to raise our family and also enjoy a very good family life together. I frequently went hiking and camping with the Boy Scouts. We sat through uncountable basketball, lacrosse, and field hockey games, plus swim and cross country meets and endless Christmas pageants. During this period I kept my creative energies alive by writing musical settings of the psalms for the liturgy. After our kids were out of college, we then moved to scenic Three Bridges, New Jersey for six years before arriving in Columbus, OH for semi-retirement and to be situated closer to family.

Life now and Looking Forward: Well, I should say we are indeed situated closer to some family members here in Ohio, but the other children and grandchildren currently live far away in Santa Fe, NM; Concord, NH; Putnam Valley, NY; and Rome, Italy. This has required a good deal of travel coming and going to keep in touch with them, and then we do our best with FaceTime in between in-person visits.

As a semi-retiree I find it satisfying to work with my existing clients, helping them in their elder years. This season of life has also opened up to me the time to rediscover my love for writing. I published my first book, and my first work of historical fiction, *Nazar’s Journey*, with Austin Macauley Publishers in London, Cambridge, and NYC in 2024. It is about a heroic young man in the Nineveh Plains of Iraq during the ISIS era of 2014. My proceeds as an author are going to an organization helping displaced peoples



The cover of my recently published book, Nazar’s Journey.

in global conflict situations. I have a second book in progress which is likely to be published in 2026, an illustrated Christmas story set in Vermont. It is designed for adults to read to children ages 7-12, and for others of any age to read on their own. It is about an old Victorian farmhouse inhabited by angels...you can undertake all of the adventures when the book has its debut. Also, I am pleased that I am finally getting my psalm compositions of years ago properly engraved, so that they can be preserved and shared by other musicians.

Peace and blessings to all of you! Paul

As Kingfishers Catch Fire

*As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves — goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,
Crying Whát I dó is me: for that I came.
I say móre: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: thát keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —
Christ — for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.*

-Gerard Manley Hopkins

I love the nature imagery in the first part of this poem, as it expresses how the myriad elements of the beauty in the world around us bring glory to God. But, even more, I love the second part, which highlights how the beauty of Christ shines forth in all the many unique faces of the human race. As I have grown up to enjoy the incredible religious, cultural and racial diversity of New York City, for example, for me, this poem reiterates two special messages from Maya Angelou:

“Diversity makes for a rich tapestry.”

“In diversity there is beauty, and there is strength.”

May our eyes be opened to the beauty of the face of Christ in all of humankind, and in every face we encounter in our day to day lives.