

**David E. DeCosse**

Born: March 12, 1961 New York NY

Director of Campus Ethics Programs  
Markkula Center for Applied Ethics  
Santa Clara University  
500 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara CA 95053  
Telephone: (408) 554-5715  
Fax: (408) 554-5373  
[ddecosse@scu.edu](mailto:ddecosse@scu.edu)

Home:  
1317 Laurel Street  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

**Education**

Boston College, Ph.D. Theological Ethics 2002

Dissertation: "The Equality of Created Freedom: A Framework for Distributive Justice."

Advisor: David Hollenbach, S.J.

Honors: Jacob K. Javits Fellowship for Doctoral Studies, 1994-1998.

Fordham University, M.A. Theology 1993

Thesis: "The Theology of Work: A Comparison of Economic Justice for All by the United States Catholic Bishops and Toward the Future by the Lay Commission on Catholic Social Teaching and the United States Economy."

Advisors: John Connelly, S.J., and Thomas Cornelison

Honors: Presidential Scholar 1988-1990.

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism M.S. Journalism 1988

Harvard College, A.B. English and American Literature magna cum laude 1982

**Employment**

Director of Campus Ethics Programs, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University. 2002-present.

Manage on-campus lecture series, seminars, grant programs, and fellowships sponsored by one of the largest ethics centers at a U.S. university.

Work aims to bring whole range of ethics issues to the university community, including bioethics, environmental ethics, ethics of immigration, technology and ethics, theological ethics, media ethics, ethics across the curriculum, and more

Write essays and give talks on ethics issues in the news

Teach ethics classes in SCU's Religious Studies Department

Conduct research and writing in areas of academic interest

Lecturer, Religious Studies Department, Santa Clara University, 1999-present.

Taught classes in Christian Traditions, Christian Ethics, Ethics of War and Peace, and Christianity and Politics.

Newsroom Manager, Ascribe: The Public Interest Newswire, 1999-2002. Oakland, Calif. Managed newsroom at Internet-based newswire.

Freelance Writer, 1986-1987 and 1992-present. Published articles in America, The San Jose Mercury News, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and other publications.

Editor, Doubleday Religion Department, New York, N.Y. 1990-1992. Edited frontlist titles and Image Books, a line of religious classics.

Volunteer, The Francis House Lay Mission Program, Baltimore Md., 1985-1986. As Franciscan lay missionary, taught English and math in an inner-city drug treatment clinic.

Reporter, The East Hampton (N.Y.) Star 1983-1985. Covered town government and wrote features for this award-winning Long Island weekly.

## **Publications and Presentations**

### Articles in Academic Journals and Book Chapters

"Freedom of the Press and Catholic Social Thought: Reflections on the Sexual Abuse Scandal in the Catholic Church in the United States," Theological Studies 68.4 (December 2007): 865-899

"Authority, Lies, and War: Democracy and the Development of Just War Theory," Theological Studies 67.2 (June 2006): 378-394. Reprinted in Credeoreoggi, "Theology in North America," n. 164 (March-April 2008)

"Rahner's Ethics and the Pacific Rim," in Rahner Beyond Rahner: A Great Theologian Encounters the Pacific Rim, ed. Paul G. Crowley, S.J. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005): 133-35.

"Authority, Democracy, and the Iraq War," Heythrop Journal 45:2 (April 2004): 227-233

"Beyond Law and Economics: Theological Ethics and the Regulatory Takings Debate" Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review 23 (1996): 829-849.

### Academic Presentations

"The Danish Cartoons Reconsidered: Catholic Social Thought and Freedom of Speech," presented at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga., January 5, 2008.

“Roman Catholic Social Teaching on the Freedom of the Press: Suggestions for Development in Light of the Sexual Abuse Scandals,” presented at Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church: The First International Crosscultural Conference for Catholic Theological Ethicists, Padua, Italy, July 11, 2006.

“From the Margins to the Center: Teaching Tools for the Integration of Immersion Experiences at Jesuit Universities,” presented at Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio, October 15, 2005.

“Legitimate Authority and the Use of Deception in Going to War: An Essay in Catholic Social Ethics,” presented at the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America, St. Louis, Mo., June 10, 2005.

“Roman Catholic Social Teaching and the Freedom of the Press,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the College Theology Society, Milwaukee, Wis., May 2003.

### Books Edited

But Was It Just? Reflections on the Morality of the Persian Gulf War ed. and intro. David E. DeCosse (New York: Doubleday, 1992). Edited essays by Michael Walzer, George Weigel, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Stanley Hauerwas, Sari Nusseibeh, and the editors of La Civiltà Cattolica.

The Lonely Man of Faith by Joseph B. Soloveitchik (New York: Doubleday, 1992). Classic essay of Modern Orthodox Judaism brought to first-time publication as a book.

Lead Us Not Into Temptation: Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children by Jason Berry (New York: Doubleday, 1992). First major work of investigative reporting on the sexual abuse crisis within the Catholic Church.

Conscience, Consensus, and the Development of Doctrine by Cardinal John Henry Newman. With commentary and notes by James Gaffney (New York: Image Books, 1992). Included in one volume Newman's An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine, and the "Letter to the Duke of Norfolk."

### Essays

“Can Citizenship Be Earned?” America, Vol. 199, No. 11, October 13, 2008: 10-12 (NOTE: I was the principal drafter of this essay on behalf of a group of immigration experts gathered by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics)

“Can Morality Change? An Unprecedented International Conference Examines Ethics in the Church,” Santa Clara Magazine, Spring 2007; available at <http://www.scu.edu/scm/spring2007/afterwords.cfm>

“Commentary: War and the Perfection of Lying,” Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, posted March 23, 2007, available at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1030/exclusive.html>

“Time for a Unifying National Debate on the War on Terror,” San Francisco Chronicle, September 8, 2006: B11

“Dialogue and Democracy: The Political Community and the Compendium [of the Social Doctrine of the Church],” America March 27, 2006: 18-20.

“Immigration: Should the Rules Change?” Essay presented on November 10, 2005, at Ethics Outlook event sponsored by Markkula Center for Applied Ethics; available at <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/ethicsoutlook/2005/immigration-rules.html>

“What Are Environmental Ethics? A Short Course – With Lesson Plans – for Beginners,” with Keith Warner, posted in October 2005 on Web site of Markkula Center for Applied Ethics; available at [http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/environmental\\_ethics/homepage.html](http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/environmental_ethics/homepage.html)

“Responsibility and the ‘War on Terror,’” Essay presented on November 18, 2004, at Ethics Outlook event sponsored by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics; available at <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/ethicsoutlook/2004/war-responsibility.html>

“Totaling Up: It Was an Unjust War,” San Jose Mercury News May 16, 2003. Revised and reprinted as “Moral Clarity in War is a Challenge to Discern” in Santa Clara Magazine Winter 2003.

“American Catholic Church Earthquake Ripples Worldwide,” Pacific News Service, July 16, 2002; available at [http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=696](http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=696)

“The Common Good Matters” San Jose Mercury News October 9, 1998: Opinion Page. Revised and Reprinted in The Boston Globe, November 15, 1998: Opinion Page.

“‘Taking’ Property and the Common Good,” America July 15, 1995: 10-12.

Position Paper on Roman Catholic Social Teaching and Pending Congressional Takings Legislation. Submitted on March 27, 1995, to Walter Grazer, Manager, Environmental Justice Program of the United States Catholic Conference

“Anti-condom ads fall way short of Christian ideals,” The New York Daily News [with Margaret Hyre] July 8, 1994: Opinion Page.

“Labor Law Reform,” America February 5, 1994: 22-23 and 37.

“The Catholic Case for Inclusion,” America May 8, 1993: 15-16.

“I know the beauty of our Lord by it,” Review Essay on Gerard Manley Hopkins, The Catholic Worker December 1992: 4.

“A Shameful Denial of Free Speech,” The Philadelphia Inquirer October 7, 1992: Opinion Page. Reprinted as “Pro-life Liberal Silenced Again,” The Cleveland Plain Dealer October 13, 1992: Opinion Page.

“Let Us Now Praise a Famous Book,” Review Essay on Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by James Agee and Walker Evans, America December 28, 1991: 490-491.

## Reviews

Encyclopedia of Information Ethics and Security by Marian Quigley and Contributors. Metascience: forthcoming

Deporting Our Souls: Values, Morality, and Immigration Policy by Bill Ong Hing, Theological Studies 68.4 (December 2007): 950-952.

Lying: An Augustinian Theology of Duplicity by Paul J. Griffiths, Theological Studies Shorter Notice 67.2 (June 2006): 464.

The Just War Revisited by Oliver O'Donovan and Arguing About War by Michael Walzer, Theological Studies 66.3 (September 2005): 691-2.

Mediating Religion: Conversations in Media, Religion and Culture, edited by Jolyon Mitchell and Sophia Marriage, Horizons 2005  
The Bonds of Freedom: Feminist Theology and Christian Realism by Rebekah L. Miles, Horizons 2004

The Courage to Be Catholic: Crisis, Reform, and the Future of the Church by George Weigel, Theological Studies 64.3 (September 2003): 648-50.

Moral Freedom: The Search for Virtue in a World of Choice by Alan Wolfe, Theological Studies 64.1 (March 2003): 182-84.

Development As Freedom by Amartya Sen, Theological Studies 62.1 (March 2001): 190-91.

Inequality and Christian Ethics by Douglas A. Hicks, Theological Studies 62.4 (December 2001): 848-50.

Liberalism and Community by Steven Kautz Theological Studies Shorter Notice 58.3 (September 1997): 585.

The Next American Nation by Michael Lind, America February 15, 1997: 34.

The New Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State by Mark Juergensmeyer, America December 31, 1994: 29.

Organized Labor and the Church: Reflections of a Labor Priest by George G. Higgins, America September 25, 1993: 18-20.

The Catholic Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism by Michael Novak, Church Winter 1993: 56-57.

### **Professional Associations/Service:**

#### Society of Christian Ethics

- Secretary, Society of Christian Ethics, Pacific Section Meeting, University of Southern California, February 18, 2005
- President, Society of Christian Ethics, Pacific Section, 2005-06
- Secretary, Society of Christian Ethics, Pacific Section Meeting, to be held on February 23, 2007, at Santa Clara University

#### Catholic Theological Society of America