

What Did St. Francis Teach? Interpreting the Admonitions of Francis of Assisi

by Jay M. Hammond

Through this course, you will come to understand Francis' life and teachings anew. You will be able to relate more than you thought possible to the context of the *Admonitions* as well as the teachings and meanings of St. Francis' words. Francis wrote the *Admonitions* at a time of economic decline, international conflict and marginalization of powerless classless, much like the times we live in today. But instead of addressing these social issues directly, the *Admonitions* focus on the day-to-day relationships that form specific communities and, by extension, society more generally.

The *Admonitions*' intricate structure, literary devices, word associations and comparative contrasts all work together as catalysts for spiritual insight into a Gospel inspired "form of life" that must be embodied by words and deeds. In this program, Professor Hammond will show you how to explore these works *with* him, and *for* yourself.



About Your Presenter:

Jay M. Hammond is an associate professor of historical theology at Saint Louis University. His research focuses in three related areas of Franciscan Studies: the writings of Francis of Assisi, the writings of Bonaventure, and the mural decoration of the upper church of the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi. His publications include: *Studies on the Early Franciscan Sources, vol. 1: The Writings of Francis and Clare*, co-edited with Michale Blastic and Wayne Hellmann (Franciscan Institute, 2011) and *The Virtual Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi* (Institute of Digital Theology, 2007) among many others. He frequently delivers presentations on Francis and the Basilica to both academic and non-academic audiences.

Topic Titles

- The *Admonitions*' Historical and Literary Contexts
- The Spirit vs. the Flesh: *Admonitions* 1-4
- God's Good Works vs. Self-Glorification: *Admonitions* 5-8
- Love vs. Sin: *Admonitions* 9-12
- The Beatitudes: Loving Neighbor and God: *Admonitions* 13-16
- The Self and Neighbor: *Admonitions* 17-20
- Giving Satisfaction vs. Expecting a Reward: *Admonitions* 21-24
- Honoring God and Neighbor: *Admonitions* 25-28
- The *Admonitions* as Franciscan *Spiritual Exercises*