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 Blistic 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
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- The Beatitudes: Loving Neighbor and God: Admonitions 13-16
- The Self and Neighbor: Admonitions 17-20
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- Honoring God and Neighbor: Admonitions 25-28
- The Admonitions as Franciscan Spiritual Exercises