

The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage

September, 2024



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kind greetings and I hope that all reading this newsletter are in good health and spirits.

The semester is less than a month old, and it has already been set of consequential days at the Hank Center. Three September events-- the Peter Maurin

Conference (in collaboration) with our friends at St. Gregory Hall, the screening of the award-winning documentary on René Girard, *Things Hidden*, and the book launch of Dr. Michelle Nickerson's superb study, *Spiritual Criminals* (co-hosted with our colleagues from the Law School)-- have set us on a solid, substantive course. Read on for short reports on these events below.

As we move towards October, our programming continues on in a likewise compelling vein. Two more conversations in the very near term that demonstrate the depth and breadth of Catholic thought, concern, and practice. The first of these conversations features one of the most gifted thinkers working today: Phil Metres. Phil, a professor at our sister university, John Carroll University, is a writer of unique range and insight. Whether writing poetry, essays and criticism, or in the mode of creative and occasional prose, Phil never fails to illuminate the inner life (and stakes) of vital subjects. On Tuesday (**i.e., tomorrow night!**) Phil visits Loyola to publicly explore the perils of our age: forced migration, climate change, and toxic nationalism. We are calling the event "Seeking Refuge, Writing Home" and it is a gathering not to be missed. A week or so later-- and in partnership with our friends at America Media-- the Hank Center will host a major, internationally livestreamed event: our second annual Jesuit Lecture, "A Better Kind of Politics," featuring editor of *America*, Fr. Sam Sawyer, S.J.. The title, which draws from Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, speaks for itself; and the fruits of Fr. Sawyer's reflection will both ground and push us as we make our ways to the ballot box this coming November. Again, the event will be livestreamed (and read more about this option below), but we hope to see you on campus and in person. Better to speak about

civil and theological communion in person, and, as always, good refreshment will be provided.

As I write this greeting and **look once more at our fall calendar**, I am struck yet again by how all of the conversations we convene draw life from the Catholic intellectual heritage as *both* a content *and* a method. This "both/and" quality is the so-called "secret sauce" of the Catholic imagination and points to the holistic navigation of difference that keeps it vibrant. Catholic habits of mind and heart perform a living tradition (not a static "traditionalism"), and we draw from the riches of the past so as to give life to the present. A Catholic imagination, in this sense, provides so much in the way of a connective tissue that links theological mystery with the vitality of current culture--links the deepest desires of our hearts with our lives together in the Church and in human community. I do not think it self-serving--or politically limiting-- to observe that this kind of imagination and way of proceeding continues to be a singularly credible resource and inspiration for not only understanding our lives in God but also making sense of our experiences and responsibilities as citizen-pilgrims.

I am grateful to **our excellent staff, faculty affiliates, and Advisory Board** for their generous, dedicated work in supporting our endeavors. I am grateful to you, dear reader, for your participation, friendship, and prayers as we make our way together through these ever challenging but ever promising days. We look forward to continuing the conversation, and, as ever, *spes non confundit*,

Warmest regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

Hank Center Highlights

Fall 2024 Events Calendar

The graphic is a calendar for the Hank Center's Fall 2024 events. It features a grid with dates and event titles. Key events include: Peter Malorum on September 12, Peter Malorum Conference on September 13-14, Power of the Word Conference on September 16-17, Seeking Refuge with Philip Abrey on September 24, and In Defense of Others on October 1. The calendar also includes contact information for the Hank Center and the Loyola University Chicago logo.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

"In Defense of Others, In Defense of Faith: The Camden 28 Trial and the Vietnam War" with Dr. Michelle Nickerson

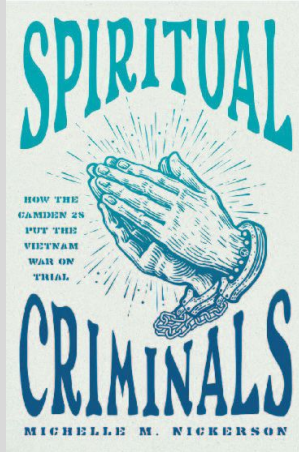
Faith in Focus Film Series *Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard*



September 12, 2024 at 7pm

As part of the Faith in Focus series, the Hank Center proudly screened *Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard* and a held discussion with director Sam Sorch and producer Trevor Cribben Merrill on September 12, 2024.

Things Hidden is a timely new documentary about René Girard, the thinker who coined "mimetic desire." Offering a deeply personal portrait of Girard the man and a sweeping narrative of his unfolding thought, *Things Hidden* explores the French



September 18, 2024
Corboy Law Center,
WTC

We were pleased to co-sponsor "In Defense of Others, In Defense of Faith" a lecture event and debut of historian, Dr. Michelle Nickerson's new book, *Spiritual Criminals: How the Camden 28 Put the Vietnam War on Trial*.

When the FBI arrested twenty-eight people in connection to a break-in at a Camden, New Jersey, draft board in 1971, the Bureau celebrated. The case should have been an easy victory for the department—the perpetrators had been caught red-handed attempting to destroy conscription documents for draftees into the Vietnam War. But the results of the trial surprised everyone, and in the process shook the foundations of American law, politics, and religion.

In *Spiritual Criminals*, Michelle M. Nickerson shares a complex portrait of the Camden 28, a passionate group of grassroots religious progressives who resisted both their church and their

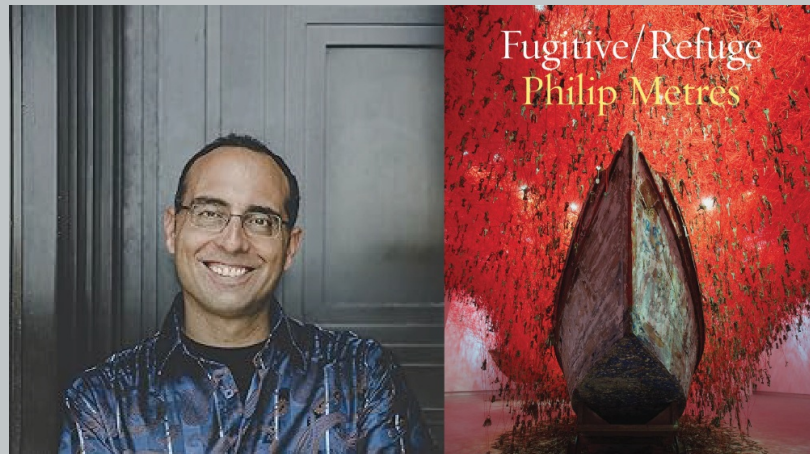
polymath's passion for intellectual discovery, his midlife religious conversion, and his quest to uncover the violent origins of human culture. You can watch a trailer of the film [here](#).

The film includes exclusive interviews with Girard, previously unknown archival material, and revelations from his family, friends, and colleagues, taking the viewer deep into the life and career of one of the most inspiring and provocative thinkers of our time.

Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard won the award for best Documentary Feature at the 2024 Avignon International Film Festival.

Learn more about *Things Hidden* and Stay Up to Date with Future Screenings

Seeking Refuge, Writing Home with Philip Metres



September 24, 2024
McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, LSC

In his recent *Fugitive/Refuge*, Philip Metres follows the journey of his refugee ancestors—from Lebanon to Mexico to the United States—in a vivid exploration of what it means to long for home. A book-length qasida, the collection draws on both ancient traditions and innovative forms—odes and arabics, sonnets and cut-ups, prayers and documentary voicings—in order to confront the perils of our age: forced migration, climate change, and toxic nationalism.

Philip Metres is the author of twelve books, including *Fugitive/Refuge* (2024), *Ochre & Rust: New Selected Poems of Sergey Gandlevsky* (2023), *Shrapnel Maps* (2020), *The Sound of Listening: Poetry as Refuge and Resistance* (2018), *Pictures at an Exhibition* (2016), *Sand Opera* (2015), and *I Burned at the Feast: Selected Poems of Arseny Tarkovsky* (2015). His work has garnered the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lannan Fellowship, two NEAs, seven Ohio Arts Council Grants, the Hunt Prize, the Adrienne Rich Award, three Arab American Book Awards, the Watson Fellowship, the Lyric Poetry Prize, and the Cleveland Arts Prize. Metres has been called “one of the essential poets of our

government as they crusaded against the Vietnam War. Founded by priests, nuns, and devout lay Catholics, members of this coalition accepted the risks of felony convictions as the cost of challenging the nation's military-industrial complex and exposing the illegal counterintelligence operations of the FBI. By peeling away the layers of political history, theological traditions, and the Camden 28's personal stories, Nickerson reveals an often-unseen spiritual side of the anti-war movement. At the same time, she probes the fractures within the group, detailing important conflicts over ideology, race, sex, and gender that resonate in the church and on the political Left today.

Learn More
About "Spiritual
Criminals"

Peter Maurin Conference



**September 6-8, 2024
at St. Gregory the
Great Church**

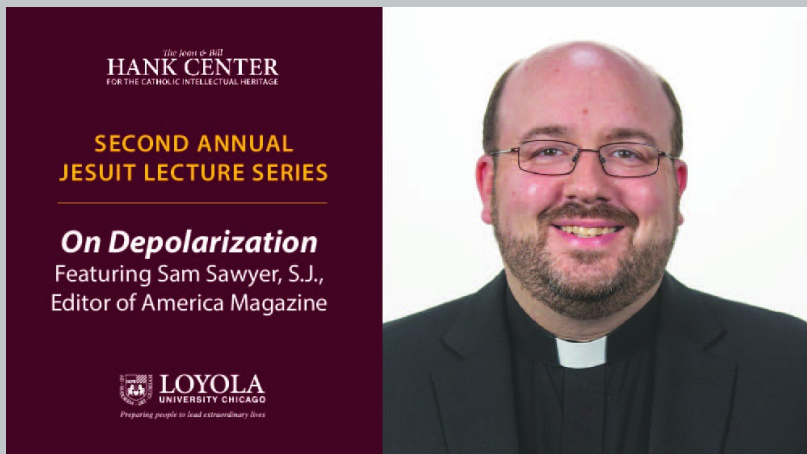
This conference
considered the life,

time," whose work is "beautiful, powerful, magnetically original." His poems have been translated into Arabic, Farsi, Polish, Russian, and Tamil. He is professor of English and director of the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program at John Carroll University, and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

This event is free and in-person. All are welcome! **We hope to see you Tomorrow Night!**

More Information

UPCOMING: 2nd Annual Jesuit Lecture, "A Better Kind of Politics" with Sam Sawyer, SJ



October 3, 2024

McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, LSC

The Hank Center is proud to welcome Sam Sawyer, S.J., editor of America Media, to speak on the topic of depolarization.

Taking place mere weeks before the 2024 U.S. presidential election, the second annual Jesuit Lecture comes at a pivotal moment; it responds to the timely opportunity to explore the complex reality of polarization in American society, drawn as it is along political, cultural, and religious lines.

Earlier in this election cycle, [Sawyer wrote](#): "a closer look at the relationship between religion and secularity provides powerful insights about how polarization arises and how it becomes so intractable—and it also helps us imagine how to find a way toward greater unity. The reality of the church as a communion, not just an association of individuals, offers a powerful antidote to polarization. Finding resources within the church's tradition for a healthier engagement across internal divisions can provide a model for responding to secular forms of polarization as well."

Narratives of worsening levels of divisiveness may seem inevitable the current political climate, but what would hope for a depolarized world and church look like? What unique responses and possible paths forward can be discerned from within the Jesuit tradition? What resources for wisdom and reconciliation?

sources, and vision of Peter Maurin (1877-1949), cofounder of the Catholic Worker Movement. His Easy Essays were a staple of the Catholic Worker newspaper, promoting philosophical personalism and economic distributism based on Catholic social teaching and tradition. His practical program included houses of hospitality, voluntary poverty, the works of mercy, agrarianism, and public roundtable discussions.

How can Maurin's vision help transcend the polarizing tendencies of the church and wider culture to create a new society with "a philosophy so old that it looks like new?" Can it inspire us to "blow the dynamite" of Catholic social teaching in order to reconstruct the social order?

The conference featured keynote addresses and roundtable discussions treating various topics related to Maurin's thought.

[More Information Here](#)

The 4th Building Bridges Initiative Synodal Meeting!



June 20th, 2024 at 7 a.m. (Central -

This event is free, open to the public, and all are welcome. Livestreaming is available. Registration required.

This event is co-sponsored by America Media.

[Register for the Livestream Now](#)

[More Event Information](#)

The Hank Center Celebrates the Marriage of Two Graduate Student Summer Fellows, Antônio and Catherine Lemos



Antonio and Cait on their wedding day. Photo by Unearthed Photographical.

Reflection by: Antônio and Catherine Lemos

Two great things happened to us this past summer: we got married and we both received the Hank Fellowship! We are both in our 5th year and hope to defend our dissertations by next summer. Cait is offering a contemporary account of the moral formation imparted by human-made law, grounded in the thought of Aquinas. Antonio is writing on what the Catholic Church teaches about migration, looking back to the Spanish theologians of the 16th century. Every morning, we go to the Hesburgh library at Notre Dame and spend the day reading and writing. In the evening, there are always interesting topics of conversation at the dinner table.

Meeting as graduate students at Notre Dame, our shared love of the Catholic intellectual tradition has animated our relationship since the beginning, especially the figures of St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Joseph Ratzinger. Shortly before we got engaged, we traveled to Brazil to present a co-authored paper on the theologies of hope articulated by Ratzinger and Johann Metz at the Latin American Congress of Moral Theology, a trip that also enabled Cait to meet Antonio's Brazilian family for the first time! Together, we have discovered that the friendship and trust at the core of our marriage provides a unique freedom for

Chicago)

Building Bridges Across Asia Pacific

Pope Francis made a fourth stop on his Building Bridges tour--an initiative dreamed up and hosted by The Hank Center, IPS, The Department of Theology, and The Office for Global and Community Engagement.

In the best tradition of Catholic-Jesuit education, Pope Francis is asking students to prayerfully imagine ways to address complex spiritual, social, and technological problems precisely in the contexts of students' academic studies and disciplines.

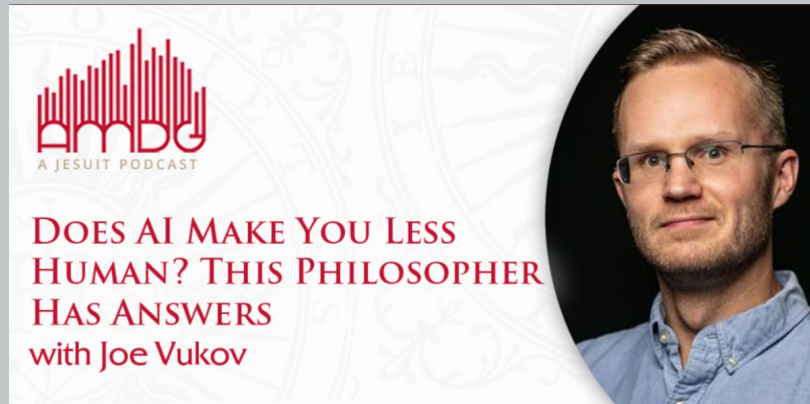
Working with university partners across Asia Pacific, professors are convening and accompanying university and college students from across the region in 12 Working Groups. The students comprising those groups come from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and more. These students are studying diverse fields, including Theology, Psychology, Business, Education, Nutrition, Accounting, Physics, Law, Computer Science, Chemistry, Philosophy, Environmental Science, Music, History, and more.

These videos are accessible through the Building Bridges

intellectual inquiry and exploration. Ratzinger's insight in *Eschatology*, that, "it is in the transforming acceptance of death, present time and again to us in this life, that we mature for the real, the eternal, life" has resonated so deeply with both of us, in different ways, that we included this excerpt in our wedding program as a parting reflection to our guests. We are very grateful to the Hank Fellowship for enabling us to focus on our dissertations and supporting our travel to conferences this past summer.

[See All of Our Fellows](#)

Hank Center Associate Director, Dr. Joe Vukov, featured on *AMDG: A Jesuit Podcast*



Check out this new episode by our friends at *AMDG: A Jesuit Podcast* where they feature Hank Center associate director and author of the new book, *Staying Human In an Era of Artificial Intelligence*, Dr. Joseph Vukov. Listen to AMDG's interview with Joe below and find more information about his new book in the following link.

About *Staying Human*:

"AI poses a real and present danger. It contains the capacity to amplify social problems, drive a wedge further into our already-polarized society, and sow seeds of distrust in communities and personal relationships. When approached without a robust sense of human dignity, AI also threatens to undermine our self-understanding. To a degree beyond any previous technology, AI can make us forget ourselves. In this new era of AI, we must consciously make a choice: to stay human. In this book I provide a map and the tools for doing just that."

[Take me to the podcast!](#)

[More about "Staying Human"](#)

**REGISTRATION OPEN!
5th Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference
Ever Ancient, Ever New**

Initiative website. For more information please see the link below.

More
Information and
Updates Here

**Public Voices: New
Interview with
Jason Blakely,
Author of "Lost in
Ideology"**



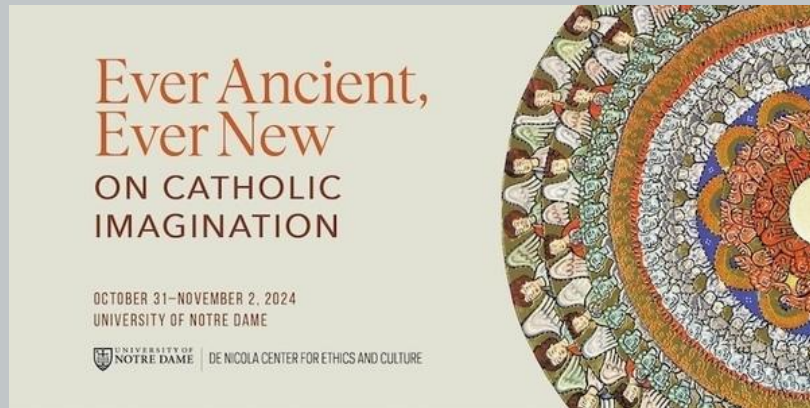
In our latest "Public Voices" interview, prof. Jason Blakely sits down with Director Dr. Murphy for a lively discussion of his new book, "**Lost in Ideology.**" just in time for the upcoming election.

Watch the
Jason's
Blakely's
Interview

Watch the 2024
Newman
Lecture
featuring Jason
Blakely

Jesuit Media Lab

**University of Notre Dame, DeNicola Center for
Ethics and Culture**



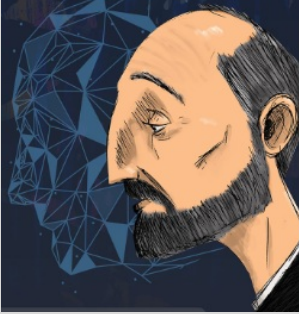
Men and women of faith continue to draw on the wisdom, wonder, and beauty of the evergreen Catholic tradition to inform a particular mode of understanding and engaging with the world around them. Inspired by a sacramental vision of reality, the Catholic arts in particular grapple with the mystery and meaning that permeate the created order, giving shape and expression to the transcendent.

At its 24th annual Fall Conference, the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture will consider the idea of the Catholic imagination, its enduring and inexhaustible nature, and how it continues to illumine our modern world. With a particular focus on the literary arts, this conference will explore unique expressions of the Catholic imagination in more than 150 presentations, performances, and discussions across the disciplines, including philosophy, theology, ethics, law, history, and the natural and social sciences, as well as the creative domains of film, music, theater, and the visual arts.

For this year's Fall Conference, the de Nicola Center is pleased to partner with the Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference, which aims to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the richness and variety of contributions by Catholic artists; to explore the critical and theoretical foundations of the Catholic imagination; and to foster community and collaboration among writers and readers who share a knowledge of and respect for the Catholic tradition.

Register Now!

Reading the Catholic Imagination, Year Two Recap



Created by the team from the communications office at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States – the Jesuit Media Lab brings together writers, podcasters, videographers, painters and other creators whose lives and work have been shaped by encounters with God through Ignatian spirituality. They offer resources, workshops, book clubs and more for all creative minds!

The Jesuit Media Lab is a place to gather, form, and unleash these creators. Everything we offer is open to the public, whether you're formally affiliated with the Jesuits or not.

Learn more about the Jesuit Media Lab by [visiting their website](#) or by watching the video below.

Jesuit Media
Lab

Reading the Catholic Imagination

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO
The Joan & Bill
Hank Center
FOR THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE

Reading the Catholic Imagination is an online summer reading and discussion series for readers and writers to explore together the Catholic literary imagination in its myriad forms: in new work by self-professed Catholic writers; in the crossings and convergences of old and new work, religious and secular; and in our own habits of reading. This series is hosted by the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage of Loyola University Chicago and was led by four excellent emerging scholars of the Catholic literary tradition.

This summer's sessions included:

Children of Violence: Grace and the Grotesque in Flannery O'Connor, Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Martin and John McDonagh
with Jessica Schnepf

This seminar explored the influence of Flannery O'Connor on the fiction of Kirstin Valdez Quade and films of Martin and John McDonagh, specifically in the use of violence and the grotesque as narrative strategies for depicting conversion and transcendence. Selected short stories by O'Connor and Valdez Quade were considered alongside Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* and *The Banshees of Inisherin* and John McDonagh's *Calvary*.

Reading Denise Levertov's Conversion
with Lyle Enright

This seminar took a chronological journey through select poems of Denise Levertov, tracing her aesthetic interest in Catholicism towards its religious culmination near the end of her life. Levertov's poetry provided an opportunity to explore the threshold between the sacred and the secular, and the process by which human desires find their transcendent expressions.

The Bear and the Inner Life

with Susan L. Miller

This summer we examined the compelling, disastrous world of “The Bear,” everyone’s favorite show about cooking and service. With selected readings by Thomas a Kempis, Brother Lawrence, M.F.K Fisher, and others, we thought about hospitality, family, masculinity, responsibility, labor, grief, love, and all kinds of messy, flawed human behavior in contemporary America-- and the possibilities for healing and redemption as well.

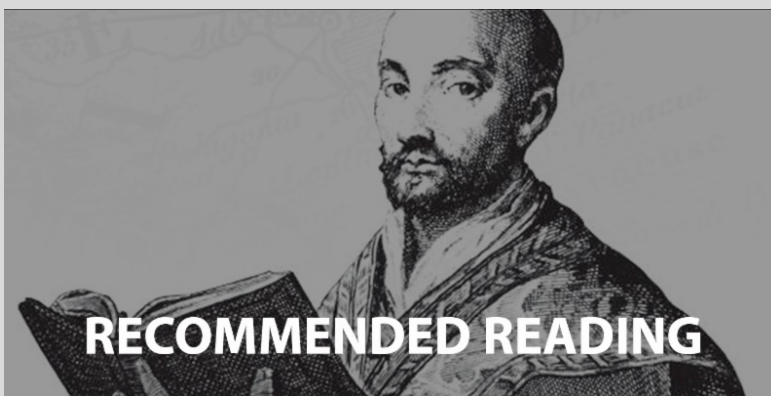
Marilynne Robinson and Catholicism: A Productive Tension?
with Bill Gonch

Marilynne Robinson, America's most prominent Calvinist writer, has an avid following among Catholic readers. In this seminar we asked, what does Robinson have to offer the Catholic imaginative tradition? Reading Robinson's *Gilead* alongside the work of American Catholic writers such as Flannery O'Connor and Katy Carl, we explored her distinctive contribution to a shared Christian aesthetic and asked what is gained and lost by attending to the distinctive imaginaries of Christian traditions.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's RCI Series!

[More about Reading the Catholic Imagination](#)

RECOMMENDED READING



In the spirit of cultivating the Catholic intellectual and artistic tradition, CCIH recommends new and notable books several times a year that integrate, interrogate, and celebrate Catholicism in dialogue with the world.

[Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States: A History](#) (2022)

Author: Michael Rizzi, Publisher: CUA Press

Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States provides a comprehensive history of Jesuit higher education in the United States, weaving together the stories of the fifty-four colleges and universities that the Jesuits have operated (successfully and unsuccessfully) since 1789. It emphasizes the connections among the institutions, exploring how certain Jesuit schools like Georgetown University gave birth to others like Boston College by sharing faculty, financial resources, accreditation, and even presidents throughout their history. The book also explores how the colleges responded to common challenges – including anti-Catholic prejudice in the United States, the push from government authorities to modernize

their shared curriculum, and the pull from Roman authorities to remain loyal to Catholic tradition.

The story is comprehensive, covering the colonial era to the present, and takes a fresh look at themes like the rise of the research university in the 1880s and the administrative reforms of the 1960s. It also provides a modern and timely perspective on the role of Jesuit colleges in racial justice, women's education, and other civil rights issues, drawing attention to underappreciated Jesuit contributions in these areas. It draws from both published and archival sources on the history of each institution to construct a single narrative, identifying common themes, challenges, and trends. Through the eyes of Jesuit colleges, it traces the evolution of American higher education and the role of Catholics in the United States over more than two centuries.

[**In the School of Ignatius: Studious Zeal and Devoted Learning**](#) (2019)

Author: Claude Pavor, S.J., Publisher: Jesuit Sources

Though very public in one way, a major dimension of Jesuit and Ignatian spirituality has become almost invisible, perhaps because it has not seemed so distinctive— or even so spiritual. It is the spirituality of *docta pietas* (learned devotion) or of a “teaching that is holy, devout, righteous, revelatory.” For centuries this spirituality’s great legislative expression within the Society of Jesus has been the 1599 plan of studies known as the *Ratio Studiorum*. In a series of essays, *In the School of Ignatius* argues that what lies at the heart of the *Ratio* remains inescapably foundational for the Jesuit order, as well as for its education and spirituality. These provocative essays are intended for those who wish to learn more about the history of Jesuit education and who share a concern for its future.

[**Meditations Before Mass**](#) (2013)

Authors: Romano Guardini, Publisher: Sophia Institute Press

In these pages written for the average Catholic in the pew by an internationally-acclaimed master of the spiritual life you'll learn how to pay closer attention during Mass and to pray better despite distractions or other obstacles to prayer.

Although he was an eminent theologian, Msgr. Guardini wrote for ordinary Catholics who are struggling to become closer to Christ. In fact, these pages originated as talks before Mass to help prepare worshippers for its celebration. Practical, straightforward, yet full of wisdom, *Meditations Before Mass* will help you to quiet your soul, concentrate your mind, and grow more receptive to grace. It is a Eucharistic classic.

[**Corpus Mysticum: The Eucharist and the Church in the Middle Ages \(Faith in Reason: Philosophical Enquiries\)**](#) (2007)

Authors: Henri Cardinal de Lubac, S.J., Gemma Simmonds C.J. (Translator), Publisher: University of Notre Dame Press

One of the major figures of twentieth-century Catholic theology, Henri Cardinal de Lubac was known for his attention to the doctrine of the church and its life within the contemporary world. In *Corpus Mysticum* de Lubac investigates a particular understanding of the relation of the church to the eucharist. He sets out the nature of the church as communion, a doctrine that influenced the thinking of the Second Vatican Council.

With the publication of *Corpus Mysticum*, this important text of contemporary Catholic ecclesiology and sacramental theology is available for the first time in an English translation. Its publication fills a significant gap in the range of de Lubac's works available to English-speaking scholars. It will be an important resource in the widespread and ongoing ecumenical discussions among Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox theologians. Another Eucharistic classic.

[**Anthropology: Seeking Light and Beauty**](#) (2012)

Author: Susan A. Ross, Publisher: Liturgical Press

Anthropology: Seeking Light and Beauty is the most recent book from the Hank Center's 2024 Living Tradition Award honoree, Dr. Susan Ross.

What does it mean to be human in the twenty-first century? Dr. Ross explores this question through the lens of human desires: for God, freedom, knowledge, love, and pleasure, but also for power, consumer goods, self-gratification, and money. Beginning with biblical narratives of human desires, she goes on to consider how ancient, medieval, and modern thinkers have wrestled with the various ways that human beings have sought fulfillment in the world and in God.

Anthropology: Seeking Light and Beauty offers a path through the many conflicting views of humanity, suggesting a fuller way of living as we try to follow the example of Jesus.

[The Catholic Reception of Continental Philosophy](#) (2020)

Authors: Stephanie Rumpza and Gregory P. Floyd, Publisher: University of Toronto Press

This volume by leading philosophers and theologians explores the reception of continental philosophy in North America and its ongoing relation to Catholic institutions. What has prompted so many North American Catholics to support this particular school of thought? Why do so many Catholics continue to find continental philosophy attractive, and why do so many continental philosophers work in Catholic departments?

The establishment of the relationship between continental philosophy and Catholicism was not obvious, nor was it easy. Many of the contributors to this volume have played important roles in its development, and in these pages they take a stance on this evolving relationship and demonstrate that the engagement is far from over. Exploring the mutual interests that made this alliance possible as well as the underlying tensions, the volume provides, for the first time, an extended reflection on the historical, institutional, and intellectual relationship between Catholicism and continental philosophy on North American soil up to the present day.

[Phenomenology of the Icon: Meditating God Through the Image](#) (2023)

Author: Stephanie Rumpza, Publisher: Cambridge University Press

We offer a deeper dive into continental philosophy by suggesting further reading of Stephanie Rumpza.

In her latest work, she asks the perennial question of divine presence, mediation and representation: "How can something finite mediate an infinite God? Weaving patristics, theology, art history, aesthetics, and religious practice with the hermeneutic phenomenology of Hans-George Gadamer and Jean-Luc Marion, Stephanie Rumpza proposes a new answer to this paradox by offering a fresh and original approach to the Byzantine icon. She demonstrates the power and relevance of the phenomenological method to integrate hermeneutic aesthetics and divine transcendence, notably how the material and visual dimensions of the icon are illuminated by traditional practices of prayer.

Rumpza's study targets a problem that is a major fault line in the continental philosophy of religion – the integrity of finite beings in relation to a God that transcends them. For philosophers, her book demonstrates the relevance of a cherished religious practice of Eastern Christianity. For art historians, she proposes a novel philosophical paradigm for understanding the icon as it is approached in practice.

[Women of the Church \(What Every Catholic Should Know\)](#) (2024)

Author: Bronwen McShea, Publisher: Augustine Institute - Ignatius Press

While many Catholics are aware of great female saints such as Catherine of Siena and Thérèse of Lisieux, a view persists that, over the centuries, women played a limited role in the development of Catholic traditions and institutions. In this innovative survey of Church history, Bronwen McShea demonstrates instead that faithful women have always been at the heart of the Church's common life, shaping it and the course of entire civilizations.

In *Women of the Church*, McShea presents a wide array of well known and lesser known canonized and beatified women, others awaiting beatification, and still more figures not meriting canonization but whom every Catholic should know. She situates Catholic women from diverse social, ethnic, and national origins in their historical contexts, examining specific challenges they faced in settings such as imperial Rome, Reformation Europe, colonial Latin America and Africa, and the USA and Soviet Union during the Cold War. In the process, she shows that, in every age, women inspired by God with creativity, courage, and fidelity have helped save the Church from corruption, disunity, and destruction.

In short, McShea clarifies that the history of Catholic women is the history of the Church—as much as the history of Catholic men is. This insight, self-evident in its truth depth is still inexplicably novel in some ecclesial circles.

[The Complete Short Stories, Volume 1 \(Catholic Women Writers\)](#) (2024)

Authors, Enid Dinnis, Julia Meszaros (Introduction), Publisher: The Catholic University of America Press

This is the second work we feature in the new CUA series edited by Bonnie Lander Johnson and Julia Meszaros.

Gathered here for the first time are the stories of Enid Dinnis, who lived and wrote in London throughout the first half of the 20th century. Enid Dinnis moved widely in the London literary world but she was also Mother Superior of a 'hidden' religious order, The Daughters of the Heart of Mary. Few in London's literary scene knew that Dinnis was a nun but she lived most of her life in a small convent in Wimbledon with other well-known figures from the period, including Maud Petre. Dinnis wrote Catholic stories for readers of all ages. She is one of the finest lost authors of the Catholic Literary Revival. Dinnis's intervention in the short story genre is considerable. She weaves together fairy tale, myth, Catholic mysticism, epiphanic dialogue and everyday characterization to produce stories that are both simple and complex, both light-hearted and profound. Always concerned with 'the wonderful resourcefulness of the love of God', her stories proclaim the presence and workings of divine grace in the everyday lives of all people—old and young, sceptics and seekers, farmers and priests. Dinnis's stories show that God's love is the answer to all human struggles and quests. They illustrate what it means to receive love – human and divine – and to pass it on. Her work is filled with visions and confessions, miracles and conversions – but it is never overly pious or saccharine. Her characters are real people experiencing the truths proclaimed by the Catholic faith, which is always as marvelous as it is every-day. Enid Dinnis's stories reenchant the post-enlightenment world along Catholic lines. Her stories put the supernatural firmly back into the world in a way that is needed now more needed than ever.

[In Ghostlight: Poems \(Southern Messenger Poets\)](#) (2024)

Author: Ryan Wilson, Publisher: LSU Press

In Ghostlight, a long-awaited second collection of original poems by Ryan Wilson, considers the haunting of the contemporary mind. With virtuosic formal variety and masterful craft, these poems range from rural America to Italy to the Holy Land, as they chronicle the dynamism of a spiritual odyssey toward the eternal through both past and present. Wilson employs sonnets, Pindaric and ballad stanzas, alliterative hemistichs in imitation of the Anglo-Saxon, and other ancient forms to enlighten the modern experience, from smartphones and Facebook to jumbo jets, entangled in a reciprocal relationship with myths, sacred literature, and traditions.

Revealing that the past and the everlasting can inform the present at any given moment, *In Ghostlight* conveys how a vision acknowledging this dual illumination helps us understand ourselves and others in our fraught, complex era.

There is no better poet writing today and Ryan is part of the Catholic Imagination Conference.

[Dear Dante: Poems](#) (2024)

Author: Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Publisher: Paraclete Press

An imagined conversation with Dante Alighieri written in response to the 700th anniversary of Dante's death by fellow Catholic poet, lover and master of the sonnet, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell.

In the summer of 2021, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell honored the 700th anniversary of Dante's death, by embarking on a three-month pilgrimage through the 100 cantos of *The Divine Comedy*, reading one canto per day. This new collection, *Dear Dante*, is her response to Dante's epic poem: 39 poems (13 for each of the 3 canticles), plus an additional 3 to serve as prologue and epilogue, all written in the poetic forms Dante loved best: the sonnet and the form he invented, *terza rima*.

In O'Donnell's words: "Dear Dante is a species of accompaniment, an act of homage, and a long love letter to Dante. It might also be read as a series of meditations that attest to how dear Dante is to us. The *Commedia* is our inheritance, a gift granted to readers by our brother poet 700 years ago. These poems are an admittedly small expression of gratitude for that grand and graced gift. Grazie Mille, Maestro."

Angela is on the leadership team of the Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference.

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About the Center

The Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage exists to help faculty and students recognize and research Roman Catholic thought and its link to all academic disciplines in the university. It also seeks to convey that thought to other audiences inside and outside Loyola University Chicago.



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