

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

The Hank Center

February 2026



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the Catholic tradition, conversion is far more than a single dramatic moment or a once-and-done decision. It is a lifelong journey—an ongoing turning of our hearts toward God, again and again, in response to God's grace.

The idea (and mystery) of conversion is attached to an interesting etymology. The Latin root of conversion is *convertere*--"to turn with"--and so includes something beautiful and relational in its religious sense: to turn into the Trinitarian *perichoresis* of God where all are invited into the divine dance with whatever choreographies and energies we can muster. The Jewish idea of *teshuvah*, not surprisingly, is kindredly aligned; and while *teshuvah* emphasizes the essential element of repentance, we see in someone exemplary, like King David, the active presence of both qualities. In his early days as King, David dances joyfully before the Ark, turning in time with God; he later dances again with God, albeit in a different way, in his acknowledgement of personal sin—a sin against marital trust perpetrated from the position of absolute power. His immediate *mea culpa* before the prophet Nathan embodies a form of

spiritual return (or *tshuvah*) through complete remorse and sincere regret rather than just seeking to avoid punishment.

All of us are invited to turn in these ways—in both joy and sorrow—and to invite God into our lives to change us. God is always moving us in this way and it's our job to notice and discern these movements—and then to resolve again (and again) to return to righteous action, resolve again and again to dance with God and each other in life-giving rhythm.

The Hank Center welcomes another David—David Gibson—to our always edifying annual Newman lecture this coming Thursday (2/12). David is a gifted speaker and good friend of the Hank Center. His lecture, “How to be Catholic: A User’s Guide to Converting” will be welcomed food for thought—and a good way to help us to turn towards the movements of the Lenten season. Please read on for further details and we hope to see you in person on Thursday evening.

As St. John Henry Newman observed famously in *An Essay on the Development of Doctrine* (1845), “In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” As we continue down the path in our shared journey of faith and learning, may we remain open to the quiet (and sometimes challenging) ways God invites us to change. May we trust that every step toward Him, no matter how small or unexpected, will be met with grace, mercy, and joy.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

Hank Center Highlights

Spring 2026 Events Calendar

The graphic is a calendar for February 2026. It features three event listings with small images and text descriptions. The top left event is 'Mark Massa, S.J., "Catholic Fundamentalism"' on January 28th. The top right event is 'The 2026 Annual St. John Henry Newman Lecture featuring David Gibson: "How to be Catholic: A User's Guide to Converting"' on February 12th. The bottom event is 'Sacred Ground, Contested Space: The Sanctuary Movement Past and Present' on February 19th. The graphic also includes the Hank Center logo and the Loyola University Chicago logo.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Video Now Available:
Sobriano Student Colloquium on Worship, Theology, and Justice

Join Us for An Upcoming Event!

The 2026 Annual St. John Henry Newman Lecture featuring David Gibson

"How to be Catholic: A User's Guide to Converting"

Student Presentation



Sobrino Colloquium participant, William Wade presents his paper entitled, "Conversation in Convalescence" where he reflects on his trip to Japan for the 80th Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.

Learn more about this undergraduate student colloquium and see the full list of presenters on the colloquium website linked below.

Visit the
Sobrino
Colloquium
Website

Latest Public Voices Interview: Notes on the Enchantments of AI and Automation: A Conversation with Eugene McCarraher



Hank Center Director, Dr. Michael Murphy sits down with Eugene McCarraher for a discussion about AI and automation in the present age.



Thursday, February 12, 2025, 7 - 8:30 PM
Information Commons 4th Floor, Lakeshore Campus

This year's lecturer is [David Gibson](#), Director of the McGrath Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham University.

David Gibson went to Rome a Protestant, got hired by the Vatican, traveled the world with the pope, and became Catholic. Nice story. But what could such a tale possibly teach most of us about becoming Catholic, and staying Catholic? In the 2026 Newman Lecture, Gibson – a veteran journalist and currently director of the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham University – talks about what took him from his upbringing as a “Billy Graham Evangelical” to his conversion to Roman Catholicism, and how his unusual experience relates to our church's challenges today.

Enjoy this short message from David!



[More Information](#)

Upcoming Catholic Imagination Events

THE JOAN & BILL HANK CENTER FOR THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE

Exploring the Catholic Imagination

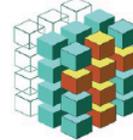
Discuss and celebrate the Catholic Imagination through storytelling this March with two events: *A Faith That Builds Worlds: The Catholic Imagination and Speculative Storytelling Conference*, and *Flannery 101: Capping the Centenary Year of an American Master*.

Both events are free and open to the public. Registration is required.

A Faith That Builds Worlds: The Catholic Imagination and Speculative Storytelling

March 14, 2026, 8am–5pm
Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus

Worldbuilding is inherently spiritual. In speculative storytelling, it insists that all things have meaning, that—if we but hold on until the end, gathering up pieces of language and lore, architecture and myth—all will be revealed. Worldbuilding, when seen through a spiritual lens, sits squarely atop the oft-noted Ignatian insight that *God is in all things*. The Catholic imagination insists that the world is charged with the grandeur of God, but it also reminds us that all things unfold in God's time, not ours. What if we reclaimed the need for worldbuilding once more—and did so as a way to better grapple with God and God's world? This event is co-sponsored by Jesuit Media Lab.



A Faith That Builds Worlds
The catholic imagination and speculative storytelling

SPEAKERS

- Eric Clayton
- Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ
- Ryan Duns, SJ
- Susan Haarman
- John Hendrix
- Rose John Sheffler
- Emily Strand
- Joe Vukov



Flannery 101: Capping the Centenary Year of an American Master

featuring Amy Alznauer, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell,
Elizabeth Coffman, Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J., and Special Guests

March 25, 2026, 3–9pm
Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus

March 25th, 2025 marks 101 years since the birth of acclaimed author, Flannery O'Connor. Though she only published two novels and two collections of short fiction in her life, O'Connor continues to compel and inspire scholars of literature, devotees of the short story, theologians, visual artists, and a cast of others. O'Connor has been identified and grouped in a number of ways, but she always seems to transcend simple reductions. Join us for a day of unorthodox, mixed media celebration of an artist who put her storytelling first—an artist who both embraced discomfort and who understood her own fallibility in "hot pursuit of the real" and her quest for God.



REGISTER ONLINE
LUC.edu/ccih



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[More Information about Faith That Builds Worlds](#)

**Video Now Available & Event Recap:
Annual Jesuit Lecture featuring Fr. Mark Massa, SJ**

"Catholic Fundamentalisms"



The Hank Center was pleased to welcome [Fr. Mark Massa, SJ](#) of [Boston College's Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life](#), for its 2025 Jesuit Lecture. He spoke about his new book, *Catholic Fundamentalism in America*. Heidi Schlumpf, Senior Correspondent for *Commonweal*, provided a response.

The term "fundamentalism" has its roots in specific forms of American Protestantism that arose around the turn of the twentieth century in reaction to liberalizing and modernizing trends within the church. In this book, Mark Massa argues that an analogously reactive, militant, and sectarian "fundamentalist" movement emerged within American Catholicism in the decades after World War II, for a similarly complex mix of theological and cultural reasons. In *Catholic Fundamentalism in America* Massa gives the first account of the Catholic form of the anti-modernist impulse. Through seven portraits of individuals and movements that embody the Catholic fundamentalist impulse, Massa demonstrates how the Catholic Right, like its evangelical Protestant counterpart, has reacted to--and fought against--modern American culture.

The response was given by [Heidi Schlumpf](#). Heidi Schlumpf is an award-winning, nationally recognized multimedia journalist, editor and podcaster with three decades of experience covering religion, spirituality, political, social and women's issues. She is

currently the senior correspondent at [Commonweal Magazine](#).



Fr. Mark Massa, SJ , in conversation with respondent, Heidi Schlumpf, Senior Correspondent at Commonweal.

[Watch the Lecture Video](#)

**The Hank Center Honors Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ
with Change to Graduate Fellowship Program:**

***The Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
Fellowships in the Catholic
Intellectual Tradition***



The Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.

Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.

Fellowships in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

We are pleased to announce our newly-renamed Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., Fellowships in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. These fellowships (formerly Hank Fellowships in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition) encourage and support graduate students in their exploration of the Catholic intellectual tradition in its many disciplinary and creative forms—in theology and philosophy, literature and the arts, natural and social sciences, social movements and culture, pedagogy and pastoral life. Named for Fr. Michael Garanzini, S.J., whose tenure as President of Loyola University Chicago from 2001-2015 was a profoundly transformational, watershed example of leadership and vision, the Garanzini Fellowships support the next generation of Catholic scholars across the United States as they engage life-giving scholarship in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Spotlight:
**The Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., Fellowships in the
Catholic Intellectual Tradition**

Meet our Fellows!

Hayden Hagerman



D. Hayden Hagerman is a Ph.D. candidate in Historical Theology at Marquette University. He received his M.Div. from Duke University (2018) and B.A. from Cincinnati Christian University (2014). His dissertation, which is entitled “Ever Virgin: The Alexandrian Contribution to the Theology and Defense of Mary’s Ever Virginity before the Council of Ephesus 431,” argues for the primacy of the Alexandrian tradition in promoting, theologizing, and effectively defining the doctrine of Mary’s ever virginity. In so doing, it argues against the prevailing scholarly opinion which argues that the doctrine of Mary’s ever virginity emerged primarily as the legacy of 4th-century Latin ascetical theologies, particularly those of Ambrose of Milan and Jerome of Stridon. The generous support from the Hank Fellowship will help fund Hayden's additional language education in Coptic and Syriac and conference travel.



I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University. I earned both a B.A. in Theology and a Th.M. in Missiology from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Then, I studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, where I completed my Master of Divinity. My research interests lie in comparative theology and the history of Christian encounters with Asian religious traditions, with a particular focus on Jesuit engagement with Buddhism and Confucianism. My dissertation, tentatively titled “Fateful Encounters between Global Catholicism and Confucian Filial Piety,” explores the intersections of Global Catholicism and Confucianism in late Joseon Korea. It examines how Jesuit missionaries reinterpreted the Confucian concept of filial piety (xiao 孝) and how these reinterpretations shaped the development of early Catholicism in Korea during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. My dissertation argues that differing conceptions of filial piety, particularly regarding the parent-child relationship, was central to the governmental suppression of Catholicism. At the same time, it highlights how filial devotion toward the Christian God as the Great Father reinforced the belief that dying for one’s faith was the highest expression of filial duty. The Hank Fellowship will support archival research and documentation of Korean Catholicism in Korea.

[Meet All of Our Fellows!](#)

Contact Us

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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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