

From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Hank Center was honored to welcome Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, to Loyola last month. The Cardinal opened his lecture, [“Pope Francis: Discernment and the Dialectic of Mercy.”](#) with a good-natured quip: “People always ask me: ‘why do you always talk about Pope Francis?’ I

answer them, ‘Because it is my job.’” The large crowd gave a solid laugh, and the evening was characterized by warm conversation and insight. The full text of Cardinal Pierre’s compelling lecture will be published in *Commonweal* next month.

In the Q&A portion, Cardinal Pierre mused aloud on the necessity of understanding a fundamental ecclesial principle when encountering different points of view (especially in the Church)—that of *Communio*. “The Church does not abolish differences,” Cardinal Pierre observed, “The Church is not unanimity—it is *Communio*.” The grammar of this central insight might be challenging to some, but I daresay it is easier to understand as we approach the birthday of the Church and contemplate again the mysteries of Pentecost Sunday.

Indeed, Cardinal Pierre situated the possibility of communion precisely against our disposition and willingness to listen to the Holy Spirit. It is more possible for us to credibly discern and behold “the mighty acts of God,” (as we read in Acts), when we are inclined and prepared to do so. “Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?” the same scripture asks, to which, for his part and from his epoch, Pope Francis responds, by embracing positive tensions and entering into authentic encounter and difficult dialogue: “Diversity is a harmony of the Holy Spirit,” Pope Francis exhorts, “division is from the devil.”

This, of course, is also very strong language—and it bears all earmarks of Pope Francis’

Ignatian style. More, so much depends on our hearing and heeding the counsel of Cardinal Pierre and his boss, the Holy Father. The Holy Spirit, as the great Hans Urs von Balthasar (himself an erstwhile Jesuit) wrote late in his career, "is empowered to utter a fresh and central answer to each situation"-- and all of these stark insights about the Holy Spirit should touch us to the quick, and provide hope, as we presently navigate difficult days and newer antagonisms. But the question remains the same and is offered to every age: do we have the disposition, courage, creativity, fidelity, and imagination to both hear and listen to the Spirit? Are we paying attention? Are we ready to receive God's grace not according to our plans and preferences, but to God's? At its core, this is what the Synodal movement asks and it is one the oldest questions I can think of. And so—and as ever—we pray: [Veni sancte spiritus.](#)

Dear Friends, we have been graced with another packed and substantive year. So many wonderful events in the last couple of months alone—including visits from Jason Blakely, Deanna Witkowski, and a lovely luncheon where we honored Dr. Susan Ross with our Living Tradition Award. You can read more about these events below and note also our summer programming—especially our Reading the Catholic Imagination series which was such a hit last year (and promises to be again this year). You can also scroll and [click through our web pages](#) to see where we have been—and where we are going. You can also click on our [YouTube page](#) and view the many edifying videos of our conversations, proceedings, and initiatives from this year and years past. Please take time to read and view as you will not be disappointed. As always, we are all about conversation—and free to write us with any comments, questions, discernments, or revelations.

Finally, it takes a dedicated staff to do what we do-- and to do it so well. I am so grateful for [our Hank Center Team](#)—Joe, Katie, Julian, Connor, Grace, and Mary—for their dedication, creativity, and esprit de corps. More than half our of our squad are students and we think this noteworthy—especially because they are so invested and talented. We offer a sincere Huzzah to two of these students, Grace Shallal and Connor Quaglino, both of whom graduated last week. We will miss them more than I can write or say—but are so happy to report both are all about setting the world on fire: Grace begins doctoral studies next fall in Michigan and Connor has landed a prestigious job with Bank of America right here in Sweet Home Chicago. Good people: this is what it's all about and my heart is full.

May our loving God keep you in good health and spirits, and,

Warmest regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

Hank Center Highlights

Spring 2024 Events Calendar

The graphic is a calendar for the Hank Center's Spring 2024 events, covering January to February. It features a grid layout with event details for each date. The top of the graphic has the Hank Center logo and the text 'SPRING EVENTS JAN-FEB 2024'. The events listed include:
- **JAN. 23**: Roundtable Conversation with Cardinal Pierre.
- **JAN. 25**: What the Book Should I Do with My Life? by C.S. Lewis.
- **FEB. 5**: Kirby DeGroot Book Lecture: Conversion, Crisis, and Grace.
- **FEB. 21**: Vatican's Changing Position on the Eucharist.
- **FEB. 21-25**: The Holy Eucharist Conference.
- **FEB. 27**: The Holy Eucharist Conference (continued).
The graphic also includes contact information for the Hank Center and logos for CCIH and Loyola University Chicago.

The 2024 Annual Cardinal Bernardin Lecture with Papal Nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre "Pope Francis: Discernment and the Dialectic of Mercy"

Thank you for joining us for a wonderful year!

Join us for the 4th Building Bridges Initiative Synodal Meeting!



**Save the Date:
June 20th, 2024 at
7 a.m. (Central -
Chicago)**

***Building Bridges
Across Asia Pacific***

Pope Francis is gearing up for 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



***April 11, 2024 at 7pm
McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, LSC***

The Hank Center was proud to present this year's Annual Cardinal Bernardin Lecture on April 11th in McCormick Lounge. This year's lecturer was the Papal Nuncio, Cardinal Christophe Pierre. The Bernardin lecture named after Joseph Bernardin, Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago from 1982 to 1996, honors his influential work toward Church reform after the Second Vatican Council through his Catholic Common Ground Initiative. Bernardin further sought to address social issues, especially in developing his "Seamless Garment Ethic of Life" He also worked toward ecumenism and interfaith dialogue throughout his life. Cardinal Christophe Pierre is the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. His lecture was entitled, "Pope Francis: Discernment and the Dialectic of Mercy."

In his lecture, Cardinal Pierre considered the ways that the *Aparecida* paradigm of "see-judge-act" has proven to be a highly effective method for analyzing both society and the Church, as it applies a distinctive Christian perspective throughout all three stages of the process. He then considered the current change of epoch facing society and observed how Pope Francis is furnishing the Church with the appropriate hermeneutical key to see, judge, and act. This key involves embracing a dialectic that adheres to the Ignatian maxim "*non coarctari a maximo, sed contineri a minimo divinum est*"-- a maxim (and epitaph on the grave of St. Ignatius) that orients the intellectual and social mission of Loyola University. From the perspective of the small, of the restricted spaces, one gains a sharper perception of the larger context. Discerning what the Church should do today, particularly in dialogue with a post-secularized society, can be achieved by paying attention to the marginalized and the peripheries. In these encounters, Christians experience the transformative power of grace and continually learn the language of mercy through dialectical experiences. Here is the focus of what promises to be a most compelling lecture: the many ways that the Church reappropriates her proper incarnational dimension in a eucharistic perspective that guides her discernment.

This event was free and open to the public. We thank our co-sponsors, The Jesuit Community at LUC and *Commonweal*

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 livestreams will be accessible through the Building Bridges Initiative website. For more information and to register to join the livestream, please see the link below.

[More Information and Registration](#)

REGISTRATION OPEN!

Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago Workers Forum: *The Dignity of Labor and Connecting with Catholic Social Teaching*



**Tuesday, June 11th
11:45 AM -2:15 PM**

The Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago has undertaken an initiative to highlight the long-standing Catholic teaching supporting the rights of workers. A committee of CLG members has put together this forum to

magazine.



Cardinal Christophe Pierre poses with some Loyola students who attended the lecture.

[Watch the Event Recording Here](#)

2024 Living Tradition Award Luncheon Honoring Dr. Susan Ross



Dr. Susan Ross (Center) receives the Living Tradition Award from Provost Margaret Callahan and Hank Center Director, Dr. Michael Murphy.

April 18, 2024

McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, LSC

Each year the Hank Center presents the Living Tradition Award to a Loyola University Chicago emeritus faculty member who has exemplified the integration of Catholic thought into their work. This award commemorates extraordinary lives of scholarship, research, and teaching in specific fields of expertise. The Living Tradition Award ceremony and banquet occur every Spring.

educate and enlighten attorneys—and the larger community—about the meaning of Catholic social justice teaching and its' continuing relevance for workplace justice and labor advocacy.

**More
Information and
Registration**

**NEW DATES
ANNOUNCED:**

**Peter Maurin
Conference**



**September 14-15,
2024 at St. Gregory
the Great Church**

This conference will consider the life, 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.

This year's honoree was theologian, Dr. Susan A. Ross. Attendees to the luncheon included Loyola President, Dr. Mark Reed, Provost Margaret Callahan, Dean Peter Schraeder, members of the Loyola faculty, staff, emeriti, and members of Dr. Ross's family and friends. Dr. Ross is the author of three books and numerous journal articles and book chapters. She is a Past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America, and a former Vice-President and member of the Board of Editors of *Concilium*, the international theological journal. The Hank Center congratulates Dr. Ross for her great achievements!

You can read about the celebration in Heidi Schlumpf's article linked below.



Dr. Ross listens to celebratory remarks given by Dr. Hille Haker, Richard A. McCormick, S.J., Chair of Catholic Moral Theology.



(Left to right): Dr. William George, Dr. Susan Ross and President Mark Reed.

NCR's Heidi Schrupf: "Feminist Theologian Susan Ross Honored by Loyola University Chicago"

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 will feature keynote addresses and roundtable discussions treating various topics related to Maurin's thought.

**More
Information and
Save the Date**

**Mary Lou Williams
Lecture and Gala
Performance
Featuring Deanna
Witkowski**



Loyola celebrated the music of the late jazz great, Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981), in late March, 2024. As an adult convert to Catholicism (with many ties to Jesuits), Williams's sanctity is getting better known—especially in her corporal works of mercy for fellow musicians and loving care for all who crossed her path. Williams expressed her faith in her music—

Returning Program! Reading the Catholic Imagination, Year Two!



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 is led by three excellent emerging scholars of the Catholic literary tradition.

This summer's sessions will include:

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

This seminar will explore 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 will be 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 will take 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 provides an opportunity to explore the threshold between the sacred and the secular, and the process

innovatively composing and situating jazz in liturgical settings and demonstrating the sacral range of jazz music in new registers.

The Hank Center welcomed Williams scholar and jazz pianist, **Deanna Witkowski**, author of Williams' biography, *Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul* for several events and classroom visits at LUC. Witkowski is the foremost interpreter of Williams, both musically (as a virtuosa pianist) and as a scholar.

Both events were free and open to the public.

[Event Recap](#)

Annual Newman Lecture featuring Jason Blakely



The Saint John Henry Newman Lecture Series is named after the great 19th century English prelate who wrote movingly about his intellectual journey toward Roman Catholicism in his spiritual autobiography, *Apologia pro vita sua* (1864). Newman's work helped later generations of Catholics and Catholic converts map out ways to understand the datum of religious faith in light of the

by which human desires find their transcendent expressions.

The Bear and the Inner Life
with Susan L. Miller

This summer we'll examine 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'll think 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 will ask, 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 will explore her distinctive contribution to a shared Christian aesthetic and ask what is gained and lost by attending to the distinctive imaginaries of Christian traditions.

Stay tuned for registration announcements. For more information about our RCI leaders, please see:

[More about Reading the Catholic Imagination](#)

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 Video](#)

contemporary issues facing modern life. Honoring this engagement with the Catholic tradition, CCIH invites scholars each spring to recount their own discovery (or rediscovery) of the Catholic intellectual heritage in light of their ongoing scholarship.

This year's Newman Lecturer was **Professor Jason Blakely from Pepperdine University**. Dr. Blakely is a political philosopher and a leading scholar of contemporary "communitarian" and post-liberal thought, especially the work of philosophers Alasdair MacIntyre and Charles Taylor. He has an exciting new book, **Lost in Ideology: Interpreting Modern Political Thought**, released just in time to help us re-engage with civic life in constructive ways ahead of the fall election.

His lecture was entitled, "Atheist!: A Story of Conversion."

Watch the 2024
Newman
Lecture

**Catholic Criminal
Justice Reform
Network: Panel and
Discussion with
Cardinal Cupich**



The Hank Center is

Reflections from a New Graduate and Hank Center Undergraduate Student Assistant: Grace Shallal



Grace poses with her parents, degree in-hand, after her commencement ceremony. She will begin her doctoral studies in Michigan in Fall, 2024

Reflecting on my time at the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, I can confidently say it has been one of the most transformative experiences of my college life. It's not just about the events we've hosted or the discussions we've had--it's about how these experiences have intertwined my faith and intellectual growth in ways I hadn't anticipated before college.

Working at the Center allowed me to dive deep into the rich traditions of Catholic thought, blending historical insights with contemporary issues. This blend of the old and the new pushed me to think critically and creatively, making my academic pursuits all the more meaningful. It's one thing to study theology or philosophy in a classroom--which I did on a daily basis--but it's another to see those theories come alive through the dialogues and projects at the Hank Center. I was even lucky enough to encounter topics that I never would've otherwise been interested in, and that not only deepened my understanding but also my appreciation for a faith that engages actively with the world's complexities.

Moreover, the connections I've made here are invaluable. From scholars and professionals to fellow students and staff passionate about their beliefs, the network I've built is both inspiring and supportive. These connections have opened doors to discussions that challenge and refine my perspectives, fostering a community where faith and reason coexist beautifully. Even when talking to non-Catholics, I genuinely believe that working at the Hank Center has taught me to articulate my beliefs more effectively and eloquently.

proud to support Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network, a much needed initiative created by the Honorable Thomas More Donnelly— Cook County Judge, Loyola Law Faculty, and Board Member at the Hank Center. In February, Judge Donnelly engaged a panel of experts— including Cardinal Cupich and Jeannie Bishop—on this central movement and mandate of Restorative Justice. We joined our friends at Lumen Christi (who are convening this conversation) and our friends at the Historic Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture at St. Alphonsus Ligouri (who are hosting it).

NCR Event Report: "Less Than A Person"

Learn More and See Calendar of Upcoming Events

Above all, my work at the Hank Center has been deeply fulfilling. Whether organizing events, participating in large gatherings like National Synodal conversations, or just the average day-to-day of talking to Katie about cool historical things or reality TV and getting nothing done (sorry Dr. Murphy!), I've felt a profound sense of purpose and belonging. This role has not only been about fulfilling job duties but also about contributing to a community that values deep thinking and spiritual growth, and they truly do!

Overall, the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage hasn't just been a place I worked at during college; it has been a pivotal part of my college journey, shaping how I view the world and my place in it. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and excited to carry these lessons forward in my life.

Highlighting our Hank Center Graduate Student Fellows: Jacob Saliba



Jacob Saliba is a PhD candidate in the department of history at Boston College specializing in modern European intellectual history. He holds an MA in political science from Boston College as well as a BA in Economics and Political Science from Ohio Dominican University. His dissertation, "The Discovery of the Sacred in Interwar France: From Contestation to Cooperation, 1919-1941," explains how and why lively social bonds and mutual intellectual projects emerged between Catholic, Jewish, and secular intellectuals in interwar France. In particular, his dissertation focuses on the Catholic dimensions of this story by showing that Catholic thinkers—through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural exchange—helped to facilitate vibrant philosophical and political changes during this time

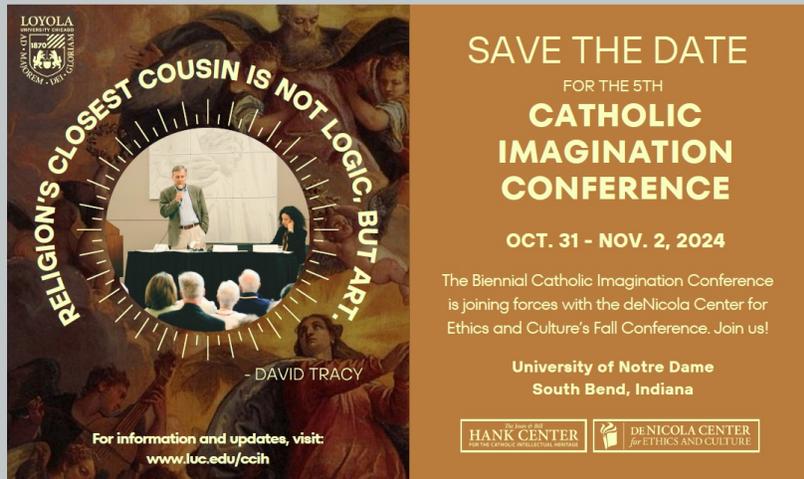
period. Drawing on rich archival evidence together with published texts, Jacob's project aims to show that a renewed practice and thinking of Catholicism took root in interwar France and provided instrumental resources for creating a democratic ethos against wider threats of fascism, racism, and extremism. With generous support from the Hank Center for the summer 2023, he will be returning to France to continue analyzing files of correspondence, journals, and unpublished manuscripts held at the Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine in Caen, the Archives françaises de la compagnie de Jésus in Paris, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris.

**Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow:
Sarah Simms**



Sarah Simms is a PhD student and Teaching Fellow at DePaul University. She earned a BA in Religious Studies at Beloit College before shifting disciplines to pursue her MA and PhD in Philosophy at DePaul. Her current research explores the work of feminist philosopher Luce Irigaray, examining both her critical interpretation of the desire for otherworldly transcendence as founded upon a sacrificial order that pervades Western thought, and her attempt to reconcile transcendence with immanence, such that it might fuel our endeavors to honor the irreducibility of sexual difference and engage in our own subjective becoming. Sarah ultimately critiques this rehabilitation of transcendence on the grounds that it fails to fully grapple with the reality of human mortality. She then turns to medieval theological sources who share Irigaray's commitment to incarnate transcendence yet bring this commitment into harmony with the human yearning for the otherworldly. Pivotal to Sarah's work are John Duns Scotus' radical affirmation of the Incarnation in his

arguments for the “absolute primacy of Christ,” Bonaventure’s account of the “spiritual senses,” and Julian of Norwich’s understanding of God’s love as radical plenitude.



SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE 5TH
**CATHOLIC
IMAGINATION
CONFERENCE**

OCT. 31 - NOV. 2, 2024

The Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference is joining forces with the deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture's Fall Conference. Join us!

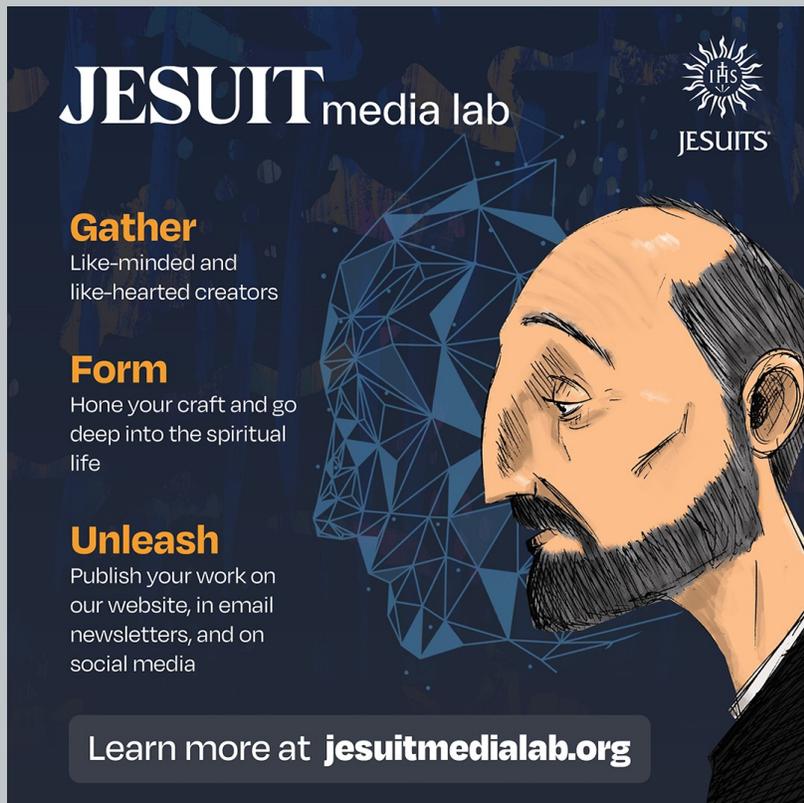
University of Notre Dame
South Bend, Indiana

For information and updates, visit:
www.luc.edu/ccih

HANK CENTER
for the Creative and Cultural Imagination

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

Jesuit Media Lab



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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

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.

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

Author: Claude Pavur, 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

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