



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I write this greeting on the heels of enjoying a most lovely series of meetings and celebrations honoring Dra. Emilce Cuda, our Loyola colleague and Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. Dra. Cuda's 10-day visit culminated in her receiving the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* at this spring's graduate ceremony. The degree was awarded in honor of her contributions to the advancement of knowledge, her

commitment to the common good, and her dedication to the values and ideals of the University's Jesuit, Catholic heritage.

Dra. Cuda's scholarship is intriguing not least because it pairs so naturally with the intellectual vision of Pope Francis. Our lives together in God and as a Church, as Dra. Cuda observes, "is about unity in difference, which does not suppose a partisan indoctrination on common interests but, rather, faith in a divine economy of salvation, in the community as a faithful People of God." Her insight invokes the content of Pope Francis' unfinished doctoral dissertation, a study devoted to understanding how apparent contradictions could be resolved metaphysically, through Ignatian discernment-- and by reframing natural tensions as dynamic and fertile "contradistinctions" (as opposed to divisive "contradictions") through the lens of the great *Ressourcement* theologian, Romano Guardini. How prescient and prophetic this work was when Pope Francis engaged it in the 1980s-- especially given the lazy and base forms of polarization that, in the intervening years, has infected so much of our lives together in civic and ecclesial spaces.

In February of 2022, Dra. Cuda was instrumental in the planning of **an event** led by Loyola University Chicago that brought students from across the Americas together with Pope

Francis. The media "hits" on this historical gathering rivaled those of our beloved Sr. Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM, and the success of our Men's basketball team. And so what a delight it was to get Dra. Cuda and Sr. Jean together. They became fast friends-- and the only person missing was Pope Francis. Rumor has it that he tweeted about it but let us not fact-check too strongly on this. So lovely to celebrate Dra. Cuda (and host her lovely family) in any (and every) case.

It's been another robust year of programming at the Hank Center. This spring has been particularly vibrant—not only because of the vitality of our annual Newman and Bernardin Lectures, but with the new initiatives we have inaugurated this year. We convened our new Advanced Faculty Seminar featuring Affiliated Catholic Studies Faculty where nine faculty discussed “Foundations, Frameworks, and Futures” of Catholic Studies in a series of compelling meetings. We also held our first Jesuit Lecture—an annual event that will feature a younger, emerging Jesuit scholar working in the intellectual apostolate. In a similar vein, initiated an award program for the men in First Studies, the St. John Berchmans, S.J., Prize which shines light on superb scholarly work done by scholastics. With an eye on the fifth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference (taking place at the University of Notre Dame in fall, 2024), our work in the Catholic Imagination is as vigorous as ever. We are co-hosting a major **conference in Rome next week** (which includes a plenary address by filmmaker, Martin Scorsese) and are inaugurating an exciting online summer reading series, “Reading the Catholic Imagination.” Read on for more information about all of these substantive and engaging programs and initiatives.

A program of unique quality and urgency is our multi-year "The Way Forward" conference. Along with Boston College's Boisi Center and Fordham University's Center on Religion and Culture, the Hank Center hosts a diverse group of conference attendees and provides a setting where Catholic leaders can speak frankly to each other about important issues affecting the Church today. The second iteration of the forum, “The Way Forward: Pope Francis, Vatican II, and Synodality” (in Boston, 3/2-4), brought together 80 participants—including cardinals, bishops, and other Catholic Church leaders, as well as theologians, historians, public intellectuals, and journalists—to discuss synodality, the call by Pope Francis for the universal Church to “walk together,” to continue the reception of Vatican II, and to embrace the ecclesiological challenges facing the Church. Read more about the fruits of this conference **here** and below; but if you really want to get the right sense of it (and the possibilities it engenders), **please view this superb short film** crafted by Sebastian Gomes and our friends at America Media. These are 10 minutes that will energize your soul.

It is in that spirit—that is, the spirit of hope—that I convey special gratitude to our excellent Center staff. Nothing cultivates hope as much as a team joining together with dedication and enthusiasm to work and build together a worthy project. Office Manager Katie Arnold is a superb partner and has led our student team-- Adam, Grace, Connor, and Matthew-- so very well this year. In the same way, our student team has been simply a joy to work with and I wish them well-deserved relaxation this summer. Additional gratitude to Fr. Paddy Gilger, SJ (an all around mensch and our incoming **Teilhard Fellow**), Dr. Joe Vukov (our incoming Associate Director), and Dr. Naomi Fisher (Director of Catholic Studies) for their support, expertise, and good will. Special thanks is always reserved for John and Bill Hank. Their most substantial gift fires our many endeavors and we remain profoundly grateful for their vision, friendship, and generosity. Thanks, Hanks!

Friends, this newsletter is the most packed we have ever published in the 16-year history of the Center. Please take time to read as you will not be disappointed. As always, we are all about conversation. Feel free to write us with any comments, questions, discernments, or revelations.

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

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

Hank Center Highlights

Upcoming Conference: The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination Conference



Later this month, poets, novelists, film directors, scholars and artists of all kinds will meet in Rome for the **Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination** conference. This gathering will bring together both critical readers and creative artists from North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and East Asia who self-identify as Catholic or pay homage to Catholicism as a formative dimension of their artistry.

We will hear readings from poets and writers and share in discussions of the spiritual and religious dimensions that form the literary imagination, especially in the cultural contexts of each artist. Plenary addresses will be offered by José Cardinal Tolentino Calaça de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, and film director, Martin Scorsese.

The hope is that we engage the

Nexus Volume 2 Robots and Rituals: Reflections on Faith in the Era of Science and AI



Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition is a digital-age journal that amplifies and publishes scholarly dialogue taking place in the Hank Center—whether in symposia and conference proceedings or in the research of its several faculty working groups. Cultivating the Jesuit principle of finding God in all things, Nexus fosters a wide scope of interdisciplinary scholarship, reflection, and public engagement—theological, philosophical, artistic, scientific, literary, historical, political, and more—forms that constitute this vital tradition. Nexus is robust space to encounter and explore the "living tradition" of Catholic thought and practice in order to be leavening to the scholarly community of Loyola University Chicago, to the Church, and to our local, national and international partners and audience. Nexus is published annually by the Hank Center.

The second volume of *Nexus*, *Robots and Rituals: Reflections on Faith in the Era of Science and AI*, is now available! The issue transports us into the exciting and complicated present where faith, science, digital culture, and AI collide. As ever, the Catholic Intellectual Tradition is a key resource and intervention in these conversations. Read on and let us know what you think!

Here is a list of the articles and authors, and you will find a link to the journal directly below.

Articles in Volume 2:

1. Integrating the Inquirer: A Jesuit Approach to Interdisciplinarity by Adam D. Hincks, S.J.
2. The Science Beneath Belief: An Interview with David DeSteno
3. Arguing for Good Faith by Michael Burns
4. Thy Power Throughout the Universe Displayed by Pamela L. Gay
5. Intelligence? Understanding? Wisdom? by Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.
6. Appleseeds to Apples: Catholicism and the Next ChatGPT: An Interview with Blake Lemoine
7. Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, and the Catholic View of Human Nature by Joseph Vukov
8. Social Robots in Elderly Care by Hille Haker

assumptions and histories of Catholic culture in an array of geographies around the world in order to see the similarities and differences at work in cultural productions today.

The Hank Center is proud to co-sponsor this conference alongside the conference leads, the Office of Mission & Ministry at Georgetown University, and *La Civiltà Cattolica*. Additional support comes from the Francis and Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies at Fordham University.

New Program Coming Soon: *Reading the Catholic Imagination*



The Hank Center is thrilled to announce a new program series in the Catholic Imagination: *Reading the Catholic Imagination*. RCI 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.

9. Apocalypse Now? Yes, Please: Notes on Navigating the Digital Revolution by Michael P. Murphy
10. Ad Astra Per Libros: Further Reading on Science Fiction and Faith by Susan Haarman

Issue Now Available

Honorary Doctorate Recipient Dr. Emilce Cuda Luncheon



May 2, 2023
Beane Hall, Lewis Towers, Loyola University Chicago

The Hank Center was pleased to welcome Dr. Emilce Cuda who received an honorary doctorate from Loyola University Chicago last week. Our celebratory luncheon, co-hosted by The Department of Mission Integration, the Gannon Center, The Institute for Pastoral Studies, and the Provost's Office, was a true delight. University President, Dr. Mark Reed welcomed luncheon guests, Sr. Jean prepared a beautiful prayer, and Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, President of Catholic Theological Union, and Dra. Maria Vidal de Haymes, Professor in School of Social Work, and Director, Center for Immigrant & Refugee Accompaniment at LUC, offered compelling reflections on leadership and life in the Church and the experience of immigrants. A robust conversation followed. Dra. Cuda is the Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, a Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and a Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. She was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* at this spring's graduate ceremony.



Information about the series' topics, instructors and registration are coming soon!

**Common Home Corps:
Inaugural Training**



Catholic Climate Covenant, in collaboration with the Hank Center and Creighton University, has launched Common Home Corps, a new year-long leadership and spiritual formation program for young adults ages 18-35 looking to mobilize around climate action in their local communities.

This new program is a direct result of The Building Bridges Initiative and Pope Francis' engagement with students in our historic, Hank Center supported event with Pope Francis in February, 2022.

Common Home Corps empowers young adults to catalyze climate action in their diocese by building on Pope Francis's "culture of encounter." Participants will learn to organize local Catholics, meet with their bishop and other Catholic leaders, and advocate for climate action that helps us live the Church's mission: caring for our common home by enacting the

2023 Annual Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause Lecture - Bishop John Stowe, O.F.M. CONV. Reflection



The Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause lecture series provides Catholic prelates a platform to engage people of good will in common cause with the Church on important issues facing us today. The Hank Center welcomed our 2023 Bernardin Lecturer-- the Most Rev. John Stowe, O.F.M. Conv., Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky, on April 11, 2023.

Rev. Stowe's talk, "The Common Good and Synodality: The Vision of Pope Francis," was followed by a Q&A session. As always, Commonweal cosponsored the Bernardin Lecture and Bishop Stowe's remark will be published in a summer issue.

[Watch the Lecture!](#)

[LINK TO COMMONWEAL ARTICLE Coming Soon](#)

**Catholic Studies Corner:
Reflections on the Synodal Path**

Two Catholic Studies Minors joined Bishop Stowe and 10 other undergraduates for a simple soup meal and "synodal conversation" in advance of Bishop Stowe's April 11th Cardinal Bernardin lecture. Here are their reflections.

Grace Beene
Majors: Theology and Psychology
Minor: Catholic Studies

One hopes for participation, but I largely underestimated how much the people of God want to talk. Bishop John Stowe's talk was enormously engaging, touching on so many areas of Church life, describing movements within the hearts of



Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform with a focus on real, measurable climate progress. The application numbers were very high in number and there is much energy around this project from so many constituencies.

As part of this program, the Hank Center and the School of Environmental Sustainability will be hosting the inaugural training from June 15-19. Faculty from SES, the Department of Theology, and the Institute for Pastoral Studies are also on board and will be teaching their expertise and supporting the 24 student cohort.

World Youth Day



We are excited to announce that a group of Loyola students, including one of the Hank Center's Undergraduate Assistants, Mary Countryman, will be traveling to Lisbon, Portugal this August to attend **World Youth Day!** Please join us in praying for these students as they prepare for their journey. If you feel inclined and are able to contribute to this extraordinary trip, we are accepting donations to support student costs. Please visit this [secure online portal](#) to make a donation.

the ecclesial hierarchy, while holding its gaze on the concerns of the laypeople.

Admittedly, the discussion becomes much livelier when the people respond...and they did. Audience members questioned the goal of the global, synodal process: what are we actually hoping to accomplish with our dialogue? Others were concerned about restorative justice: is the Catholic Church proactively working towards righting the wrongs of Her past? Young people brought forth the concerns of their generation and questioned their role in the Church: how does the multi-generational church extend its arms further to gather its young people?

As much as this global dialogue hopes to foster community and widen the tent the of the Church, some individuals expressed concern over the speed of this change: are we moving too fast? Our beloved institution undergoes change slowly; are we getting ahead of ourselves?

To be clear, Bishop Stowe heard these concerns and gave apt responses, but the questions and concerns of the heart express more than an answer of mere human words. Existing deeper than the words of this conversation, there exists among the people of God an intense love for Christ's Body, the Church. Their concerns are real, but even more so, their hope for the global Church is palpable.

Connor Quaglino

*Majors: Economics and Philosophy
Minors: Catholic Studies and Business Administration*



The Synodal conversation challenges me as a Catholic walking around my very campus. While Christ and the Church's Tradition appears so deeply immanent to me, the institution of Church can feel so distant and entangled in the world.

With the beginning of the semester, our Loyola Catholic community participated in the university dialogue for the Synod on Synodality. Disheartened by atrocities of the past and disconnection from the Church, many of my classmates and mentors desired a new channel for the Church to connect to the the youth in our world. Yet, I felt otherwise. I felt the Spirit urging me to start there: to lay the groundwork not for the global Church but to cultivate the inroads for the domestic Church at our home university.

As our conversations continued about how we could form a more cohesive Body of Christ in Rogers Park, we realized how important our student perspectives were. We thought the dialogue would need to be intricately navigated, but the Lord provided us space and ease of heart. A dozen of students joined us for a simple soup dinner with Bishop Stowe, where I felt Christ more present and His people more authentic than I have ever seen in my university experience. These lovely contributors to our campus voiced their hardships on being a Catholic in college and what that particularly meant here at Loyola.

Lamenting, at times, over the negativity that comes with these

St. John Berchmans Award



This May, the Hank Center had the privilege of presenting three Jesuit Scholastics with the very first St. John Berchmans Award. Named for St. John Berchmans, S.J., the patron saint of Jesuit scholastics and students, the Berchmans Prize shines light on superb scholarly work done by scholastics and provides recognition for excellence in Jesuit scholarship. The Hank Center, in collaboration with the First Studies Program and the Jesuit Community, will award the Berchmans Prize each year.

This year's winners are:

First Prize: Michael Petro, SJ: "Habits of Judgement: Emotions, Ethics, and Social Critique on the Border"

Second Prize: Richard Joubert, SJ: "Memory, Reconciliation and Forgiveness: Tools for Healing and Solidarity within the Polis,"

Third Prize: Patrick Fisher, SJ: "The Epistemology of Suffering in Mechthild of Magdeburg."

Congratulations to this

topics, the students found themselves disgruntled-- and they expressed their views to Bishop Stowe, who listened quietly and generously. In his spiritual wisdom, Bishop Stowe noted how difficult life becomes when we cannot directly interact with another's personality and vulnerability. As my classmates talked about the mentors who formed their faith on campus, the atmosphere changed. We became enlivened and overjoyed-- and I was struck by this as the dinner and dialogue proceeded.

Ironically, the conversation "anthropomorphized" and took on the very challenge that Bishop Stowe laid out to us: to loosen the pessimistic grip and to be exulted by human hearts. Jubilated, we all left our soup bowls on the table and went forth, delighting in the love of Christ we found in each other's company.

Major Conference: "The Way Forward: Pope Francis, Vatican II, and Synodality"



A major conference at Boston College in March, co-hosted by the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, is believed to be the largest gathering of Catholic leadership at a college campus in the nation's history.

"The Way Forward: Pope Francis, Vatican II, and Synodality," which took place March 3-4, brought together 80 participants—including cardinals, bishops, and other Catholic Church leaders, as well as theologians, historians, and journalists—to discuss synodality, the call by Pope Francis for the universal Church to "walk together," to continue the reception of Vatican II, and to embrace the ecclesiological challenges facing the Church.

The event—co-sponsored by the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) and the Fordham University Center on Religion and Culture—was a follow-up to the inaugural "Way Forward" conference last spring at Loyola University Chicago. Next year's conference will take place at the University of San Diego with Fordham to follow in Spring 2025.

Opening keynote speaker Rafael Luciani, an associate professor of the practice in the BC School of Theology and Ministry, and author of *Synodality: A New Way of Proceeding in the Church*, described synodality—a process of fraternal collaboration and discernment—as expressing "a new way of being and proceeding in the Church that has as its point of

year's winners!

**You Cannot Do This
Without God's Grace:
Newman, Dowling,
and Conversion as
Daily Practice**



Dawn Eden Goldstein had written several books on spiritual healing when she began to study the life of Father Edward Dowling, SJ (1898-1960), whose guidance transformed the life of Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Bill Wilson. But as she researched the Jesuit—who was, like her, a former newspaper journalist and a non-alcoholic—she discovered an approach to personal conversion that was at once deeper and simpler than anything she had previously encountered.

In the conversionary spirit and legacy of St. John Henry Newman, Dr. Goldstein, who was raised Jewish, integrated aspects of her own experience with her research for *Fr. Ed: The Story of Bill W.'s Spiritual Sponsor*—and spoke about how Father Ed's spirituality, which drew inspiration from St. Ignatius Loyola and Cardinal Newman, brings Catholic wisdom into the twelve-step

departure but also its point of arrival in the people of God.”

Concluding the event was Bishop Daniel Flores, Diocese of Brownsville, Tex., and chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Doctrine Committee, who focused on “Collegiality, Synodality, and the Pastoral Vision of Pope Francis.”

The convening was made possible by generous gifts from the Owsley Brown II Foundation, and the GHR Foundation, as well as the sponsoring academic centers. [Read more about the conference here.](#)

Visit our Website

Faculty Research Projects



The Hank Center is proud to provide year-long research project funding to full-time Loyola University faculty for topics concerned with or connected to the Catholic intellectual heritage. The purpose of this support is to facilitate advanced scholarly study of Catholic thought as it touches upon the arts, humanities, and sciences. These research projects are expected to culminate in the publication of a journal article or book; however, alternative project results are welcome. Such study normally involves a semester or year-long research commitment.

Current Faculty Research Projects

Mara Brecht, Associate Professor of Theology, and Andrew Milewski, SJ, First Studies, MA in Social Philosophy program - "Religious Agency and Affiliational Diversity: Advancing the Mission of Catholic Higher Education in the 21st Century"

Amy Wilkinson, Instructor of Fine and Performing Arts - "La Strada for Social Justice: Transforming & Sustaining Loyola as a Community Engaged through Creative Placemaking"

Alexander W.H. Evers, Associate Professor of Ancient History and Classical Studies - "Collectio Avellana"

Hans Svebakken, Senior Lecturer, Theology - "Science and the Common Good"

2023-2024 Faculty Research Projects

approach that has helped millions of people find recovery.

Video Available

**Inaugural Jesuit
Lecture: Bill
McCormick, SJ
The Christian
Structure of Politics:
On the *De Regno* of
Thomas Aquinas**



In an age dominated by guilt and shame for historical complicity in violence and injustice, how are Christians to engage in public life?

This is the situation of political theology after the Holocaust: trapped between the desire to make public the claims of faith in the pursuit of justice and to heed the chastening history of injustices committed in the name of God. Yet this tension, if acknowledged properly, can become the basis for a fruitful political theology that is both public in its commitment to justice and humble in its awareness of the injustices that the pursuit of justice itself can cause.

McCormick proposes a reconceptualization of political theology that takes seriously the twin imperatives of responsibility and humility. This endeavor, he argues,

Patrick Green, Executive Director at the Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship - "Developing a Research and Scholarship Agenda for Community Engagement in Catholic Higher Education"

Rebecca L. Silton, Associate Professor of Psychology, and Susan Haarman, Associate Director for Engaged Learning, Teaching and Scholarship - "The Legacy of Magda Arnold: Examining a Good Life of Spirituality, Science, and Human Emotions"

Demetri Morgan, Associate Professor of Higher Education, and Norma Lopez, Assistant Professor of Higher Education - "Bridging Cura: Faculty of Color Socialization at a Jesuit Institution"

Paula Tallman, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Abha Rai, Assistant Professor for the School of Social Work, and Jennifer Parks, Professor of Philosophy - "Education, Equality and Women's Health: Co-Designing a Gender Equality Intervention in Catholic Communities in Rural Peru"

2023-2024 Course Development Projects

Emily Cain, Assistant Professor of Theology - "Lost Women of the Catholic Imagination"

Richard Kim, Assistant Professor of Philosophy - "Ethics, Modernity, and Catholicism"

**Highlighting our Hank Center Graduate Student
Fellows: Héctor E. Ramos**



Héctor E. Ramos is a PhD student and instructor at Chicago's DePaul University. He has a BA in philosophy from Macalester College, an MSc degree from the LSE (Political Theory), and an MA degree in Continental Philosophy (University of Warwick). While a student at DePaul, he also undertook a yearlong exchange program at the *École normale supérieure* in Paris. He is interested in the history of philosophy and contemporary European philosophy, philosophy of religion, and comparative philosophy and theology, particularly as pertains dialogue between Christian and Buddhist thought. His PhD dissertation attempts to bridge the gap between phenomenology and the French Spiritualist tradition, as well as science, theology, metaphysics, and mysticism.

can begin with a reexamination of the legacy of Thomas Aquinas' political thought, a dominant figure in Catholic tradition. In his *De Regno* we find concrete ways that political theology can inspire faith communities to both challenge and nourish political life. Adapted for our times, such a political theology would be necessarily interreligious in its desire for dialogue between persons of diverse religious traditions, communal insofar as it recognizes and cultivates the social forms that those religious traditions inhabit, and humble and responsible in its advocacy of political action, refusing to abdicate neither its social responsibility in the face of its complicity in historical injustices nor its humility despite its need to act.

Video Available

Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Daniel J. Rietze



Daniel J. Rietze is a PhD Candidate in Italian Studies at Brown University, where he is also completing an MA in Religious Studies. His dissertation, "Catholic Ecology: Reinhabiting Italian Landscapes, 1918-1965," presents an environmental dimension to Catholics' emergence as citizens of modern Europe in the decades preceding Vatican II. For a cluster of Italian Catholic intellectuals including the Christian Democrat Luigi Sturzo (1871-1959) and the liberation theologians Primo Mazzolari (1890-1959) and Zeno Saltini (1900-81), increased participation in Italy's sociopolitical life went hand-in-hand with the renewal of cosmologies that valorized the material earth and emphasized humans' connectedness with their environment: it was a bold vision in an era otherwise marked by the ecological harm done by two world wars, rapid industrialization, and fascism. More broadly, Daniel's research interests include theology and literature; dissent, renewal, and reform in the collective life of the Church; popular religion; and mysticism, especially the World War II-era Tuscan mystic Maria Valtorta (1897-1961) and her Gospel as Revealed to Me. In addition to receiving an MA in Italian Studies from Brown (2019), Daniel holds a BA in English and Italian from Yale University (2016) and is a parishioner at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church in Providence, RI, where he has taught fifth-grade CCD.

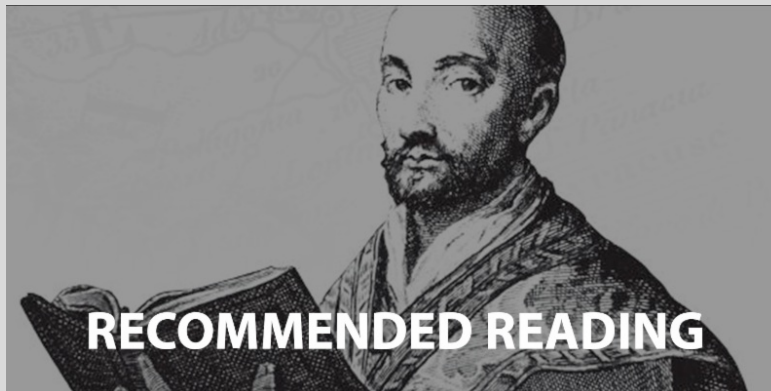
Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Emily Sharrett



Emily L. Sharrett is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at Loyola University Chicago, the Editorial and Program Assistant at the Midwest Modern Language Association, and a 2022-2023 P.E.O. Scholar. She received her Master of Arts in English from Loyola

University Chicago after her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Political Science from Miami University of Ohio. Titled *Eternal City, Earthly City: The Reach of Rome in Early Modern English Literature*, Sharrett's dissertation takes aim at Shakespeare's so-called "Roman texts," both drama and narrative poetry, to demonstrate that St. Augustine's and Aristotle's figure of the "political animal" exceeds the human. She argues that early modern texts depict human agency in ancient Mediterranean sea- and landscapes alongside, and often less favorably than, the forces exerted by other creatures, inert matter, or technologies. In doing so, *Eternal City, Earthly City* adds to literary and theological studies an account of the nonhuman agents that, like humans, hold political and ethical import in Shakespeare's texts and in the world. Sharrett's dissertation joins the research culture at Loyola University Chicago that prioritizes the ecologically-attuned objectives of Pope Francis's 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology by evaluating how the social ecology of past and present answers the cries of the earth and the poor.

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.

Wake Up With Purpose!: What I've Learned in My First Hundred Years (2023)

Author: Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt with Seth Davis. Publisher: Harper Select.

We are most happy to feature our dear Sr. Jean's new book. It is a perfect summer read and it will inspire you to make the most of your first 100 years!

Part life story, part philosophy text, and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean's wit, wisdom, and common sense has broad appeal and application that transcends religious creed, belief, and even feelings on Loyola's basketball team.

Along with her collaborator Seth Davis, an award-winning writer, broadcaster and New York Times best-selling author, *Wake Up with Purpose!* lets you experience:

- Sister Jean's words and her spirit.
- Her sharp sense of humor.
- Life lessons gleaned from one hundred years of living.
- Universal themes that connect us all.
- Priceless wisdom.
- The driving force inside *Wake Up with Purpose!* is the narrative of Sister Jean's

fascinating life--from teaching at a Catholic school during the Second World War to serving on a Chicago college campus in the sixties and beyond to cheering from the sidelines of a men's basketball tournament in March 2018.

As you learn about Sister Jean's century-long life, you'll feel just like the Loyola students do when they knock on her office door, plop down in a chair, and ask if she would have time to chat, an activity that she still does daily.

Great American Prophets: Pope Francis's Models of Christian Life (2022)

Author: Daniel Cosacchi. Publisher: Paulist Press.

Congrats to Loyola alum (and VP of Mission at the University of Scranton), Dan Cosacchi on his second book-- a compelling study of four American prophets through the lens of Pope Francis and his pontificate.

Using the examples of the "Great Americans" cited by Pope Francis during his visit to the United States, Cosacchi discusses how prophecy can be manifested in our own time. When Pope Francis visited the United States in 2015 and addressed a joint session of Congress, he cited several examples of "Great Americans": Abraham Lincoln, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. Daniel Cosacchi draws the line between the prophetic stance of these four (as well as others) and the role of the prophet from the Old Testament to the present day.

When Pope Francis visited the United States in 2015 and addressed a joint session of Congress, he cited several examples of "Great Americans": Abraham Lincoln, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day. Daniel Cosacchi draws the line between the prophetic stance of these four (as well as others) and the role of the prophet from the Old Testament to the present day.

The New Heretics: Skepticism, Secularism, and Progressive Christianity (2023)

Author: Rebekka King. Publisher: New York University Press.

Christians who have doubts about the existence of God? Who do not believe in the divinity of Jesus? Who reject the accuracy of the Bible? The New Heretics explores the development of progressive Christianity, a movement of Christians who do not reject their identity as Christians, but who believe Christianity must be updated for today's times and take into consideration modern science, historical criticism, and liberal humanism.

Drawing on three years of ethnographic fieldwork in North America, Rebekka King focuses on testimonies of deconversion, collective reading practices, and the ways in which religious beliefs and practices are adapted to fit secular lives. King introduces the concept of "lived secularity" as a category with which to examine the ways in which religiosity often is entangled with and subsumed by secular identities over and against religious ones. This theoretical framework provides insight into the study of religious and cultural hybridity, new emerging groups such as "the nones," atheism, religious apostasy, and multi-religious identities.

The New Heretics pays close attention to the ways that progressive Christians understand themselves vis-à-vis a conservative or fundamentalist Christian "other," providing context concerning the presumed divide between the religious right and the religious left. King shows that while it might be tempting to think of progressive Christians as atheists, there are religious and moral dimensions to their disbelief. For progressive Christians the act of questioning and rejecting God—alongside other theological tenets—is framed as a moral activity. Ultimately, the book showcases the importance of engaging with the ethics of belief in understanding contemporary Christianity.

To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II (2022)

Author: George Weigel. Publisher: Basic Books.

The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) was the most important Catholic event in the past five hundred years. Yet sixty years after its opening on October 11, 1962, its meaning remains sharply contested and its promise unfulfilled.

In *To Sanctify the World*, George Weigel explains the necessity of Vatican II and explores the

continuing relevance of its teaching in a world seeking a deeper experience of freedom than personal willfulness. The Council's texts are also a critical resource for the Catholic Church as it lives out its original, Christ-centered evangelical purpose.

Written with insight and verve, *To Sanctify the World* recovers the true meaning of Vatican II as the

In the Shadow of Ebenezer: A Black Catholic Parish in the Age of Civil Rights and Vatican II (2022)

Author: Leah Mickens. Publisher: New York University Press.

The history and practices of African American Catholics has been vastly understudied, and Black Catholics are often written off as a fringe sector of the religious population. Yet, Catholics of African descent have been a part of Catholicism since the early days of European exploration into the New World.

In the Shadow of Ebenezer examines how the Civil Rights Movement and the Second Vatican Council affected African American Catholics in Atlanta, Georgia, focusing on the historic Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in the Old Fourth Ward. Our Lady of Lourdes is a neighbor of major historic Black Protestant churches in the city, including Ebenezer Baptist Church, a block away, which during the Civil Rights era was the pulpit of Martin Luther King Jr. Featuring archival and oral history sources, the book examines the religious and cultural life of the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, showing how this Black Catholic congregation fit into the overall religious ecology of the neighborhood. Examining Our Lady of Lourdes in relation to these larger Black Protestant congregations helps to illuminate whether and how they were shaped by their place at a center of the civil rights struggle, and how religious change and social change intersect.

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

Author: Michael T. Rizzi. Publisher: Catholic University of America 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.

John Courtney Murray, Time/Life, and the American Proposition (2015)

Author: David A. Wemhoff. Publisher: Fidelity Press.

In 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his famous "Four Freedoms" speech. In that speech, FDR set forth a vision for the reengineering of societies around the globe. The means was psychological warfare, involving the manipulation of ideas, words and symbols to divide target societies and convince these societies of the ideology that formed America. The most important society America targeted was the Roman Catholic Church. Media mogul Henry R. Luce, founder and publisher of enormously influential magazines like *Time* and *Life*, used the CIA's doctrinal warfare program to turn the Catholic Church into a promoter of American ideas. This struggle reached its culmination at the Second Vatican Council with the promulgation of the document Declaration on Religious Liberty. Catholic doctrine did not

change, but, defeated at the Council, the Americanists used their media power to win the battle over who got to interpret the Council with significant consequences for both the world and the Catholic Church, whose leadership came to espouse the doctrines of Liberalism something its leadership had condemned just a few years earlier.

Uncertain Ground: Citizenship in an Age of Endless, Invisible War (2022)

Author: Phil Klay. Publisher: Penguin Press.

When Phil Klay left the Marines a decade ago after serving as an officer in Iraq, he found himself a part of the community of veterans who have no choice but to grapple with the meaning of their wartime experiences—for themselves and for the country. American identity has always been bound up in war—from the revolutionary war of our founding, to the civil war that ended slavery, to the two world wars that launched America as a superpower. What did the current wars say about who we are as a country, and how should we respond as citizens?

Unlike in previous eras of war, relatively few Americans have had to do any real grappling with the endless, invisible conflicts of the post-9/11 world; in fact, increasingly few people are even aware they are still going on. It is as if these wars are a dark star with a strong gravitational force that draws a relatively small number of soldiers and their families into its orbit while remaining inconspicuous to most other Americans. In the meantime, the consequences of American military action abroad may be out of sight and out of mind, but they are very real indeed.

This chasm between the military and the civilian in American life, and the moral blind spot it has created, is one of the great themes of *Uncertain Ground*, Phil Klay's powerful series of reckonings with some of our country's thorniest concerns, written in essay form over the past ten years. In the name of what do we ask young Americans to kill, and to die? In the name of what does this country hang together? As we see at every turn in these pages, those two questions have a great deal to do with each another, and how we answer them will go a long way toward deciding where our troubled country goes from here.

Christian Poetry in America Since 1940: An Anthology (2022).

Editors: Micah Mattix and Sally Thomas. Publisher: Iron Pen.

Showcasing thirty-five American poets born in or after 1940, this anthology confirms that one of the most vibrant developments in contemporary verse has been a renewed engagement with the Christian faith. Across a full spectrum of Christian belief, including the struggle to believe at all, these poets bring the power of their art to bear on serious questions: how to understand the goodness of God in a fallen and tragic world, how to reconcile universal truths with the particularities of human experience, how to render familiar events of salvation history in new language that generates its own epiphanies. As Christian engagement assumes a multiplicity of modes and voices, so does contemporary poetry in America. This volume, then, selective yet representative, features the work of early-, mid-, and late-career poets, formalists, free-verse poets, and experimenters in prosody. This anthology bears witness to the poetic mind as it seeks that which is above.

Half of a Yellow Sun (2007)

Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Publisher: Vintage.

With effortless grace, celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in southeastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. We experience this tumultuous decade alongside five unforgettable characters: Ugwu, a thirteen-year-old houseboy who works for Odenigbo, a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna, the professor's beautiful young mistress who has abandoned her life in Lagos for a dusty town and her lover's charm; and Richard, a shy young Englishman infatuated with Olanna's willful twin sister Kainene.

Half of a Yellow Sun is a tremendously evocative novel of the promise, hope, and disappointment of the Biafran war-- and includes many Catholic themes and elements at the heart of its narrative.

The End of the House of Alard (2022)

Author: Shelia Kaye-Smith. Publisher: Catholic University of America Press.

The Catholic University of America Press is pleased to present the second volume in our Catholic Women Writers series, which will attempt to bring new attention to prose work of Catholic women writers from the 19th and 20th centuries. Sheila Kaye-Smith was a best selling author who had published over 50 books in her lifetime, few of which remain in print since her death in 1956.

The End of the House of Alard (1922) documents the choices made by the final generation of the aristocratic Alard family and the ways in which they, both willingly and reluctantly, bring the long line of their ancestral blood to a complete and sudden end. For some of them, the end of the Alard line is as painful to enact as it is for others to witness; for others it is welcomed as a necessary modernization or a true realignment toward religious integrity and universal human truth. Some of the family's children yearn for individual liberty; others have it forced upon them. But none of them can find it under the burden of the Alard name and its crumbling estate. *The End of the House of Alard* is a novel about the human need for purpose, for a truth by which to live and for which to die. It is a novel about faith and idolatry, love and death, freedom and bondage, nature and grace. Put another way, it is about how human beings cannot escape the great challenge of salvation, of breaking free from false, man made gods in order to unite instead with the divine love of Christ. The novel's characters span a breadth of options on this spectrum and their various outlooks on life continue to reflect those available to us today.

George Mackay Brown: The Life (2006)

Author: Maggie Fergusson. Publisher: John Murray Press.

George Mackay Brown was one of Scotland's greatest 20th century writers, but in person a bundle of paradoxes. He had a wide international reputation, but hardly left his native Orkney. A prolific poet, he was also an accomplished novelist and a master of the short story. When he died on 13th April 1996, he left behind an autobiography as deft as it is ultimately uninformative. Still, Fergusson's book is informative-- and is a great introduction to a major literary figure in Catholic letters.

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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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