

February 2018



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

St. Irenaus, the great second century theologian and Bishop of Lyon, wrote that the "glory of God is a human being fully alive." This observation, so central to any notion of humanism, also invites us to contemplate the comprehensive scope and imagination of the Catholic intellectual heritage. The insight also provides an orienting frame through which to highlight three of our upcoming events in what promises to be a most exciting spring semester.

On February 8th, CCIH welcomes Leah Libresco Sargeant who will deliver the always eye-opening Cardinal Newman Lecture. Leah's reflection on her conversion experience-- "From Javert to Jesus: An Atheist's Conversion"-- will tell the story of how a Yale-educated atheist "instigator" found herself, in ways most unanticipated, enfolded in the warm embrace of the Catholic Church. Two weeks later, on February 20th, CCIH welcomes ten scholars from multiple disciplines who will explore "Perspectives on Personhood: Resources in Science, Philosophy, and Theology." Among other things, panels at this event will investigate how neuroscience understands our conscious thoughts, feelings, and experiences of the physical world, and draw connections to traditional philosophical and theological conceptions of soul and personhood. The day concludes with our special guest from Fordham University, Dr. William Jaworski, and his reflection "Can Science Study the Human Soul?"

February concludes and March begins with CCIH's Signature Event of the spring semester: a visit by MacArthur Genius and the Man Booker Prize-winning author, George Saunders. Saunders is a practitioner of the Catholic literary tradition in a decidedly 21st century tenor, and his work amplifies St. Irenaus's declaration in several

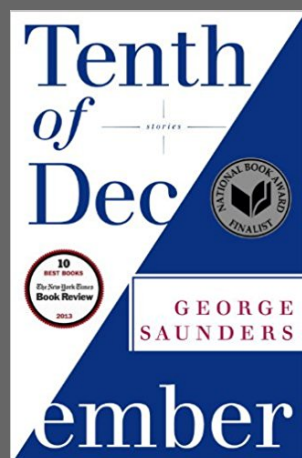
registers. Unsettling, insightful, and hilarious, Saunders's stories not only entertain and delight, but fulfill Chekhov's dictum that art should "prepare us for tenderness." Through their manic energy, their focus on what is redeemable in human beings, and in their generosity of spirit, Saunders's work locates the "Glory of God" precisely in tenderness, a tenderness mysteriously inscribed in creation and alive when human beings are most fully themselves. CCIH is profoundly delighted to welcome George to Loyola.

And we welcome you as well-- and hope to see you often this spring!

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

SPRING 2018 FACULTY  
READING GROUP



*Tenth of December* (2013)  
by George Saunders

In this award winning collection of short stories, Saunders practices a kind of hybridized Catholicism that inspires reflections about faith, justice, culture, and politics. The group will also take a brief look at Saunders's Man-Booker prize winning novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, as well as an essay or two.

*This reading group is open to all Loyola faculty.*

*Please contact  
HankCenter@luc.edu with any inquiries.*

INFORMATION  
SESSIONS



## CARDINAL NEWMAN LECTURE

*From Javert to Jesus: An Atheist's Conversion*

Leah Libresco Sargeant

Thursday, February 8th

7:00 PM

**Sr. Jean Multipurpose Room South**

Damen Student Center

Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus

1032 W. Sheridan Rd.

Chicago, IL 60660

CCIH welcomes [Leah Libresco Sargeant](#) who will share with us her personal journey from atheist blogger to Catholic apologist. Leah grew up on Long Island, NY. As a student at Yale University, she picked fights with the "most interesting wrong people she could find - which turned out to be the campus Catholics." After reading "an awful lot of books," years of late-night debates (the kinds that tended to include sentences like "Ok, imagine for the moment that God is a cylinder..."), and a fair amount of argumentative blogging, she was surprised (but pleased) to find out that she'd been wrong about religion, generally, and Catholicism in particular. She was received into the Catholic Church in the winter of 2012. Leah's work has appeared in *First Things*, *America*, *The American Conservative*, and *Commonweal*, among other publications.



Come learn more about the prestigious [Expanded Reason Awards](#) for research and teaching, which are granted by [University Francisco de Victoria](#) in collaboration with [The John Ratzinger/Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation](#).

International award representative, Dr. Max Bonilla, and recent LUC award recipients, [Michael Schuck](#) and [Nancy Tuchman](#) will hold information sessions about award conditions and benefits.

**Wednesday, February 14th**  
11:30 AM-12:15 PM  
& 12:30-1:15 PM  
IES 117

*Open to all LUC teachers and researchers.*

## CONFERENCE

*The Question of Religious Freedom: From John Courtney Murray, S.J. and Vatican II to the Present*



Sponsored by the John Courtney Murray, S.J., University Chair in Public Service, LUC brings together leading theologians from around the country for a 2-day conference on the subject of religious freedom.



## FAITH IN FOCUS FILM SERIES

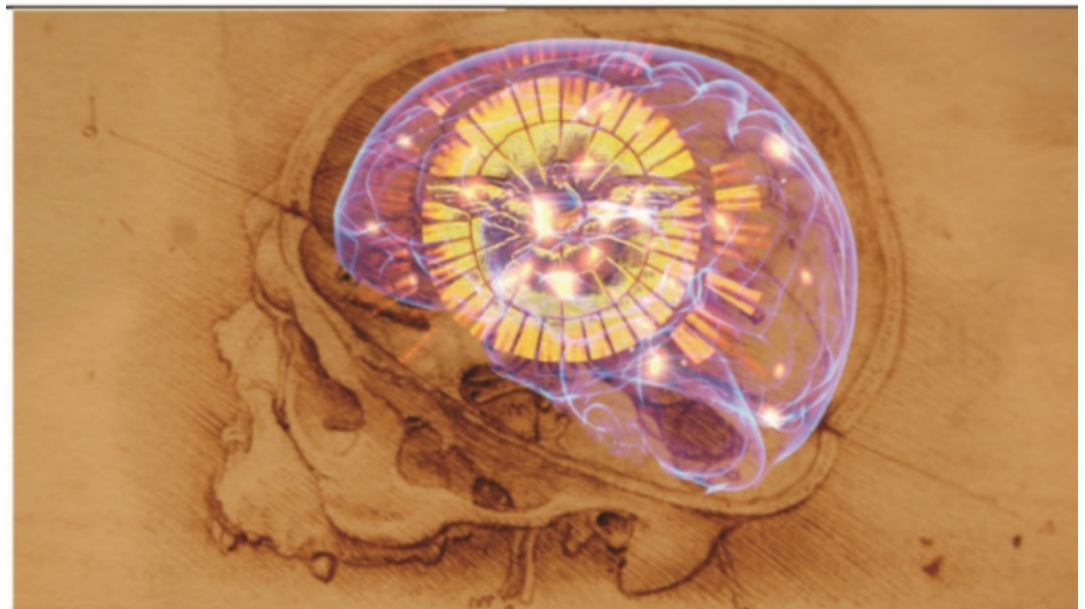
*Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint (2017)*

**Tuesday, February 6th**  
6:00 PM

**Damen Cinema, Damen Student Center**  
Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus  
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60660

Presented in collaboration with the [Department of Modern Languages and Literatures](#) this 50-minute documentary filmed in 2017, the Centenary year of Mother Cabrini's passing, is a living portrait of the Italy-born saint that showcases her relevance in an ever-changing world. Mother Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants and hospital administrators, is explored as a fearless, roll-up-her-sleeves woman who, despite frail health, traveled the world at the turn of the 20th century to serve the less fortunate. The film includes interviews with individuals from all walks of life who carry on Mother Cabrini's work today. The needs of immigrants and refugees continue to evolve and Mother Cabrini's approach serves as a continuing model to emulate--truly American, truly Catholic. You can learn more about the film at [mothercabrinifilm.com](#).

*This Event is Free and Open to the Public.*



## FAITH AND NEUROSCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

Keynote Speaker:

Barry Hudock, author of  
[Struggle, Condemnation,  
Vindication: John Courtney  
Murray's Journey toward  
Vatican II](#)

Monday, March 12th  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

& Tuesday, March 13th  
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

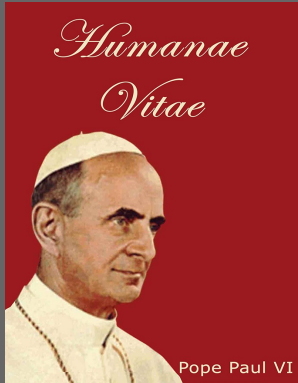
#### Regents Hall

Loyola University Chicago  
WTC, Lewis Towers  
111 E. Pearson Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

*This Event is Free and Open  
to the Public.*

#### SYMPOSIUM

*1968 Series: Part I  
The Legacy of Humanae  
Vitae and What it Means to  
be 'Pro-Life'*



Wednesday, March 21st  
4:30 - 6:00 PM

#### Beane Hall

Loyola University Chicago  
Water Tower Campus  
111 E Pearson St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

Co-sponsored by the [Institute  
of Pastoral Studies](#).

*This Event is Free and Open  
to the Public.*

***Perspectives on Personhood: Resources in Science, Philosophy, and Theology***

**Tuesday, February 20th**

1:00 - 6:00 PM

#### **Klarcheck Information Commons, 4th Floor**

Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus  
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60660

Contemporary ideas of personhood are often dominated by scientific theories. However, any thoroughgoing consideration of personhood needs to integrate resources from different disciplines if it is going to be truly credible and constructive. CCIH's interdisciplinary colloquium brings different perspectives of personhood into dialogue with each other in order to identify conflict, complementarity, and coherence among the various perspectives. Discussion will focus on furthering current scholarly conversations about human personhood (including the distinction between humans and persons) in an age largely defined by science. The gathering will feature two panels that engage theories of personhood with theories of evolution and theories of reductionism. The event will conclude with a keynote address offered by [Dr. William Jaworski](#) of Fordham University. Dr. Jaworski's reflection "Can Science Study the Human Soul?" will investigate how neuroscience understands our conscious thoughts, feelings, and experiences of the physical world and draw connections to traditional philosophical and theological conceptions of soul and personhood.

*This Event is Free and Open to the Public.*



#### **FAITH AND FICTION SYMPOSIUM**

***Good God but Life Could Be Less Than Easy: George Saunders and the Fiction of Radical Humanism***

**Thursday, March 1st**

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

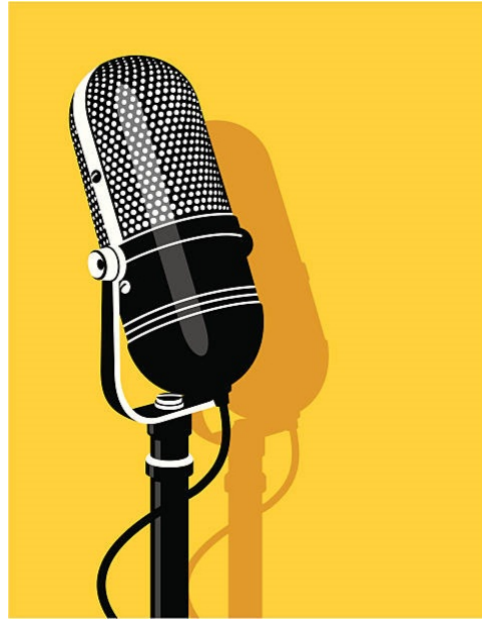
#### **Klarcheck Information Commons, 4th Floor**

Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus  
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60660

This is a day-long event featuring scholarly reflections on critically-acclaimed author [George Saunders](#). Presentations will not only explore Saunders's recent [Lincoln in the Bardo](#) (winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize for Fiction), but his earlier work as well. Saunders will address the gathering in the morning and then make way for academic panels and round-table discussions that

will explore, interrogate, and celebrate his work. You can learn more about the conference and call for papers at the [event webpage](#).

*Attendees Must [Register](#), but this Event is Free and Open to the Public.*



## THE HANK CENTER PRESENTS LIVE FROM LOYOLA

### GEORGE SAUNDERS RADIO HOUR

**Thursday, March 1st**  
8:30 - 9:30 PM

**Mundelein Auditorium**  
Loyola University Chicago  
Lake Shore Campus  
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60660

#### [PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

LUC Community (Students/Staff/Faculty): \$6 In Advance; \$10 At Door  
All Others: \$10 In Advance/\$20 At Door

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### RECOMMENDED READING

Each month CCIH will recommend new and notable books that integrate, interrogate, and celebrate the Catholic intellectual and artistic tradition.

#### [Thérèse](#) (2016)

By Dorothy Day with a foreword by Robert Ellsberg

Dorothy Day struggled to write this short biography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, which has been put back in print only recently. Originally designed for non-believers or those unfamiliar with the "Little Flower", and emphasizing why Thérèse's simplicity and humility are so vital for modern life, this unpretentious account of St. Thérèse's life illustrates how Day herself came to deeply appreciate and embrace the simple, yet profound "Little Way", inviting readers down a similar path of spiritual conversion.

#### [Why Liberalism Failed](#) (2018)

By Patrick J. Deneen

In this provocative book, Patrick Deneen poses the challenging question of whether liberalism, the champion ideology of the twentieth century (having conquered both fascism and communism) has, in fact, failed because it has succeeded. Deneen develops his thesis by revealing the inherent

contradictions in which liberalism is grounded (such as trumpeting equal rights while also fostering incomparable material inequality) and warns that the centripetal forces now at work on our political culture are not superficial flaws but inherent features of a system whose success is generating its own failure.

**[Beyond Apathy: A Theology for Bystanders](#)** (2015)

By Elisabeth T. Vasko

In this important and timely book, Elisabeth Vasko seeks to expand theological conversations about violence, which typically focus narrowly on victim-perpetrator dichotomies. Arguing that this focus, while important, only addresses part of the problem, Vasko advocates for a more comprehensive theological and pastoral response to violence that directly addresses the complex issue of collective passivity in the face of human denigration. Giving special attention to the social issues of bullying, white racism, and sexual violence, Vasko utilizes resources within the Christian tradition to offer both a critical examination of, and a theology of redeeming grace for bystanders to violence.

**[Love Alone is Credible](#)** (2005)

By Hans Urs von Balthasar (translated by D.C. Schindler)

In his master work, *The Glory of the Lord*, Hans Urs von Balthasar used the term "theological aesthetic" to describe what he believed to be the most accurate method of interpreting the concept of divine love (in contrast to approaches grounded in historical or scientific methodology, which had become increasingly popular in the early twentieth century). In this book, newly translated from its original German edition (1963), von Balthasar delves deeper into explorations of what love means, how the divine love of God is distinct, and how we must all become lovers of God in the footsteps of saints like Francis de Sales, John of the Cross, and Thérèse of Lisieux. Bringing a fresh perspective on an oft-explored subject, *Love Alone is Credible*, offers a profound theological meditation that serves to both deepen and inform the faith of the believer.

## Contact Us

Loyola University Chicago

[The Joan and Bill Hank Center  
for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage](#)

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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.