



Dear brothers and sisters, may this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever-new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles, and spreads joy.

--Pope Francis (October 9, 2021)

From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It was a delight to receive a recent email from Dr. Jennifer Newsome Martin of the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Martin is giving this year's much anticipated St. John Henry Newman Lecture—a talk she is calling *The Sacrament of the Possible, or, Why I Became a Catholic*. In her email (which came on the heels of our sharing the Center's visual calendar for spring), Dr. Martin wrote humorously about “opening for the Pope”—which is exactly what she is doing later this month. Jenny and I are friends (on Facebook, too) and she shared this news in cyberspace as well. So many fun rejoinders and comments from her online community about the great billboard visual and this unforeseen one-two punch—and it really is a perfect pairing. Jenny's lecture will take place on February 17th and please register below. You won't want to miss this one.

On February 24th, the Hank Center—along with our partners in the Institute of Pastoral Studies and the Department of Theology—are honored to welcome Pope Francis in a historic encounter with university students from North, Central, and South America. The Holy Father will dialogue with these university students—including one or two from Loyola—highlighting migrants and children of migrants who are committed to develop processes that justly transform environmental and economic realities. Pope Francis wants to discuss with these students concrete projects that seek to recognize and empower the existential peripheries and to explore how faith energizes our shared work in scholarly reflection, social justice, and the common good. This event is getting unprecedented global attention and we are so pleased to play a part in engendering student participation in these needed synodal conversations. Registration information is below.

Finally, it is also a delight to feature two new Hank Center initiatives: *Nexus Journal* and the Hank Fellowships for Research in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. *Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition* is a digital-age journal that amplifies and publishes scholarly dialogue taking place in the Hank Center. Our first issue, “Reflections on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

at 30," features eight superb essays written by Loyola faculty—the majority of whom were raised in post-conciliar settings. Please give the journal a good read—and be sure to click on the videos as well. Many edifying insights to consider.

The Hank Fellowships are funded by a generous grant from Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit Community. These awards support graduate students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement—in theology and philosophy, literature and the arts, natural and social sciences, social movements and culture, pedagogy and pastoral life—and who offer promise as scholars, teachers, and authors engaging the Catholic intellectual tradition. We are delighted to share the work of two of our nine fellows from the inaugural class of 2021-22 below.

The Hank Center is becoming more and more the local, national, and international hub for vital work in the Catholic intellectual heritage envisioned by its founding team in the early 2000s. Our attention to the dynamic connection among faith, reason, and justice—along with a fundamental regard and care for arts and culture—is both cause for celebration and a call for deeper engagement with the mystery that moves this living tradition.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

Hank Center Highlights

Conversations on the Catholic Imagination: *The Relevance of the Stars* Book Discussion
Featuring Cardinal Seán O'Malley

Conversations on the Catholic Imagination

Book Discussion with Cardinal Sean O'Malley
The Relevance of the Stars: Christ, Culture, Destiny

Thurs. November 18

6:00-7:30pm CST

Zoom Forum



This event is free and open to the public.
Please register in advance at: <https://zoom.luc.edu/ccih/>

THE HANK CENTER
FOR THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE

Cardinal Seán O'Malley and Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete were friends for decades, starting before the latter entered the seminary. Though their particular paths in the Church diverged – O'Malley became the Archbishop of Boston and Albacete went on

February 17, 2022 The 2022 Saint John Henry Newman Lecture Dr. Jennifer Newsome Martin "The Sacrament of the Possible, or, Why I Became a Catholic"

THE 2022 SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN LECTURE



DR. JENNIFER NEWSOME MARTIN

THE SACRAMENT OF THE POSSIBLE, OR, WHY I BECAME A CATHOLIC

Jennifer Newsome Martin, Associate Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, offers this year's Newman Lecture, which invites scholars to recount their own discovery of the Catholic intellectual tradition in light of their ongoing research and thought. *This event is open to the public and all are Welcome!*

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - ZOOM FORUM - 7-8:30pm CST
VISIT [LUC.EDU/CCIH](https://luc.edu/ccih)



The Joan & Bill Hank Center
FOR THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE

The Saint John Henry Newman Lecture Series is named after the great 19th century English prelate who wrote very 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 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.

To lead the Communion and Liberation movement in the U.S. - - they shared a passion not only for the rich tradition of Catholic culture and thought but also for addressing the urgent question of how to live a Christian life in a postmodern era. The publication of a posthumous collection of some of Albacete's most brilliant talks and essays -- "The Relevance of the Stars: Christ, Culture, Destiny" -- provided a perfect opportunity to reflect on the Mystical Monsignor's legacy as a theologian, pastor, and public intellectual. It was a delight to be in conversation with Cardinal Seán, Lisa, and Greg-- and to celebrate Monsignor Lolo in a special way.

Watch video

Hank Center Spring Event Calendar



The Hank Center's Spring 2022 event calendar is now available. Make sure to never miss any of our exciting events. The full calendar can be found on our website by clicking the button below.

This year we are delighted to welcome Dr. Jennifer Newsome Martin, a Catholic systematic theologian with research interests in 19th and 20th century Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox thought, theological aesthetics, trinitarian theology, religion and literature, and *ressourcement* theology. Dr. Martin holds a joint appointment in the Program of Liberal Studies (Great Books/Core Texts) and the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Please join us for what promises to be an edifying lecture and discussion.

February 17, 2022
7:00 PM CT
Zoom Forum

This event is free and open to the public.

[Register Here.](#)

Building Bridges: A Synodal Encounter between Pope Francis and University Students



The Hank Center is honored to cohost an unprecedented dialogue with Pope Francis later this month.

This historic encounter between the Pope and university students from North, Central, and South America will address salient challenges of our times. The Pope will dialogue with these university students, highlighting the contributions of students who are themselves migrants and children of migrants. The students will share concrete educational projects that seek to justly transform environmental and economic realities and the manifold ways their educational commitments can contribute to integrate and empower existential peripheries.

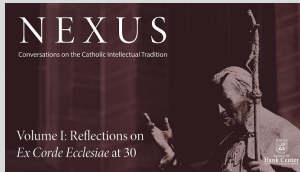
Loyola University of Chicago is honored to welcome Pope Francis, the first Jesuit and Latin American Pope, and university students from across the Americas committed to social justice, serving others, and finding God in all things.

February 24, 2022
12:00 PM CT
Zoom Forum

This event is free and open to the public.

[Register Here.](#)

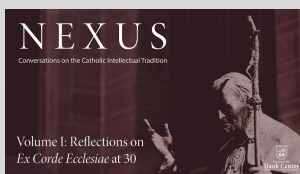
**Nexus Video Series
Introduction: Michael
P. Murphy**



As part of our continuing conversation stemming from the launch of the Hank Center's *Nexus* Journal, we are excited to feature short video interviews with authors from our inaugural issue. In this video you can hear Hank Center Director, Michael P. Murphy, share his thoughts on the inaugural issue. We will be featuring these video excerpts from the authors featured in the journal in each newsletter, and a full playlist of these videos can be found on the Hank Center's YouTube page.

[Watch Video](#)

**Nexus Video Series:
Avery Merriel Smith**



We sat down with the authors from our inaugural issue of *Nexus* to ask their thoughts on the journal, *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and

**A Student Perspective on the Synodal
Encounter with Pope Francis**



We asked an undergraduate student, Grace Beene (Sophomore, Theology and Psychology majors, and undergraduate assistant here at the Hank Center), to share her thoughts about the historic nature of this upcoming event and what it means to the Loyola community. Here is what she had to say.

"As a student, I am approaching our dialogue with Pope Francis with the hopes that it will give young people the opportunity and encouragement to translate our concerns for all creation into action, in accordance with the will of the Church. I treasure that this experience enables young people from across the Americas to hear, embrace, and share the concerns, hopes, and dreams of their fellow brothers and sisters, with the understanding that they are not alone."

Thank you, Grace. We share your hopes and dreams and are delighted to have as part of our Center team.

Hank Center Fellow: Simeiqi He



The Hank Center administers yearly fellowships for graduate students working on topics in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. In this issue we are proud to highlight two of our current Hank Fellows. We will continue to highlight Hank Fellows throughout the year.

Simeiqi He is a Catholic laywoman from China. She is a doctoral candidate at Drew University Theological School. She has earned a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry from Brite Divinity School, a Master of Social Work and a Graduate

more. In this video you can hear Avery Merriel Smith's insights on the major achievements of *Ex corde Ecclesiae*.

Watch Video

Chicago Coverage About the Pope Francis Event



Hank Center Director, Michael P. Murphy, was interviewed alongwith Dr. Peter Jones of IPS by local news affiliate Fox 32 Chicago on the event with Pope Francis. See what he has to say about this exciting event. You can read about all the press coverage leading up to this historic dialogue between students from the Americas and Pope Francis on the Hank Center website where we are compiling coverage from local, national, and international sources.

Watch Here

Certificate in Women and Gender Studies from Texas Christian University, and a Bachelor of Science in Material Physics from Sichuan University. He's dissertation is titled, "The Song of Songs, The Affect of Love, And Spiritual-Moral Formation of Marriage: A Post-Critical Catholic Moral Theology of Marriage in the Spirit of Carmel." By drawing from the rich Carmelite spiritual tradition and engaging a transdisciplinary conversation with recent scholarship in moral theology, phenomenology, biblical studies, and affect studies, He presents her knowledge that the affect of love conceived in the Song of Songs and its Carmelite reception is the passage of marital spiritual-moral formation toward union with God and for the transformation of the world.

Hank Center Fellow: Christopher Krall, S.J.



Christopher Krall, S.J. is a Jesuit Priest and doctoral student in systematic theology and neuroscience at Marquette University. He has prior degrees from Oxford University, Boston College, and the University of Toronto. He is currently a co-principle investigator on a grant-sponsored project called the Marquette Irenaeus Project exploring the psychological and neurological effects of Christian contemplative prayer traditions. Along with his colleagues, Chris is now working toward applying for a Templeton Grant where they can expand their project in a number of key dimensions. These dimensions include facilitating more participants, using more advanced technology, creating an app to interact with and collect data from the participants, and collaboration with experts in the fields of neuroscience, psychology, biomedical engineering, historical theology, and systematic theology.

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.

[Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Critical Appropriation of Russian Religious Thought](#)
(2015)

Author: Jennifer Newsome Martin. Publisher: University of Notre Dame Press.

In *Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Critical Appropriation of Russian Religious Thought*, Jennifer Newsome Martin offers the first systematic treatment and evaluation of the Swiss Catholic theologian's complex relation to modern speculative Russian religious philosophy. Her constructive analysis proceeds through Balthasar's critical reception of Vladimir Soloviev, Nikolai Berdyaev, and Sergei Bulgakov with respect to theological aesthetics, myth, eschatology, and Trinitarian discourse and examines how Balthasar adjudicates both the possibilities and the limits of theological appropriation, especially considering the degree to which these Russian thinkers have been influenced by German Idealism and Romanticism. Martin argues that Balthasar's creative reception and modulation of the thought of these Russian philosophers is indicative of a broad speculative tendency in his work that deserves further attention. In this respect, Martin consciously challenges the prevailing view of Balthasar as a fundamentally conservative or nostalgic thinker. In her discussion of the relation between tradition and theological speculation, Martin also draws upon the understudied relation between Balthasar and F. W. J. Schelling, especially as Schelling's form of Idealism was passed down through the Russian thinkers. In doing so, she persuasively recasts Balthasar as an ecumenical, creatively anti-nostalgic theologian hospitable to the richness of contributions from extra-magisterial and non-Catholic sources.

[Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship](#) (2020)

Author: Pope Francis. Publisher: Twenty-Third Publications.

This powerful encyclical is Pope Francis cry from the heart to all people of the earth to see beyond their differences indeed to work with their differences and begin to grow together to build a new and peaceful world. This remarkable document comes from a pastor's heart, setting forth Francis' vision for a new church and new world, against the backdrop of a catastrophic pandemic that has spared nothing and altered everything.

Returning again and again to themes he has developed throughout his papacy, Pope Francis speaks of the need for equality and justice for all, cooperation, caring for the most vulnerable, doing the hard work of learning to listen to and accompany others, and caring for the earth that nurtures and sustains us all.

Read slowly and reflectively, Pope Francis message here is full of divine and human wisdom for every person.

[Christ Lives: Christus Vivit: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Young People](#)
(2019)

Author: Pope Francis. Publisher: The Word Among Us Press.

Everyone who cares about the future of the Church needs to read Pope Francis' letter!

"Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved. Don't stand aloof, but immerse

yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did."

A response to the Synod on Young People, *Christ Lives* is a passionate call for every Christian to embrace their role in the Church, to bring the gospel everywhere, and to meet young people where they are. From a Scriptural overview of how God views youth to inspiration from the saints to practical advice, *Christ Lives* is a timely commentary that will help you look back on your own experience of being young, enable you to assess your understanding of today's youth, and equip you with tools to help the Church become a welcoming place for young people and a beacon of hope to the world.

[Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs. the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis](#) (2021)

Author: Massimo Borghesi. Publisher: Liturgical Press

One element of the church that Pope Francis was elected to lead in 2013 was an ideology that might be called the "American" model of Catholicism—the troubling result of efforts by intellectuals like Michael Novak, George Weigel, and Richard John Neuhaus to remake Catholicism into both a culture war colossus and a prop for ascendant capitalism.

After laying the groundwork during the 1980s and armed with a selective and manipulative reading of Pope John Paul II's 1991 encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, these neoconservative commentators established themselves as authoritative Catholic voices throughout the 1990s, viewing every question through a liberal-conservative ecclesial-political lens. The movement morphed further after the 9/11 terror attacks into a startling amalgamation of theocratic convictions, which led to the troubling theo-populism we see today.

The election of the Latin American pope represented a mortal threat to all of this, and a poisonous backlash was inevitable, bringing us to the brink of a true "American schism." This is the drama of today's Catholic Church. In *Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs. the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis*, Massimo Borghesi—who masterfully unveiled the pope's own intellectual development in his *The Mind of Pope Francis*—analyzes the origins of today's Catholic neoconservative movement and its clash with the church that Francis understands as a "field hospital" for a fragmented world.

[The Aesthetics of Solidarity: Our Lady of Guadalupe and American Democracy](#) (2021)

Author: Nichole M. Flores. Publisher: Georgetown University Press.

Latine Catholics have used Our Lady of Guadalupe as a symbol in democratic campaigns ranging from the Chicano movement and United Farm Workers' movements to contemporary calls for just immigration reform. In diverse ways, these groups have used Guadalupe's symbol and narrative to critique society's basic structures — including law, policy, and institutions — while seeking to inspire broader participation and representation among marginalized peoples in US democracy.

Yet, from the outside, Guadalupe's symbol is illegible within a liberal political framework that seeks to protect society's basic structures from religious encroachment by relegating religious speech, practices, and symbols to the background.

The Aesthetics of Solidarity argues for the capacity of Our Lady of Guadalupe — and similar religious symbols — to make democratic claims. Author Nichole M. Flores exposes the limitations of political liberalism's aesthetic responses to religious difference, turning instead to Latine theological aesthetics and Catholic social thought to build a framework for interpreting religious symbols in our contemporary pluralistic and participatory democratic life. By offering a lived theology of Chicanx Catholics in Denver, Colorado, and their use of Guadalupe in the pursuit of justice in response to their neighborhood's gentrification, this book provides an important framework for a community of interpretation where members stand in solidarity to respond to justice claims made from diverse religious and cultural communities.

[The Index of Self-Destructive Acts](#) (2020)

Author: Christopher Beha. Publisher: Tin House Books.

On the day Sam Waxworth arrives in New York to write for the Interviewer, a street-corner preacher declares that the world is coming to an end. A data journalist and recent media celebrity—he correctly forecast every outcome of the 2008 election—Sam knows a few things about predicting the future. But when projection meets reality, life gets complicated. His first assignment for the Interviewer is a profile of disgraced political columnist Frank Doyle, known to Sam for the sentimental works of baseball lore that first sparked his love of the game. When Sam meets Frank at Citi Field for the Mets' home opener, he finds himself unexpectedly ushered into Doyle's crumbling family empire. Kit, the matriarch, lost her investment bank to the financial crisis; Eddie, their son, hasn't been the same since his second combat tour in Iraq; Eddie's best friend from childhood, the fantastically successful hedge funder Justin Price, is starting to see cracks in his spotless public image. And then there's Frank's daughter, Margo, with whom Sam becomes involved—just as his wife, Lucy, arrives from Wisconsin. While their lives seem inextricable, none of them know how close they are to losing everything, including each other.

Sweeping in scope yet meticulous in its construction, *The Index of Self-Destructive Acts* is a remarkable family portrait and a masterful evocation of New York City and its institutions. Over the course of a single baseball season, Christopher Beha traces the passing of the torch from the old establishment to the new meritocracy, exploring how each generation's failure helped land us where we are today. Whether or not the world is ending, Beha's characters are all headed to apocalypses of their own making.

[*St. Peter's B-list: Contemporary Poems Inspired by the Saints*](#) (2014)

Author: Mary Ann B. Miller. Publisher: Ave Maria Press

This soul-stirring collection of more than one hundred poems--composed by a wide variety of contemporary award-winning poets--awakens readers to the beauty and humor in the broken, imperfect striving of the saints for holiness.

Featuring poems by Dana Gioia, Mary Karr, Paul Mariani, and Kate Daniels, as well as many new and emerging poets, this anthology invites readers to view the saints as they've never imagined them, reaching for the sacred, doubting, stumbling, and then trying again. The collection features wide-ranging poems on ordinary topics, such as a mother trying to get her newborn to fall asleep, an older brother concerned about the marriage of his sister, a lonely man trying to meet a woman in a bar, and a burn victim's compassion for a small child. Neither devotional nor pious, these poems capture how, in unexpected ways, the saints illuminate daily life for everyday saints-in-the-making and engage readers in the important struggle to see the action of God in their lives.

Contact Us

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About the Center

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



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