



From the Desk of Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last week's visit by Pope Francis to the United States was an incredible experience. There were so many moments of inspiration, whether in speeches, in homilies, or in the intimate moments of human interaction with those around him. His speech to the US Congress was especially meaningful to me as he highlighted four great Americans -- Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton. The last two -- Day and Merton--were central to the flourishing of the American Catholic experience of the twentieth century. Both converts, Day and Merton helped many Catholics (and non-Catholics) find intellectual and political footing for their faith journeys. For Day, it was the dignity of the poor and the founding of the Catholic Worker Movement; for Merton it was his spiritual autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, and his countless letters and essays chronicling the promotion of peace and dialogue in the midst of the escalating Cold War. Pope Francis reminded Congress -- and reminded all of us -- that these great American figures, rooted in the intellectual underpinnings of their Christian faith and not just in its rhetoric, are resources for creating a just and peaceful world today.

Join us in the coming month as we continue to explore the Catholic intellectual and artistic heritage that was both so personal and so transformative for figures like Day and Merton. And arrivederci Papa Francesco!

All good things,
Fr. Mark



With the historic visit of Pope Francis to the United States over, the Hank Center made the media rounds to talk about, and reflect on, the importance and impact of this visit. Prof. Miguel Diaz and Dr. Michael Murphy made numerous appearances in print, online, on the radio and on TV. Check out the links below to see some of the things they have been talking about:



A Tale of Two Countries:
Loyola professor Miguel Diaz, PhD, reflects on his Cuban-American heritage and Pope Francis's journey to "nuestra America"
READ MORE

Diaz, a former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, discusses the Pope's visit during an interview on The Catholic Channel.
LISTEN TO PODCAST



Michael Murphy, PhD, director of Loyola's Catholic Studies program, appears in a

Faith and Public Life: The Church in the Americas

Special Guest

Hon. Carmen Lomellin
Former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States

Thursday, October 8
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Piper Hall, Gannon Center
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660



In 1999, Pope John Paul II issued a post-synodal apostolic exhortation entitled *Ecclesia in America*. The pope asked the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to reflect "on America as a single entity, by reason of all that is common to the peoples of the continent, including their shared Christian identity and their genuine attempt to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and communion between the different forms of the continent's rich cultural heritage."

Loyola University Chicago will host a conversation following the visit of Pope Francis to Cuba and to the United States. Leading this conversation will be: Carmen Lomellin, former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, Dr. Miguel H. Díaz, former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, and Dr. Peter M. Sanchez, Associate Professor of Political Science.

Among the questions that will be explored by this panel include: What influence did Vatican II and Medellín have on the American continent? What are some ongoing socio-political challenges facing the American continent? What can nations on this continent do to birth a New Spring in human relations? How might the normalization of diplomatic relations with Cuba, and the role that the Church has exercised in this process contribute to the stabilization of inter-continental relations? What positive role can Catholic faith leaders exercise within the continent, especially now under Pope Francis, the first Latin-American pope in history? Join us and add your own voices to this relevant conversation that explores the present and future of Church and society in our American continent.

Contact CCIH for more information.
Event is free and open to the general public.

2015 Conference "this need to dance, this need to kneel"

The Poetry and Poetic Life of Denise Levertov

October 23-24
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Loyola University Chicago
Water Tower Campus
820 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660



D. Levertov
Image: Stanford University Archives

CNN piece on Pope Francis and the complex world of international politics.
[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Examining Pope Francis' message to Congress
[Dr. Michael Murphy speaks at WBEZ's Worldview](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCE

The 2015 Chicago Catholic Immigrants Conference: The Poles



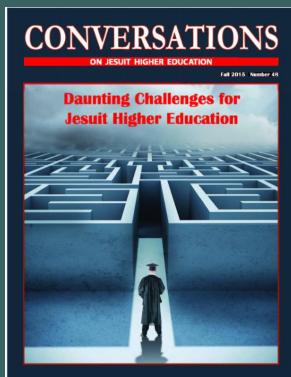
November 13-14

The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage (CCH) in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Polish Studies Program will host the third conference in a series of conferences that focus on the historical, cultural, and religious roles that Roman Catholicism played in sustaining ethnic identity for many immigrant communities of people who came to Chicago in the 19th and 20th centuries.

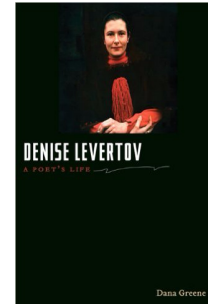
This conference will highlight the Polish heritage and traditions with the participation of Chicago artists, students, and Catholic religious leaders.

[CONTACT CCH FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

CONVERSATIONS ON JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION



The Hank Center sponsored conference *"this need to dance / this need to kneel"* *The Poetry and Poetic Life of Denise Levertov* is just around the corner. Please register! We have lined up an impressive array of plenary speakers and panel participants to engage in a robust, critical reception of, and reflection on, the poetry and poetics of Denise Levertov.



Leading figures in Levertov scholarship - like Donna Hollenberg, Dana Greene, and Al Gelpi - will explore her life and works, while prominent figures in the literary community - like novelist **Mary Gordon** - will engage Levertov on pressing questions of literary and religious reflection. Gordon's paper, "Denise Levertov: The Uses of Outrage," promises to be one of the highlights of the conference. In addition to these leading figures, our array of scholars from across the academic disciplines will present their own reflections on, and receptions of, Levertov's work.

The academic side of the conference will be complemented by a celebration of Levertov's poetry by dramatic readings of her work, including musical interpretations of her work, performed by the renowned opera soprano Delia Surratt.

[For conference registration click here.](#)
Questions may be addressed to Dr. M. Bradshaw at mbradshaw@luc.edu.

Catholic Q&A: Can I Really be Feminist in my Church? Catholic Women at a Crossroad

Dr. Michelle Nickerson
Department of History, LUC

Tuesday, October 13
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

The Den, Damen Student Center
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660



One of our most successful programs is the biannual "Catholic Q&A," an experience reserved for students only. We therefore look forward with special gravitas to October 13 when Dr. Michelle Nickerson will ask "Can I Really be Feminist in My Church? Catholic Women at a Crossroad"

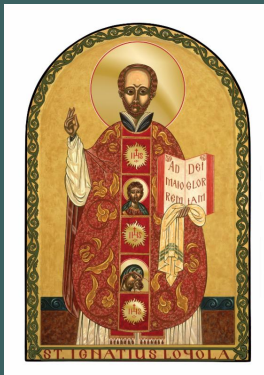
Dr. Nickerson's topic is quite compelling--not least because, according to Pew, only 16% of American women ages 18-29 identify as Catholic. As Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director of the History Department, Professor Nickerson teaches U.S. women's, gender, urban, and political history. A self-described "progressive Catholic" who dropped out of the church as a college student in 1989 and came back as a married thirty-something in 2004. Professor Nickerson will discuss her struggles with trying to develop a rich spiritual life and find fellowship in the Catholic Church while fully facing up to the knowledge of how its patriarchal structures continue to discriminate against women. We are certain that the students who attend will help create a substantive and memorable conversation.

LUC Students Only

Sponsored by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), the goal of the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education and its publication *Conversations* is to strengthen the Jesuit identity of our 28 colleges and universities.

[Check out the latest issue](#)

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Ramonat Seminar 2015 Immigrant Catholics and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Chicago

Thursday Evenings
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Palm Court, 4th Floor,
Mundelein Center**
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660



Thursday, October 15

'If it Wasn't for the Irish and the Jews':

Exploring Irish and Jewish Historical Musical Links and Influences on Vaudeville and Early Tin Pan Alley in America

Mick Moloney, Professor of Music and Irish Studies, New York University with Chicago's own Jimmy Keane, virtuoso All Ireland Piano Accordion Champion.

Thursday, November 5

"The Rise of the Nation-Saint: U.S. Catholics and Canonization"

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Associate Professor of American Studies and Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame.

The November 5 seminars have a pre-circulated paper. Please e-mail Dr. Kyle Roberts (kr Roberts2@luc.edu) in advance for a copy.

Co-sponsored by the Loyola's History Department, Catholic Studies, the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership, and the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage.

Seminars are free and open to the general public

[Follow the link for more information:](#)

Contacts

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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.

