



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kind greetings from the heyday of the academic semester--and I am happy to report that it has been another set of substantive weeks at the Hank Center. Both our September and October programming has been so rich and varied, disclosing again the many ways that the Catholic Intellectual tradition lives in history and leavens the current moment.

The Hank Center facilitated two major conferences in September. Early in the month, we hosted the second annual Catholic Studies Centers and Programs symposium here on our Lake Shore campus. 60+ scholars, educators, and administrators from various parts of the country and from a diversity of contexts gathered together to carry forward the radiant vision Catholic Studies in our universities and beyond. Later in the month, we co-hosted the fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination conference at the University of Dallas. Close to 60 musicians, artists, writers, editors, podcasters, and students joined 350+ conference attendees to celebrate creative and critical work, to share their gifts, and to discuss the enduring questions that attend discourses in faith, creativity, and imagination. We include a link to one of the plenary panels in the sidebar below for your consideration-- and there are more that will follow. This conference, the only of its kind, is a true celebration. You may recall that we **hosted here at LUC in 2019** and the conference is growing like grass in May. I left the event energized and already looking forward to the next conference, which is set to take place at University of Notre Dame in the fall of 2024.

In October, the Center was honored to host the 2022 Teilhard lecture featuring Dr. Kathleen Sprows Cummings from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Cummings talk, "A New Kind of Saint: Catholics and Canonization in the 21st Century," was met with deep enthusiasm by

both a full room of in-person attendees as well as the hundreds who tuned in on the Zoom livestream. Please click on the link in the sidebar to watch the video as it's perfect viewing to accompany all the great saint feast days we have in November. We closed the month with an excellent Loyola/Rogers Park Community book club event--our first-- featuring Michael O'Loughlin's *Hidden Mercy*. Michael painted a compelling picture of so many quiet heroes who, in the height of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, responded to human suffering with absolute compassion and heroism. An edifying discussion followed.

Two great events are lined up for November. The first is an in-person affair that takes **place next Wednesday, November 16th at 7 P.M.** Please join us in Damen Cinema for a viewing of *Unguarded*, a documentary film that tells the story of successful restorative justice work in Brazil and America through the experience of Association for the Protection and Assistance of the Convicted (APAC). Discussion with film director and producer, Simonetta D'Italia-Wiener, film producer and Loyola Alumnus, T.J. Berden, Loyola Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate School Alumnus, Phil Whittington, and The Honorable Thomas More Donnelly of Loyola University's School of Law. The second event, "The Dream of Home," is a concert uses its distinct platform in dance to present a humanistic vision of compassion, community and connection. This event takes place on **Friday, November 18th at 7:30 P.M.**-- with other options as well. More information below.

Finally, we are so pleased to welcome our new Office Manager, Ms. Katie Arnold. Katie comes to us most recently from the Field Museum of Natural History and hit the ground running in September. We are delighted she has joined our work at the Center and are grateful for her many gifts. Welcome, Katie!

Blessings to all, and,

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

## Hank Center Highlights

### Second Annual Catholic Studies Centers and Programs Symposium



The Hank Center and the Catholic Studies minor program welcomed over 60 national scholars, leaders, and directors of centers in Catholic Studies from September 8-10, 2022. While this event was by invitation

## Restorative Justice: *Unguarded* Viewing and Discussion



Join us for a viewing of *Unguarded*, a documentary film that tells the story of successful restorative justice work in Brazil and America through the experience of Association for the Protection and Assistance of the Convicted (APAC).

only, we are pleased to share **the program** for the conference and three prompts for this year's symposium.

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### **Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference**



Along with the Cowan Center at the University of Dallas, and a host of others, the Hank Center was proud to host the Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference September 30 - October 1, 2022. [This one-of-a-kind conference](#) was bursting at the seams with superb creative and reflective work. [Informative press from Jeanine Pitas and NCR here](#) and a link to a panel featuring Hank Center Director, Michael P. Murphy, [and the three other conference conveners here](#)-- Dana Gioia, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, and Jessica Hooten Wilson. We look forward to our next Biennial CIC which will take place at the University of Notre Dame in fall, 2024.

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### **The 2022 Fall Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Lecture**



The Hank Center was honored to welcome the Fall 2022 Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellow

Discussion with film director and producer, Simonetta D'Italia-Wiener, film producer and Loyola Alumnus, T.J. Berden, Loyola Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate School Alumnus, Phil Whittington, and The Honorable Thomas More Donnelly of Loyola University's School of Law will follow viewing. This **in-person only event** is Co-sponsored with the School of Communications, the School of Law, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and the Center for Criminal Justice.

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### **The Dream of Home**



November 17-20 | Thu-Sat at 7:30PM, Sunday at 2:00PM

Newhart Family Theatre at Loyola University Chicago

**Tickets: \$10-25**

In a world grappling with care for refugees by the thousands, this dance concert seeks to amplify the dignity of their voices and investigate how imagination promotes social justice by showing us a way to visualize a possible world. The role of the imagination is essential in breaking through the rigid structures and limited perceptions that prevent people from envisaging possibility, and this concert uses its distinct platform in dance to present a humanistic vision of compassion, community and connection. Our performance features Mexican choreographer, José Limón's glorious dedication to the devastated communities in war-torn Europe, Missa Brevis and invites you to ask the question, "What is home to me, and how can we imagine a global home?"

#### **OPENING NIGHT CONVERSATION:**

On opening night Friday November 18th we welcome distinguished scholars of the imagination from our Loyola community, Dr. Seungho Moon and Director of the Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Dr. Michael P. Murphy, to join Director of Dance, Sandra Kaufmann for a pre-performance discussion on the role of the imagination in the creation of a more just world.

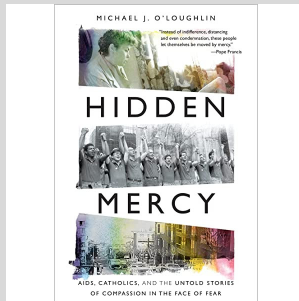
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**Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Hansol Goo**

in Catholic Studies, Kathleen Sprows Cummings to offer this year's lecture. This year's lecture was titled "A New Kind of Saint: Catholics and Canonization in the 21st Century," and also included a discussion and Q&A.

Watch Video

### Hidden Mercy



A Loyola--Rogers Park Community Book Club Event. Michael O'Loughlin read from his book *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics, and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear* and engaged our community in conversation. A collaboration between the Hank Center, St. Gertrude Church, and Loyola's Office of Mission Integration. Thanks to all those who participated in this wonderful discussion!

**Welcome Katie Arnold to the Hank Center Family!**



**Hansol Goo** is a PhD candidate in Theology in the area of Liturgical Studies at University of Notre Dame. Hansol holds a Licentiate degree in History and Cultural Heritage of the Church from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Her Licentiate thesis, "Benedetto XVI e l'Arte Sacra: Sofferenza e Conversione per Vedere la Verità" is published in Italian, in *Pope Art: tra Religione, Estetica, e Spiritualità* (G&B Press, 2022). Taking the contemporary issue of migration as a context and a source for theology, Hansol's doctoral research asks, "How can the experience of migration and displacement deepen our understanding of sacramental participation in the Eucharist and, in turn, help us understand immigrants from a sacramental point of view?" In particular, her research examines the role of memory in preserving, forming, and renewing the sense of self for Korean Catholics in the US diaspora in correlation to the Trinitarian dynamics of anamnesis-epiclesis in the celebration of the Eucharist. Hansol argues that, through the act of remembrance, the believing immigrant is rendered as a liturgical being who is no longer cast away in exile but who stands in the presence of the Lord.

**Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Joshua Hoxmeier**



Katie Arnold is the Office Manager at the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage. She has a Bachelors Degree in Public Relations and History from Purdue University and joins the Center from the field of public history. As a museum professional, Katie has experience working in a range of positions including most recently as a Project Manager of Exhibitions at the Field Museum of Natural History. She was also a Producer and Archival Researcher at a historical documentary production company, where she earned a Mid-Atlantic EMMY Award for work on a documentary about female abolitionists in the mid-19th century. Katie is currently serving as a leader for the Young Adult Ministry at St. Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes. As a lifelong Catholic, she continues to dedicate herself to spiritual growth and seeks to create new opportunities for others to learn, experience and grow in the faith.



**Joshua Alan Hoxmeier** is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). He received a B.A. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and an M.A. from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His dissertation, "Before Revolution and Counter-Revolution: How the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska's Interpretation of Vatican II Explains It's Growth Amid the General Decline of American Catholicism Since the Mid-Twentieth Century," explores how the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska bucked national trends of decline in the American Catholic Church. Although labeled as a "conservative and anti-Vatican II" diocese, Lincoln's Catholics in fact saw themselves as its true defenders. The vocational and educational success of this interpretation of Vatican II is one example of a larger trend in Great Plains Catholicism and demonstrates the need for a more nuanced understanding of Vatican II that goes beyond a simple "conservative/progressive paradigm."

## 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.

[\*Against War: Building a Culture of Peace\*](#) (2022)

Author: Pope Francis. Publisher: Orbis Books.

From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has made concern and action for peace and nonviolence one of his signature themes. From his travels to Iraq and other war-torn regions to his prophetic homilies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he has called the world to pursue a different path. Now, with the recent crisis in the Ukraine, his powerful voice is more prophetic and necessary than ever. "Faced with the images of death that come to us from Ukraine, it is difficult to hope. Yet there are seeds of hope. There are millions who do not aspire to war, who do not justify war . . . Millions of young people who are asking us to do everything possible and seemingly impossible to stop the war, to stop all wars. It is in thinking first of all of them, of young people and children that we must repeat together: Never again war! And together we must commit ourselves to building a world that is more peaceful because it is more just, where it is peace that triumphs and not the folly of war; justice, and not the injustice of war; mutual forgiveness, and not the hatred that divides and makes us see the other, the person who is different from us, as an enemy." --Pope Francis

[\*Catholicism: A Global History from the French Revolution to Pope Francis\*](#) (2022)

Author: John T. McGreevy. Publisher: W.W. Norton.

A magisterial history of the centuries-long conflict between “progress” and “tradition” in the world’s largest international institution.

The story of Roman Catholicism has never followed a singular path. In no time period has this been more true than over the last two centuries. Beginning with the French Revolution, extending to the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, and concluding with present-day crises, John T. McGreevy chronicles the dramatic upheavals and internal divisions shaping the most multicultural, multilingual, and global institution in the world.

Through powerful individual stories and sweeping birds-eye views, Catholicism provides a mesmerizing assessment of the Church’s complex role in modern history: both shaper and follower of the politics of nation states, both conservator of hierarchies and evangelizer of egalitarianism. McGreevy documents the hopes and ambitions of European missionaries building churches and schools in all corners of the world, African Catholics fighting for political (and religious) independence, Latin American Catholics attracted to a theology of liberation, and Polish and South Korean Catholics demanding democratic governments. He includes a vast cast of riveting characters, known and unknown, including the Mexican revolutionary Fr. Servando Teresa de Mier; Daniel O’Connell, hero of Irish emancipation; Sr. Josephine Bakhita, a formerly enslaved Sudanese nun; Chinese statesman Ma Xiaobang; French philosopher and reformer Jacques Maritain; German Jewish philosopher and convert, Edith Stein; John Paul II, Polish pope and opponent of communism; Gustavo Gutiérrez, Peruvian founder of liberation theology; and French American patron of modern art, Dominique de Menil.

Throughout this essential volume, McGreevy details currents of reform within the Church as

well as movements protective of traditional customs and beliefs. Conflicts with political leaders and a devotional revival in the nineteenth century, the experiences of decolonization after World War II and the Second Vatican Council in the twentieth century, and the trauma of clerical sexual abuse in the twenty-first all demonstrate how religion shapes our modern world. Finally, McGreevy addresses the challenges faced by Pope Francis as he struggles to unite the over one billion members of the world's largest religious community.

[\*Theological Poverty in Continental Philosophy\*](#) (2021)

Author: Colby Dickinson. Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic.

LUC Professor and Hank Center Advisory Board member Colby Dickinson's *Theological Poverty in Continental Philosophy: After Christian Theology* assembles a fascinating group of disparate continental thinkers to explore "a number of critical forays into subjects that refocus our understanding of the nature of political theology" (4). A reader well-versed in continental thought might view the word "after" in the subtitle as an indication of the challenges associated with a project like Dickinson's. The author arranges his chapters around recurrent themes in the continental philosophical-theological tradition to unify disparate concepts—"Paradox," "Negation," "Grace," "History," and "Violence"—to assess what comes after one takes stock of what has been, and after one brings disparate poles of thought into conversation with each other. Historically, these opposing sides have repelled and discredited each other; here, the reader is asked to consider them anew, from several vantage points.

*Theological Poverty in Continental Philosophy* presents a welcome challenge to those who work in political theology or continental philosophy of religion, and this study is an original contribution that captures, in exceptional detail, new intersections of thought. A parting call to action which sums up the essence of this text is offered by Dickinson in the conclusion, where he writes "it is time that Christianity, among other faiths within our world, acknowledges the profound transformations possible for itself, and only then for others, always however within the context of embracing its own poverty" (160). As an original contribution in the attempt to expand continental philosophy into the zone of political theology, this monograph is a welcome addition, one that will uproot settled positions and open new possibilities for thinking about political theology in our time.

[\*This Incredible Need to Believe\*](#) (2009)

Author: Julia Kristeva. Publisher: Columbia University Press.

"Unlike Freud, I do not claim that religion is just an illusion and a source of neurosis. The time has come to recognize, without being afraid of 'frightening' either the faithful or the agnostics, that the history of Christianity prepared the world for humanism."

So writes Julia Kristeva in this provocative work, which skillfully upends our entrenched ideas about religion, belief, and the thought and work of a renowned psychoanalyst and critic. With dialogue and essay, Kristeva analyzes our "incredible need to believe"—the inexorable push toward faith that, for Kristeva, lies at the heart of the psyche and the history of society. Examining the lives, theories, and convictions of Saint Teresa of Avila, Sigmund Freud, Donald Winnicott, Hannah Arendt, and other individuals, she investigates the intersection between the desire for God and the shadowy zone in which belief resides.

Kristeva suggests that human beings are formed by their need to believe, beginning with our first attempts at speech and following through to our adolescent search for identity and meaning. Kristeva then applies her insight to contemporary religious clashes and the plight of immigrant populations, especially those of Islamic origin. Even if we no longer have faith in God, Kristeva argues, we must believe in human destiny and creative possibility. Reclaiming Christianity's openness to self-questioning and the search for knowledge, Kristeva urges a "new kind of politics," one that restores the integrity of the human community.

[\*Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit\*](#) (2020)

Author: Eliese Colette Goldbach. Publisher: Flatiron Books.

One woman's story of working in the backbreaking steel industry to rebuild her life—but what she uncovers in the mill is much more than molten metal and grueling working conditions.

Under the mill's orange flame she finds hope for the unity of America.

*Steel is the only thing that shines in the belly of the mill...*

To Arcelor Mittal Steel Eliese is known as #6691: Utility Worker, but this was never her dream. Fresh out of college, eager to leave behind her conservative hometown and come to terms with her Catholic roots, Eliese found herself applying for a job at the local steel mill. The mill is everything she was trying to escape, but it's also her only shot at financial security in an economically devastated and forgotten part of America.

In *Rust*, Eliese brings the reader inside the belly of the mill and the middle American upbringing that brought her there in the first place. She takes a long and intimate look at her Rust Belt childhood and struggles to reconcile her desire to leave without turning her back on the people she's come to love. The people she sees as the unsung backbone of our nation.

Faced with the financial promise of a steelworker's paycheck, and the very real danger of working in an environment where a steel coil could crush you at any moment or a vat of molten iron could explode because of a single drop of water, Eliese finds unexpected warmth and camaraderie among the gruff men she labors beside each day.

Appealing to readers of *Hillbilly Elegy* and *Educated*, *Rust* is a story of the humanity Eliese discovers in the most unlikely and hellish of places, and the hope that therefore begins to grow.

[Thérèse](#) (2016)

Author: Dorothy Day. Publisher: Christian Classics.

Dorothy Day's unpretentious account of the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux sheds light on the depth of Day's Catholic spirituality and illustrates why Thérèse's simplicity and humility are so vital for today. Whether you are called to the active life like Day or a more hidden existence like Thérèse, you will discover that these paths have much in common and can lead you to a love that has the power to transform you in ways that are unexpected and consequential.

Now back in print, this short biography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux by Dorothy Day expresses the surprising yet profound connection between Day—the founder of the Catholic Worker movement who was praised by Pope Francis for her passion for justice and dedication to her faith—and the beloved saint best known for her Little Way.

When Day first read St. Thérèse's autobiography, *The Story of a Soul* in 1928, she called it "pious pap." At the time, Day—a social activist who had been living a bohemian lifestyle—had only recently been baptized a Catholic. Some twenty-five years later, Day's perspective on Thérèse had so completely changed that she was inspired to write this biography. She did not find it an easy task: "Every time I sit down to write that book on the Little Flower I am blocked. . . . I am faced with the humiliating fact that I can write only about myself, a damning fact." But she persisted, and despite numerous rejections eventually found a publisher for it in 1960. She wrote in the Preface: "In these days of fear and trembling of what man has wrought on earth in destructiveness and hate, Thérèse is the saint we need."

Written originally for nonbelievers or those unaware of Thérèse, the book reflects how Day came to appreciate Thérèse's Little Way, not as an abstract concept, but as a spirituality that she had already been living. The Catholic Worker, which she cofounded with Peter Maurin, was dedicated to feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless. Day's life, like Thérèse's, was filled with all the humble, self-effacing jobs that were a part of this work. She found in Thérèse a kindred spirit, one who saw these simple hidden tasks as the way to heaven. "We want to grow in love but do not know how. Love is a science, a knowledge, and we lack it," Day wrote.

Just as Day had a conversion of heart about the Little Way, you, too, can be changed by Thérèse's simple, yet profound spirituality.

[In the Field Between Us: Poems](#) (2020)

Author: Molly McCully Brown and Susannah Nevison. Publisher: Persea.



This exquisite exchange of poem-letters between two disabled writers traces their struggle to find purchase in inhospitable landscapes—topographical, social, emotional, semantic.

*In the Field Between Us* is a friendship in poems, an epistolary project by Molly McCully Brown and Susannah Nevison that ponders disability and the possibility of belonging in the aftermath of lifelong medical intervention. In the beginning, the poem-letters express, in gorgeous harmony, the psychic and physiological complexities of surviving remedy. As the book unfolds, the writers encounter a natural world around them that increasingly seems to mirror the traumas they have endured. Out of its tracing of innumerable scars, this book emits a perseverance, a spirit of communion, and a hopeful resolve that rises out of the poets' attention to detail and their profound connection to one another.

The Hank Center was delighted to host Molly for our 2019 Catholic Imagination Conference.

### [The Sympathizer: A Novel](#) (2016)

Author: Viet Thanh Nguyen. Publisher: Grove Press.

Winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize, a startling debut novel from a powerful new voice featuring one of the most remarkable narrators of recent fiction: a conflicted subversive and idealist working as a double agent in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

The winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as seven other awards, *The Sympathizer* is the breakthrough novel of the year. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, *The Sympathizer* is a sweeping epic of love and betrayal. The narrator, a communist double agent, is a “man of two minds,” a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who arranges to come to America after the Fall of Saigon, and while building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam.

*The Sympathizer* is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel, and a powerful story of love and friendship.

### [The Night Watchman: A Novel](#) (2021)

Author: Louise Erdrich. Publisher: Harper Perennial.

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at the jewel bearing plant, the first factory located near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member who is trying to understand the consequences of a new “emancipation” bill on its way to the floor of the United States Congress. It is 1953 and he and the other council members know the bill isn't about freedom; Congress is fed up with Indians. The bill is a “termination” that threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land and their very identity. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with Native Americans “for as long as the grasses shall grow, and the rivers run”?

Since graduating high school, Pixie Paranteau has insisted that everyone call her Patrice. Unlike most of the girls on the reservation, Patrice, the class valedictorian, has no desire to wear herself down with a husband and kids. She makes jewel bearings at the plant, a job that barely pays her enough to support her mother and brother. Patrice's shameful alcoholic father returns home sporadically to terrorize his wife and children and bully her for money. But Patrice needs every penny to follow her beloved older sister, Vera, who moved to the big city of Minneapolis. Vera may have disappeared; she hasn't been in touch in months, and is rumored to have had a baby. Determined to find Vera and her child, Patrice makes a fateful trip to Minnesota that introduces her to unexpected forms of exploitation and violence, and endangers her life.

Thomas and Patrice live in this impoverished reservation community along with young Chippewa boxer Wood Mountain and his mother Juggie Blue, her niece and Patrice's best friend Valentine, and Stack Barnes, the white high school math teacher and boxing coach who is hopelessly in love with Patrice.

In the *Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich creates a fictional world populated with memorable characters who are forced to grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature. Illuminating the loves and lives, the desires and ambitions of these characters with compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is a majestic work of fiction from this revered cultural treasure.

## **Catholic Classics**

### **[Are Women Human? Penetrating, Sensible, and Witty Essays on the Role of Women in Society](#)** (2005)

Author: Dorothy L. Sayers. Publisher: Eerdmans.

One of the first women to graduate from Oxford University, Dorothy Sayers pursued her goals whether or not what she wanted to do was ordinarily understood to be "feminine." Sayers did not devote a great deal of time to talking or writing about feminism, but she did explicitly address the issue of women's role in society in the two classic essays collected here.

Central to Sayers's reflections is the conviction that both men and women are first of all human beings and must be regarded as essentially much more alike than different. We are to be true not so much to our sex as to our humanity. The proper role of both men and women, in her view, is to find the work for which they are suited and to do it.

These essays are the result of talks given by Sayers in the 1930s and 1940s. They were groundbreaking in their day and still offer, in Sayers's piquant style, a sensible and conciliatory approach to ongoing gender issues.

### **[Exegesis of Commonplaces](#)** (1902)

Author: Léon Bloy. Publisher: Wiseblood Books.

Leon Bloy's *Exégèse des lieux communs*—first published in 1902—appears here in English for the first time through Wiseblood Books. Among the novels, essays, biographies, and journals composed by Bloy, there is one work whose only appropriate classification was given directly in its title: *Exegesis of Commonplaces*—a peculiar foray into a genre normally reserved for theologians. And yet, as Albert Béguin notes in his sublime *Léon Bloy: A Study in Impatience*, Bloy's entire output may be seen as a labor of exegesis: "...it became Bloy's aim to make his mind as transparent as possible to the light of grace and to penetrate further and further into the mysteries hidden beneath the surface of history and the state of mankind." In the present volume, this "light of grace" is refracted upon the infallibly trite and rigorously unexamined language of the bourgeoisie. Banalities such as "Business is business," "You can't have everything," "I'll believe it when I see it," "Money can't buy happiness," etc., are treated with the gravity of sacred incantation and provide the framework for Bloy's dissections. As a matter of structure, the *Exegesis* recalls Flaubert's *Dictionary of Received Ideas* or Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary*, but whereas the latter are largely satirical (and cynical) attacks on an emerging class of acquisitive conformists, Bloy's project excavates the spiritual content of what might otherwise be dismissed as mere vapidities. Though he despises the bourgeoisie for its greed and vanity, for its hypocrisies and cruelties, Bloy nevertheless recognizes that "the most inane representatives of the bourgeoisie are themselves fearsome prophets," and that, "in the form of Commonplaces, they continually and unwittingly advance truly impressive claims, the implications of which, to them, remain unknown." Those implications, the supernatural blood invigorating an otherwise superficial and often incoherent idiom, are Bloy's true subject, and it is the purpose of his *Exegesis* to distill their essence.

### **[Helbeck of Bannisdale](#)** (1898).

Author: Mary Augusta Ward.

Written in 1898, *Helbeck of Bannisdale* has as its theme 'the love between man and woman' which must inevitably and tragically clash with their personal beliefs.

Reflecting the religious preoccupations of the period, Mrs Ward takes for her heroine, as Charlotte Brontë did in *Villette*, a young woman whose Catholic lover requires her to accept the role his traditions impose upon women, but like Lucy Snowe, Laura Fountain insist on claiming the freedom of thought, speech and action which she believes to be her right. Intellectually and emotionally rejecting his religious beliefs, Laura, with her 'most surprising gift of happiness', is nevertheless drawn to the aloof Alan Helbeck. Yet even their life-enhancing love for each other cannot prevent the coming tragedy.

In her impressive characterization, delicacy of touch and acuteness of observation, Mary Ward justifiably earns her comparison the George Eliot and Charlotte Brontë: but it is her insight into the human heart and her subtle treatment of love and conflict that make this work a classic.

*Helbeck* was recommended by 2022 Flannery O'Connor Lifetime Award Recipient, Dr. Barbara Gelpi, Professor Emerita, Stanford University.

### 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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