

The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage

May 2017



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

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Two things I want to share with you as we end the semester. I am proud of the many publications developed from research conferences sponsored by the Hank Center over the years. These include the following: *God, Sex, Science, Gender: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Christian Ethics* (2010), a wide-ranging and interdisciplinary look at the development of Christian sexual ethics for contemporary times; *Democracy, Culture, Catholicism: Voices from Four Continents* (2015), the product of a three-year research project that brought together scholars from Indonesia, Lithuania, Peru, and the United States, to discuss the relationship of Catholicism and political life; and *Revelation and Convergence: Flannery O'Connor and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition* (2017), a collection that explores how O'Connor's Catholic heritage informed her thought and fiction. Three other publications are due out in the years ahead, one on the effects of the restoration of the Society of Jesus in the United States, one on the challenge of God in light of contemporary philosophy, and another on the theological poetics of the poet Denise Levertov. Please see below for more on these publications.

I am also excited about the ongoing *Faculty Seminar* begun this past fall. The semester-long course gathers 15 faculty from across the disciplines and colleges to study in a systematic way Loyola's Catholic, Jesuit heritage as a reference point and resource for social justice. Called "All Things Ignatian: Catholic Intellectual Life and the Common Good," the seminar focuses on the life of Ignatius, the history of the Jesuits, Ignatian pedagogy, and the interplay of faith, reason, and justice as it pertains to teaching and scholarship. Funded by the University's 2020 strategic plan, the seminar has been a great success, so much so that we will run four faculty cohorts in the coming year. The goal of the seminar is to make faculty more literate about our mission and to invite them into a deeper commitment to that mission.

Finally, as graduation approaches on Loyola's campus, I write to inform you that I will be graduating myself, of sorts, from the university. I am stepping down as director of the Hank Center this summer and moving to Georgetown University as their vice-president of Mission and Ministry. This will be the last time that I will be able to share with you in our newsletter my excitement about all that the Hank Center is doing. I leave things in the

capable hands of the associate director, Dr. Michael P. Murphy, who is situated well not only to continue our many programs, but to explore new ways to communicate this great religious heritage that inspires the mission. I want to thank Dr. Murphy and the Hank Center staff-Gabija Steponenaite, Kelly Schmidt, and our Catholic Studies student interns Angelo Canta and Gustav Roman-for all that they have done to contribute to the Center's flourishing.

All good things,

Fr. Mark

Andalusia in Andalucía

An International Conference on Flannery O'Connor



June 22-25, 2017
Universidad Loyola Andalucía
Seville, Spain

In June 2017, Universidad Loyola Andalucía, in conjunction with the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University Chicago, will host an international conference on the American short story writer and novelist Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964). This conference will focus on engaging the literary vision of O'Connor's stories and the critical reception of her work in light of Spanish Baroque aesthetics, the literary grotesque, and the Catholic imagination.

Spiritual and Cultural Pilgrimage to Spain



June 26 - July 6, 2017

Join Loyola University Museum of Art on a Spiritual Cultural Pilgrimage to Spain. Follow in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola under the Leadership of Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J., Ph.D.,

Documentary Film

Flannery O'Connor: Acts of Redemption



Over the last four years the Hank Center has been the hub of activity for a 90-minute feature documentary film on the life and work of Flannery O'Connor. The film was awarded an NEH grant in the fall of 2016 and is currently being considered for PBS's *American Masters* series. Now in postproduction, a version of the film will premiere at the upcoming Flannery O'Connor Conference this summer in Seville Spain at Loyola University Andalucia.

Fr. Mark Bosco and Dr. Elizabeth Coffman (School of Communication) have collected over 40 hours of film of O'Connor's family, friends, critics, and fellow artists. From her Southern roots in Georgia, to her formative years at the Iowa Writers Workshop, and through her return to the South due to the debilitating onset of the autoimmune disease, *lupus*, Flannery O'Connor's art stands as a singular achievement. Her Catholic faith was not some retreat into fantasy or comfort, but a hard reality to embrace-especially in the face of the 20th century's increasing disbelief. "One of the awful things about writing when you are a Christian," she wrote, "is that for you the ultimate reality is the Incarnation, the present reality is the Incarnation, and nobody believes in the Incarnation, that is, nobody in your audience. My audience is the people who think God is dead." The need to shake this audience so that it can ponder her realism makes many readers unprepared for her combination of humor and violence.

The film has many interview subjects: Sally Fitzgerald (her friend and editor); the publisher Robert Giroux, actors such as Tommy Lee Jones and Conan O'Brien, Pulitzer prize winning critic Hilton Als (*The New Yorker*), and fellow writers such as Alice Walker, Mary Gordon, Tobias Wolff, and Mary Karr.

With the Hank Center's help in keeping track of all the moving pieces of a major feature film, it will have pride of place in the film credits. View the trailer [here](#).

John Courtney Murray Forum

director of the Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Dr. Natasha Ritsma, Curator of the Loyola University Museum of Art, and Kathleen Beaulieu, Board Member of the Loyola University Museum of Art.

[Follow this link](#) to learn more about the travel itinerary, prices, and to book your travel.

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The fourth annual John Courtney Murray, SJ Forum was centered on the theme of Beauty. Each year, the Catholic Studies minors host an forum that is student-centered and student-led, featuring various talks, musical performances, and artwork. This Forum explored the concept of Beauty in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. The evening was split into three sections: Hidden Beauty, Searching for Lasting Beauty, and Beauty in relationships.

Students presented on the prophetic beauty of hip hop, Catholic kitsch and meme-culture, the beauty in romantic relationships, among other topics. Musicians from the 9PM Mass and two student dancers also performed, adding to the interdisciplinary nature of the event. In between sessions, students had a chance to partake in a specially crafted menu catered by The Growling Rabbit and look around the student-art gallery.

Catholic Studies Capstone Banquet



May 3, 2017

Ignatius House
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660

The annual Catholic Studies Minor banquet, hosted by the Jesuit Community at Ignatius House, honors and celebrates the Catholic Studies minors as they showcase their senior capstone projects. The interdisciplinary minor, which engages students in the Catholic intellectual tradition across many disciplines and fields of study, accumulates in this capstone project every spring for graduating

seniors.

This semester features the largest graduating class for the minor yet, with 23 incredibly talented students ranging in studies from social work, marketing, philosophy, English, biology, and many others. The final integrative papers and projects will be presented to all of the minors, while the Jesuit community will provide a five course meal.

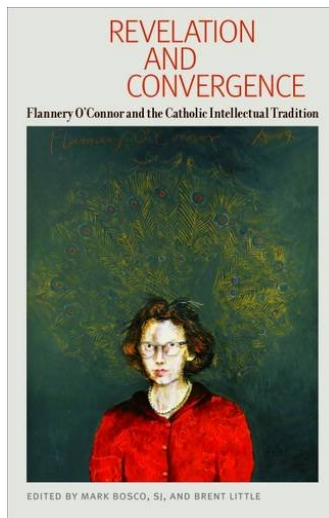
This event is open to Catholic Studies Minors and their guests only.

Hank Center Publications

The Hank Center has produced several books over the past several years. We are proud to share them with you here.

Revelation and Convergence: Flannery O'Connor and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

Edited by Mark Bosco, S.J. and Brent Little



Revelation & Convergence brings together professors of literature, theology, and history to help both critics and readers better understand O'Connor's religious imagination.

The contributors focus on many of the Catholic thinkers central to O'Connor's creative development.

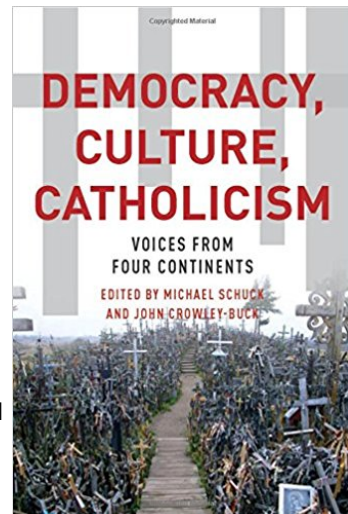
Revelation & Convergence provides a much-needed hermeneutical lens that is often missing from contemporary criticism, representing O'Connor's ongoing conversation with her Catholic theological and literary heritage, and provide a glimpse into the rich Catholic texture of her life and work.

Democracy, Culture, Catholicism: Voices from Four Continents

Edited by Michael Schuck and John Crowley-Buck

Compiling scholarly essays from a unique three-year Democracy, Culture and Catholicism International Research Project, *Democracy, Culture, Catholicism* richly articulates the diverse and dynamic interplay of democracy, culture, and Catholicism in the contemporary world.

The twenty-five essays from four extremely diverse cultures—those of Indonesia, Lithuania, Peru, and the United States—explore the relationship between democracy and Catholicism from several perspectives, including historical and cultural analysis, political theory and conflict resolution, social movements and Catholic social thought.



God, Science, Sex, Gender: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Christian Ethics

Edited by Patricia Beatte Jung and Aana Marie Vigen



GOD, SCIENCE, SEX, GENDER

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS

EDITED BY PATRICIA BEATTIE JUNG AND AANA MARIE VIGEN



God, Sex, Science, Gender: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Christian Ethics is a wide-ranging attempt to rescue dialogues on human sexuality, sexual diversity, and gender from insular exchanges based primarily on biblical scholarship and denominational ideology. Too often, dialogues on sexuality and gender devolve into the repetition of party lines and defensive postures, without considering the interdisciplinary body of scholarly research on this complex subject.

Focusing on the intersection of theology and science and incorporating feminist theory, *God, Science, Sex, Gender* is a much-

needed call for Christian ethicists to map the origins and full range of human sexual experience and gender identity. Essays delve into why human sexuality and gender can be so controversial in Christian contexts, investigate the complexity of sexuality in humans and other species, and reveal the implications of diversity for Christian moral theology.

The Hank Center also has three books in the making: *Crossings and Dwellings*, edited by Dr. Kyle Roberts and Stephen Schloesser, SJ; *Continental Philosophy*, edited by Colby Dickinson; and *Denise Levertov*, edited by Michael Murphy.

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.

Stay Connected

