



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The season of Lent is upon us, a time when Christian communities around the world commit themselves to reflection and repentance, almsgiving and self-denial. The English word "Lent" comes from the Old English *Lencten*, meaning "lengthen": the days begin to last a little longer and the sun begins to shine a little brighter as spring returns again to renew the land and our winter-worn spirits.

The liturgical season of Lent takes on more profound meaning this year given the twin crises of sexual abuse and cover-up in the church. For those of a certain vintage (I am a Gen-Xer), the scandal of sexual abuse is, sadly, nothing new to us-whether in the church or elsewhere in life. But for many younger Millennials-and for our undergraduates (who have been tagged as Gen Z or I-Gen)-it's a relatively new phenomenon. Contemporary cultural forces already generate strong headwinds against the religious dimension of our lives together; and this sustained sin-albeit perpetrated by a minority cohort of roughly five percent of priests-has rightly caused pain and moral outrage in Gen Z, and, to be sure, in us all. But the extent of the cover-up is a fresh wound, especially in light of the recent revelations from Pennsylvania and beyond; and it is the cover up that all of us are called to address with candor, courage, and commitment.

This Lent, I have been thinking about our lives together as church, as the body of Christ. I was reminded of an insight from a 1955 letter written by Flannery O'Connor to her new friend, Elizabeth Hester, an insight that grounds the imperfections of the church in sober Christian realism:

..the only thing that makes the Church enduring is that it is somehow the body of Christ and that

on this we are fed. It seems to be a fact that you have to suffer as much from the Church as for it but if you believe in the divinity of Christ, you have to cherish the world at the same time that you struggle to endure it.

The implicit truth here is that the church is no way immune from sin. In its social dimension, the church has been party to many heinous acts-from slavery to sexual abuse-and it will depart neither from the making of mistakes nor the fallibility of its slow learning anytime soon. Yet, the church, as O'Connor rightly concludes, is the body of Christ; and this body has shown, time and time again, that it can be healed and that, in turn, it can be a healing force to a world so desperately in need of the Gospel it proclaims. As Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote on the heels of Vatican II, "the Spirit is empowered to utter a fresh and central answer to any situation."

It is clear that the Spirit is speaking to us today and is calling us to deeper dialog and action about who we are as church. On Thursday and Friday this week, we will take these questions up and discuss the future of Catholicism in America with scholars, journalists, prelates, students, and guests at our two day conference. We hope to see you for these important dialogues.

The following week we will bestow our Living Tradition Award on the Rev. Dr. Mark McIntosh, Professor of Christian Spirituality. The Living Tradition Award is given to Loyola faculty who over the years has exemplified the Catholic intellectual heritage in their life and scholarship. We celebrate Mark's many years of service to Loyola's mission and look forward to honoring him at the LTA banquet.

There are plenty of other things going on at the Hank Center and Catholic Studies during this Lenten season, so please take advantage of all the opportunities listed below. A peaceful Lent to you and,

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy



Women, Politics, and Religion in the Americas: Issues and Perspectives

Part of the Faith and Public Life: Controversial Conversations series.
Panelists: Maria Clara Bingemer and Carmen Nanko-Fernández.
Moderator: Miguel H. Diaz, The John Courtney Murray University Chair in Public Service at LUC.

Thursday, April 25
7:00 PM



QUO VADIS? SCHOLARS AND JOURNALISTS DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

Catholicism in America is at a crossroads. What are the hopes and challenges of American Catholics today? Join His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich and panelists for a conversation on accountability, leadership, participation, and other issues facing the Church in America.

Thursday, April 4

McCormick Lounge,
Coffey Hall
[Lake Shore Campus](#)

This event is free and open to the public. Registration not required.



Catholic Studies
Minors present the
John Courtney Murray
Forum

Exploring students' journey through the minor. Featuring presentations from seniors and more!

Thursday, April 11
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Damen Den
[Lake Shore Campus](#)

This event is free and open to all students.



Women, Politics, and Religion in the Americas: Issues and Perspectives

Part of the Faith and Public Life: Controversial Conversations series. With panelists Maria Clara Bingemer (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro) and Carmen Nanko-Fernández (Catholic Theological Union) and moderator Miguel H. Diaz (The John Courtney Murray University Chair in Public Service, LUC)

6:00 - 7:30 PM

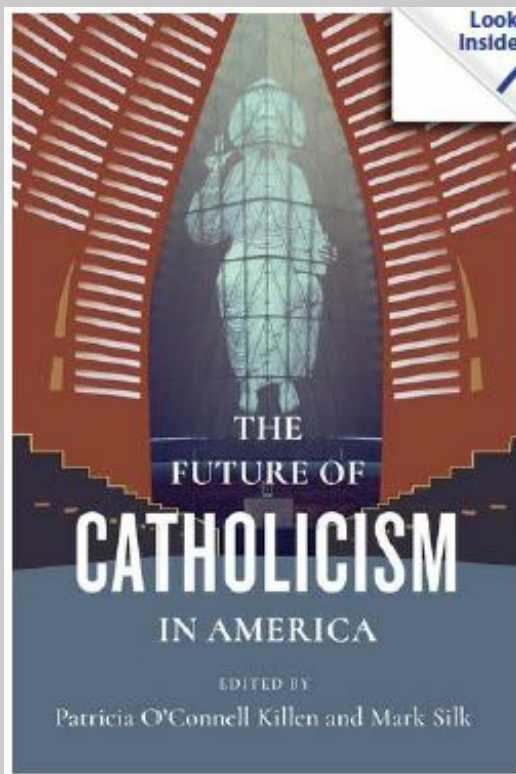
Hosted hors d'oeuvres and conversation begin at 5:00 PM
Information Commons, 4th Floor

[Lake Shore Campus](#)
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

This event is free and open to the public. Registration not required.

Part of the [Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause Series](#).

IN-DEPTH DIALOGUE: DISCUSSION OF NEW BOOK: *THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA*



Join the Hank Center for an in-depth dialogue on the forthcoming publication *The Future of Catholicism in America*. The editors of the volume, Patricia O'Connell Killen and Mark Silk, alongside other scholars, will discuss themes explored in this book. A luncheon dialogue featuring graduate and undergraduate students follows.

Friday, April 5
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall
Lunch and Conversation in Palm Court,
Mundelein Hall
[Lake Shore Campus](#)
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

This event is free and open to the public. Registration not required.

Part of the [Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause Series](#).



Trinity College
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



Thursday, April 25
7:00 PM
McCormick Lounge,
Coffey Hall
[Lake Shore Campus](#)



**Francisco Suárez:
Predecessors and
Successors**

This two-day international conference explores the ways in which Suárez both revives elements of scholasticism, and prefigures modern philosophers in his metaphysics.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy & the Jesuit Community at Loyola University Chicago.

April 26-27

Beane Hall, Lewis Towers

[Water Tower Campus](#)

Registration Required.

For more information, see [event website](#).

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[Mailing List](#)**



LURED: THE CURSE OF SWANS

[The Right Brain Project](#) proudly presents [Lured: The Curse of Swans](#), a play written by Terry Boyle and directed by Becca Holloway.

Starring Annabella De Meo, Liz Goodson, and Sylvie Sadarnac.

About the Play: It is the tenth anniversary since Paddy (husband to Grainne and father to Maeve and Deirdre) tragically passed away. His passing, and the circumstances of his death, created a rift in the family. In order to bridge this uncomfortable awkwardness, Grainne has organized a family trip to Ireland. On the eve of the journey, they prepare to reunite after a period of painful separation. While living in the same city, they have managed to drift apart, fearing the intimacy that threatens breaks open old wounds. As the evening passes and their impending journey gets closer, shadows of the past begin to haunt them. Caught between the people they once were and the people they have become, each one must decide what is true and what is false. While each of them struggles to be authentic, we begin to see the fallacies they have created in order to protect themselves from the truth.

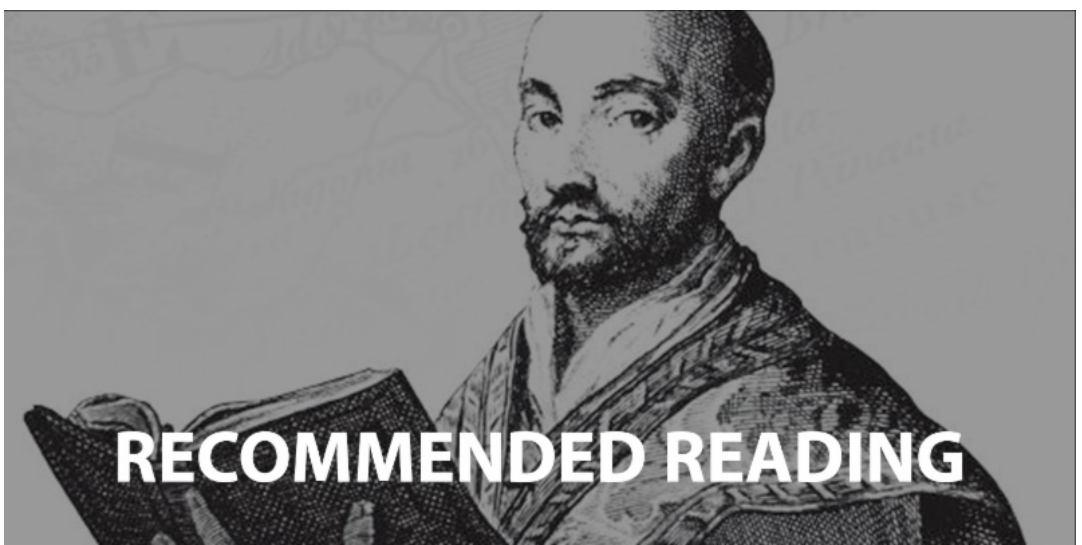
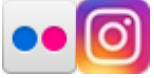
NEW DATES: April 11 - 13

8:00 PM

Mullady Theatre, Mertz Hall

[Lake Shore Campus](#)

This event is free and open to the public. No registration required.



[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.

[All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation](#) (2019)

by David Bentley Hart

The great fourth-century church father Basil of Caesarea once observed that, in his time, most Christians believed that hell was not everlasting, and that all would eventually attain salvation. But today, this view is no longer prevalent within Christian communities.

In this momentous book, David Bentley Hart makes the case that nearly two millennia of dogmatic tradition have misled readers on the crucial matter of universal salvation. On the basis of the earliest Christian writings, theological tradition, scripture, and logic, Hart argues that if God is the good creator of all, he is the savior of all, without fail. And if he is not the savior of all, the Kingdom is only a dream, and creation something considerably worse than a nightmare. But it is not so. There is no such thing as eternal damnation; all will be saved. With great rhetorical power, wit, and emotional range, Hart offers a new perspective on one of Christianity's most important themes.

In preparation for the [2019 Catholic Imagination Conference](#), this month we are including three books by authors who will be speaking at the conference:

[Original Prin](#) (2019)

by Randy Boyagoda

Eight months before he became a suicide bomber, Prin went to the zoo with his family.

Following a cancer diagnosis, forty-year old Prin vows to become a better man and a better Catholic. He's going to spend more time with his kids and better time with his wife, care for his recently divorced and aging parents, and also expand his cutting-edge research into the symbolism of the seahorse in Canadian literature.

But when his historic college in downtown Toronto faces a shutdown and he meets with the condominium developers ready to take it over-including a foul-mouthed young Chinese entrepreneur and Wende, his sexy ex-girlfriend from graduate school-Prin hears the voice of God. Bewildered and divinely inspired, he goes to the Middle East, hoping to save both his college and his soul. Wende is coming, too.

The first book in a planned trilogy, *Original Prin* is an entertaining and essential novel about family life, faith, temptation, and fanaticism. It's a timely story about timeless truths, told with wise insight and great humour, confirming Randy Boyagoda's place as one of Canada's funniest and most provocative writers.

[On Thomas Merton](#) (2019)

by Mary Gordon

"If Thomas Merton had been a writer and not a monk, we would never have heard of him. If Thomas Merton had been a monk and not a writer, we would never have heard of him."

So begins acclaimed author Mary Gordon in this probing, candid exploration of the man who became the face and voice of mid-twentieth-century American Catholicism. Approaching Merton "writer to writer," Gordon illuminates his life and work through his letters, journals, autobiography, and fiction. Pope Francis has celebrated Merton as "a man of dialogue," and here Gordon shows that the dialogue was as much internal as external—an unending conversation, and at times a heated conflict, between Merton the monk and Merton the writer.

Rich with excerpts from Merton's own writing, *On Thomas Merton* produces an intimate portrait of a man who "lived life in all its imperfectability, reaching toward it in exaltation, pulling back in anguish, but insisting on the primacy of his praise as a man of God."

[The Pope's Cat](#) (2018)

by Jon M. Sweeney

No one has a closer view of what's happening in the world's tiniest nation, Vatican City, than Margaret, the Pope's new cat. But she wasn't always Margaret, and she wasn't always the Pope's cat. She started out as a stray on the streets of Rome, and there are those in the Vatican who wish she'd never been allowed inside.

Here is a cat who does what she likes regardless of what others, even someone like the Pope, expects of her—even when the Queen of England comes on a state visit!

This fiction series is intended for Catholic schools, elementary school teachers, Catholic librarians, superintendents of schools, reading specialists, educators, catechists, school principals, Catholic homeschoolers, and parents.

CATHOLIC IMAGINATION CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE OF THE CATHOLIC LITERARY TRADITION



September 19-21, 2019



Registration is now open for the [2019 Catholic Imagination Conference](#). We hope you will join us in September!

Contact Us

Loyola University Chicago
[The Joan and Bill Hank Center](#)
[for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage](#)
Cuneo Hall, Room 428
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660
Ph: (773) 508-3820
E-mail: HankCenter@luc.edu

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.