



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2014 with a cold blast of winter, the Hank Center is heating up with a series of programs that illustrate the many ways Catholicism is woven into the fabric of American life and letters. In terms of Catholic American life, we begin with a luncheon to celebrate the recent publication of emerita history professor Ann Harrington's work on the contributions of women religious in constructing American Catholic culture. So many women have been central in shaping American Catholicism, and Harrington focuses on how the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary negotiated the tumultuous time between the two world wars, 1919-1943.

In terms of Catholic American letters, the writer and critic Gregory Wolfe joins us for our second annual *Cardinal Newman Lecture*. Wolfe, editor of the award-winning journal *IMAGE*, and one of the most important Catholic public intellectuals today, will recount how his own discovery of the Catholic intellectual heritage influenced his vocation as a scholar. Last fall Wolfe wrote an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* about the state of Catholic writers today, and has recently published a follow up piece on the relationship of religion and public life in the journal *First Things*.

We hope you can join us for both of these events and for the many other later this spring.
Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J.

LUNCH with LUMA

Loyola University Museum
of Art Director of Cultural Affairs

Pam Ambrose

will speak about works of
American writer and artist

Edward St. John Gorey



Wednesday, February 26
11:30 am -12:45 pm

Loyola University Chicago
Information Commons, 4th Floor
1032 W.Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

LUC Faculty Only
RSVP Required

Contact CCIH
for More Information

CATHOLICISM IN THE ARTS SERIES

A lecture and performance by
Richard Austin
English actor and internationally
renowned performer of the poetry
of
Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ
(1844 -1889)



Wednesday, March 12
3:30 pm-5:00 pm
Lecture:
Poetry as Prayer

Shouts and Whispers? A Journey through Catholic Letters Today

Thursday, February 20
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Loyola University Chicago
Information Commons, 4th floor
1032 W.Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

For its second Cardinal Newman Lecture this spring, the Hank Center invites writer, teacher, publisher, and editor Gregory Wolfe to speak about his journey of faith in the Catholic Church.



In my *Cardinal Newman Lecture* I'll be reflecting on the changing face of Catholic literature from the twentieth century to the present - and how that body of writing has shaped my life and vocation, including my work as editor of the literary journal *Image*. My conversion to the Catholic Church while a graduate student at Oxford University was profoundly influenced by writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Georges Bernanos, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, and Walker Percy -- all Catholic novelists. These writers shared O'Connor's belief that "for the hard of hearing you have to shout" -- in other words, that the Christian writer in a secular age needs to use bold, dramatic gestures to help people sense what religious faith is like. But the succeeding generations of Catholic writers - those writing late in the previous century and up to the present moment, I discovered, were more inclined to "whispers" than to "shouts." I'll speak about the contention made by some critics who have argued that this is simply evidence of a lack of strong Catholic identity and conviction, and I'll attempt to show that this is an unhelpful simplification. This topic has surfaced recently as I've found myself publishing responses to essays by Paul Elie and Dana Gioia, two leading contemporary Catholic writers - both of whom favor a "narrative of decline" when evaluating the state of Catholic letters. The more I've been involved in editing *Image*, the less inclined I am to embrace a narrative of decline. I believe that there is, in fact, a host of gifted Catholic writers at work today, so I will conclude my talk by asking why thinkers like Elie and Gioia sense decline. In part, my belief is that the problem lies with the relentless politicization of discourse in Catholic periodicals and intellectual forums, and I'll close by suggesting some ways to help kickstart the critical discussion - so that writers and critics can create a healthier literary ecosystem.

~ Gregory Wolfe
Editor of the journal *Image*
Seattle Pacific University

Publication Luncheon with Dr. Ann Harrington

**Expanding Horizons: Sisters of Charity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1919-1943**

Thursday, February 6
11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Loyola University Chicago
Cuneo Hall, Room 425
1032 W.Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

My academic teaching field and, consequently, research has been Japan and East Asia. In 2001 the administration of my religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commonly known as BVMs, invited me to research our founder, Mary Frances Clarke. Agreeing to this took me into new territory. I had done research on the



Thursday, March 13

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Performance:

**Back to Beauty's Giver -
Gerard Manley Hopkins**

Loyola University Chicago
Mundelein Center, Palm Court
1032 W. Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

Contact CCIH for more
information

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French nuns who, in the nineteenth century, were the first Roman Catholic sisters to go to Japan. That project convinced me of the importance of studying the history of women religious in order to expand women's history and history in general, and I think influenced the BVMs to invite me to look more deeply into our own congregation's history.

My current research is titled *Expanding Horizons: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1919-1943*. No one has yet written anything specifically covering that period of our congregation's history. Therefore, it is somewhat of an overview of the era when Isabella Kane, followed by Gervase Tuffy, each served as the mother general of the BVM congregation. The work focuses on a variety of issues such as modernism, Americanism, patriotism, and the aftermath of World War I. And it includes outreach to the American Indian youth at the Phoenix American Indian School at the invitation of the Jesuits. I chose Chapter Seven titled "New Frontiers" for discussion. Here, major issues of racism and of culture surface as BVMs moved into Memphis, Tennessee where they taught African American students. Also I explore BVM response to the invitation to work in China.

~ **Dr. Ann M. Harrington**
LUC Department of History

LUC Faculty Only. RSVP required. Contact CCIH for more information.

Spring 2014 Semester Faculty Reading Group

The Shrine at Altamira

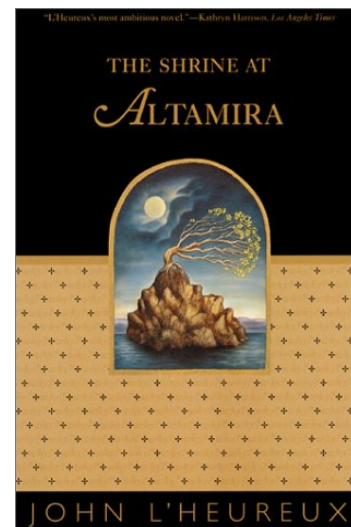
In *The Shrine at Altamira* (1992) the novelist John L'Heureux accomplishes the integration of his greatest literary art with his most profound theological drama. Employing a Catholic imagination to explore themes found in the great Greek tragedies, he plumbs the spiritual depths of literature. Just how difficult and deep the journey will be is forewarned in the novel's prologue: "This will be terrible; do not deceive yourself. We hear stories like this on television but we do not look, and when they turn up in newspapers, we glance away, because we know there are crazy

people and people who are mad with love, but we refuse to know any more than that." With a realist's precision, L'Heureux portrays the inner mechanisms of two dysfunctional families - the alcoholism, the unstable personalities, the family violence - rushing to their inevitable, horrific ruin.

A story of love and hatred, betrayal and revenge, purification and forgiveness, *The Shrine at Altamira* echoes the imaginative world of Flannery O'Connor, offering the reader a disturbing tale that calls into questions all our ideas about the human condition.

[Follow the link for more information](#)

Please, sign-up by January 27 by e-mailing catheritage@luc.edu
or by calling 773 508 3820



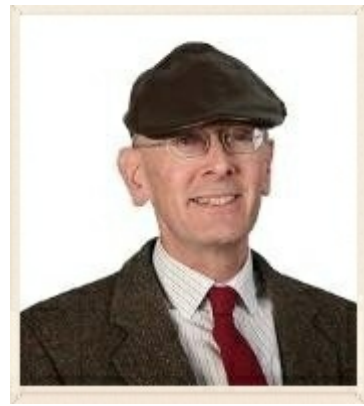
Catholic Studies Corner

Catholic Q&A with Fr. James Murphy, SJ

Catholicism:
What's t/Truth Got To Do With It?

Tuesday, January 28
Students Only

One of our most successful programs is the biannual "Catholic Q&A," an event that is for students only. This semester's first Catholic Q&A will take place on Tuesday, January 28 and will be led by **Fr. James Murphy, SJ**, Associate Professor of Philosophy. Professor Murphy will ask the question: "Catholicism: What's t/Truth Got To Do With It?" Students will benefit by Fr. Murphy's wide expertise as he leads a community foray into this compelling question.



The main idea behind "Catholic Q&A" is the hope that, in intimate and relaxed settings, maximum participation and candor can be achieved. The questions are drawn from student interest and the presenters represent some of the university's most engaging speakers. Past topics include "Does God Change?" "Is Human Psychology Complete Without Faith?" and "Is Belief in God Irrational?" The program is so successful that Fr. Garanzini, a veteran speaker at the "Q&A," has asked that we hold the event more frequently. This we will do.

The Catholic Studies program is delighted to offer evenings like the "Catholic Q&A." Co-curricular events such as these accent a student's academic program and work in concert to provide the building blocks of a comprehensive, transformative education. Our view is that an authentic encounter with the essential intellectual questions that strike the imagination is one way we can "find God in all things."

We have several other co-curricular events planned for spring and will report on them in short order. Meanwhile, A Happy New Year to all! We look forward to another edifying academic term.

~Dr. Michael Murphy
Catholic Studies Program Director

Contacts

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for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage
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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.