Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I write this greeting on the heels of enjoying a most lovely gala-- an in-person(!) celebration marking 15 years of the nourishing interdisciplinary work taking place at the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage. Over 100 dear friends of the Center gathered for mass and a dinner program on our Lake Shore Campus last Wednesday. It was a most merry meeting indeed-- characterized by excellent reflections (two which you can read below) and lively conversation.

Joan and Bill Hank have had a long life of philanthropy and service to Catholic education and culture. In the early 2000s, they had a vision; and they were resolved to demonstrate the depth of it with an extraordinary financial, spiritual, and moral commitment. Their energy was met with enthusiasm and insight (and a lot of elbow grease) by Fr. Michael Garanzini, S.J., Fr. Daniel Hartnett, S.J., Dr. Adriaan Peperzak, PhD, founding director Michael Schuck, Ph.D, and my immediate predecessor, Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J.—among several others. This founding community began to build the Center with advanced levels of discernment, care, and imagination; and we are building still under the lights of these three central Ignatian practices and animating values.

The Hank Center, with its standards of academic excellence, vibrant interdisciplinary scholarship, and innovative pedagogy, stewards the Jesuit principle of finding God in all things-- the core of the mission of Loyola University Chicago. Such an approach becomes a leavening to other University departments, the surrounding community, and to our national and international partners This is the vision with which the Hanks endowed to the Center, and it was and remains an organic expression of who they are-- as people, as thinkers, as Catholics.

The original vision of the Center has bloomed with radiance and vitality these last 15 years.
Embraced by our Loyola community and stewarded by colleagues-- both from Loyola and beyond-- the Hank Center today engenders global conversations and collaborations and integrates many perspectives and disciplines—a living embodiment of the Catholic intellectual heritage. For my part, to direct this kind of work is a dream come true. It is a profound grace and I remain ever delighted and edified by my 10 years at the Center-- and by the many things we are able to achieve together day by day.

It is in that spirit that I convey special gratitude to our excellent Center staff-- for no person stands alone and many hands make good work. Office Manager Paty Delgado is a superb partner and has led our student team-- Adam, Grace, Connor, and Matthew-- so very well this year. In the same way, our student team has been a joy to work with, and to be back together physically in our bustling Center has given all of us needed life. Special thanks to our Graduate Student Assistant, Adam Hii, who does so many things for the Center, one of which is to create our excellent newsletters!

The work continues this week as we welcome Bishop Daniel Flores on Thursday for this year's Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause Lecture. Bishop Flores is a gifted thinker and teacher and you won't want to miss this. Details and ZOOM registration instructions below.

The motto of the Hank Center is "Faith, Reason, Justice" and it is the 1973 insight from Fr. Pedro Arrupe that reminds us why: "Today our prime educational objective must be to form women and men-for-others; women and men who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ. Those who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors—who are completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for all-- is a farce." You can read the entire talk here and it's a perfect meditation for our Gala year and for our Ignatian year.

Onward, dear friends, and,

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

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**Hank Center Highlights**

**Unequal Impact: Environmental Racism and Faith Based Resources in Restorative Justice**

Climate change and Restorative Justice are deeply connected. From workers’ rights, to land use, to pollutant loads in neighborhoods, people of color are exposed to

The 2022 Cardinal Bernardin Lecture: Synodality as an Expression of the Church’s responsiveness to Christ and his Work

Bishop Daniel Flores

The Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause lecture series offers Catholic prelates a platform to engage people of good will in
far greater environmental health hazards than others. The Hank Center hosted a panel conversation on this topic on March 16, 2022 as part of the School for Environmental Sustainability’s Sixth Annual Climate Change Conference. The recording of this event is now available.

Watch Video

Pope Francis, Vatican II, and the Way Forward

Along with our friends at Boston College’s Boisi Center and Fordham University’s Center on Religion and Culture, the Hank Center was pleased to host “Pope Francis, Vatican II, and the Way Forward.” Over two days, a diverse group of conference attendees were provided a forum where bishops, academics, journalists, and others could speak frankly to each other about important issues affecting the Church today— all of us working and praying together to carry forward the synodal vision of the Second Vatican Council in the pontificate of Pope Francis, and beyond.

Conference Dates:

May 5, 2022
6:00 PM CT
Zoom Forum

This event is free and open to the public.

Register Here.

15 Years at the Hank Center!
March 25-26, 2022

The full conference agenda, speaker bios, and text of several of the keynotes and panels are now available.

Nexus Journal Interviews: Naomi Fisher

In this video series we continue our interviews with some of the authors for our inaugural issue of Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. In this video Naomi Fisher shares with us her thoughts on how an education dedicated to faith, reason, and the common good can be understood as a religious activity. This is part of an ongoing series with the authors from our inaugural issue of Nexus.

Watch Video

Nexus Journal Interviews: Michael P. Murphy

In this video series we continue our interviews with some of the authors for our inaugural issue of Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. In this video Michael P. Murphy shares with us his thoughts on the importance of integrating the Catholic intellectual tradition into the heart of the university.

Watch Video

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022 we celebrated 15 transformative years here at the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage. This celebratory Gala brought together members of the community that have helped create and continue to inspire the work we do. We were honored to celebrate this milestone not only with several members of the Hank family, but so many whose lives are made richer for the Hank family’s continued commitment to Loyola and the Catholic Intellectual Heritage.

While we were unable to invite everyone in person to this event due to space limitations, we would like to express our thanks to all of you who have helped grow the Hank Center over these past 15 years. Your commitment to engaging with our research, symposia, conferences, panels, Zoom events, and much more is vital in the stewardship and growth of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition-- and our mission hits its mark daily thanks to all of you. You can read reflections from former Hank Center Director Rev. Mark Bosco, S.J., (who could not join us in person for the Gala) and an excerpt from the remarks during the Gala from founding Hank Center Director Michael Schuck, Ph.D, below.

Rev. Mark Bosco, S.J.

Note: Fr. Mark Bosco was unable to attend the Gala, but sent along this greeting. We are delighted to include it here.

Joan and Bill are a tremendous couple, people of great faith and great love for God, for one another, and for Loyola University. Their vision to help create a premiere center of excellence for Catholic thought and culture has given Loyola a venue to celebrate, interrogate, and integrate the Catholic intellectual tradition into the heart of the university.

I first met this amazing couple when Bill was on the Board of Trustees. We all had a love for opera and would meet regularly for pre-dinner discussions of the opera along with Fr. Michael Garanzini. I remember Bill's jokingly informing me that Joe Green was his favorite opera composer. I was thinking, who is this Joe Green and what is Bill talking about? Of course, that is Giuseppi Verdi's name translated into English! I always think of that joke every time I see Verdi performed.

On a more serious note, I am deeply grateful to Joan and Bill. When I became the director of the Hank Center, they encouraged me to think about and create programs on an even grander scale. Conference, lectures, seminars, research grants, all became annual programs of the Center. And those five years at the helm allowed my own passion for the Catholic literary tradition to expand and prosper. They were key supporters and funders of the award winning documentary on
In this video we sat down with Michael P. Murphy and he shares his thoughts on the relationship between education and faith, and how education can be understood as a religious activity. Part of an ongoing series of interviews with authors from the inaugural issue of Nexus.

Get to know our staff: Connor Quaglino, Undergraduate Research Assistant

My name is Connor Quaglino, and I am a sophomore majoring in economics with minors in philosophy and Catholic studies. A New Orleans resident, I really took hold of my faith in high school and became amazed with the door to Catholic intellectual tradition as shown to me by the Jesuits teaching there. That path led me to Loyola Chicago where I quickly raced to get involved with Catholic life through the CLC program, AMDG, and Flannery O'Connor, started at the Hank Center. My colleague, Dr. Elizabeth Coffman (School of Communications) and I will be forever grateful.

Joan and Bill, thank you for this legacy to Loyola University. Thank you for sharing your vision and your treasure with so many of us. May our gracious God bless you and the work you have made possible.

Roman Catholic identity is a question that waxes and wanes in the academy. Fifteen years ago the question was waxing. It had been doing so since the beginning of the new millennium. Groups within Catholic universities were asking: what does it mean to be a Roman Catholic? What does it mean to be a Roman Catholic university?

Here at Loyola University Chicago, we were doing the same. Informal discussions evolved into the possibility of a permanent institute or center to keep Roman Catholic identity a permanent exploration at Loyola. Center ideas ranged from a Princeton think-tank model to something more confessional, along the lines of the newly established Lumen Christ Institute in Hyde Park. As discussions continued, our own institution's Jesuit legacy led us to draw an analogy between finding God in all things and exploring the identity of Roman Catholicism in all things. With a somewhat social-anthropological leaning, we landed on an orientation inclusive of studied research and devotional enrichment, but broader. No one's work within campus, school, or department curricula or programs was excluded from the possibility of manifesting some dimension of Roman Catholic identity, whether explicitly or implicitly.

This inclusive approach was both energizing and inviting. With complete administrative support of then-President Fr. Michael Garanzini, the generosity of Joan and Bill Hank, and the enthusiastic participation of Loyola faculty, staff, and students (several of whom are with us this evening—and others, like Bren Murphy, who have sadly gone before us), we had twelve distinct and invigorating programs we were able to conduct in the first year alone.

At the first Hank Center Banquet in spring 2008, Bill Hank said something I will never forget. Bill is a great story teller as he entertained us with closing remarks at the banquet, he said, "I have been donating to the University of Notre Dame all my life, but I don't know where the money goes. I have been donating to Loyola University Chicago for one year and I can see where every penny has been well spent." If anything assured success...
Catholic Studies. After hearing about the Hank Center’s work from one of my good friends in the program, I knew that it was the place that would enable me to express my Catholic faith in exploring its intellectual and cultural roots.

Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference

We are most excited to announce that the Cowan Center at the University of Dallas will be hosting the Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference. The Hank Center is pleased to co-sponsor this one-of-a-kind event being held from September 30 - October 1, 2022. In a style that is characteristic of this conference, the circle expands and the program is bursting at the seams—and it will be difficult to map out your conference plan. But let not this scenario, this embarrassment of riches, scare you. There are worse challenges to face.

Registration is now open for the conference and a full schedule of events can be viewed at the link below. Space is limited so please plan accordingly.

Of special note is an event on Friday that is being sponsored by the for the new center, this was it.

Since those start-up years, the good Spirit at the heart of the Hank Center has grown even more inclusive and vibrant. No one could have accomplished this better than Mark Bosco and Michael Murphy. Mark could not be with us this evening, but I hope he knows my thanks are perpetual for his leadership. The same goes to you, Michael, your extraordinary vision and labors for the Hank Center. Thanks also to President Rooney and all in university administration who have continued to support the Hank Center. Heartfelt thanks to the Hank family for your incredible generosity across these fifteen years. Thank you faculty, staff, and students who have kept participating in Hank Center events. And thank you to the Spirit that keeps the questions alive: What does it mean to be a Roman Catholic? What does it mean to be a Roman Catholic university?

Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Jane Sloan Peters

Jane Sloan Peters holds a B.A., M.Ed., and M.A. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and an M.T.S. from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. She is writing her dissertation under the direction of Marcus Plested at Marquette University. Jane’s dissertation focuses on Thomas Aquinas’s reception of Greek patristic and Byzantine exegesis in the Expositio Continua in Quator Evangelia, popularly known as the Catena aurea, which Pope Urban IV commissioned in 1262/3. She situates the Catena aurea in its historical context and demonstrate concretely Weisheipl’s claim that the project marked "a turning point" in Thomistic theology, particularly as Byzantine sources enriched Aquinas’s interpretation of the literal sense of Scripture. Jane focuses especially on three of the most frequently cited Greeks therein: John Chrysostom, Theophylact of Ochrid, and Cyril of Alexandria, and their redeployment in the Lectura Super Ioannem and the Tertia Pars. Given the far-reaching
Hank Center, a reading and workshop led by Uwem Akpan, whose first novel "Say You're One of Them" was a major critical success. Fellow Catholic writer Mary Karr said of the novel, "I can't shake this book and shouldn't."

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas at this special gathering--and All are Welcome!

**September 30, 2022 and October 1, 2022.**

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**Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Deepan Rajaratnam**

Deepan Rajaratnam is currently a PhD Candidate at Saint Louis University where he was selected as the 2019-2020 Religion & Public Life Fellow for the Lived Religion in the Digital Age project. Previously, he studied at Boston College where he earned a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.). A scholar of constructive theology, Rajaratnam studies the intersection of ecclesiology and pneumatology with a particular interest in the laity. Specifically, he researches the sensus fidelium, or sense of the faithful, in relation to local church. This interest and Rajaratnam’s approach to scholarship have been shaped through the numerous insights he gained through his breadth of professional ministry experience at the parish, university, and diocesan levels. Consequently, Rajaratnam employs ethnographic fieldwork to engage the broader faithful in his research and consider Catholicism as it is lived in his study of the sensus fidelium. Such an approach also enables Rajaratnam to emphasize public scholarship and to address multiple publics - ecclesial, academic, and lay.

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**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.
Introduction to Sacramental Theology presents a complete overview of sacramental theology from the viewpoint of the body. This viewpoint is supported, in the first place, by Revelation, for which the sacraments are the place where we enter into contact with the body of the risen Jesus. It is a viewpoint, secondly, which is firmly rooted in our concrete human bodily experience, thus allowing for a strong connection between faith and life, creation and redemption.

From this point of view, the treatise on the sacraments occupies a strategic role. For the sacraments appear, not as the last of a series of topics (after dealing with Creation, Christ, the Church), but as the original place in which to stand in order to contemplate the entire Christian mystery. This point of view of the body, which resonates with contemporary philosophy, sheds fruitful light on classical themes, such as the relationship of the sacraments with creation, the composition of the sacramental sign, the efficacy of the sacraments, the sacramental character, the role of the minister, or the relationship of the sacrament with the Church as a sacrament.

As a result of this approach, the Eucharist takes on a central role, since this is the sacrament where the body of Jesus is made present. The rest of the sacraments are seen as prolongations of the eucharistic body, so as to fill all the time and space of the faithful. This foundation of the theology of the sacraments in eucharistic theology is supported by an analysis of the patristic and medieval tradition.

In order to support its conclusions, Introduction to Sacramental Theology examines the doctrine of Scripture (especially St. John and St. Paul), the main patristic and medieval authors (St. Augustine, Hugh of St. Victor, St. Bonaventure, St. Thomas Aquinas), the response of Trent to the protestant challenges, up to modern authors such as Scheeben, Rahner, Ratzinger, or Chauvet, including the teaching of Vatican II about the Church as a kind of sacrament.

Bridge to Wonder: Art as a Gospel of Beauty (2012)
Author: Cecelia Gonzalez-Andrieu. Publisher: Baylor University Press.

It is often difficult to describe beauty or even justify attempts to experience something beautiful. Yet if artists—whether painters or poets, actors or musicians, architects or sculptors—teach us anything, it is that the pursuit of beauty is a common feature among all humanity. As Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu contends, these varied experiences with artistic beauty are embedded with revelatory and prophetic power that not only affects a single individual but allows for communal formation. Named one of America magazine's most promising young theologians, Gonzalez-Andrieu seeks to engage art in order to reveal its religious significance. Bridge to Wonder proposes a method of theological aesthetics allowing readers to mine the depths of creative beauty to discover variegated theological truths that enable greater communion with each other and the One source of all that is beautiful.

Christian Flesh (2018)
Author: Paul J. Griffiths. Publisher: Stanford University Press.

A sustained and systematic theological reflection on the idea that being a Christian is, first and last, a matter of the flesh, Christian Flesh shows us what being a Christian means for fleshly existence. Depicting and analyzing what the Christian tradition has to say about the flesh of Christians in relation to that of Christ, the book shows that some kinds of fleshly activity conform well to being a Christian, while others are in tension with it. But to lead a Christian life is to be unconstrained by ordinary ethical norms. Arguing that no particular case of fleshly activity is forbidden, Paul J. Griffiths illustrates his message through extended case studies of what it is for Christians to eat, to clothe themselves, and to engage in physical intimacy.

Author: Alejandro Garcia-Rivera. Publisher: Michael Glazier Books.
The claim has been made that we are gripped today in an aesthetic crisis" with considerable theological ramifications. Aesthetics, which has existed since the first human heart was moved by the influence of the beautiful, has played a major role, both implicit and explicit, in theological reflection. In *The Community of the Beautiful* Alejandro Garcia-Rivera draws from the North American philosophical tradition and Hispanic theological thought to propose a new aesthetic principle: a redemptive building of the community of the beautiful.

*The Community of the Beautiful* focuses on the premise that religion and beauty go together. Yet today hundreds of theological treatises continue to speak solely of the "truth" of their claims. The Community of the Beautiful addresses this silence with a proposal about the relationship between God and the beautiful. It asks the question: How can the finite human creature name the nameless, perceive the imperceptible, make visible the invisible? The answer is what Hans Urs von Balthasar called a theological aesthetics.

*The Community of the Beautiful* is not simply an analysis of Balthasar’s theology; there exists a more personal and concrete reason for a reconsideration of the connection between God and the beautiful. The experience of a particular living ecclesial tradition, the Latin Church of the Americas, may be a guide to a world that lost its confidence in the religious dimensions of the beautiful. Garcia-Rivera recasts the question of theological aesthetics posed above in light of the religious experience of the Latin Church of the Americas so that the question becomes: What moves the human heart?

To answer that question, Garcia-Rivera draws on along-ignored philosophical tradition. The philosophical semiotics of Charles Peirce and Josiah Royce enter into dialogue with the theological aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar to describe the traditional transcendentials, the True and the Good, as communities. The final transcendental, the beautiful, enters into conversation with the semiotic aesthetics of Jan Mukarovsky and the religious experience of the Latin American Church to become the dazzling Vision of the community of the beautiful, God’s community.

*Thomas Merton: An Introduction to His Life, Teachings, and Practice* (2021)
Author: Jon M. Sweeney. Publisher: Essentials

Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk and one of the most influential spiritual figures of the 20th century. His writing on contemplation, monastic life, mysticism, poetry, and social issues have influenced generations and his legacy of interfaith understanding and social justice endures to this day. *Thomas Merton: An Introduction to His Life, Teachings, and Practices* offers an exploration of Merton as a monk, as a writer, and as a human being. Author Jon M. Sweeney delves into Merton’s life and ideas with an appreciation for his work and a deep understanding of the spiritual depth that it contains.

*Thomas Merton* offers a unique view of the popular and sometimes controversial monk, braiding together his thoughts and practices with the reality of his life to create a full portrait of a pivotal figure. The Merton revealed in its pages is a source of inspiration and insight for those wrestling with questions of faith and spirituality.

At its core, the book is about the search for wholeness—a search Merton undertook himself throughout his lifetime and one readers can also embark on as they draw inspiration and guidance from his life.

*Only the Lover Sings: Art and Contemplation* (1990)
Author: Josef Pieper. Publisher: Ignatius Press.

The popular and highly regarded Pieper speaks of the necessity for human persons to be able to contemplate and appreciate beauty to develop their full humanity. Pieper expresses succinctly that the foundation of the human person in society is leisure, free time in which one can contemplate, be receptive to being and its beauty.

*The Scandal of Holiness: Renewing Your Imagination in the Company of Literary Saints* (2022)
How do we become better people? Initiatives such as New Year’s resolutions, vision boards, thirty-day plans, and self-help books often fail to compel us to live differently. We settle for small goals--frugal spending, less yelling at the kids, more time at the gym--but we are called to something far greater. We are created to be holy.

Award-winning author Jessica Hooten Wilson explains that learning to hear the call of holiness requires cultivating a new imagination--one rooted in the act of reading. Learning to read with eyes attuned to the saints who populate great works of literature moves us toward holiness, where God opens up a way of living that extends far beyond what we can conjure for ourselves. Literature has the power to show us what a holy life looks like, and these depictions often scandalize even as they shape our imagination. As such, careful reading becomes a sort of countercultural spiritual discipline.

The book includes devotionals, prayers, wisdom from the saints, and more to help individuals and groups cultivate a saintly imagination. Foreword by Lauren F. Winner.

In The Time Of The Butterflies (2010)
Author: Julia Alvarez. Publisher: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leónidas Trujillo’s dictatorship. It doesn’t have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas--the Butterflies.

In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters--Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé--speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from secret crushes to gunrunning, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo’s rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez’s imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human costs of political oppression.

Pale Colors in a Tall Field (2020)
Author: Carl Phillips. Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Carl Phillips’s new poetry collection, Pale Colors in a Tall Field, is a meditation on the intimacies of thought and body as forms of resistance. The poems are both timeless and timely, asking how we can ever truly know ourselves in the face of our own remembering and inevitable forgetting. Here, the poems metaphorically argue that memory is made up of various colors, with those most prominent moments in a life seeming more vivid, though the paler colors are never truly forgotten. The poems in Pale Colors in a Tall Field approach their points of view kaleidoscopically, enacting the self’s multiplicity and the difficult shifts required as our lives, in turn, shift. This is one of Phillips’s most tender, dynamic, and startling books yet.
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.