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

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Catholicism is a tradition that is often embodied in a variety of media throughout history, implicitly or explicitly present in a number of cultural productions. This semester the Hank Center is hosting a series of films that touch upon what we might label a "Catholic imagination." Called "Faith in Focus," the film series offers critical conversations after each viewing. In the coming months we will show Cormac McCarthy's dark drama, The Road, with a discussion led by Dr. Michael Murphy. Two other films frame our upcoming conference on Italian Americans and the Catholic Church. One of them, Household Saints, will include an in-depth discussion with its celebrated director, Nancy Savoca. All films are open to the public. See details below.

October also inaugurates our first "Catholicism in Dialogue" series, a lecture and panel discussion on the place of pilgrimage in the three Abrahamic faiths. Our upcoming “Faculty Publication Luncheon” celebrates Judge Thomas Donnelley of our Law School, as he discusses his recent paper that defends and articulates how Catholic social thought must impact our legal responsibilities to the poor and the marginalized.

Finally, the Hank Center is proud to sponsor with Loyola’s History Department a semester of evening seminars with prominent scholars from around the country discussing American Catholic identity in light of 19th and 20th century print culture. Open to the public, these presentations serve as a lead up to the bicentennial conference on the restoration of the Jesuits (1814-2014) being held at LUC next year. To that end, we welcome the return Fr. John Padberg, S.J., from the Institute of Jesuit Sources, who will lead us again in a discussion of the historical context that brought the Society of Jesus back to life after decades of suppression.

Join us for one, some, or all of the many events in the coming month.

All good things,
Dr. Mark Bosco, S.J.
Why have Jews, Christians, and Muslim gone on pilgrimage? For many today the motive may be touristic, but the most ancient pilgrimages in all three traditions directed minds and hearts to seek out what T. S. Eliot called "a place where prayer has been valid" (Little Gidding).

The three great monotheistic faith traditions stemming from the Middle East have focused their pilgrimage traditions not only on Mount Zion and Golgotha in Jerusalem and Mecca and its surroundings in Arabia. They have also sought out encounters with the Transcendent in many other holy places for penance, prayer and healing: the tombs of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel; the Marian shrines of Lourdes, Knock and Fatima; the shrines of martyrs and saints like Thomas Becket at Canterbury, 'Ali al-Rida, the eighth Imam of the Shi'a at Mashhad in Iran, and Santiago de Compostela at the conclusion of the Camino.

Pilgrimage sites give the world a sacred geography, an image of the whole journey that is human life open to the mystery of God. Jews, Christians and Muslims can learn a great deal about the world and the lives of faith we share when we come to recognize how our paths of pilgrimage cross.

Event is free and open to students, faculty, staff, and general public

The Leaven of the World: Serving the Poor is Neither the Air in the Balloon nor the Cherry on the Sundae
Publication Luncheon

Presented by Hon. Thomas More Donnelly
Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Adjunct professor at Loyola Law School

Friday, October 25
11:30 am - 12:45 pm
Loyola University Chicago
Cuneo Hall, Room 425
1032 W Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

The meat of Catholicism lies not in words, but in the transformative action of love. To make our law schools boldly Jesuit requires radical change, transplanting legal clinics from the periphery to the center of our schools; putting loving action for the poor at the heart of our schools would indeed set them apart, would authentically distinguish them from secular law schools. It is only personal involvement with suffering that will suffice to instill in students a desire to engage in public service and to further social justice during law school and after graduation. Legal clinics form the best starting point for teaching law students about justice; Catholic clinics should distinguish themselves from clinics at secular law schools by incorporating the gospel values, which require serving the poorest and most despised members of society with humility. In light of the gospel, St. Vincent de Paul remarked, we must serve the poorest of the poor with even greater love: "The dirtier and uglier they are, the more vulgar and unjust, the more love you must show them. It is only because of your love and your love alone, that the poor will forgive you for the bread that you give them."

Faculty only. RSVP required. Contact CCIH for more information.
Circulation Patterns: Print Culture, A Chicago Jesuit Library, and American Catholic Identity

History Seminar Series

Tuesday, October 15
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

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

FREE
Open to students, faculty, staff, and general public

Printed Presence: Twentieth-Century Catholic Print Culture for Youngsters in the United States

A discussion of a pre-circulated essay with Prof. Robert Orsi, the Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies, Northwestern University.

In his 2010 essay "Printed Presence", Robert Orsi pulls on a broad range of Catholic print culture to explore the relationship between printed things and spiritual presence in Catholic devotional culture. Prayer books, coloring books, comic book lives of the saints, children's magazines, holy cards, missals, and picture books about the Mass are part of an explosion of twentieth-century print made available to youngsters. "By interacting with printed things... a powerful immediacy was brought to children's experience of the supernatural," Orsi argues. Join us for a discussion of this provocative essay as we grapple with Orsi's important concluding question: "What if we take the interplay of print and presence in Catholic modernity not as the doomed survival of premodern idioms but a historiographical possibility for modern religious print cultures generally?"

The seminar has a pre-circulated paper, please send an email to Kyle Roberts (kroberts2@luc.edu) for a copy of the paper.

Seminar is free and open to the public.
Learn more about future seminars here.
The conference will look at the waves of Italian-Catholic immigrants who came to Chicago during the late 19th and 20th centuries. It will analyze the role Catholicism played in the lives of immigrants. The initiative is interdisciplinary and includes presentations by individuals who personally experienced the Italian-Catholic experience in Chicago. Scholars from the fields of ethnic studies, urban and cultural history, literature and language, theology, and sociology of religion, as well as creative writers, artists, and lay and clerical first-person narrators will explore the historical, cultural, and religious roles that Roman Catholicism played in sustaining ethnic identity for the many immigrant communities that came to Chicago in the 20th century.

The presenters will include a number of nationally recognized experts in Italian-American Studies, a dozen Loyola faculty members, students, and a group of Chicago-area priests, nuns, and laypersons active in patrons saint societies and parish activities.

The conference will also offer ample visual portrayal of its theme. The artists of Casa Italia will offer an art show entitled Faith of Our Fathers. And after a 15-year absence in Italy, the traveling version of the Italians in Chicago exhibit will return to Chicago for the conference.

Films include the 2007 documentary video, And They Came to Chicago: The Italian American Legacy by Gia Amella.

The event is free and open to the public.

Learn more here
Attendees must register prior to November 1.
Register here or call the Hank Center at 773-508-3820.