



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kind greetings and I hope that all are in good health and sprits.

It has been another set of substantive days at the Hank Center. Our fall programming has been focused, intentionally and decidedly, on the pressing issues of our current moment. We have hosted several events on faith and politics, a two-day symposium on the prophetic voices of women, two conversations on the thought of Pope Francis, four considerations of the state of race, equity, and justice in healthcare, and a dialogue on the topic of faith, secularization, and atheism in late modern culture—to name a few. I have been struck yet again by how all of these conversations draw life from the Catholic intellectual heritage as both a content and a method. Catholic habits of mind and heart perform a living tradition, not a static “traditionalism”; and we draw from the riches of the past to give life to the present and, we hope, the future.

In all of our fall presentations and conversations, we have also been focused on the current moment in another register. I am speaking here, of course, of the technology of broadband video conferencing and everyone’s new favorite noun-verb-adjective: “Zoom.” The unexpected reality of living lives so suddenly on Zoom becomes yet another occasion to both reflect on the present moment and to explore larger connections. We stand (or, more likely, sit in front of our screens) in gratitude for technologies that help us navigate and connect our lives in a time of upheaval; but we are also invited to notice how such innovations might invite us to deeper contemplation under the lights of the Catholic intellectual and imaginative tradition.

We find that Zoom life is a classic Catholic “both/and” (as opposed to an “either/or”) phenomenon, disclosing yet again the many ways our lives are a complex of opposites that require thoughtful and vigilant navigation. On the one hand, thanks to Zoom, we have been able to share Center events and vital conversations on a much larger scale; on the other, screen time for many of us has tripled and we begin to feel oppressed by it, increasingly out of

touch with ourselves and, ironically, disconnected from each other. So many students and professors are “Zoomed-out,” existing in a kind of anchorless digital fog that causes both fatigue and, yes, even nostalgia. It’s clear that Zoom conversations can be uniquely transformational and life-giving in their intimacy, but they also can obscure many of the physical beats so fundamental to human interaction and communal ways of being.

It could be that the anticipation of the season of Advent turns my mind to such questions, those of *presence* and *relationship*. Truly, I am grateful for the ways that technologies like Zoom have helped sustain us during this challenging time, and I am excited about the indispensable ways it will aid our enterprises as we move forward. But I am also convinced, now more than ever, that platforms like Zoom can never replace the uniqueness of face-to-face encounter and the personal sense of *presence* so central to Christian life and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

The mystery of Advent draws us even nearer to the physicality of Jesus, and our understanding of Jesus as both medium and message. As we embrace the wonders of digital technology (and indeed, what ever would we have done without it these past eight months?) let us not forget the gift of physical presence -- of our loved ones, of colleagues and friends, of the infant who, like us, is also in his eighth month and who risks again to be born in trying times.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

## Explore the Hank Center's Resources and Archives

Fall 2020 Video Recordings



Resources on Racial Justice



Resources on Catholics and Voting

## THE LIVING LEGACY OF DOROTHY DAY

### CELEBRATE THE LIVING LEGACY OF DOROTHY DAY



on the 40th anniversary of her death  
Sunday, November 29, 2020 6 – 7:30 pm ET

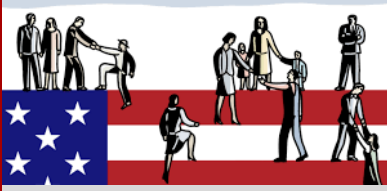
in a VIRTUAL CONVERSATION  
with  
**DAVID BROOKS**  
**ANNE SNYDER**  
**PAUL ELIE**

[dorothydayguild.org](http://dorothydayguild.org)

The Hank Center is pleased to co-sponsor this conversation on the impact and legacy of Dorothy Day. Together we will reflect on how, in a time of pandemic and strife, 40 years after her death, Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker inspire holiness and community. With David Brooks, Anne Snyder, and Paul Elie. Presented by the Dorothy Day Guild and America Media.

November 29, 2020  
6:00 - 7:30 PM ET

***This event is free and open to the public. Registration Required.***



## NEW PROGRAM: HANK FELLOWSHIPS in the CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION for GRADUATE STUDENTS



Funded by a generous grant from Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit Community, the Hank Fellowships in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition support graduate students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement and offer promise as scholars, teachers, and authors who will contribute to the dynamic life of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Hank Center selects the fellowship recipients and administers the awards.

Details about award amounts, eligibility, and application procedures will be available on our website in early December. Applications will be due on March 15th, 2021 for the award term of July 2021 to May 2022.

Pictured above is Dr. Adriaan T. Peperzak, Arthur J. Schmitt Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Peperzak, along with several others (whom we will name and honor in due course), was profoundly instrumental in the foundation of the Hank Center. He is also a major figure in contemporary articulations of the Catholic intellectual tradition-- and an astute voice about its interdisciplinary heart. Dr. Peperzak's work demonstrates that serious philosophy has a profoundly religious character and is the quest for a kind of wisdom unhampered by arbitrary epistemological boundaries and constructed disciplinary silos.

## EXPLORE FALL 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



### Catholic Thought, Citizenship, and the Common Good

Our Fall 2020 Events included three **panels on the 2020 election** and the contested category of the "Catholic Vote," as well as the 2020 Teilhard de Chardin, SJ Lecture, **"The Gift of Our People": A Fresh Look at Our Faithful Citizenship in a Foreboding Moment.**

### Pope Francis' Encyclicals

**Fratelli Tutti:**  
A Conversation Addressing Pope Francis's New Encyclical on Human Solidarity and its Socio-Political Implications for the United States

Free Registration at [luc.edu/ccih](http://luc.edu/ccih)

Friday, October 16th  
12:00-1:30PM CDT

Featuring:  
M. Shawn Copeland  
John Gehring  
Carmen Nanko-Fernández  
Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.  
With Miguel H. Diaz

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO  
COMMONWEALTH BANK CENTER

Two October events examined the thought of Pope Francis, whose two most recent encyclicals, *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, raise important issues for our time.

**The Storm Cloud of the 21st Century: Capitalism, the Technocratic Paradigm, and the Sacramental Imagination** with Eugene McCarraher and Daniel Rhodes

**Fratelli Tutti: A Conversation Addressing Pope Francis's New Encyclical on Human Solidarity and its Socio-Political Implications for the United States** with Miguel Díaz, M. Shawn Copeland, John Gehring, Carmen Nanko-Fernández, and Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.



## Faith and Secularization: A Dialogue

Featuring Jerome Baggett, Paul Lakeland, and Kaya Oakes.

[READ MORE](#)

A Hank Center Zoom Symposium  
September 24-25, 2020

## A Prophet is Not Known in Her Town

This two-day symposium featured a keynote by Carol Zinn, SSJ, as well as multidisciplinary panels of expert speakers illuminating the prophetic voices of women in many contexts.

[READ MORE](#)

BRYAN N. MASSINGALE

**RACIAL JUSTICE** and the  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

## Faculty Reading Group

The Fall 2020 Faculty Reading Groups focused on Bryan N. Massingale's *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, considered the authoritative text on systemic racism and Catholicism in the U.S.

[READ MORE](#)

## 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.

### [American Catholics: A History](#) (2020)

by Leslie Woodcock Tentler

This comprehensive survey of Catholic history in what became the United States spans nearly five hundred years, from the arrival of the first Spanish missionaries to the present. Distinguished historian Leslie Tentler explores lay religious practice and the impact of clergy on Catholic life and culture as she seeks to answer the question, What did it mean to be a “good Catholic” at particular times and in particular places?

In its focus on Catholics’ participation in American politics and Catholic intellectual life, this book includes in-depth discussions of Catholics, race, and the Civil War; Catholics and public life in the twentieth century; and Catholic education and intellectual life. Shedding light on topics of recent interest such as the role of Catholic women in parish and community life, Catholic reproductive ethics regarding birth control, and the Catholic church sex-abuse crisis, this engaging history provides an up-to-date account of the history of American Catholicism.

### [What it Means to be Human: A Case for the Body in Public Bioethics](#) (2020)

by O. Carter Snead

The natural limits of the human body make us vulnerable and therefore dependent, throughout our lives, on others. Yet American law and policy disregard these stubborn facts, with statutes and judicial decisions that presume people to be autonomous, defined by their capacity to choose. As legal scholar O. Carter Snead points out, this individualistic ideology captures important truths about human freedom, but it also means that we have no obligations to each other unless we actively, voluntarily embrace them. Under such circumstances, the neediest must rely on charitable care. When it is not forthcoming, law and policy cannot adequately respond.

*What It Means to Be Human* makes the case for a new paradigm, one that better represents the gifts and challenges of being human. Inspired by the insights of Alasdair MacIntyre and Charles Taylor, Snead proposes a vision of human identity and flourishing that supports those who are profoundly vulnerable and dependent—children, the disabled, and the elderly. To show how such a vision would affect law and policy, he addresses three complex issues in bioethics: abortion, assisted reproductive technology, and end-of-life decisions. Avoiding typical dichotomies of conservative-versus-liberal and secular-versus-religious, Snead recasts debates over these issues and situates them within his framework of embodiment and dependence. He concludes that, if the law is built on premises that reflect the fully lived reality of life, it will provide support for the vulnerable, including the unborn, mothers, families, and those nearing the end of their lives. In this way, he argues, policy can ensure that people have the care they need in order to thrive.

In this provocative and consequential book, Snead rethinks how the law represents human experiences so that it might govern more wisely, justly, and humanely.

### [Church State Corporation: Construing Religion in US Law](#) (2020)

by Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

Church and state: a simple phrase that reflects one of the most famous and fraught relationships in the history of the United States. But what exactly is “the church,” and how is it understood in US law today? In *Church State Corporation*, religion and law scholar Winnifred Fallers Sullivan uncovers the deeply ambiguous and often unacknowledged ways in which Christian theology remains alive and at work in the American legal imagination.

Through readings of the opinions of the US Supreme Court and other legal texts, Sullivan shows how “the church” as a religious collective is granted special privilege in US law. In-depth analyses of *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC* and *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* reveal that the law tends to honor the religious rights of the group—whether in the form of a church, as in *Hosanna-Tabor*, or in corporate form, as in *Hobby Lobby*—over the rights of the individual, offering corporate religious entities an autonomy denied to their respective members. In discussing the various communities that construct the “church-shaped space” in American law, Sullivan also delves into disputes over church property, the legal exploitation of the Black church in the criminal justice system, and the recent case of *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. Brimming with insight, *Church State Corporation* provocatively challenges our most basic beliefs about the ties between religion and law in ostensibly secular democracies.

### [Happiness and Contemplation](#) (1957)

by Josef Pieper

"The ultimate of human happiness is to be found in contemplation."

In offering this proposition of Thomas Aquinas to our thought, Josef Pieper uses traditional wisdom in order to throw light on present-day reality and present-day psychological problems. What, in fact, does one pursue in pursuing happiness? What, in the consensus of the wisdom of the early Greeks, of Plato and Aristotle, of the New Testament, of Augustine and Aquinas, is that condition of perfect bliss toward which all life and effort tend by nature?

In this profound and illuminating inquiry, Pieper considers the nature of contemplation, and the meaning and goal of life.

### [What My Father Taught Me](#) (2018)

by Maria Giura

In *What My Father Taught Me*, Maria Giura writes rich, candid poems about growing up Italian-American Catholic from her earliest days as the daughter of immigrant parents and a workaholic father to her coming of age and onward into adulthood where she works at reconciling the sensual and spiritual. Her poems are a celebration in the face of love and loss. They are at once intimate and universal, serious and light, and are grounded in the Brooklyn, New York that she cherished and called home: from her parents' pastry shop, to the view from the Belt Parkway, to the family living room "where [she] learned to pull out the microphone, even though it was always broken, and sing."

### [Via Negativa](#) (2020)

by Daniel Hornsby

Father Dan is homeless. Dismissed by his conservative diocese for eccentricity and insubordination, he's made his exile into a kind of pilgrimage, transforming his Toyota Camry into a mobile monk's cell. Like the ascetic religious philosophers he idolizes, he intends to spend his trip in peaceful contemplation. But then he sees a minivan sideswipe a coyote. Unable to suppress his Franciscan impulses, he takes the wild animal in, wrapping its broken leg with an old T-shirt and feeding it Spam with a plastic spoon.

With his unexpected canine companion in the backseat, Dan makes his way west, encountering other offbeat travelers and stopping to take in the occasional roadside novelty (MARTIN'S HOLE TO HELL, WORLD-FAMOUS BOTTOMLESS PIT NEXT EXIT!). But the coyote is far from the only oddity fate has delivered into this churchless priest's care: it has also given him a bone-handled pistol, a box of bullets, and a letter from his estranged friend Paul—a summons of sorts, pulling him forward.

By the time Dan gets to where he's going, he'll be forced to reckon once and for all with the great mistakes of his past, and he will have to decide: is penance better paid with revenge, or with redemption?

Loyola University Chicago

[The Joan and Bill Hank Center 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.

