



From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kind greetings and I hope that all who are reading this newsletter are in good health and spirits.

It has been another set of substantive days at the Hank Center, and our recent programming has been particularly rich, relevant, and edifying. The two marquis events that took place in October—“A Better Kind of Politics” (our annual Jesuit Lecture featuring this year Sam Sawyer, S.J.) and our superb two-day symposium, “Reckoning with History: Jesuit Slaveholding and the Present Work of Restorative Justice (featuring Rachel L. Swarns, Monique Trusclair Maddox, Tim Kesicki, S.J., Rwandan Bishop Balthazar Ntivuguruzwa, and a host of brilliant others)—are prime examples of how conversations centered in the Catholic Intellectual and Social Teaching Traditions live in and leaven our current moment in constructive, consequential ways.

We capped the month by taking our show on the road to the University of Notre Dame. The Hank Center—as part of the leadership team for the Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference (BCIC)—was most pleased to partner with the deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture **for our fifth iteration of the BCIC**. These conferences, which now go by the shorthand of “The Catholic Imagination Conference,” constitute nothing less than a movement. They have given birth to new journals, scholarly series, and academic programs; they have engendered a groundswell of excellent creative and scholarly activity; they have provided, perhaps most importantly, a much-needed community for writers, creators, readers, and thinkers of all stripes. In a decidedly Inklings-like way, the “What, you too?” has become a common greeting among conference attendees—and the conversations (and friendships) bloom from there. We are most grateful to Dr. Jennifer Newsome Martin, Justin Petrisek, Margaret McManaway, and the entire team at diNicola for their hospitality and expertise. I

daresay the over 1500 people who attended agree and join unreservedly in this expression of gratitude.

Of all the events we convene and support, the BCIC dwells in the biggest tent. All kinds of Catholics attend and participate (over 175 presentations this year and we'll link videos soon). We see again how the arts, because they engender more ventilating spaces, invite us to deeper, more expansive engagement. This is a rare, beautiful, and evergreen phenomenon, and it reminds me of something central about the dynamic of faith and psychology in the face of divine mystery and encounter. The parable reports: "But the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" What does Jesus do? He throws a series of conferences, of course, and teaches the hungry by means of imagination and story--by means of proposition, provocation, and love.

Speaking of faith and psychology, I have some thoughts on our recent election--but I will table most of them for now. It is enough to say here that, from the perspective of Catholic intellectual life, that Catholic Social Teaching (on the dignity of persons and the sanctity of life, on the duties to justice and care for the common good, and on the divine mandate to love our neighbor) should inform, at the very least, Catholic voters' perspectives on candidates' policies and rhetoric. E.J. Dionne famously quips that "There is no Catholic vote—and it's important"; but this year there really was a decisive challenge to Dionne's paradox. Not only was there a Catholic vote, but it skewed a certain way. There are, of course, noteworthy cultural reasons for this ([and do check the early data here](#)), but, in my view, there is also something acutely historical in play. I see again the wisdom of Pope Francis and his observation shared with The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in 2021: "What we are experiencing is not simply an epoch of changes, but an epochal change." Politics and culture are changing so rapidly and both major party identities and platforms are being vivisected and recalibrated, it seems, minute after blessed minute. Catholics, who often feel homeless in either party, exist in the crux of this liminal, historic moment.

Still, as John Courtney Murray, S.J. observed so astutely in *We Hold These Truths* (1960), there are all-too-typical human footprints to discern as well. A hallmark of late modern democracy is that it does not operate rationally. Its existence "is sustained by loyalties that are not logical" and its ideals "are expressed in legends that go beyond the facts." For this oxymoronic, all-too-human reason, legends and loyalties become "vehicles of truth"-- become raw political realities that, in turn, both move people to vote against their best interest or to remain in the echo chamber of their utopian bubbles.

For these reasons alone, all people of good will are called to pay attention and enter into the gift of participatory democracy with care and effort. In an era where, as Cardinal Joe Tobin mused in a recent homily, "Every person with a cell phone and a stable Wi-Fi connection thinks he is Cyril of Jerusalem," we need to be extra vigilant about what we read, view, and hear. A well developed Catholic imagination can truly be of service here. It provides so much in the way of a connective tissue that links theological mystery with culture-- that links the deepest desires of our hearts with our lives together in the Church and in human community. This imagination, which includes at its core the cast-iron anchor of Catholic Social Teaching, continues to serve as an indispensable resource and inspiration for understanding our lives in God-- and our lives in the polis, too--even if these two are not at all the same thing. What unites the two spheres (the City of God and the Human City) is that, in order to be good citizens in either, we must put our bodies where our hearts and minds want to be. One cannot, as it were, simply "phone" it in. We must review the need and demands of proximity.

I wrote more than I intended-- and it's clear that I need a lesson in humility. It's a good thing that we have an event on the topic coming tomorrow night. Please join our Hank Center team as we welcome Dr. Chris Bellitto for needed reflections on the "lost virtue" of humility. Praying that all keep the faith, and sending my

Warmest regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

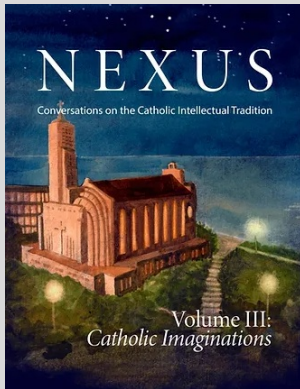
UPCOMING EVENT!

Hank Center Highlights

Fall 2024 Events Calendar

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

NEW EDITION of Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Volume III: Catholic Imaginations



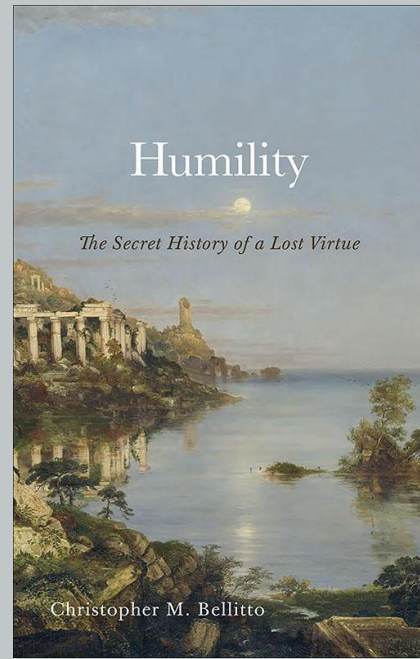
Volume Three of Nexus takes us to some very exciting terrain. Friends of the Hank Center will know of our deep dedication to providing scholarship, convening conversations, and supporting far-reaching work of all kinds in an area of scholarship that has come to be known as the “Catholic Imagination.” This

Christopher Bellitto Book Lecture for Humility: The Secret History of a Lost Virtue



November 12, 2024 at 7pm
McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, Lakeshore Campus

Humility, a cultural history and biography of the idea of humility, argues that the frightening alternative to humility has been the death of civility. In this book, Bellitto explores humility in Greco-Roman history, philosophy, and literature; in the ancient and medieval Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scriptures and sermons; in the Enlightenment; and in contemporary discussions of education in virtue and citizenship.



Dr. Christopher M. Bellitto is professor of history at Kean University in New Jersey, where he teaches courses in ancient and medieval history. With a focus on church history and reform, he has twice won grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been a visiting scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary and a Fulbright specialist at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Dr. Bellitto serves as series editor in chief of *Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition* and academic editor-at-large for Paulist Press. He also frequently offers public lectures and comments in the media on church history and contemporary Catholicism.

issue, with its focus on the critical and creative work of younger, emerging scholars, both honors and continues this work.

This issue's contributions come from Katie Broussard, William Gonch, Sophia Guidici, Ellen Jewett, Lindsay Kennedy, Michael P. Murphy, Rachel Nozicka, Michael Petro, S.J., Foster J. Pinkney, Jessica Schnepf, Anh Tran, Jane Wageman, Nathan Bradford Williams, and Matthew Zurcher, S.J.

[Read Volume III](#)

EVENT VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE!
Second Annual Jesuit Lecture featuring Sam Sawyer, S.J. "A Better Kind of Politics"



The Hank Center proudly welcomed Sam Sawyer, S.J., editor of America Media, to speak on the topic of depolarization. In the lecture, Fr. Sawyer explored the complex reality of polarization in American society and asks that will help us all as we approach the ballot box. What would hope for a depolarized world and church look like? What unique responses and possible paths forward

This event is free and all are welcome to participate! Join us!

[More Event Information](#)

[More about "Humility: The Secret History of a Lost Virtue"](#)

UPCOMING EVENT!
Primitive Mysteries: Encounters with Light



November 21st - November 24th
Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 PM, Sun at 2:00 PM
Newhart Family Theatre

Encounters with Light features Martha Graham's 1931 masterpiece, *Primitive Mysteries* as well as a world premier by guest artist, Vershawn Sanders Ward. Original choreography by dance faculty members Sarah Fuller and Raul Diaz Maroto Casasola from the Joffrey Ballet create a program that celebrates the depth of unity and the call towards belonging.

[Visit our Website](#)

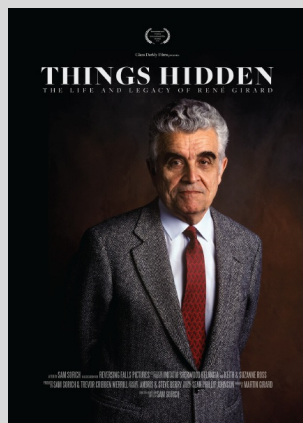
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Blessed, Broken and Given: Students' Perspectives on the Eucharist and Social Justice

can be discerned from within the Catholic Jesuit tradition? What resources for wisdom and reconciliation help us live better lives as citizens?

Watch the
Lecture

Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard
Screening & Discussion with Director Sam Sorich and Producer Trevor Cribben Merrill



As part of the Faith in Focus series, the Hank Center screened "Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard" and facilitated a discussion with director Sam Sorich and producer Trevor Cribben Merrill. This is a timely new documentary about René Girard, the thinker who coined "mimetic desire." Offering a deeply personal portrait of Girard the man and a sweeping narrative of his unfolding thought, "Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard" explores the French polymath's

Blessed, Broken, and Given

Students' Perspectives on the Eucharist and Social Justice

Thursday, November 7



Student Research Colloquia

Hear student presentations investigating the connection between the Eucharist and Social Justice at **3 & 4:15 PM** in **Palm Court**.

Evening Prayer & Mass

Join us for a solemn Evening Prayer in **Madonna Della Strada Chapel** at **5:30 PM** as well as Thursday Night Mass in **Ignatius House** at **9 PM**.



Dinner, Social, & Fellowship

Enjoy dinner and fellowship with other students in **Damen Den** at **6 PM** as well as a social following mass at **10 PM** in **Ignatius House**.



The Joan & Bill
Hank Center
FOR THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE



As part of Ignatian Heritage Month, the Hank Center and Campus Ministry hosted an undergraduate student symposium where students presented papers that investigated the connection between the Eucharist and Social Justice.

The day included two research colloquia where invited undergraduate students presented short papers on this topic, celebrated Evening Prayer/Vespers, had a community dinner, and Mass.

More Information about Blessed, Broken and Given

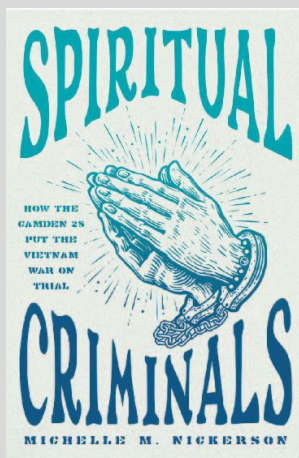
Full Events Calendar and Resources for Ignatian Heritage Month at Loyola

Reckoning with History: Jesuit Slaveholding and the Present Work of Restorative Justice

passion for intellectual discovery, his midlife religious conversion, and his quest to uncover the violent origins of human culture.

[Learn More](#)

"In Defense of Others, In Defense of Faith: The Camden 28 Trial and the Vietnam War" with Dr. Michelle Nickerson



**September 18, 2024
Corboy Law Center,
WTC**

We were pleased to co-sponsor "In Defense of Others, In Defense of Faith" a lecture event and debut of historian, Dr. Michelle Nickerson's new book, *Spiritual Criminals: How the Camden 28 Put the Vietnam War on Trial*.

When the FBI arrested twenty-eight people in connection to a break-in at a Camden, New Jersey, draft board in 1971, the Bureau celebrated. The case should have been an easy victory for the department—the perpetrators had been caught red-handed attempting to destroy



(Left to right) Rachel L. Swarns, Monique Trusclair, and Fr. Tim Kesicki, SJ deliver keynote remarks and engage in discussion.

**October 17-18, 2024
Information Commons, 4th
Floor**

***Facing the history and
legacy of Jesuit
slaveholding***

Over the last 10 years, the Hank Center has convened several conversations on the hard history of Jesuit slaveholding-- not only

taking a focused look at Georgetown's slave-owning past but also examining other aberrational institutional and corporate behaviors in regard to subjugation and power taking place in the US both historically and presently.



Reckoning with History was a multi-panel conversation that sought to share this slaveholding history, examine the experience of grappling with these facts, understand the approaches to take action, and explore ways that individuals, organizations, and university communities can move forward in a just and careful way.

We were most honored to welcome Rachel L. Swarns, longtime correspondent with the *New York Times* and author of *The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church*, as our keynote speaker and conversation partner. We were also delighted by our partnership with Monique Trusclair Maddox, President of the Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation, and we had a most engaging set of sessions.

Reckoning with History focused on the following objectives: Sharing this history and telling the story of slavery's effects on the people connected to it. Grappling with the reality of these facts and reflecting on what is invited in the way of recognition, healing, and justice. Discussing, exploring, and committing to restorative action. One guiding set of questions to consider: How do we approach this history and react to institutional slaveholding as individuals? As a University? As partners in

conscription documents for draftees into the Vietnam War. But the results of the trial surprised everyone, and in the process shook the foundations of American law, politics, and religion.

In *Spiritual Criminals*, Michelle M. Nickerson shares a complex portrait of the Camden 28, a passionate group of grassroots religious progressives who resisted both their church and their government as they crusaded against the Vietnam War. Founded by priests, nuns, and devout lay Catholics, members of this coalition accepted the risks of felony convictions as the cost of challenging the nation's military-industrial complex and exposing the illegal counterintelligence operations of the FBI. By peeling away the layers of political history, theological traditions, and the Camden 28's personal stories, Nickerson reveals an often-unseen spiritual side of the anti-war movement. At the same time, she probes the fractures within the group, detailing important conflicts over ideology, race, sex, and gender that resonate in the church and on the political Left today.

Learn More
About "Spiritual
Criminals"

**Peter Maurin
Conference**

Jesuit/Ignatian educational mission? As a nation? As a Church?

**See the full list of panelists and topics at the link below.
Event videos will be made available in the coming days.**

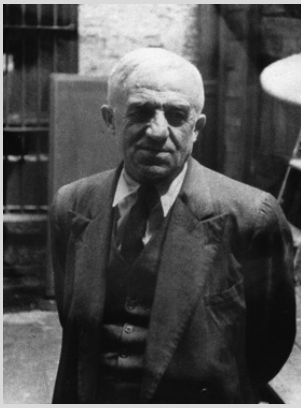


Dr. Adam Rothman (via Zoom), Dr. Elsa Mendoza, Dr. Leslie Harris, and Dr. Malik Henfield discuss the role of historical scholarship in the work of restorative justice.

Event Information and Program

*More about The 272: The Families Who Were
Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic
Church*

5th Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference Student Reflection



**September 6-8, 2024
at St. Gregory the
Great Church**

This conference considered the life, sources, and vision of Peter Maurin (1877-1949), cofounder of the Catholic Worker Movement. His Easy Essays were a staple of the Catholic Worker newspaper, promoting philosophical personalism and economic distributism based on Catholic social teaching and tradition. His practical program included houses of hospitality, voluntary poverty, the works of mercy, agrarianism, and public roundtable discussions.

How can Maurin's vision help transcend the polarizing tendencies of the church and wider culture to create a new society with "a philosophy so old that it looks like new?" Can it inspire us to "blow the dynamite" of Catholic social teaching in order to reconstruct the social order?

The conference featured keynote addresses and roundtable discussions treating various topics related to Maurin's thought.



A group of Loyola University's Catholic Studies students in front of Notre Dame University's golden dome during the 2024 DeNicola Conference on the Catholic Imagination.

Reflection by:
Grant DeRaedt (2025)
Majors: Mathematics and Philosophy
Minor: Catholic Studies

As I begrudgingly got out of bed at five o' clock in the morning, I was admittedly more excited for the free coffee at the conference than any of the many talks on I saw on the program.

But as we pulled into the parking lot of Notre Dame's football stadium I realized what I was actually about to receive at the de Nicola conference: for the next two days I was going to be with people who love and care about the Church and their relationship with Christ; and I was going to be immersed in conversation that would teach and show me how to grow in Christ through the Catholic Imagination. Something about the rich Autumn colors that exploded across the campus and the bright white of the Dominican habit always in view made this the perfect setting to truly grow in my imagination and my love of God.

The range of themes at the conference, from Dante to Flannery O'Connor; and the consistency of of hope and optimism in each speaker granted me the gift of a wonderful realization: The Church is alive with the minds of beautiful people and the Catholic Imagination is not a long lost artifact of old, but it is alive and flourishing in the community of those faithful Catholics. From the time I got into the car headed to Notre Dame to the time I arrived back home, I was surrounded by beautiful Catholic people who desire to be with God and through the conference I learned that one of the best ways to be with God is to use your imagination. Christ is the novels, in



More
Information
Here

**Public Voices: New
Interview with Jason
Blakely, Author of
"Lost in Ideology"**



In our latest "Public Voices" interview, prof. Jason Blakely sits down with Director Dr. Murphy for a lively discussion of his new book, "Lost in Ideology," just in time for the upcoming election.

Watch the
Jason's
Blakely's
Interview

Watch the 2024
Newman
Lecture
featuring Jason
Blakely

**Hank Center
Associate Director,
Dr. Joe Vukov,
featured on AMDG: A
Jesuit Podcast**



Check out this episode
by our friends at
AMDG: A Jesuit

the poems, in the music and in the smiles that fill the world and there is no lack of artists and intellectuals bringing new ways to find Christ through these works of art. What a wonderful gift.

See the Full Conference Program

Seeking Refuge, Writing Home with Philip Metres



**September 24, 2024
McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall, LSC**

On September 24, 2024, the Hank Center was proud to welcome Phil Metres to Loyola University for a lecture about his new book, *Fugitive/Refuge*.

In his recent *Fugitive/Refuge*, Philip Metres follows the journey of his refugee ancestors—from Lebanon to Mexico to the United States—in a vivid exploration of what it means to long for home. A book-length *qasida*, the collection draws on both ancient traditions and innovative forms—odes and arabics, sonnets and cut-ups, prayers and documentary voicings—in order to confront the perils of our age: forced migration, climate change, and toxic nationalism.

Philip Metres is the author of twelve books, including *Fugitive/Refuge* (2024), *Ochre & Rust: New Selected Poems of Sergey Gandlevsky* (2023), *Shrapnel Maps* (2020), *The Sound of Listening: Poetry as Refuge and Resistance* (2018), *Pictures at an Exhibition* (2016), *Sand Opera* (2015), and *I Burned at the Feast: Selected Poems of Arseny Tarkovsky* (2015). His work has garnered the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lannan Fellowship, two NEAs, seven Ohio Arts Council Grants, the Hunt Prize, the Adrienne Rich Award, three Arab American Book Awards, the Watson Fellowship, the Lyric Poetry Prize, and the Cleveland Arts Prize. Metres has been called "one of the essential poets of our time," whose work is "beautiful, powerful, magnetically original." His poems have been translated into Arabic, Farsi, Polish, Russian, and Tamil. He is professor of English and director of

Podcast where they feature Hank Center associate director and author of the new book, *Staying Human In an Era of Artificial Intelligence*, Dr. Joseph Vukov. Listen to AMDG's interview with Joe below and find more information about his new book in the following link.

About *Staying Human*:

"AI poses a real and present danger. It contains the capacity to amplify social problems, drive a wedge further into our already-polarized society, and sow seeds of distrust in communities and personal relationships. When approached without a robust sense of human dignity, AI also threatens to undermine our self-understanding. To a degree beyond any previous technology, AI can make us forget ourselves. In this new era of AI, we must consciously make a choice: to stay human. In this book I provide a map and the tools for doing just that."

Take me to the
podcast!

More about
"Staying
Human"

the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program at John Carroll University, and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.



Watch the Lecture Video

Spotlight: Hank Center Summer Graduate Student Fellowship

Lauren Beversluis



Lauren Beversluis is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of Christianity at the University of Chicago Divinity School. There she also received her M.A. in Religion, and she holds a B.A. in political philosophy from Yale University. Her research interests include (in early Christianity and late antiquity): visual and material culture, biblical exegesis, funerary culture and the cult of the saints, the rhetoric of martyrdom, storytelling and the rise of Christianity, and the reception of St. Peter. Her dissertation is titled “Stumbling Sage, Humbled Apostle: Exploring the Complex Figure of Peter in Early Christian Visual Culture.” In it she examines how the figure of Peter emerged and developed iconographically in the third- through fifth-centuries, focusing primarily on sarcophagi in Rome. One of the first and most popular images of the prince of the apostles is of Peter receiving a rebuke from Christ regarding his denial. Other images in the Petrine cycle depict the dominus legem dat, Peter’s imitation of Moses in striking water from the rock, and Peter’s imitation of Christ in his arrest, each of which underscore Peter’s humility and apostolicity in different ways. She argues that, paradoxically, an emphasis on the ordinariness, humiliation, and silence of Peter bolstered his popular cult and ecclesial authority.

[See All of Our Fellows](#)

Prayer, Spirituality, and Gratitude



In preparation for the upcoming national holiday of Thanksgiving, we are revisiting an episode of the AMDG podcast from our friends at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Check out this interview called, "Give Thanks the Ignatian Way" with Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ. Fr. Thibodeaux explores the idea of "living out of gratitude" and the gift of the Examen prayer.

"Ignatius wanted us to know that our God is a giver of good gifts, a God who delights in us for the gift that we already are—and for the giftedness we have yet to share with the world. From that place, that spiritual sense of self, we go out to do God's good work."

[Listen to the Episode](#)

[I want to pray an Examen!](#)

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.

[**Towards a Politics of Communion: Catholic Social Teaching in Dark Times.**](#) (2021)

Author: Anna Rowlands, Publisher: T&T Clark

Anna Rowlands offers a guide to the main time periods, key figures, documents and themes of thinking developed as Catholic Social Teaching (CST). A wealth of material has been produced by the Catholic Church during its long history which considers the implications of scripture, doctrine and natural law for the way these elements live together in community - most particularly in the tradition of social encyclicals dating from 1891. Rowlands takes a fresh approach in weaving overviews of the central principles with the development of thinking on political community and democracy, migration, and integral ecology, and by considering the increasingly critical questions concerning the role of CST in a pluralist and post-secular context. As such this book offers both an incisive overview of this distinctive body of Catholic political theology and a new and challenging contribution to the debate about the transformative potential of CST in contemporary society.

[**Citizens Yet Strangers: Living Authentically Catholic in a Divided America**](#) - (2024)

Author: Kenneth Craycraft, Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor

It's hard -- and getting harder -- to discern the proper relationship between our Catholic Faith and American political life. Democrat, Republican, third party, or independent -- how do we make sense of it all?

Citizens Yet Strangers resets the framework of how we engage with politics as Catholics. As author Kenneth Craycraft argues in this book, American Catholics have been more influenced by classical liberal political theory (of both the "conservative" and "liberal" variety) than by historic Catholic moral theology. While some incidental policy positions of the Democratic and Republican parties converge with Catholic moral teaching, for most Catholics, their respective positions are directed by their party affiliation, not by Catholic moral doctrine.

Craycraft explains how Catholic theology transcends partisan politics, and he challenges Catholics to move away from the individualist liberal impulses of American political identity, whether on the left or the right. Avoiding the common clichés that prevent us from examining the role our faith should play in our public actions, this book dives deeper into the very way we orient our moral and political lives.

[**A Consistent Ethic of Life: Navigating Catholic Engagement with U.S. Politics**](#) - (2024)

Author: Steven P. Millies, Publisher: Paulist Press

The consistent ethic of life is a fully Catholic engagement with the difficult challenges that conscience encounters in our time. This short book is a resource for parishes and general readers to rediscover the consistent ethic now in this challenging, divided moment of our history.

Tracing the historical development of the consistent ethic from the early 1970s up to recent days, *A Consistent Ethic of Life* encourages readers to adopt an attitude that calls them to be partisans for life above the partisanship of our politics.

[**We Built Reality: How Social Science Infiltrated Culture, Politics, and Power**](#) - (2020)

Author: Jason Blakely, Publisher: Oxford University Press

Over the last fifty years, pseudoscience has crept into nearly every facet of our lives. Popular sciences of everything from dating and economics, to voting and artificial intelligence, radically changed the world today. The abuse of popular scientific authority has catastrophic consequences, contributing to the 2008 financial crisis; the failure to predict the rise of Donald Trump; increased tensions between poor communities and the police; and the sidelining of nonscientific forms of knowledge and wisdom. In *We Built Reality*, Jason Blakely explains how recent social science theories have not simply described political realities but also helped create them. But he also offers readers a way out of the culture of scientism: hermeneutics, or the art of interpretation. Hermeneutics urges sensitivity to the historical and cultural contexts of human behavior. It gives ordinary people a way to appreciate the insights of the humanities in guiding decisions. As Blakely contends, we need insights from the humanities to see how social science theories never simply neutrally describe reality, they also help build it.

[**Christianity and Democracy: The Rights of Man and The Natural Law**](#) - (2012)

Author: Jacques Maritain, Publisher: Ignatius Press

Few political philosophers have laid such stress upon the organic and dynamic characters of

human rights, rooted as they are in natural law, as did the great 20th century philosopher, Jacques Maritain.

As this important work reveals, the philosophy of Maritain on natural law and human rights is complemented by and can only be properly understood in the light of his teaching on Christianity and democracy and their relationship. Maritain shows that Christianity cannot be made subservient to any political form or regime, that democracy is linked to Christianity, and that in order for democracy to thrive, it must reflect certain values historically derived from the Gospel.

He also argues that personalist or organic democracy provides a fuller measure of freedom and fulfillment, and that it takes shape under the inspiration of the Gospel. Even the modern democracies we have, with all their weaknesses, represent an historic gain for the person and they spring, he urges, from the very Gospel they so wantonly repudiate!

Contact Us

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.



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