

MICHAEL PATRICK MURPHY
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** **Interdisciplinary Studies: Theology, Philosophy, and Literature**,
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA (2005)
Dissertation: *Hans Urs von Balthasar and Narrative Art: A Compass for a Catholic Imagination*
Committee: Alejandro Garcia Rivera, Graduate Theological Union (Chair);
Albert Gelpi, Stanford University; Richard Gula, Graduate Theological Union
- M.A.** **English Literature**, San Francisco State University (1993)
Thesis: *Flannery O'Connor: From Paradox to Mystery*
Committee: Michael Krasny, San Francisco State University (Chair);
Erasmus Leiva- Merikakis, University of San Francisco
- B.A.** **English Literature**, University of San Francisco (1990)
Certificate: Undergraduate Great Books/Liberal Arts Institute
Oxford University: Coursework in English Literature;
Medieval/Renaissance Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012 – pres. **Loyola University Chicago**
Director, The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage (2017-present;
Associate Director, 2013-2017)
Director, Catholic Studies Interdisciplinary Program (2012-2021)
Senior Lecturer, Department of Theology
Affiliate Faculty, Catholic Studies
- Created and directed various programming (colloquia, symposia, conferences, etc.) for the Hank Center, a LUC Center of Excellence)
[Review programs here](#)
 - Managed budget for \$17.3M annual endowment
 - Directed and managed faculty grants for research projects and seminars
 - Hired, mentored, and supervised staff
 - Served as curriculum co-creator and convener/presenter, Faculty Seminar, *All Things Ignatian: Catholic Intellectual Life and the Common Good*, a Strategic LUC Plan 2020 initiative
 - Represented Loyola University Chicago in multiple media venues
 - Served as Liaison to Board of Trustees for Catholic Intellectual Mission and Faculty Student Development & Success
 - Presented at President's and Provost's leadership retreats

- Presented AJCU meetings, Board trainings, and workshops
- Created [*Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*](#), an interdisciplinary journal, and served as Editor-in Chief
- Secured \$1.5 million in grants for [*The Way Forward*](#) multi-year conference (2021 – ongoing)
- Secured \$600,000 Lilly Endowment grant and sat on organizing committee for THEA Institute (Theology of Healing Earth in Action Lilly Endowment theology institutes) and Lilly/Wake Forest Capacity Grant for Educating Character Initiative
- Raised funds (and friends) for Joan and Bill Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage
- Directed grants and projects for LUROP (Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program)
- Taught various core courses in Catholic Studies, Theology, Literature, Ignatian Studies utilizing both traditional and online platforms
- Led Catholic Studies academic program of 50+ undergraduate students. Created and developed curricula; advised students in their academic programming
- Founded and executed annual John Courtney Murray, S.J. Forum
- Sat on Dean's College Leadership Council
- Served on LUC Mission Integration Team and Ignatian Mission Partner Council

2011 – 2012	St. Mary's College of California, Moraga, California Lecturer, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
2003 – 2011	University of San Francisco Adjunct Faculty, School of Management Adjunct Faculty, School of Education, Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership
2007 – 2011	School of Pastoral Ministry, Diocese of Oakland Instructor, Vatican II Studies
1994-2012	Carondelet High School, Concord, California Chair, English Department (2004–2006; 2010-2012) Instructor of English and Religious Studies; Campus Ministry Associate

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate

Methods and Materials of Religious Education (USF)
 Sacraments and Liturgy (USF)
 Issues in Religious Education (USF)
 Directed Study in Leadership (USF)

Undergraduate

Theology, Arts, and Literatures (THEO 383, LUC)
Ethical Systems, Moral Discernment, and the Literary Imagination: Honors Capstone in Moral Responsibility (HONR 301, LUC)
Religion & Interdisciplinary Studies (THEO 280, LUC)
Christian Marriage (THEO 293, LUC)
Religion and Literature (ENG 287, LUC)
From Hobbits to Hogwarts: Religion, Literature, and the British Imagination (ENG 287, LUC Study Abroad: Oxford, UK)
All Things Ignatian: Living and Learning in the Jesuit Tradition (CATH 296, LUC)
Loyola's Mission: Ignatian Traditions (THEO 190, LUC)
The Sacraments (THEO 267, LUC)
Introduction to Christian Theology (THEO 100, LUC)
From Renaissance to Modernity: Honors 101/Honors Cornerstone (with Discussion Section, HONR 102, LUC)
Doors to the Sacred: The Sacramental Principle in Catholic Thought & Action (THEO 390, St. Mary's College, CA)
Social Ethics (MGMT 390, USF)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

1999	University of California, Berkeley Assisted Professor George Starr, "The English Novel: 1700-1850"
1999, 2000	University of San Francisco, San Francisco Assisted Dr. Marcella Fox, "The Spirituality of the Educator"

PUBLICATIONS

Books

A Theology of Criticism: Balthasar, Postmodernism, and the Catholic Imagination. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008
Incarnational Realism: Catholic Fiction, Poetry, and Film 1965-2015 (in preparation)
Spiritualities of Citizenship: A Study of Faith and Politics (in preparation)

Edited Volumes (Editor)

this need to dance/this need to kneel: Denise Levertov and the Poetics of Faith, With Melissa Bradshaw, Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019
Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age: Lay Voices, with Joesph Vukov. A companion piece to Part One (Jesuit Voices forthcoming from Georgetown University Press). Volume Two in preparation
Both/And: An American Catholic Reader – from Flannery O'Connor to Ross Douthat (under review at Ave Maria Press)

Book Chapters

"The Catholic Imagination: Brief Sketches on Substance and Style" in *Revival: Catholic Writing in the Twenty-First Century*, James Matthew Wilson and Jessica Schnepf, eds., Washington DC: Colosseum Books, in preparation

"Liturgical Rhythms, Media Ecologies, and Digital Realism," the theological introduction to *CosmicTechnics*, Luigi Russi, ed., South Bend, St. Augustine Press, in preparation

"Escaping the Mimetic Whirlpool: Deceit, Desire, and the Catholic Imagination" in *Be Not Conformed: René Girard at the Nexus of Athens, Jerusalem, and Silicon Valley*, Luke Burgiss, ed., Washington DC: Catholic University of America, in press and forthcoming in winter 2026

"Tinderization and Transcendence: Girard, McLuhan, and the Apocalyptic Imagination" in *Theological Discourses on Social Media*, Christopher B. Barnett, Clark J. Elliston, and Trevor B. Williams, eds. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, New York, NY: Routledge, 2025

"Panem et Circenses: Michel Houellebecq, *Submission*, and the Liturgies of Spiritual Exhaustion" in *The Call of Literature*, David Lonsdale, ed. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, New York, NY: Routledge, 2025

"Childhood and the Terrain of Transformation: A Tale of Two O' Connors" in *Living Life to the Full: Literature and a Catholic Philosophy of Life*, David Torevell, ed., Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2021

"'for flesh to make known': Poetry as an Act of Faith" volume introduction to *this need to dance/this need to kneel: Denise Levertov and the Poetics of Faith*, M. Murphy and M. Bradshaw, eds., Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019

"Fragile Beauty: Tension and Transcendence in Denise Levertov's Eco-Theological Poetics" in *this need to dance/this need to kneel: Denise Levertov and the Poetics of Faith*, M. Murphy and M. Bradshaw, eds., Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019

Breaking Bodies: Flannery O'Connor and the Aesthetics of Consecration" in *Revelation & Convergence: Flannery O'Connor and Her Catholic Heritage*, M. Bosco and B. Little, eds., Washington DC: Catholic University Press, 2017

"Hanging (onto) Words: Language, Religion and Spirituality in *The Handmaid's Tale*," J. Brooks Bouson, ed., in *Critical Insights: Margaret Atwood*, New York: Ebsco/Salem Press, 2012

Book Introduction

"Tantrum Ergo: Fury Destroys the World" a theological introduction to the reissue of Robert Hugh Benson's *Lord of the World*, Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2016

Book Content Consultant

Maria Morreale, *Pope Francis: A True Book*. Scholastic Press, 2016

Book Proof Editor

Bernard Schweizer, *The Horrible Godhead*. Oxford University Press, 2010

Alejandro Garcia-Rivera, *A Wounded Innocence: Sketches for a Theology of Art*, Liturgical Press, 2003

Selected Articles, Book Reviews, and Occasional Texts

"[This antique discipline, tenderly severe](#)," Book Review Essay of James Matthew Wilson's *Saint Thomas and the Forbidden Birds* in *Dappled Things*, Sts. Peter and Paul, 2025

"New and Selected Poetry, by John F. Deane," Book Review Essay, in *Presence Journal*, spring, 2025

["Taste Bread at Emmaus that Warm Hands Broke and Blessed"](#) in *Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, Murphy and Vukov, eds. Volume 3, Special Edition (June, 2024)

"Cultivating Catholic Studies and Charism through Co-Curricular Programs: The Annual John Courtney Murray, S.J., Forum @LUC," in *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, McKenzie and Sherry, eds., Volume 26, Number 5 (August, 2023)

["A look inside the Vatican meeting that brought Pope Francis and Martin Scorsese together,"](#) *America*, 6/8/2023

["Apocalypse Now? Yes, Please: Notes on Navigating the Digital Revolution,"](#) in *Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*, Vukov and Burns, eds. Volume 2 (May, 2023)

["You are What You Eat: St. Ignatius and Doing Advent Right,"](#) in *Heroes of the Ignatian Tradition*, The Jesuit Conference, 11/30/2022

["Response: Innovate in Tradition,"](#) Dialogue on Mission Drift in Catholic Higher Education in *Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education*, 2/9/2022

["Houellebecq's Cautionary Tale About Liturgy Gone Awry,"](#) in *Church Life Journal*, University of Notre Dame, 6/20/2021

["Laudato Sí and a Shared Future,"](#) podcast interview for *Religica Theolab*, Seattle University, 5/24/2021

["College Basketball and the both/and of Catholic Education,"](#) *National Catholic Reporter*, 3/27/2021

"Like the Dewfall, by John F. Deane," Book Review Essay, in *Presence Journal*, spring, 2021

"'The Present Eye': Digital Cultures, the Internet of Citizenship, and the Body of Christ" invited and under consideration at the *Journal of Catholic Higher Education* for a special issue on the Catholic Intellectual tradition as transformative power in 21st C. Catholic higher education

["The Fury that Destroys the World,"](#) in *Church Life Journal*, University of Notre Dame, 5/28/2020

["What is the Catholic Imagination?"](#) in *Church Life Journal*, University of Notre Dame, 6/20/2019

"Dear Pilgrims, by John F. Deane," Book Review Essay, in *Presence*, spring, 2019

"A Prayer Journal, by Flannery O'Connor," Book Review Essay, *The Chesterton Review*, vol XLIV, Nos 1 and 2, Spring/Summer, 2018

["What Loyola's Final Four run can teach us about Catholic schools and sports,"](#) *America*, 4/3/2018

"Poetry, Place, and Prophecy: An Interview with John F. Deane" in *Presence*, spring, 2018 (and republished by permission in [Poetry Daily](#))

["The Prince of This World by Adam Kotsko,"](#) Book Review Essay, *Reading Religion* (AAR), June 2017

["A Spirituality of Citizenship: Cultivating the Ignatian Charism for Dialogue,"](#)

Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education, spring 2017

"Status Update: Unpacking Mark Zuckerberg's Religious Turn," *The Huffington Post*, 1/17/17

Living Text/Interview Subject: *Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard*, Glass Darkly Films (Sam Sorich, Director), full-length feature documentary, forthcoming 2019

["Setting the World on Fire: How my Grandfather's Ignatian-Inspired Ignition Helped to Fan the Flames of the Sustainability Movement,"](#) *Loyola Magazine*, fall, 2016

["Shame and the Signs of Hope: Encyclical as Examen,"](#) *Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education*, fall, 2016

["Cormac McCarthy and the Signs of Sacrament: Literature, Theology, and the Moral of Stories,"](#) by Matthew Potts, Book Review Essay, *Reading Religion* (AAR), July, 2016

"Familiarity Breeds Contempt? Citizenship and Boundaries in the Digital Wild West," *The Huffington Post*, 2/22/2016

["The Rise of the 'Unholy Left,'"](#) Book Review Essay, *First Things*, 12/14/2015

Living Text/Interview Subject: [Daily Theology](#), 9/15/2015

"Swipe left: A Theology of *Tinder* and Digital Dating," *America*, 8/17/2015

"Pope: Time to evolve on environment (he's talking to you, GOP)", OpEd, *Crain's Chicago Business*, 6/23/2015

Audio Performer/Speaker, Psalms 69 and 117, *Hear my Prayer: an Audio Book of the Psalms*, Paraclete Press, 2015

"Atonement: Pope Francis and Ecological Sin," *The Huffington Post*, 5/28/2015

"Suspicious Minds: The Spirituality of the Postmodern Nones," *America*, 2/24/2014

"Spiritual but not Religious? Not So Fast: Disney, I-Clouds, and New Religion," *The Huffington Post*, 1/19/2013

"Fury and Light: Cormac McCarthy's Theological Dialectic," 2/2/2011, *catholicfiction.net*

Reason Not the Knee: Believing Three Ways in Tubby Passmore," *Gravitas* 1.2, 2000

"Fergus Unsheathed: The Tain and 1 Samuel," *NEH Proceedings*, Washington DC: NEH, 1996

REVIEW ESSAYS of *A Theology of Criticism*

Religion and the Arts 14 (June, 2010), 332-340 (Dutton Kearney)

New Blackfriars 90 (August, 2009), 626-628 (Kieran Flanagan)

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

"Sketches on the Theodramatic Possibilities of Cinema" at *That Which I Also Received: Living Tradition*, deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Conference, University of Notre

Dame, November 13-15, 2025

Invited Speaker, "Martyrdom, Theodrama, and the Apocalyptic Imagination" at the Chicago Theological Initiative conference (convened by Matthew Levering), Wheaton College, March 21-22, 2025

Invited Speaker, "Of Grifters and Grace: Girardian Readings of Patricia Highsmith and Flannery O'Connor" at *Ever Ancient, Ever New: On Catholic Imagination*, deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Fall Conference, University of Notre Dame, October 31 – November 2, 2024

Invited Speaker, "The Transcendental Frame: Sketches on the Theodramatic Possibilities of Cinema," at *Power of the Word 7, The Dramatised Word: Theology, Philosophy and Literature in Conversation*, La Sapienza, Rome, September 16-20, 2024

Invited Speaker, "Laudato Si' @ 10: Notes on Ecologies Ever Ancient, Ever New" at the third annual *The Way Forward Ecclesial Conference*, University of San Diego, March 21-23, 2024

"Out of Tune with the World: Pieper, Han, Houellebecq, and the Weight of Auto-Exploitation" at *Modern Language Association Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, January 4-7, 2024

Invited Speaker, "Not here the darkness, in this twittering world: Girard, McLuhan, and the Apocalyptic Imagination," at the Inaugural René Girard/Novitate Conference, *New Models of Thought and Desire*, Catholic University of America, November 1-3, 2023

Invited Speaker, "The Technology of the Incarnation," at [*The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination*](#), Villa Malta, Rome, May 25-27, 2023

Convener/Facilitator, "The Catholic Literary Imagination in North America" at *The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination*, Villa Malta, Rome, May 25-27, 2023

Invited Speaker/Panelist, "The Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination," at the 4th *Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference*, University of Dallas, September 28 – October 1, 2022

Invited Performance, "The Internet is in Color: A Play," at the 4th *Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference*, University of Dallas, September 28 – October 1, 2022

Invited Speaker "Practices in Depolarization: Pope Francis, Romano Guardini, and Synodality" at *Pope Francis, Vatican II, and the Way Forward*, Loyola University Chicago, March 24-26, 2022

"For That I Came: Two Meditations on Dignity in Contemporary Catholic Literature" at *I Have Called You by Name': Human Dignity in a Secular World*, University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Fall Conference, University of Notre Dame, November 11-13, 2021

Panem et Circenses: Michel Houellebecq and the Liturgies of Spiritual Exhaustion at *The Power of the Word VI*, Trinity College, Dublin, June 28 – July 2, 2021 (Online due to Covid convulsions)

"Flannery O'Connor and the Province of Joy" at *The Power of the Word VI*, Trinity College, Dublin, June 28 – July 2, 2021 (Online due to Covid convulsions)

The Present Eye': Digital Cultures, the Internet of Citizenship, and the Body of Christ" at *Challenges and Opportunities for the Catholic University in the 21st Century*, Sacred Heart University, October 29-31, 2020

"Yours Truly: Epistolary Friendships and *The Habit of Being*" at *I Have Called You Friends*, University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Fall Conference,

University of Notre Dame, November 7-9, 2020

Invited Speaker, "On the Catholic Imagination: Intellection, Empathy, Leadership" at *The Jesuit Leadership Seminar*, sponsored by The Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities, Loyola University Chicago, June 10-14, 2019

"Contemplation as Action: Thomas Merton, Poetic Vision, and the Rhythms of Christian Life" at *Disappear from View? Thomas Merton 50 Years Later, and Beyond*, International Conference, Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, December 7-8, 2018

"Who do You Think You Are? Political Power and Christian Realism in Dostoevsky and O'Connor" at *Higher Powers*, UND Center for Ethics and Culture's Annual Fall Conference, University of Notre Dame, November 1-3, 2018

Invited Speaker, "*Caminante, No Hay Camino: Flannery O'Connor and Theologies of Pilgrimage*" at *Andalusia in Andalucia: An International Flannery O'Connor Conference*, Loyola University Andalucia, Seville, Spain, June 22-25, 2017

Invited Speaker, "Sources and Resources for the Present Moment: Reading the Catholic Literary Tradition Today" at *The Future of the Catholic Literary Tradition*, Fordham University, April 2017

Invited Speaker, "Fragile Beauty: Dynamic Tension and Denise Levertov's Eco-Theological Poetics: at *The Poetry and Poetic Life of Denise Levertov: This Need to Dance; This Need to Kneel*, Loyola University Chicago, October 23-25, 2015

Invited Speaker, "Post Conciliar Tensions: Boomer, X, and Y" at *Our Inheritance: Vatican II at 50, The Post-Conciliar Generation Looks at the Next Half Century*, Fordham University, New York, March 9-10, 2015

Invited Speaker, "Notes on an Incarnational Aesthetics of Childhood" at *Flannery O'Connor and the Mystery of Place*, an international conference, All Hallows College, Dublin, July 25, 2014

"Institution or Love Story? The Catholic Imagination and the Heart of College Identity," at *The Idea of a Catholic College: Charism, Curricula, and Community*, Kings College, PA, September 2014

"Revealing the Transcendent Third: Walker Percy's Trinitarian Imagination" at *STILL LOST IN THE COSMOS: Walker Percy and the 21st Century*, Loyola University New Orleans, October 2013

"Breaking Bodies: Flannery O'Connor and the Aesthetics of Consecration" at *Revelation and Convergence: Flannery O'Connor Among the Philosophers and Theologians*, Loyola University Chicago, October 6, 2011

PRESENTATIONS FOR LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Invited Speaker, "*Laudato Sí*, Human Ecology, and the Call to Action, at the Inaugural *Common Home Corps Training*, a Porticus Grant Bearing Project in conjunction with Catholic Climate Covenant and Creighton University, Loyola University Chicago, June 15-19, 2023

Invited Speaker/Panelist, "Behind the Tweets: A Midterm Election Post-Mortem" Loyola University Chicago, November 7, 2018

Session Organizer and Moderator, "Innovation and Transformation: Stories of Corporate Sustainability and Organizational Change," Fourth Annual Climate Change Conference, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago, March 17, 2017

Invited Speaker/Panelist, "Dating and Marriage: A Multi-Faith Perspective," Loyola University Chicago, November 30, 2016

Invited Speaker/Panelist, "A Year of Mercy: The Abrahamic Faiths in the Year of Jubilee," Catholicism in Dialogue, Loyola University Chicago, September 29, 2016

Invited Speaker, "Being Interdisciplinary" Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Loyola University Chicago, April 23, 2015

Symposium Organizer and Session Convener, "*Laudato Si'* @LUC: Conversations on Ecology and Justice," Loyola University Chicago, September 9, 2015

Invited Speaker, "Leveraging Pope Francis," AJCU annual meeting of Marketing and Communications professionals, Loyola University Chicago, June 11, 2014

Keynote: "Theological Realism and *The Third Miracle*" *Faith in Focus* Series, Loyola University Chicago, April 22, 2014

Keynote Speaker, "Creating a Climate of Solidarity: From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You," lecture in honor of the feast of St. Francis and Energy Week, Office of Sustainability at Loyola University Chicago, October 8, 2014

"Vocation," invited talk to Catholic Students Organization, Loyola University Chicago, November 29, 2013

Keynote Speaker, "Faith, Hope, and Cataclysm: Cormac McCarthy and *The Road*," *Faith in Focus* Series, Loyola University Chicago, October 22, 2013

Keynote Speaker, "Marian Devotion: A Late Modern Testimonial," Ignite Conference, Loyola University Chicago, October 15, 2013

Keynote Speaker, Phi Sigma Sigma Memorial event, Loyola University Chicago, April 2013

Keynote Speaker, "A Theology of Design: Architecture, Spirituality, and Urban Renewal", CURL Fellows Presentation, Loyola University Chicago, April 12, 2013

Invited Paper/Panelist, "*Caveat Emptor*: Finding Grace in the Spiritual Marketplace," 2nd International McCormick Ethics Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago, March 18, 2013

"White Smoke, Black Smoke: Electing a Pope," Invited Keynote Flash Seminar, LUC Library, March 12, 2013

Panelist/Presenter, *Habemus Papem*, Loyola University Chicago, February 26, 2013

Invited Keynote, Publication Luncheon: "Hanging (onto) Words: Language, Religion, and Spirituality in *The Handmaid's Tale*", CCIH, Loyola University Chicago, February 19, 2013

Panelist/Presenter "Can a Catholic Vote for Either Ticket?" Loyola University Chicago, October 11, 2012

SELECTED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS: Other Locations

Invited Speaker, "Catholic Social Teaching and Christian Nationalism," Holy Cross Church, Deerfield IL, November 9, 2025

Invited Speaker, "Bowling Alone Online at Night: Reflections on Theology and Culture on the 25th Anniversary of the Boisi Center at Boston College," Boston College, October 28, 2025

Invited Speaker, "Theology from the Belly of the Whale," post-performance lecture at the Athenaeum Theatre, May 31, 2025

Invited Speaker, "Liberal Arts and the Core: The Heart of Jesuit Higher Education" at Board of Trustees Assembly, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Chicago, IL, October 12, 2024

Keynote Speaker, "Breaking Good: Gracious Catastrophes and the Catholic Imagination" at Summer Institute for Teachers of English, McGrath Center, University of Notre Dame, June 2024

Session Presenter, "The Catholic Imagination: Theological Realism in Secular Landscapes" at Summer Institute for Teachers of English, McGrath Center, University of Notre Dame, June 2024

Invited Speaker and Seminar Leader, "Gracious Catastrophes: Contemporary Representations of Mystery and Mercy in the Catholic Literary Imagination," – Faculty Professional Development Seminar, Seton Hall University, May 21-23, 2024

Invited Speaker, "Notes on Ignatian Leadership," Midwest Province presentation for Ignatian Companions, Chicago, May 21, 2024

Invited Speaker, "Jesuit Higher Education as Living Expression of the Catholic Intellectual and Social Traditions," Board of Trustees Assembly, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Chicago, April 14, 2024

"Vanity and Virtue: Frankenstein, the Practice of Reading, and New Media Ecologies" at *Newman Forum Winter Conference: "Science, Science Fiction, and God,"* Lumen Christi Institute/Mundelein Seminary, January 21, 2023

"Think Piece: The State of Catholic Studies," Welcoming Address at the Second Annual Catholic Studies Consortium Annual Conference, Loyola University Chicago, September 8-10, 2022

Convener/Facilitator, "René Girard," at the *4th Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference*, University of Dallas, September 28 – October 1, 2022

Invited Respondent, Church Communications Ecology Program Conference, McGrath Center, University of Notre Dame, June 28 – July 2, 2022

Invited Presentation, "Pope Francis and Friendship: *Fratelli Tutti* and a Better Kind of Politics," Sheil Center, Northwestern University, June 15, 2022

Invited Presentation, Private Audience with Pope Francis, "Scaling Up: Building Bridges, Synodality, and University Students", Apostolic Palace, Vatican City, May 13, 2022

Lead Organizer for "[Building Bridges: A Synodal Encounter between Pope Francis and University Students](#)," a Zoom event featuring Pope Francis in conversation with students from the Americas, North and South, February 24, 2022

Invited Speaker, "A Catholic Imagination in Shakespeare? Notes on Drama and Theology," Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago, October 21, 2021

Invited Spoken Word Performance, "Flannery at Yaddo," International Flannery O'Connor Conference, hosted by Nipissing University, August 3, 2021

Invited Speaker, "The Pedagogy of Empowering Catholic Studies Students in Co-Curricular Scholarship," Catholic Studies National Consortium, Duquesne University, July 28-30, 2021

Invited Speaker, [The Modern Consciousness: A 'Flannery' Discussion Series](#) in concert with the release of the documentary *Flannery*, July 27, 2020

Invited Speaker, “Go and Do Likewise: A Catholic Imagination in the Key of Justice,” University address for Ignatian Heritage/Mission Week, John Carroll University, January 2020

Invited Speaker, Workshop for Faculty and Staff, “Imagination, Empathy, and Justice Education,” for Ignatian Heritage/Mission Week, John Carroll University, January 2020

Invited Speaker, “Composition of Place: Ignatian Spirituality and Life Transitions” for The Ignatian Legacy Fellows, Chicago, September 19, 2019

Conference Organizer and Chair: [Third Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference: The Future of the Catholic Literary Tradition](#), Loyola University Chicago, September 2019

Invited Speaker, “[Images and Likenesses: Notes on a Catholic Imagination](#)” at *Science, Creation, & the Catholic Imagination*, The University of Chicago, February 23, 2019

Invited Speaker, “Marriage and Family: Key Texts,” Temple Jeremiah, Northfield, IL, August 9, 2017

Invited Speaker, “*Laudato Si’* & Reflective Integration,” Presence Health Network Leadership Meeting, LUREC, Woodstock, IL, June 15, 2017

Invited Speaker, “A Spirituality of Citizenship: Cultivating the Art of Dialogue in Tense Times,” Holy Family Cathedral, Chicago, March 28, 2017

Invited Speaker, “Interfaith Dialog in Post-Election America,” Benedictine College, December 1, 2016

Invited Speaker, “Mercy and Reconciliation in Post-Election America,” The Niagara Foundation, November 14, 2016

Invited Speaker, “*Laudato Si’* and Disposable Culture: A Conversation on Ecology and Justice,” Holy Family Cathedral, Chicago, November 10, 2015

Invited Speaker, “A Tale of Two Francises: Creating a Climate for Solidarity,” St. James Parish, Arlington Heights, IL, October 13, 2014

Invited Speaker, “*Lectio Divina* and Leadership: Contemplatives in Action”, Adult Faith Formation, Santa Maria Del Popolo Church, Mundelein, IL, October 7, 2014

Invited Paper/Panelist, “Publishing in the Digital Age” at The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 18, 2012

Invited Paper/Panelist, “How to Get Published,” with Kimberly R. Connor, Oxford University Press, Convener at The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 19, 2011

Invited Paper, “From Dissertation to Book,” Cynthia Read, Oxford University Press, Convener at The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, October 2010

Diocese of Oakland Adult Faith Formation Series: *The Catholic Imagination*, Christ the King Church, Pleasant Hill, CA, July 7, 2008

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

TV and Radio

Assorted Major Media Outlets, May 2025: “The Election of Pope Leo XIV,” Loyola article and

Media links to selected appearances [available here](#).

WBUR/PBS Radio, 5/8/2025, “Cardinals elect first American pope”, featured in radio interview ([available here](#))

WTTW-TV, 5/7/2025, “Black Smoke Pours From Sistine Chapel Chimney, Indicating No Pope Was Elected as Conclave Opens,” appeared on PBS’s *Chicago Tonight* to discuss possible next popes. Long form interview [available here](#)

WTTW-TV, 1/5/2023: “Faithful Mourn Benedict XVI at Funeral Presided Over by Pope.”

Appeared on PBS’s *Chicago Tonight* to discuss the significance of Pope Benedict XVI's death and legacy. Long form interview [available here](#)

WMAQ-TV, 12/30/2022: “Cardinal Blase Cupich, Theology Professor Reflect on Former Pope Benedict XVI's Legacy.” NBC, Chicago.

Religion and American Life Podcast, Conversation about “Pope Francis, Vatican II, and the Way Forward,” 8/31/2022 ([available here](#))

Chicago Catholic Radio, “Pope Francis’ Visit to Canada,” long interview, 2/28/2022 ([available here](#))

WGN TV, “How to Decide What to Give Up for Lent,” long interview, 2/28/2022 ([available here](#))

WFLD TV, “Pope Francis to speak with Loyola University of Chicago students,” Interview 1/26/2022 ([available here](#))

ABC TV, 3/26/2021. Interviewed for “Rambler-Mania Hits Loyola Bookstore Ahead of Sweet 16 Game Against Oregon State.” ([available here](#))

WFLD TV, 10/26/2020. Interviewed for TV and print story “Chicago community reacts to elevation of Archbishop Wilton Gregory.”

WGN Radio, 10/13/20. Interviewed regarding canonization process for Carlo Acutis for the John Landecker show.

BBC World Service, 6/13/19. Interviewed by BBC 5 for a story about Fr. Augustus Tolton being the first black American priest to be made Venerable by the Vatican

WBEZ Radio, 3/1/18. Interviewed for a story called “How to Take In \$33 Million In Taxpayer Dollars: Partner With The Catholic Church”

WBEZ Radio, 8/7/17. Appeared on “Worldview” and discussed under the title “Allies of Pope Francis Strike Out at Catholic Conservatives”

WGN TV, 1/20/17. Provided exclusive narration and commentary about prayer during the live feed of the presidential inauguration.

ABC TV, 11/19/16. Appeared on the morning news slot and discussed the elevation of Blase Cupich to the Cardinal ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 11/19/16. Appeared on “Weekend Edition” and discussed the elevation of Blase Cupich to the Cardinal ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 2/16/16. Appeared on “Worldview” and discussed Pope Francis’s historic visit to Mexico ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 12/1/15, appeared on “Worldview” and discussed Pope Francis’s historic visit to Africa ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 9/24/15, appeared on “Worldview” and discussed Pope Francis’s historic US visit

WGN TV, 9/24/15, provided exclusive narration and commentary during the live feed to Pope Francis’s address to the joint session of congress ([available here](#))

CNN TV, 9/18/15, appeared in Rosa Flores’s preparation piece about the Pope Francis Papal visit ([available here](#))

WLUL Radio, 9/18/15, radio interview about Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, and the impending Papal visit.

CLTV, 6/18/15, appeared on CLTV feature piece examining Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, and climate change: “[Our Home is Being Ruined](#)”

WBBM TV, 5/15/15, appeared on CBS Chicago feature piece: “Why Are More Americans Turning Away From Religion?” ([available here](#))

WGN TV, 5/1/15, appeared on WGN morning news – Live TV interview assessing the legacy of Francis Cardinal George ([available here](#))

WFLD TV, 11/18/14, provided exclusive narration and commentary during the installation mass of Archbishop Blaise Cupich ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 9/18/2014, appeared on “The Morning Shift” -- Live radio interview about Churches and Marketing ([available here](#))

WBEZ Radio, 4/15/2014, appeared on “The Afternoon Shift” -- Live radio interview about religion, food, and fish fries ([available here](#))

WFLD-TV, 3/21/2014, appeared on “Good Morning Chicago” -- Video interview about Hollywood revivals of Bible and cinema

WTTW-TV, 2/11/13, appeared on PBS’s *Chicago Tonight* to discuss the significance of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation ([available here](#))

WGN-TV, 2/12/13, appeared on WGN morning news; discussed papal resignation live with the WGN-TV morning news anchors

WGN-TV, 3/12/2013, appeared on WGN morning news; discussed the papal conclave live with the WGN-TV morning news anchors

WGN-TV, 3/13/2013, extended Interview as live phone-in expert as new pope was announced with WGN-TV afternoon news anchors

WGN-TV, 3/14/2013, appeared on WGN morning news; discussed the papal election and Pope Francis live with the WGN-TV morning news anchors.

CLTV, 2/12/2013, interviewed live about Pope Benedict's resignation

CLTV, 3/14/2013, interviewed via phone about Pope Francis

QUOTED IN PRINT MEDIA (partial list)

Chicago Sun-Times, online and print, "[Pope Leo Appoints Cupich to Vatican post weeks after Durbin award controversy](#)," quoted in article, 10/16/2025

Chicago Sun Times, "Scandal, slavery and celebrity are all part of Pope Leo XIV's ancestry," Quoted in article, 6/13/2025

Vanity Fair, online, "Even Cubs Fans Are Excited About Da Pope, a Sox Fan and Chicago's Hometown Hero," Quoted in article, 5/9/2025

Chicago Tribune, "Pope Leo XIV is a 'Midwesterner who is not afraid of hard work,' Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich says," Quoted in article, 5/9/2025

Vatican News, "[Fordham University hosts conference dedicated to spreading Pope's vision in US](#)," featured in article, 2/12/25

Catholic World Report, online, [Catholic Imagination Conference, focused on past and future, continues to grow](#), Quoted in article, 11/13/2024

National Catholic Reporter online and print, "[US church failing on pope's climate goals, bishops say at private conference](#)," Quoted in article, 2/27/2024

Chicago Catholic, online and print, "[Loyola University facilitates another Building Bridges discussion with Pope Francis](#)," Quoted in article, 10/3/2023

National Catholic Register online and print "What Is the Catholic Imagination? Professors and poets weigh the profound meaning." Quoted in article, 8/27/2023

National Catholic Reporter online and print, "[Catholic Imagination Conference celebrates joy of words on a page](#)," Quoted in article, 10/21/2022

Chicago Sun Times online and print, "[101-year-old St. Anne's Convent to Close](#)." Quoted in article, 10/16/2022

National Catholic Reporter online and print, "[Pope Francis to meet with college students in virtual dialogue hosted by Chicago's Loyola University](#)." Quoted in article – and many more about this global event. Quoted in article, 2/25/2022

National Catholic Reporter online and print, "[Pope Francis takes notes during two-hour dialogue with students across the Americas](#)," Quoted in article, 2/24/2022

Crux, "[Pope to meet university students as part of synodal process](#)," Quoted in article, 1/28/2022

National Catholic Reporter online, "[New Catholic website 'The Pillar' operates on shaky foundation](#)." Quoted in article, 7/28/2021

Washington Post, "[Vaccines Push the Question: Are You Going Back to Church?](#)" Quoted in article, 6/6/2021

The Tablet, "[An Idealist in the White House](#)" Quoted in article, 5/1/2021

National Catholic Reporter, [Home for a visit, a year after leaving the church](#), referenced in article, 11/21/2019

Washington Post, MSN, BBC, others from the AP Report, [1st black priest in US, ex- slave, positioned for sainthood](#). Quoted in article, 6/12/2018

National Catholic Reporter, "[50 years after Merton's death, maybe 'we're finally getting him'](#)". Quoted in article on Merton Conference, 12/7/2018

WBEZ Radio, "[How To Take In \\$33 Million In Taxpayer Dollars: Partner With The Catholic Church](#)." Quoted in this article discussing tax credits, donations, and school choice, 3/1/2018

Life Matters Media, "[Cremation and Catholicism: A Complicated Relationship](#)." Quoted in this article discussing traditions of Christian burial, 11/21/2016

AJCU.Net, "Responding to *Laudato Si'* at Loyola University Chicago." Quoted in an article celebrating the success and reach of a three campus wide symposium, 4/19/2016

CNN, "Pope Francis May Offer Tough Love in Visit to Mexico." Quoted in an article discussing Papal visit to Mexico, 2/13/2016

National Catholic Reporter, "[What is 'Academic Freedom'?](#)" Quoted in this article discussing academic liberty in the Catholic tradition, 12/5/2015

National Catholic Reporter, "Conference Discusses Modern Challenges, Threats to Academic Freedom." Quoted in this article discussing academic liberty and its foils, 12/5/2015

Vice News, "[Pope Francis Warms Communist Leader's Heart Ahead of Cuba Visit](#)." Quoted in this article discussing political intrigues of Pope Francis's visit to Cuba, 9/18/2015

Chicago Sun-Times, "Could the next pope hail from Africa or Asia?" Quoted in this article discussing possible replacements for Pope Benedict XVI, 2/11/2013

ACADEMIC AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Finalist, Ignatius of Loyola Award, LUC Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, 2016

Finalist, Kolvenbach Award, LUC Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, 2015

Alpha Sigma Nu, Centenary Faculty Inductee, Loyola University Chicago, 2014-2015

Loyola University Chicago USGA Teaching Award: Faculty Member of the Year, 2013-2014

Loyola University Chicago Student Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Diversity Award, 2014
CCIH Fellowship: *Vatican II at 50*

USF Distinguished Adjunct Nominee, 2011 and 2012

Warren Eukel Distinguished Teacher Finalist, 2011

American Academy of Religion Distinguished Book: 2008

UCSB Teacher Recognition Award, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010

Congressman Frank Buck Fellowship, 2003

Gravitas Academic Selection, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, 1999

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow: “Irish Saga and Irish Culture,” Harvard University (Professor PK Ford, Director), 1996

SERVICE TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

LUC Mission Integration Team, ongoing

LUC Building Bridges Synodality Team, an ad hoc team who collaborate and create synodal experiences and connect various bodies of the Church and LUC.

Lead Executive, *Plan 2020* Loyola Faculty Seminar, a strategic plan/formation initiative for CCIH cultivating mission: faith, reason, and justice in the Ignatian tradition, ongoing (and will extend into plan 2025)

College Leadership Council, Loyola University Chicago, ongoing

Ignatian Mission Council (and CAS Liaison), Loyola University Chicago, ongoing

Organizing Committee: *LUC Multiyear Interdisciplinary Consortium on Climate Change and Sustainability*, ongoing

Organizing Committee and Faculty: LUC’s *THEA* Institute – Theology of Healing Earth in Action Lilly Endowment Theology Institutes for Secondary Students (grant awarded: \$600,000.00), ongoing

Advisory Board, Center for International Affairs, Loyola University Chicago, ongoing

Faculty Reviewer, Service-Learning Portfolios, Center of Experiential Learning, Loyola University Chicago, ongoing

Mentor, LUC Honors Program (student Study Abroad projects), ongoing

Editing task force/working group, *Healing Earth* (an environmental E-Textbook produced by the International Jesuit Ecology Project), ongoing

Member, Midwest Jesuit Province, committee on Universal Apostolic Preferences, ongoing Faculty, Jesuit Leadership Seminar, 2019

Steering/Host Committee, Loyola University Mission Priority Examen, 2018-19

Advisory Committee, Pre-Health Professions, Loyola University Chicago, 2017-2021

Lead Consultant, Loyola Academy Theology Department restructuring, 2018 – 2019

Faculty Representative, Student Development & Success Committee of the LUC Board of Trustees, 2015-2018

Selection Committee, LUC First Year Experience Common Book, 2013-2017

Dissertation Committee, Lyle Enright (completed 2019)

Dissertation Committee, Mary Harmon (completed 2021) Dissertation Committee, Yale Park (completed 2021)

Dissertation Committee, Augustin Vondou (completed 2021)

Organizing Committee, *Andalusia in Andalucía: An International Flannery O’Connor Conference*,

Loyola Andalucía, June 2017

Doctoral Student Teaching Mentor, Cathy Buescher (spring, 2017)

Search Committee, Assistant Vice President/Dean of Students, Student Development, LUC, Summer 2017

Session Organizer, "Sources and Resources for the Present Moment: Reading the Catholic Literary Tradition Today" at *The Future of the Catholic Literary Tradition*, Fordham University, 4/28/17

Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching and Learning, Department of Theology, 2016-17 Doctoral Student Teaching Mentor, Michael Okoro (fall, 2016)

Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Theology, 2015-16

Dissertation Committee, Brent Little, *Uncertainty and Faith: The Dynamics of Belief in Theology and Literature*. Dissertation defended 3/20/2015

Organizing Committee, *Still Guests in Our Own House? Women in the Church Since Vatican II*, Loyola University Chicago, 11/6 – 11/7/2015

Organizing Committee, *Denise Levertov, an International Conference*, Loyola University Chicago, 10/23/2015

Organizing Committee, *Memory and Hope: The Salvadoran Martyrs, Prophetic Witness, and the Future of Jesuit Higher Education* colloquium with Jon Sobrino, Loyola University Chicago, 11/20-21/2014

Committee Consultant: *Flannery O'Connor and the Mystery of Place: An International Conference*, All Hallows College and Seminary, Dublin, Ireland, 7/24 – 7/26/2014

Consultant, NBC Network News, *The Francis Effect* (Anne Thompson, producer), 3/3-14/2014

Consultant, National Public Radio, *The Francis Effect* (Lynette Clemetson, producer), 11/20-12/22, 2014

Conference Facilitator, "U.S. Energy and Climate Change: Science, Ethics, and Public Policies," Loyola University Chicago, 11/14-15/2013

Advisor, Catholic Students Organization, Loyola University Chicago, 2013-2014

Panel Moderator "The Spirit of Vatican II: Then and Now," Loyola University Chicago, 9/29/2012

Panel Moderator "20th Century Theologians", *Revelation and Convergence: Flannery O'Connor Among the Philosophers and Theologians*, Loyola University Chicago, 10/21/2011

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY and THE CHURCH

Organizational Team, "Pilgrims of Hope," a delegation of U.S. Catholic bishops & leadership, faculty, staff, & students from six U.S. Catholic/three Japanese universities who made

pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Pilgrimage, August 4-11, 2025; Preparation, 2024-2025; new initiatives: in progress and ongoing.

Executive Producer, *Cinderella Nun*, a feature length documentary about Sr. Jean Delores Schmidt's basketball chaplaincy and spiritual leadership at Loyola. In final production

Committee Member and Lead Writer, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Mission Priority Examen Visiting Team, Georgetown University, December 2024

Writing Team, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Commission on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm, 12/2022-8/2024

Leadership Team, [*The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination*](#), Villa Malta, Rome, May 2023

Foundational and Leadership Team, *Common Home Corps Training*, a Porticus Grant Bearing Project in conjunction with Catholic Climate Covenant, and Creighton University, Loyola University Chicago, 6/15-6/19/2023. Ongoing

Founder and Editor, [*Nexus: Conversations on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*](#), A Hank Center Publication, 2021 and ongoing

Co-founder and Board Member, [*Building Bridges Initiative*](#), a cooperative program with Pope Francis, the Vatican, North-South Synodal Task Force for University Students 2021, ongoing

Executive Board Member, *The Way Forward: An Annual International Conference of Bishops, Theologians, and Journalists*, ongoing

Executive Board Member, *Biennial Conference on the Catholic Imagination*, ongoing
Executive Board Member, *The Power of the Word Annual Conference*, ongoing

Foundational and Leadership Team Member (Vice President) *National Catholic Studies Consortium*, ongoing

Executive Board Member, *International Flannery O'Connor Conference*, ongoing

Executive Committee Member, *AJCU Roundtable on Ignatian Pedagogy*, ongoing

Board Member, Canizaro Center for Catholic Studies, Loyola New Orleans

External Reviewer, University of Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, ongoing

Consultant, AAR Religion and Literature Group, ongoing

Advisory Board Member, *Church Life Journal*, McGrath Institute, University of Notre Dame, ongoing

Advisory Board Member, Conference on Christianity and Literature (Midwest), ongoing

Advisory Board Member, Ave Maria Press (Christian Classics series), ongoing

Peer Reviewer, *Religion and Literature* (Notre Dame), ongoing

Peer Reviewer, *Irish Theological Quarterly*, ongoing

Peer Reviewer, *Theological Studies*, ongoing
Peer Reviewer, *Reading Religion*, ongoing
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Church and State* (Oxford), ongoing
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, ongoing Peer Reviewer, *The New Atlantis*, ongoing
Consultant, "Parish Council Reboot", St. Margaret Mary Parish, Chicago, 2013
Invited speaker: Benediction, University of San Francisco commencement, May 2012
Consultant, *The Race to Nowhere* (a feature length documentary film), 2008
Instructor/Facilitator of the Inter-Religious Workshop Series conducted jointly by the American Jewish Community and the Diocese of Oakland, 2007-2012
Contributor, *Huffington Post*
Occasional contributor, *ChicagoCatholicNews.com*

LANGUAGES

Spanish: excellent reading, good speaking and writing ability
French: good reading, marginal speaking, and competent writing ability
Latin: decent reading ability
German: developing speaking ability

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theology and Literature/Religion and Literature/ Philosophy and Literature
H. U. von Balthasar: Theological Aesthetics/Theodramatic Theory Catholic Studies
Ignatian Pedagogy/Catholic Education
The Literary, Social, and Political Cultures of Catholicism
Uses of Narrative in Christian/Catholic Theology, Aesthetics, and Ethics
R. Girard, Religion, and Mimetic Theory
Digital Cultures/Media Ecologies
Sacraments and Liturgy
Social Ethics
Eco-Theology
Catholic/Christian/Ignatian Spirituality
Ressourcement Theology
Vatican II Studies

OTHER INTERESTS

Music, politics, travel, biking, hiking, camping, canine life, cooking, and much more