



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Kind greetings and welcome back to another semester at Loyola! We have set a wonderful calendar for the coming year and our Hank Center team is truly excited to bring an excellent array of programs and events from farm to table. From convening a conference of over 60 directors and scholars of Catholic Studies this fall to hosting events that examine economic justice and neoliberalism against Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti* in the spring, CCIH continues to provide programming that expands scholarship, advances engagement, and deepens appreciation for the Catholic intellectual, social, and artistic tradition.

This tradition is nothing if not fixed on the beauty and uniqueness of wisdom—and the need to seek out wisdom figures (and to be a wisdom figure) in the arc of one's life. I was reminded of this vital dynamism yet again through two experiences this week: The first was a luncheon I had with three colleagues here at Loyola—all of whom are seasoned educators and educational leaders at Loyola. We agreed that two troubling trends are in play in higher education: 1) the increasing tendency of young people to view their education as transactional (as opposed to transformative); and 2) that a significant number of young people are suspicious of expertise and are not as hungry for wisdom as they might be. Sure, this is a normative, timeless situation (older folks are always critiquing younger folks and want them to "get off their lawns")-- and there are good contextually specific reasons for this to be pulsating today (big institutions have failed, it can be argued, two generations of young people in the US)-- but still it is something else. "Influencer culture" that informs the social moment is not the same as "wisdom culture" which should. These two approaches have different orientations and trajectories entirely--and these questions preoccupy my imagination in no small way these days.

The second event that prompted my reflection on wisdom figures was the death of the great Jesuit historian, John O'Malley. Fr. O'Malley figured into Hank Center programming more than once these last 15 years and his wisdom and expertise formed (and continues to form) generations of scholars-- historians, theologians, and others for whom the Catholic intellectual tradition is so vital. For my part, I had a lovely correspondence with Fr. O'Malley on the topic of "event" vs. "occurrence" (coming out of his monumental work on Vatican II) and I will be ever grateful for his generosity of mind and time.. In that spirit, I link here two pieces-- salutations from Fr. O'Malley's [community at Georgetown](#) and a [tribute in Commonweal](#) by friend of the Hank Center, Ken Woodward. These thoughtful reflections say what needs to be said better than I can-- and there are so many more besides. Rest in peace, Fr. O'Malley.

Speaking of wisdom, 2022 begins year eight of the Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellowship in Catholic Studies. Funded through the generosity of the Loyola Jesuit Community, this endowed chair is a semester-long fellowship for scholars and artists from across the disciplines whose work intersects with the rich intellectual, artistic, and historical tradition of Roman Catholicism. This fall, we welcome Dr. Kathleen Sprows Cummings from the University of Notre Dame. We are very much looking forward to Dr. Cummings's 10/13 Teilhard Lecture, "A New Kind of Saint: Catholics and Canonization in the 21st Century," and we hope to see you, dear reader, **in-person**-- even if the event will be livestreamed as well. More information about Dr. Cummings and her October lecture is featured below.

Finally, I congratulate the many (25+) graduate students we have supported this year. Whether through our [Hank Fellowship grants](#) or our [Graduate Summer Institute in the Catholic Imagination](#), supporting students is the lifeblood of the Hank Center. We feature three younger scholars below and congratulate all on the quality of their scholarly pursuits.

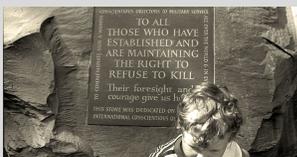
So please read on. Peruse the books on our recommended reading list an click on our fall calendar too. As always I encourage you to attend all of our events. Most are free and open to the public and we are trying to get back to more in-person experiences as this is very important in a tradition that honors and practices incarnational realism. We very much appreciate your engagement with the Hank Center and our work -- especially as we move through Covid into decidedly new days. Here's to another year of engaging, interrogating, and celebrating Roman Catholic thought and culture at Loyola University and beyond.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

## Hank Center Highlights

### Preventing Unjust War - A Catholic Argument for Selective Conscientious Objection



Why does humankind continue to be

## Second Annual Catholic Studies Centers and Programs Symposium

**plagued by war?**  
With the example of Russia's invasion of Ukraine at hand, Loyola sociologist of religion Fr. Paddy Gilger, SJ, engaged author Roger Bergman in a lively discussion of what the Catholic intellectual heritage can contribute to this perennial problem. The video of this event is now available.

[Watch Video](#)

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### The 2022 Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause Lecture



The Cardinal Bernardin Common Cause lecture series offers Catholic prelates a platform to engage people of good will in common cause with the Church on important issues facing us today. The Hank Center welcomed our 2022 Bernardin Lecturer - the Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas. The video of this event is now available.

[Watch Video](#)

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### Graduate Summer Institute



The Hank Center and the Catholic Studies minor program welcomed over 60 national scholars, leaders, and directors of centers in Catholic Studies from September 8-10, 2022. While this event was by invitation only, we are pleased to share **the program** for the conference and three prompts for this year's symposium.

**Teaching Catholic Studies:** What is distinctive about teaching in Catholic Studies? What are the characteristics, or what is an example, of a distinctively Catholic Studies course? What texts and media lend themselves to Catholic Studies courses? What is meant by interdisciplinary in our context? In what sense is Catholic Studies attractive? What does it mean to bring imagination into teaching? What individuals (for instance, John Henry Newman) most influence Catholic Studies?

**Outside the Classroom:** How do programs foster community and friendship? What roles, over and above offering courses, does Catholic Studies play in an institution? What is the relationship between these roles and its academic functions? How might Catholic Studies support and enhance "hiring for mission"? What factors matter most to the growth and success of Catholic Studies programs? What relationships and responsibilities does Catholic Studies have to local communities, the Church, and the world?

**Faith, Reason, and Justice:** In what ways does Catholic Social Teaching emerge from and depend on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition? What is the role of Centers for Catholic Studies next to, or in contrast with, programs in Catholic Studies? How do faith, reason, and justice inform Catholic practice in the professions? What does justice mean in the context of the intellectual life? What is the relationship between justice and charity in the same context?

The symposium was marked by the spirit of scholarship, insight, and collaboration that our new Catholic Studies consortium embodies. How wonderful it was to walk together as scholars, educators, and administrators-- from various parts of the country and from a diversity of contexts

This June the Hank Center was proud to host the Graduate Summer Institute on the Catholic Imagination. The Graduate Summer Institute (GSI) provided an opportunity for current graduate students to broaden and deepen their engagement with the Catholic imagination, specifically in the spheres of theology, poetry, literature, and film. This program combines master classes and seminars with scholarly research, and relaxed time for community collaboration and reflection.

To read more about the GSI see the article below by one of our participants, Jane Wageman. Learn more about Jane-- and others [in our inaugural cohort-- here.](#)

GSI Article

### Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference



We are most excited to announce that the Cowan Center at the University of Dallas will be hosting the Fourth Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference. The Hank Center is pleased to co-sponsor this one-of-a-kind event being held

– all of us working and praying together to share the radiant interdisciplinary vision of Catholic Studies in our universities and beyond.

### The Hank Center Welcomes Our Fall 2022 Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellow - Dr. Kathleen Sprows Cummings!



Kathleen Sprows Cummings is the William W. and Anna Jean Cushwa Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the Rev. John A. O'Brien College Professor of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She is a professor in the departments of American studies and history at Notre Dame, and an affiliated faculty member in Gender Studies, Italian Studies, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

The Hank Center warmly welcomes Dr. Cummings as our 8th [Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellow in Catholic Studies](#). Kathy is teaching a course on Sanctity and Society (History/THEO 300)-- and giving a major lecture, "A New Kind of Saint: Catholics and Canonization in the 21st Century," on October 13.

Dr. Cummings teaches classes on the history of women, Catholicism, sanctity, and American religion at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to directing the Cushwa Center, Cummings presently oversees the [History of Women Religious](#), an academic organization devoted to the historical study of Catholic sisters. She often serves as a media commentator on contemporary events in the Church. Cummings appeared on NBC's live coverage of the conclave in March 2013, the canonization of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII in April 2014, and the papal visit to the United States in September 2015. She is frequently quoted in the New York Times and other media outlets on Catholic subjects. For more information on her appearances, visit [cushwa.nd.edu/news/in-the-media](http://cushwa.nd.edu/news/in-the-media).

We hope to see you **in person** for the October 13 Teilhard Lecture. If you would rather view online, Register [for the LIVESTREAM here.](#)

from September 30 - October 1, 2022. In a style that is characteristic of this conference, the circle expands and the program is bursting at the seams--and it will be difficult to map out your conference plan. But let not this scenario, this embarrassment of riches, scare you. There are worse challenges to face.

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

Of special note is an event on Friday that is being sponsored by the Hank Center, a reading and workshop led by Uwem Akpan, whose first novel "Say You're One of Them" was a major critical success. Fellow Catholic writer Mary Karr said of the novel, "I can't shake this book and shouldn't."

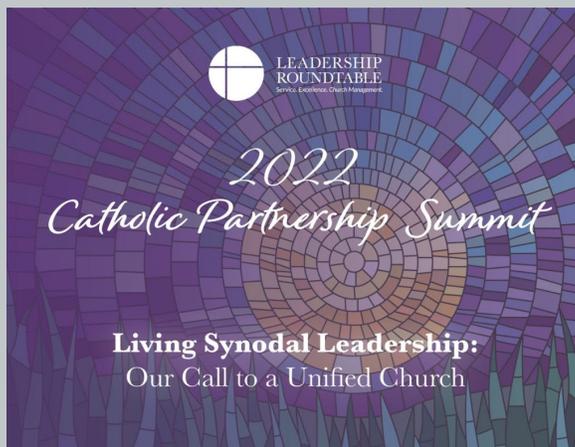
We look forward to seeing you in Dallas at this special gathering--and **All are Welcome!**

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

Register Today

**Fall 2022 Event  
Calendar**

## Leadership Roundtable: Catholic Partnership Summit



The Hank Center is pleased to once again cosponsor the annual meeting of Leadership Roundtable in Washington DC. This year's theme is "Living Synodal Leadership: Our Call to a Unified Church".

Featured speakers will address tangible ways our Church answers the call to heal, strengthen, and unify the body of Christ. Representing a diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences, they will share how they are living synodal leadership and offer best practices for other leaders. This meeting is by invitation only.

You can learn more about the event by clicking [here](#).

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### **A Seamless Ethic for Siblings All: The Hope of Fratelli Tutti**



The Hank Center is happy to promote an important evening with Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, the prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, at the Bernardin Center at CTU on Saturday Night. Cardinal Czerny's lecture, "**A Seamless Ethic for Siblings**



The Hank Center has several unique events ready to be delivered in 2022. From co-sponsoring national conferences, to the marquis events of the fall semester - our annual Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. lecture - and even restarting a Hank Center favorite in our Book Club and Reading Group, we have something to offer everyone. You can click on the link below to see everything in store for this fall on our website.

Visit our Website

**All: The Hope of Fratelli Tutti,"** will develop and contextualize further layers of the consistent ethic of life pioneered by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin-- especially in the light of Pope Francis's encyclical on social friendship.

A groundbreaking development of the consistent ethic, this important lecture will open new avenues for the Catholic discussion of political and social issues. In person presence is highly encouraged, but there is also a livestream.

You can register [here](#).

### Hank Center Graduate Student Fellow: Sydney Curtis



Originally from Dallas, Texas, **Sydney Curtis** (she/her) is a doctoral candidate in Higher Education at Loyola University Chicago (LUC). Her scholarship explores the relationship between spirituality, Black feminism, and critical pedagogy with publications in the Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs and Dialogues in Social Justice. Sydney's dissertation, titled "Pandemic Pedagogies: Fatalistic or Black Feminist," seeks to explore the pedagogical and spiritual strategies of Black feminist educators as we continue to navigate teaching and learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Hank Fellowship for Research in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition will support this work by providing compensation for participants' intellectual labor, conference funding for potential submissions to pedagogical assemblies in the U.K., and resources for Sydney and her co-researchers/participants to fund a potential action initiative which may arise from their convenings to support healing and wellbeing from a Black feminist lens.



**James Dechant** is a doctoral candidate in Systematic Theology at Fordham University. He holds a B.A. in English and Theology from the University of Notre Dame, an M.S. in Education from Hunter College, and an M.T.S. from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. His dissertation, entitled “An Ecological Education: Theological Paths to Liberative Praxis,” explores the role of theological pedagogy in responding to the social-ecological crisis. The project draws on critical pedagogy, hermeneutics, Trinitarian theology, and asceticism in order to imagine how theological education can link individual ecological conversion to broader societal transformation. James’s aim in this work is to chart paths toward a future in which the Catholic tradition does justice to creation and in which theological educators are capable, in the words of Pope Francis, of “helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.”

## 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. This month--in advance of the **4th Biennial Catholic Imagination Conference**-- we feature recent works by authors who will be presenting in Dallas later this month.

### [Holy Land: Poems](#) (2022)

Author: Angela Alaimo O'Donnell. Publisher: Paraclete Press.

Angela Alaimo O'Donnell's *Holy Land* is a sustained meditation on the central theme that permeates her poems: that holy places deserve to be regarded with reverence and that all places are holy places. In her afterward, the poet traces these foundational concepts to her Catholic childhood wherein religious instruction consisted largely of memorizing the Baltimore Catechism. "One of questions the Catechism poses is 'Where is God?' The answer is 'God is everywhere.' We believed this to be true. God was in church, but God was also in our house (a crucifix in every room), in the backyard, in our Buick (rosary beads swinging from the rearview mirror), at our birthday parties in the basement, and in our own bodies. And though those places may not sound very holy, they were. Because God was there. Is there."

In addition to affirming this foundational belief, these poems extend the terrain, moving beyond the geographical and the physical to the temporal, the carnal, the intellectual, and the spiritual realms. They assert that our days are blessed, our bodies are blessed, our minds and souls are all blessed and sacred ground. The poet explores a broad spectrum of physical locations, beginning with poems set in the Holy Land and moving on to places closer to home, ranging from the west of Ireland to rural Minnesota, from New York City to the Texas border. She also probes the temporal spaces we occupy, experiences of death and birth, love and loss, desire and desolation that mark our human passage

The English word holy is related to the Germanic word *heilig*, a word that means *blessed* and also carries within it the idea of wholeness. *Holy Land* attempts to honor both the holiness and the wholeness of our world—from Gotham to Golgotha, the Bronx River to the Sea of Galilee—and to honor the holiness and wholeness of our blessed and broken humanity. This collection won the prestigious Paraclete Press poetry award for 2022 and is available on October 4th.

### [New York, My Village](#) (2021)

Author: Uwem Akpan. Publisher: W.W. Norton.

From a suspiciously cheap Hell's Kitchen walk-up, Nigerian editor and winner of a Toni Morrison Publishing Fellowship Ekong Udousoro is about to begin the opportunity of a lifetime: to learn the ins and outs of the publishing industry from its incandescent epicenter: New York City. While his sophisticated colleagues meet him with kindness and hospitality, he is soon exposed to a colder, ruthlessly commercial underbelly—callous agents, greedy landlords, boorish and hostile neighbors, and, beneath a superficial cosmopolitanism, a bedrock of white cultural superiority and racist assumptions about Africa, its peoples, and worst of all, its food.

This is not light bedtime reading. It is a layered experience and "an immersion in wartime atrocities, trauma, racism of all flavors, and, on top of that, graphic descriptions of bedbug infestations." It is a novel of both humor and horror-- an exhaustively researched exhibit of cross cultural encounter as well as an account of Nigeria's Biafran war from numerous angles, including Catholic priests and the American children of war survivors.

Akpan, the **Hank Center's 2017 Teilhard Fellow**, is a master stylist,. His prose melds humor, tenderness, and pain to explore the myriad ways that tribalisms define life everywhere, from the villages of Nigeria to the villages within New York City. *New York, My Village* is a triumph of storytelling and a testament to the life-sustaining power of community across borders and across boroughs.

### [The Catholic Writer Today: And Other Essays](#) (2019)

Author: Dana Gioia. Publisher: Wiseblood Books

Over the past decade Dana Gioia has emerged as a compelling advocate of Christianity's continuing importance in contemporary culture. His incisive and arresting essays have examined the spiritual dimensions of art and the decisive role faith has played in the lives of artists.

This new volume collects Gioia's essays on Christianity, literature, and the arts. His influential title essay ignited a national conversation about the role of Catholicism in American literature. Other pieces explore the often-harrowing lives of Christian poets and painters as well as contemplate scripture and modern martyrdom.

[\*Dostoevsky's Incarnational Realism: Finding Christ among the Karamazovs\*](#) (2020)

Author: Paul Contino. Publisher: Cascade

In this book Paul Contino offers a theological study of Dostoevsky's final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*. He argues that incarnational realism animates the vision of the novel, and the decisions and actions of its hero, Alyosha Fyodorovich Karamazov. The book takes a close look at Alyosha's mentor, the Elder Zosima, and the way his role as a confessor and his vision of responsibility "to all, for all" develops and influences Alyosha. The remainder of the study, which serves as a kind of reader's guide to the novel, follows Alyosha as he takes up the mantle of his elder, develops as a "monk in the world," and, at the end of three days, ascends in his vision of Cana. The study attends also to Alyosha's brothers and his ministry to them: Mitya's struggle to become a "new man" and Ivan's anguished groping toward responsibility. Finally, Contino traces Alyosha's generative role with the young people he encounters, and his final message of hope.

[\*The Index of Self-Destructive Acts\*](#) (2021)

Author: Christopher Beha. Publisher: Tin House Books.

What makes a life, Sam Waxworth sometimes wondered—self or circumstance?

On the day Sam Waxworth arrives in New York to write for the *Interviewer*, a street-corner preacher declares that the world is coming to an end. A data journalist and recent media celebrity—he correctly forecast every outcome of the 2008 election—Sam knows a few things about predicting the future. But when projection meets reality, life gets complicated. His first assignment for the *Interviewer* is a profile of disgraced political columnist Frank Doyle, known to Sam for the sentimental works of baseball lore that first sparked his love of the game. When Sam meets Frank at Citi Field for the Mets' home opener, he finds himself unexpectedly ushered into Doyle's crumbling family empire. Kit, the matriarch, lost her investment bank to the financial crisis; Eddie, their son, hasn't been the same since his second combat tour in Iraq; Eddie's best friend from childhood, the fantastically successful hedge funder Justin Price, is starting to see cracks in his spotless public image. And then there's Frank's daughter, Margo, with whom Sam becomes involved—just as his wife, Lucy, arrives from Wisconsin. While their lives seem inextricable, none of them know how close they are to losing everything, including each other.

Sweeping in scope yet meticulous in its construction, *The Index of Self-Destructive Acts* is a remarkable family portrait and a masterful evocation of New York City and its institutions. Over the course of a single baseball season, Christopher Beha traces the passing of the torch from the old establishment to the new meritocracy, exploring how each generation's failure helped land us where we are today. Whether or not the world is ending, Beha's characters are all headed to apocalypses of their own making.

Beha's novel has been well received: A *New York Times* Editors' Choice; Longlisted for the National Book Award; Finalist for the Gotham Book Prize and the 2022 Joyce Carol Oates Prize; A Best Book of the Year at *Kirkus*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Library Journal*, and BuzzFeed.

[\*As Earth Without Water\*](#) (2021)

Author: Katy Carl. Publisher: Wiseblood Books

When Dylan Fielding, celebrated contemporary visual artist, becomes Br. Thomas Augustine, novice at Our Lady of the Pines monastery, he finds delight not only in the shock his choice causes everyone around him but—to his own surprise—in the rhythms of the life itself. Shortly before he solidifies a lifelong commitment to the community, a traumatic encounter with an abusive priest plunges Thomas Augustine into terror and doubt. Reeling and uncertain, he reaches out to his friend, rival, and former lover, Angele Solomon, with hopes that she can

help him to speak the difficult truth. As she attempts to advocate for her friend, Angele must ask how the scars left by their common past—as well as newer harms—can ever be healed or transcended. The wider inquiries demanded next will transfigure how both of them picture a range of human and divine things: time and memory; art and agency; trust and responsibility; and what it might mean to know real freedom.

**[The Scandal of Holiness: Renewing Your Imagination in the Company of Literary Saints](#)** (2022)

Author: Jessica Hooten Wilson. Publisher: Brazos Press.

How do we become better people? Initiatives such as New Year's resolutions, vision boards, thirty-day plans, and self-help books often fail to compel us to live differently. We settle for small goals--frugal spending, less yelling at the kids, more time at the gym--but we are called to something far greater. We are created to be holy.

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

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

### Contact Us

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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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