



Greetings From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On Sunday, we lit the second candle in our Advent wreaths-- the candle traditionally meant to symbolize "Faith." The Sunday before we began with "Hope"; next week comes the most famous candle in the set ("Joy") and makes way for the Nativity of our Lord and the Christmas season- the final Advent candle lit for "Peace," heralding the coming of the Prince of Peace.

But this week, it's the mystery of faith that invites us to contemplation. The great poet-monk, Thomas Merton, helps us in this regard and his unadorned candor reminds us to keep it simple, especially at this busy time of year-- or rather, the time of year that we have made so inordinately busy. Far from a time of quiet preparation, Advent, because it coincides with weeks of coerced and unreflective hyperactivity, often tests our faith or decouples us from the reason for the season. Merton recalls us to ourselves in an entry from his masterly collection, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* (1966):

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.

A tall order, to be sure, but there's an Advent message in it worth considering, one that responds in simplicity and immediacy to the convulsive nature of our current moment. It cannot be denied that we are living through polarized times and that there are disturbances of peace and spikes of anxiety at every turn. To this Merton adds a kind of diagnosis: "To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to the violence of our times." What to do?

Yesterday's Gospel provides a road map for faith, one that is mysteriously both rooted in the present and the eternal. The voice crying out in the desert in first century Palestine is the voice we can listen to today:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

What emerged this weekend in a conference on Merton at the Catholic Theological Union (co-sponsored by Hank Center) was the need "to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment" *precisely* as a people of faith. Faith is underneath all that we do at the Center because the connection between intellect and faith is central in Catholic thought and practice. The Merton conference capped the fullest semester we've had in a quite a while; from Berrigan Week to engaging abuse, cover-up, and clericalism, to our 1968 *FilmFest* and Symposium--and so much more--the programming this semester had a through-line tethered to the mystery of faith. *Fides quaerens intellectum* is perhaps the most vital theological method and it will always animate and inform the work of the Center.

As we prepare for our major conference on the Catholic Imagination next fall (September 19-21, 2019--mark your calendars!) we have a lighter schedule planned for this coming spring. As always, we will post our event calendar for the semester in mid-January, but do note our major spring events include a major conference exploring the work of the influential Jesuit thinker, Francisco Suárez, and a symposium on the future of Catholicism in America-- both in early April. Several other events of interest as well.

Finally, an important piece of Hank Center operations news to report. After eight years of distinguished service, Gabija Steponaite has moved to London to pursue graduate studies in journalism. CCIH welcomes Meghan Toomey as its new Center Manager. Meghan is a familiar face to many as she was our Graduate Research Assistant last year and is in the final stages of her doctoral program in theology here at Loyola. Best of luck, Gabi, and welcome, Meghan!

Hoping to see you, dear reader, in the New Year. In the meantime, a peaceful Advent and blessed Christmas to all.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy

"DISAPPEAR FROM
VIEW?"
THOMAS MERTON
FIFTY YEARS LATER,
AND BEYOND



Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk, social critic, and best-selling spiritual writer, remains one of the best known and most popular Catholic voices on Christian spirituality and social justice of the twentieth century. The author of dozens of books, journals, and published letters, his legacy and influence continues fifty years after his death on December 10, 1968.

To commemorate this milestone, a 2-day conference was held this past weekend at [Catholic Theological Union](#), bringing together internationally known speakers including keynote speaker Richard Rohr, OFM, to explore the



A LOOK BACK: BERRIGAN WEEK

The 1968 Series

A kick-off to the Hank Center's semester-long 1968 Series, [Berrigan Week](#) (September 18-20th) was a three day commemoration of the activist Jesuit's considerable impact on the civil rights era Church. The week started on a strong note with an art exhibit and reflection by author and personal friend of Dan Berrigan's, Bill Wylie-Kellermann.

various dimensions of Merton's life and writing.



Spring 2019 Student Book Group

Join fellow students in reading and discussing new Catholic literature. Stay tuned for more information!

Book Selection and Dates TBA

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Bill Wylie-Kellerman: Berrigan and Stringfellow.

Berrigan Week continued with a documentary on the priest's life and a symposium on the letters that were exchanged between Dan and his brother Phil throughout their lives. The final segment of this exciting week included "The New Catholic Left" panel, featuring activists such as Camden 28 member Kathleen Ridolfi, and a creative evening with special guest and poet Fred Marchant, who led a live poetry and music reception following tones of conscience, peace, and protest.



L-R: Fred Marchant, Shawn Francis Peters, Kathleen "Cookie" Ridolfi, Heidi Schlumpf

A LOOK BACK: THE 1968 SYMPOSIUM

The Hank Center's flagship event of the semester, the Global 1968 Symposium (October 24-26th), was a three day long survey of the watershed year of 1968. Not unlike 2018, the year 1968 saw a confluence of events in the Church, the Civil Rights movement, and in global politics and culture. McCormick Lounge was filled with scholars, students, guests, and a gallery of striking images from 1968 around the world.

DAY ONE



The "Catholics at a Crossroads" panel discussed the struggles of the Church to live out theologies of peace, justice, and inclusion.



The "Resistance and Riots, Murders and Martyrs" panel discussed violence and the tension of power and peacemaking that marked 1968.

DAY TWO



The "Race, Class, Gender, and Immigration" panel looked back at the critical social issues that plagued the nation and continue to do so today.



Keynote speaker Julian Bourg (3rd from left) closed Day Two with his Keynote Lecture entitled The Times and Spaces of 1968, in which he gave a sweeping survey of how the legacies of the Sixties have shaped contemporary politics and culture. Thomas Regan, S.J. (3rd from right), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave a lively introduction.

DAY THREE

The final day of the Symposium began with a folk mass in Madonna Della Strada Chapel, followed by two closing panels:



Hank Center Director Michael P. Murphy (L) with the "Mexico in 1968" panel, featuring (L-R) Loyola's own Héctor García and Gema Santamaría as well as prominent UNAM professor and scholar Sergio Aguayo.



A concluding conversation among Loyola students from both 1968 and 2018 formed "Years of the Student," the final panel of the Global 1968 Symposium.

If you missed the Global 1968 Symposium or just want to re-watch any of our distinguished speakers, see the Hank Center's [YouTube channel](#) for full recordings! While you're there, subscribe to see videos of our latest events.

[A LOOK BACK: AN EVENING WITH MICHEAL O'SIADHAIL](#)



In October, The Hank Center was delighted to invite the internationally-acclaimed poet, Micheal O'Siadhail, for the unveiling of his newest work, *The Five Quintets*. *The Five Quintets* is both poetry and cultural history, the work of ten years. It offers a sustained reflection on modernity in poetic meter. O'Siadhail read extracts from all segments of his five-part structure, with each quintet devoted to a discipline: the arts; economics; politics; science; and philosophy and theology. For each of these five pillars he conversed with major figures of the past such as John Donne, Willa Cather, Adam Smith, Thomas Jefferson, and Immanuel Kant, to name a few. *The Five Quintets* is a sweeping reflection on modernity on the cusp of the first-ever global century. O'Siadhail's superb poetic craft and engaging voice made for a fantastic evening of art and reflection.



RECOMMENDED READING

Each month CCIH will recommend notable books-- both classic and new--that integrate, interrogate, and celebrate the Catholic intellectual, cultural, and artistic tradition.

[Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander](#)

By Thomas Merton

December 10, 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of Thomas Merton's death. In this series of notes, opinions, experiences, and reflections, Merton examines some of the most urgent questions of our age. With his characteristic forcefulness and candor, he brings the reader face-to-face with such provocative and controversial issues as the "death of God," politics, modern life and values, and racial strife-issues that are as relevant today as they were fifty years ago.

[One in Christ: Chicago Catholics and the Quest for Interracial Justice](#)

By Karen J. Johnson

Karen J. Johnson tells the story of Catholic interracial activism from the bottom up through the lives of a group of women and men in Chicago who struggled with one another, their Church, and their city to try to live their Catholic faith in a new, and what they thought was more complete and true,

way. Black activists found a handful of white laypeople, some of whom later became priests, who believed in their vision of a universal church in the segregated city. Together, they began to fight for interracial justice, all while knitted together in sometimes-contentious friendship as members of the Mystical Body of Christ. In the end, not only had Catholic activists lived out their faith as active participants in the long civil rights movement and learned how to cooperate, and indeed love, across racial lines, but they had changed the practice of Catholicism. They broke down the hierarchy that placed priests above the laity and crossed the parish boundaries that defined urban Catholicism.

Theologies of Guadalupe: From the Era of Conquest to Pope Francis

By Timothy Matovina

Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is December 12th, is the only Marian apparition tradition in the Americas- and indeed in all of Roman Catholicism- that has since inspired a sustained series of published theological analyses. In *Theologies of Guadalupe*, Timothy Matovina explores the way theologians have understood Our Lady of Guadalupe and sought to assess and foster her impact on the lives of her devotees since the seventeenth century. He examines core theological topics in the Guadalupe tradition, developed in response to major events in Mexican history: conquest, attempts to Christianize native peoples, society-building, independence, and the demands for justice of marginalized groups. This book tells how, amidst the plentiful miraculous images of Christ, Mary, and the saints that dotted the sacred landscape of colonial New Spain, the Guadalupe cult rose above all others and was transformed from a local devotion into a regional, national, and then international phenomenon. Matovina traces the development of the theologies of Guadalupe from the colonial era to our own time, revealing how Christian ideas imported from Europe developed in dynamic interaction with the new contexts in which they took root.

99 Poems: New & Selected

By Dana Gioia

Gioia, who will be part of the 2019 Catholic Imagination Conference at Loyola in the fall, has long been celebrated as a poet of sharp intelligence and brooding emotion with an ingenious command of his craft. *99 Poems: New & Selected* gathers for the first time work from across his career, including many remarkable new poems. Gioia has not arranged this selection chronologically but instead has organized it by theme in seven sections: Mystery, Place, Remembrance, Imagination, Stories, Songs, and Love. The result is a book that reveals and renews the pleasures, consolations, and sense of wonder that poetry bestows.

2019 CATHOLIC IMAGINATION CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE OF THE CATHOLIC LITERARY IMAGINATION



SAVE THE DATE:

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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.