



## From the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I recently returned from an excellent gathering of AJCU colleagues at Georgetown University. In our meeting, the conversation turned to the historical role that the university and the Maryland Province of Jesuits played in the institution of slavery, its dark legacy, and what the university is doing about it today.

The facts of the Georgetown case are well known, but may surprise some of our readers. Strapped for cash, the Maryland Province sold roughly 300 slaves to Louisiana slave traders. This 1838 transaction, known as the GU272, ensured the survival of America's oldest Jesuit university.

While there is much scholarship on the various complicities in America's original sin enacted not only by Georgetown, but a significant number of America's colleges and universities, the dilemma of how to reconcile these defilements to dignity and justice has been much debated.

One sure path can be found in the tradition of truth and reconciliation-- and it is clear that Georgetown is taking this route. This approach, which is essentially a theological approach, is perhaps the most fruitful method when confronting both personal and social sin. The Working Group at the university, which includes descendants of GU272, is publicly declaring what we are all called to declare when hard facts and culpability are on the line: "this is part of our history and we take responsibility for it."

I am reminded again how important facts are in our shared life together-- whether as Christians, as citizens,

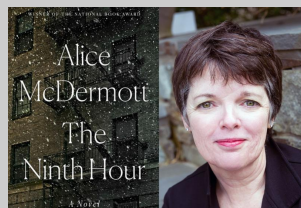
or simply as humans. While the relationship between facts and truth requires many types of knowledge in order to better grasp its unique dynamism, one thing is clear: if we do not respect facts, we can never love the truth. As Karran Harper Royal, one of the GU 272 descendants, reflects: "History has shown us that the vestiges of slavery are a continuum that began with the kidnapping of our people from our motherland to keeping them in bondage with the brutality of American chattel slavery, Jim Crow, segregation ... the school-to-prison pipeline and the over-incarceration of people of color." These are facts and they need to be addressed and redressed with vigilance and care in the light of day.

On February 22, the Hank Center is proud to co-sponsor-- along with Loyola's Center for Textual Studies and the Digital Humanities--[Through the Lens of Data: the Enslaved Community Owned & Sold by the Maryland Province Jesuits](#). Dr. Sharon Leon (Michigan State University) will show us how digital research methods and big data can both expand the field of inquiry and laser-in on the lived experience of particular communities. Advances in digital scholarship, led here at LUC by Dr. Kyle Roberts and the [Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities](#), creates the kind of research that opens our eyes to social issues that demand attention and action, both in our nation and Church. Integrated with spiritualities of truth, contrition, reconciliation, and justice, such scholarship creates a space for healing and invites us, in solidarity, to the hard work needed to address injury and injustice in any form.

Please read on to see what else we are up to this next month. An excellent Q&A with our Catholic Studies Community, a most original play that reworks an Irish myth, and, in recognition of the sixth anniversary of Pope Francis's pontificate, a film on March 19th-- and then a visit from one of America's preeminent Catholic intellectuals, Fr. James Heft, on March 21st. We hope you will be our guest.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Michael P. Murphy



### [Faculty Reading Group](#)

Hailed as one of the best novels of 2017, [The Ninth Hour](#) traces the story of an Irish immigrant family in 1940s/50s Catholic Brooklyn. [Alice McDermott](#) will be a featured speaker at the [Fall 2019 Catholic Imagination Conference](#) hosted by CCIH.

**Registration Required**  
For more information, contact  
Meghan Toomey:  
[mttoomey1@luc.edu](mailto:mttoomey1@luc.edu).

The image features a historical map of Maryland, showing the state's coastline, major cities like Baltimore and Annapolis, and the Chesapeake Bay. The map is titled 'THE STATE OF MARYLAND' and 'From the best Authorities by JAMES LORDE'. Overlaid on the bottom right of the map is a portrait of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue and white striped shirt, smiling. The text 'Jesuit Studies Series: Through the Lens of Data: The Enslaved Community Owned &amp; Sold by the Maryland Province Jesuits' is centered over the map in a dark blue font.

[Through the Lens of Data: The Enslaved Community Owned and Sold by the Maryland Province Jesuits](#)

Friday, February 22nd

2:00 PM



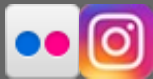
### **Catholic Q&A: Business and Faith**

#### **Does Ethics Sell? A Discussion about Morality and the Marketplace**

Contemporary business climate focuses heavily on discussions of best ethical practices and promotion of moral behavior. Is this a sign that corporate America is becoming more humane, or appropriating moral credibility instead of earning it? With Frank LaRocca, SJ.

All Students Welcome  
February 21  
7:00-9:00 PM  
Information Commons  
4th floor

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### **McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall**

[Lake Shore Campus](#)

CCIH and the [Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities](#) are honored to host special guest speaker Sharon Leon of Michigan State University, who will talk about her work on the ongoing [Jesuit Plantation Project](#). This event also is the first in a new Jesuit Studies Series being offered by the Hank Center.

*This event is free & open to the public. Registration is not required.*

MARCH 14-16



#### **Lured: The Curse of Swans** A play by Terry Boyle

This play portrays three Irish women coming to terms with tragic death, familial estrangement, and struggles of personal authenticity. Directed by Becca Holloway.

*This event is free & open to the public.*

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8:00PM  
Mullady Theatre, Mertz Hall, LSC

MARCH 19



#### **Faith in Focus Film Series:** Pope Francis - A Man of His Word

This 2018 documentary film focuses on the life and goals of Pope Francis. Directed by Wim Wenders.  
*This event is free & open to the public.*

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7:00PM  
Damen Cinema, LSC

MARCH 21



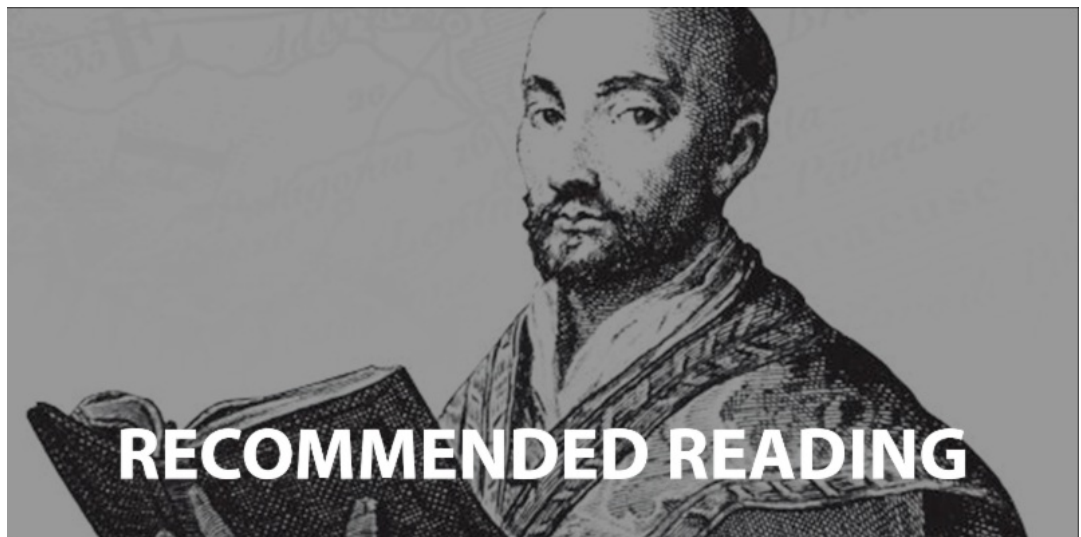
## Catholic Minds, Catholic Matters:

### Heretic? Pope Francis and His Critics

Expert in Catholic history, doctrine, and higher education, Fr. James Heft (University of Southern California) will deliver a lecture on Pope Francis' popular appraisal following the end of the sixth year of his pontificate.

*This event is free & open to the public.*

7:00PM  
IC 4th Floor, LSC



### 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.

#### Evolution of Desire: A Life of René Girard

by Cynthia L. Haven

René Girard (1923-2015) was one of the leading thinkers of our era—a provocative sage who bypassed prevailing orthodoxies to offer a bold, sweeping vision of human nature, human history, and human destiny. His oeuvre, offering a "mimetic theory" of cultural origins and human behavior, inspired such writers as Milan Kundera and J. M. Coetzee, and earned him a place among the forty "immortals" of the Académie Française. In this first-ever biographical study, Cynthia L. Haven traces the evolution of Girard's thought in parallel with his life and times. She recounts his formative years in France and his arrival in a country torn by racial division, and reveals his insights into the collective

delusions of our technological world and the changing nature of warfare. Drawing on interviews with Girard and his colleagues, *Evolution of Desire: A Life of René Girard* provides an essential introduction to one of the twentieth century's most controversial and original minds. Haven will be speaking at the [2019 Catholic Imagination Conference](#) hosted by the Hank Center.

### **Christian Flesh**

by Paul J. Griffiths

A sustained and systematic theological reflection on the idea that being a Christian is, first and last, a matter of the flesh, *Christian Flesh* shows us what being a Christian means for fleshly existence. Depicting and analyzing what the Christian tradition has to say about the flesh of Christians in relation to that of Christ, the book shows that some kinds of fleshly activity conform well to being a Christian, while others are in tension with it. But to lead a Christian life is to be unconstrained by ordinary ethical norms. Arguing that no particular case of fleshly activity is forbidden, Paul J. Griffiths illustrates his message through extended case studies of what it is for Christians to eat, to clothe themselves, and to engage in physical intimacy.

### **Postsecular Catholicism: Relevance and Renewal**

by Michele Dillon

The Catholic Church faces the challenge of maintaining its relevance in an increasingly secularized society. On issues ranging from sexuality and gender equality to economic policy and social welfare, the church hierarchy is frequently out-of-step with Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In *Postsecular Catholicism*, Michele Dillon argues that the Church's relevance is increasingly contingent on its ability to incorporate secular experiences and expectations into the articulation of the Church's teachings.

Informed by the postsecular notion that religious and secular actors should recognize their mutual relevance in contemporary society, Dillon examines how secular realities and church doctrine intersect in American Catholicism. She shows that the Church's 21st-century commitment to institutional renewal has been amplified by Pope Francis's vision of public Catholicism and his accessible language and intellectual humility. Combining wide-ranging survey data with a rigorous examination of Francis's statements on economic inequality, climate change, LGBT rights, and women's ordination, the highly consequential Vatican Synod on the Family, and the US Bishops' religious freedom campaign, *Postsecular Catholicism* assesses the initiatives and strategies impacting the Church's relevance in the contemporary world.

### **The Year of Our Lord 1943: Christian Humanism in an Age of Crisis**

by Alan Jacobs

By early 1943, it had become increasingly clear that the Allies would win the Second World War. Around the same time, it also became increasingly clear to many Christian intellectuals on both sides of the Atlantic that the soon-to-be-victorious nations were not culturally or morally prepared for their success. A war won by technological superiority merely laid the groundwork for a post-war society governed by technocrats. These Christian intellectuals-Jacques Maritain, T. S. Eliot, C. S. Lewis, W. H. Auden, and Simone Weil, among others-sought both to articulate a sober and reflective critique of their own culture and to outline a plan for the moral and spiritual regeneration of their countries in the post-war world.

In this book, Alan Jacobs explores the poems, novels, essays, reviews, and lectures of these five central figures, in which they presented, with great imaginative energy and force, pictures of the very different paths now set before the Western democracies. Working mostly separately and in ignorance of one another's ideas, the five developed a

strikingly consistent argument that the only means by which democratic societies could be prepared for their world-wide economic and political dominance was through a renewal of education that was grounded in a Christian understanding of the power and limitations of human beings. *The Year of Our Lord 1943* is the first book to weave together the ideas of these five intellectuals and shows why, in a time of unprecedented total war, they all thought it vital to restore Christianity to a leading role in the renewal of the Western democracies.

## 2019 CATHOLIC IMAGINATION CONFERENCE THE FUTURE OF THE CATHOLIC LITERARY TRADITION

**TOBIAS WOLFF**

**ALICE MCDERMOTT**

**PAUL SCHRADER**

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**September 19-21, 2019**

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**CCIH**  
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.