



December 2016

From the Desk of Fr. Mark Bosco, S.J.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been a dramatic, even traumatic, few weeks for many people in this post-election moment in our nation. As the university semester ends, the scripture of the Church calendar moves from the apocalyptic visions of the end of the world to the hopeful, expectant waiting so essential to the season of Advent. I have found this consoling, given the anxiety the president-elect has produced in many Americans. Perhaps Advent can offer solace and direction, reminding us that if Christ is the coming King, then this King refuses to be master of the world. Rather, Advent prepares us for a servant king, one who leads not from fear, but by eliciting love from us. Not a power that coerces or threatens, but empowers us to be good, calls out the best of what is in our hearts, and challenges us to be bold in our witness to what is true, good, and beautiful. We need to work together, despite our nation's conflicts and disagreements, to serve the Common Good, a theme so central to Catholic social thought.

In that spirit of prayer and anticipation, we at the Hank Center wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. And we wish a special fond farewell to our poet, John F. Deane, our Teilhard Fellow in Catholic Studies, as he returns to Ireland.



As we look towards the coming new year, please enjoy some of the photos and highlights from our fall semester.

Peace,

Fr. Mark

CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN

**Andalusia in Andalusia:
An International
Conference on Flannery
O'Connor**



**June 22-25, 2017
Seville Spain**

The call for proposals for the Andalusia in Andalusia conference is now open. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2017. Please click [here](#) to view recommended topics and to learn how to submit.

Application for Faculty Course Development Funding

Deadline: January 23, 2017

The Hank Center's annual call for applications for a Course Development Grant is now open.

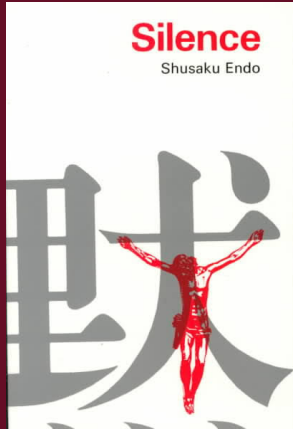
The purpose of this grant is to support pedagogical and curricular development in topics connected to Catholic thought and life in the arts, sciences, and professional education.

Click [here](#) to view the application, more information on previously funded projects, eligibility, and further instructions.



THE HANK CENTER FALL 2016 SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

**SIGN UP FOR FACULTY
READING GROUP**



The CCIH Spring 2017 Faculty Reading Group is dedicated to the 1966 historical fiction novel

**SILENCE
by Shusaku Endo**

Silence is a novel about a 17th-century Portuguese Jesuit missionary sent to Japan, where he experiences firsthand the Japanese persecution of Christians and has his own faith put to the test. Forced to watch the torture of fellow Christians, he must decide whether or not to renounce his faith to save the lives of those suffering before his eyes.

Martin Scorese has directed the production of a major motion picture film of *Silence*, set for a limited release debut on December 23. The film stars Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson, Tadanobu Asano, and Ciarán Hinds.

**CONTACT THE HANK
CENTER TO REGISTER FOR
THE SPRING FACULTY
READING GROUP**

**"REVOLUTION OF THE
HEART"**

**A Two-Day Symposium
on Dorothy Day**

February 16-17, 2017



**Citizenship, Public Service, and the Common Good
Symposium**

The Honorable Thomas More Donnelly (Cook County Judge, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Faculty) engages audiences at a panel on "Public Service and the Life of Faith" with his fellow panelists Pat Quinn (Former Governor of Illinois), Maria Ralenkotter (Loyola University Chicago Political Science Major and Catholic Studies Minor), and Miguel Diaz (U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Retired). The panel was a part of a two-day event with panels on immigration, US gun culture and gun control, global security, Illinois state politics, and the role of faith in public life.



Phil Klay Speaks on Religious Faith and Modern War

Phil Klay, author of the award-winning collection of short stories, *Redeployment*, spent a day at Loyola in October discussing his work and his experiences as a U.S. Marine. Klay engaged in a luncheon and discussion with faculty who had read his short stories, and participated in a creative writing seminar with students. He then delivered a moving lecture entitled, "Religious Faith and Modern War," which expressed the brutality and intensity of Klay's own first-hand experiences while on tour, leading to his own relationship to his faith and writing.





Thursday, February 16, 2017
5:30PM-7:00PM

Dorothy Day: A Saint for Today

Keynote by Robert Ellsberg

Robert Ellsberg was a member of the Catholic Worker community in New York from 1975 to 1980, and served as managing editor of *The Catholic Worker* from 1976 to 1978. He is now editor-in-chief of Orbis books.

McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall

Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60660

Friday, February 17, 2017
9:00AM-5:00PM

This all-day event will feature three panels and a play. More information will follow in upcoming Hank Center publications.

4th Floor, Information Commons

Loyola University Chicago
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Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ Fellow

Irish poet John F. Deane, this year's Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ Fellow in Catholic Studies, spoke on "Luminous Absence: Poetry and the Need for God's Absence." Deane reflected on the role of distance and emptiness in poetry and prayer, examining through a series of poems how the experience of God's absence is vital in development of both faith and poetry. Click [here](#) to view a video of the lecture. As a part of his fellowship, Deane taught an undergraduate course in English and Theology about the ways poets have meditated on the person of Christ throughout the literary canon.



Faith and Science Symposium

Dr. Jonathan Lunine of Cornell University spoke about Fr. Georges Lemaitre, whose "Big Bang" theory model of the universe was initially discredited by scientists because they attributed it to his Catholic faith and the politics of the Church. Dr. Lunine's talk offered insights about how science need not be disassociated from faith. Click [here](#) to listen to a podcast of his lecture.



Catholic Minds, Catholic Matters Lecture Series

Professor emeritus Andrew McKenna spoke on Rene Girard's theories of mimesis and their application to contemporary prison systems. As an expert on Girardian thought and a volunteer teacher at local detention centers, Dr. McKenna demonstrated how victims of the prison-industrial system resonated with Girard. McKenna connected his discussion with the growing body of literature about systemic patterns of racialized mass incarceration. Chris Haw of Notre Dame University offered a commentary linking McKenna's lecture to reactions to the 2016 presidential election.

Catholic Studies Students in Action



The integrated, interdisciplinary, liberal arts minor in Catholic Studies has been thriving both as a community and a rigorous academic minor. The visiting Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ scholar John F. Deane's course on Faith in Poetry has offered students a unique lens into understanding the poetic tradition of the person of Christ. In the heat of election season, Political Science professor Amanda Bryan offered students a unique perspective on faith and politics in an intimate Catholic Q&A discussion.

Catholic Studies students have also been hard at work planning the John Courtney Murray, SJ Forum for the spring semester. In October, they engaged in a weekend retreat at LUREC to plan and discuss the most stimulating ideas and problems in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The topic for the forum this upcoming semester is "Beauty." The forum aims to unpack this transcendent idea in a world consumed by fears and uncertainties. Our Catholic Studies students are excited and enthusiastic to engage this variety of programming and navigate the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Contacts

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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.