

September 2015



From the Desk of Fr. Mark Bosco, SJ

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome back to the Hank Center e-newsletter where we share the many programs and events of the upcoming school year. I want to begin this newsletter by offering a warm welcome to Dr. Ann Astell, the Hank Center's 2015 *Teilhard de Chardin Fellow in Catholic Studies*. Dr. Astell is Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, and will be teaching a course on Eucharistic theology this semester. Ever since I read her book, *Eating Beauty: The Eucharist and the Spiritual Arts of the Middle Ages* (2006), I have been fascinated with Dr. Astell's scholarship. We are very happy to have her

with us and look forward to her upcoming public lecture at the end of the month.

We begin the year with a university-wide interdisciplinary discussion of Pope Francis's new encyclical, *Laudato Si*, on September 9. *Caring for Our Common Home: Conversations on Ecology + Justice* brings together an array of Loyola faculty, staff, and students for a daylong symposium on this important and prophetic document of the Church on our witness to environmental sustainability. Joining us for this event is the iconographer, Fr. Bill McNichols. The Hank Center commissioned Fr. Bill to "write" an icon for Loyola called *The New Pentecost of Viriditas*. The 10-foot icon will be installed in the atrium of San Francisco Hall's Institute of Environmental Sustainability next week. We hope you can join us for his public lecture on the spirituality of icons and the Church's patron saints of the ecological movement.

Later in September our *Catholicism in Dialogue* series brings two Islamic scholars, Fr. Tom Michel, S.J., of Georgetown University and Dr. Shahla Talebi from the University of Arizona. Together they will speak about the sources and resources within Islam for inter-religious dialogue.

Finally, the Hank Center is organizing two events this fall. Join us in October as we celebrate the poetry and poetic life of Denise Levertov. And in November, we continue our series on Chicago immigrants and the Catholic Church. The third in our series, we will host a two-day conference on the Polish-American community in Chicago.

See below for more details and, if you know of a friend or colleague who you think would like to join our monthly newsletter, send us an email. We will be happy to do so.

All good things,
Fr. Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCE

The 2015 Chicago
Catholic Immigrants
Conference: The Poles



November 13-14

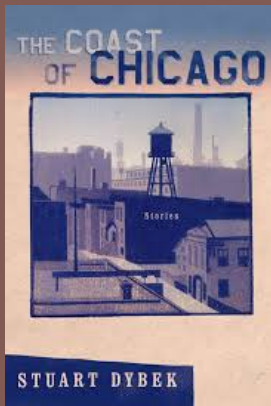
The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage (CCH) in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Polish Studies Program will host the third conference in a series of conferences that focus on the historical, cultural, and religious roles that Roman Catholicism played in sustaining ethnic identity for many immigrant communities of people who came to Chicago in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We would like to invite scholars from the fields of ethnic studies, urban and cultural history, literature and language, theology, and sociology of religion. This conference will also highlight the Polish heritage and traditions with the participation of Chicago artists, students, and Catholic religious leaders.

CONTACT CCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Faculty Reading Group
Fall 2015**

**Stuart Dybek's
The Coast of Chicago**



In connection with the Chicago Catholic Immigrants

Violence, Mysticism, and Rene Girard

A Lecture by Dr. Ann Astell

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellow in Catholic Studies (Fall 2015); Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame;

**Wednesday, September 30
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

McCormick Lounge, Coffey Hall

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



Although the Church is often called the "Mystical Body of Christ," "mysticism" and "mystical experience" are seldom associated in modern thought with social life and its historical violence. Rather, "mysticism," narrowly defined, regularly designates the mysterious, transformative experiences of individual persons in their encounters with the Transcendent.

When modern psychologists engage the conjoined topics of mysticism and violence, therefore, they focus almost exclusively on the pathological experiences of unusual individuals, featuring case studies that involve eroticized violence, fear, psychological regression, internalized aggression, and / or demonic projection. Historians of asceticism, by contrast, often see a positive value in individual and communal practices of religiously motivated self-denial-reformist practices with social impact-but, following Max Weber, they separate asceticism from mysticism, opposing the two.

Reacting against William James's emphasis on the mystic individual in *Varieties of Religious Experience* (1917), sociologist Émile Durkheim explicitly rejected the mysticism of religion in favor of his own scientific approach, which nevertheless has often seemed to his readers to be quasi-mystical in its analysis of the sacred and the profane, its unveiling of their hidden inter-connection. Following Durkheim's impulse toward what might be called a scientific mysticism of the social life, René Girard offers a mimetic theory of the origins of social violence, culture, and religion that retains and indeed necessitates a place for personal and communal mysticism, for grace and conversion, for asceticism and sanctity.

In this he revives for a postmodern age the mysticism of the Bible, of Augustine's *Confessions* and *City of God*, of Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, of Simone Weil's *Poem of Force*, and of Peguy's "Political Mysticism." Girard does so, moreover, as a mystic among mystics, anticipating a universal apocalypse.

**Contact CCH for more information.
Event is free and open to the general public.**

Caring for Our Common Home: Conversations on Ecology and Justice

A day of events surrounding *Laudato Si'*
Pope Francis's encyclical about the environment

**Wednesday, September 9
9:00AM - 4:30PM
Klarchek Information Commons, 4th Floor**

**4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
West Quad
Rain Location:
Damen Student Center Atrium**

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

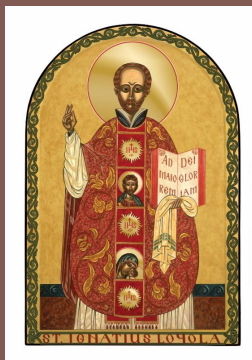
Conference, with this year's focus on the Poles, we will be reading Stuart Dybek's book of short stories, *The Coast of Chicago*.

Stuart Dybek, the winner of numerous awards as an author, including the PEN/Malamud Prize, the O. Henry Award, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, is a second generation Polish American, born and raised on the South Side of Chicago.

Dybek is a Loyola alumnus (BS '64 MA '68) and is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Northwestern University.

CONTACT CCIH FOR MORE INFORMATION

Join Our Mailing List



"Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years," writes Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, released this past May as a response to the current ecological crisis. The pope calls us to awareness and action on behalf of our common home, the earth. Responding to Pope Francis's call and upholding Loyola University Chicago's sustainability mission of fulfilling "the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," the Catholic Studies program and CCIH--in collaboration with several other LUC communities-- is opening up the fall semester with an all-day event "Caring for our Common Home: Conversations on Ecology & Justice."



The day will begin at 9 :00 AM with scholarly papers that unpack Pope Francis' landmark document. After the lunch break, we will move to a more local focus-- a "Now what Loyola?" session that unveils LUC's new climate action plan, "Loyola 2025." For this, a town hall/conversation model is planned-- one where people can engage leadership about what we have done, where are we going, and what the challenges are, not only at LUC, but as a community partner in Rogers Park.

The Town Hall conversation continues at 3:00 PM with a panel of Inter-campus Loyolans from across the disciplines. Their discussion will focus on, among other things, how Pope Francis' "Integral Ecology" might inform public health, public policy, and the public good. We conclude the day with a teach-in and community fair on the West Quad of the Lake Shore campus. Performances from LUC students will stimulate small group discussions and reflections.

The event goal is to provide the LUC community the opportunity to better understand Pope Francis' encyclical and to provide a venue for learning and solidarity in order to understand the stakes and to enact change. Please join us as we see again how faith and reason motivate needed action-- and how humankind, as Pope Francis reminds us, is "capable of rising above and choosing again what is good."

All are welcome.

Please see associated links for further details.

Loyola University Chicago Receives New Icon

Catholicism in the Arts Series

Viriditas: Finding God in All Things
A lecture by **Fr. William McNichols**
Iconographer Albuquerque, New Mexico

Thursday, September 10
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Mundelein Center, Palm Court
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660

The Hank Center is excited to receive an icon from the renowned iconographer Fr. William McNichols in early September. He has "written" the icon for Loyola University. Called The New Pentecost of Viriditas, the icon is a contemplation of God's continual creativity in the world and in the Church.

"A true Icon is said to appear, like an apparition. My prayer and goal as I paint



This Icon is one of six panels for the Loyola Icon which will be 5ft x 10ft. Here represented is St. Ignatius holding a wood Cross which St Hildegard and the Holy Child bless and Green with their blessings

(write) this Icon is to give the entire community of Loyola and Chicago, something filled with a theology of what we now call Greening or being careful, loving and wise stewards of God's Holy Creation," said Fr. McNichols.

Made up of six pieces that include the Holy Spirit from Genesis hovering over the void and braking out into a flood of light, it moves down into a gathering of three Saints-St. Hildegarde of Bingen, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Ignatius of Loyola-who draw us to participate in this whirl of light. The Latin term "Viriditas" means "greening," and the icon invites us to contemplate our spiritual vocation to give witness to environmental sustainability.



Fr. William McNichols at his Studio

Come and join us at Loyola's Taize service the evening of Sept 9 where the community will pray with the icon, or come hear Fr. Bill discuss the icon on Thursday afternoon, Sept 10.

**Contact CCIH for more information.
Event is free and open to the general public.**

Islam and Inter-religious Dialogue

Catholicism in Dialogue Series

Dr. Shahla Talebi

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Arizona State University

Fr. Thomas Michel, SJ

Senior Fellow, Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding Georgetown's School of Foreign Service

Thursday, September 17

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Information Commons, 4th Floor

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



The Hank Center is again proud to sponsor the *Catholicism in Dialogue* series this fall. This marks our third year and we are particularly excited about our two distinguished guests, Fr. Tom Michel, SJ and Dr. Shahla Talebi. For two days, they will be on our campus reflecting on resources and opportunities within Catholicism and Islam for dialogue and solidarity. On Thursday, September 17, each speaker will deliver their public lecture. All are welcome to attend. The format will also include opportunities for students from LUC's Catholic Studies program and the Muslim Student Association to formally participate. The event will take place in the Klarchek Commons, 4th Floor, at the Lake Shore Campus from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. The next day, September 18, our guests will continue to engage our undergraduate and graduate students with special topic and research focused meetings.

Fr. Michel is currently a visiting professor in Theology at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He is a board member of Georgetown's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, the Khalidi Library in Jerusalem, and the Journal of Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations. He is the former Secretary of the Jesuit Secretariat for Interreligious Dialogue in Rome and Ecumenical Secretary for the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. Ordained in 1967, he joined the Jesuits in 1971 in Indonesia and subsequently earned a

doctorate in Arabic and Islamic studies from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Talebi is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Arizona State University. A native of Iran, her award-winning memoir, *Ghosts of Revolution: Rekindled Memories of Imprisonment in Iran*, recounts her near decade of political imprisonment under both the Shah and then the Islamic Republic. Her research interests include questions of martyrdom, violence, memory, revolution, religion, and contemporary Iran. She received her Master's and PhD (cultural anthropology) from Columbia University.

Contact CCIH for more information.

Event is open to students, faculty, staff and general public

2015 Conference "this need to dance / this need to kneel"

The Poetry and Poetic Life of Denise Levertov

October 23-24

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Loyola University Chicago

Water Tower Campus

820 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60660

We have lined up an impressive array of plenary speakers, including Levertov biographers Donna Hollenberg and Dana Greene, novelist Mary Gordon, poets Emily Warn and David Shaddock, and critics Albert Gelpi and Anne Dewey. Many of our invited speakers knew Levertov personally, and will speak of their memories of the poet and her continued influence on their work. We have also received paper proposals from scholars world-wide, and are preparing two days of talks discussing Levertov's poetry and faith, her fearless engagement with the political in her work, and her commitment to environmental issues. Additionally, the conference will feature poetry readings by several of our participants and dramatic readings of some of Levertov's poems. We are delighted to feature the renowned soprano Delia Surratt, professor of Vocal Technique at Loyola University Chicago's John Felice Rome Center and an acclaimed international vocal artist.

Conference registration is open and includes dinner on Friday, October 23, lunch on Saturday October 24, and a reception after the closing plenary on Saturday.

[For conference registration click here.](#)

Questions may be addressed to Melissa Bradshaw at atmbradshaw@luc.edu.



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.

