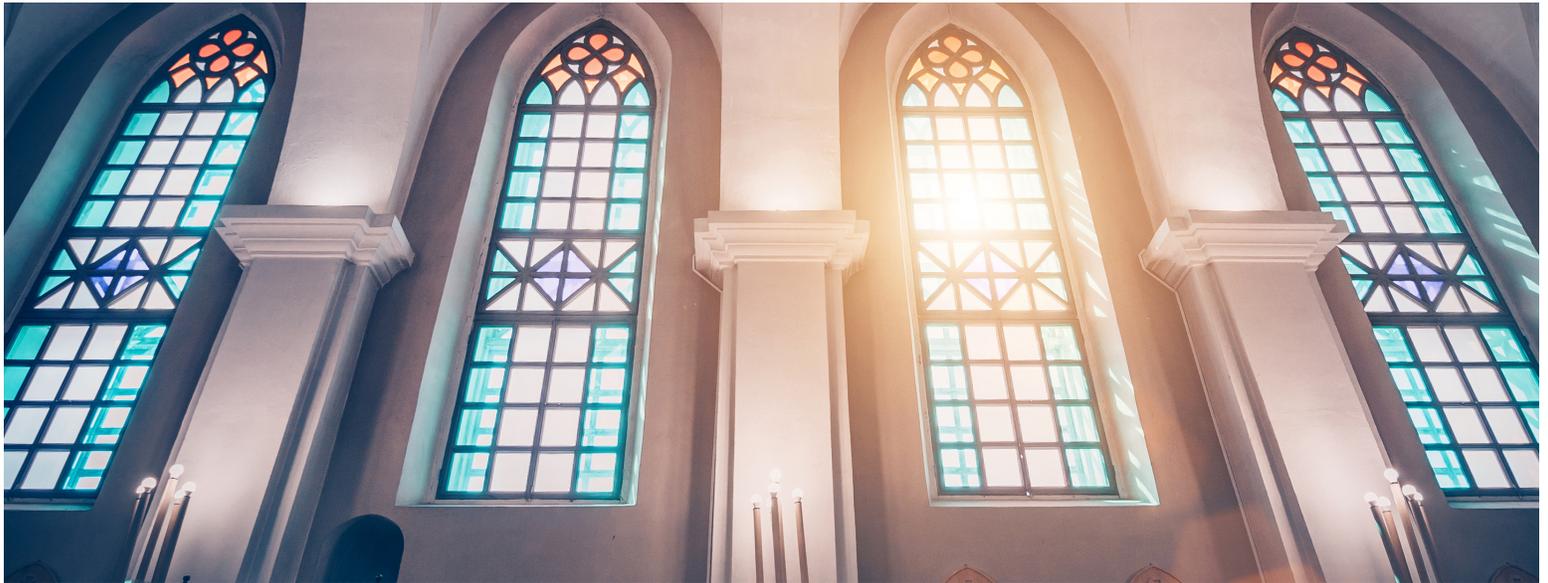


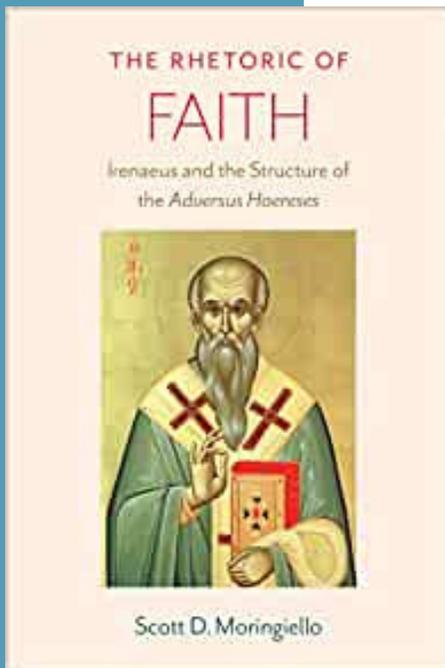


# SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Department of Catholic Studies at DePaul



## Professor Scott D. Moringiello's book



In October, the Catholic University of America Press published Professor Scott D. Moringiello's book, *The Rhetoric of Faith: Irenaeus and the Structure of the Adversus Haereses*. In the book, Professor Moringiello argues that the *Adversus Haereses*, the opus magnum of second-century bishop and saint, Irenaeus, of Lyon ought to be understood in light of categories familiar to the Greco-Roman rhetorical tradition. Professor David Meconi, SJ of Saint Louis University has said of the book: "A very fine and much needed analysis of the *Adversus Haereses*...Moringiello cleverly steps back and offers a coherent argument for why Irenaeus structured the *Adversus Haereses* the way he does. The scholarship is sound, accurate, and convincing!" The department congratulates Professor Moringiello on this achievement.

# Events

On January 14, Brandon McGinley visited the Catholic Learning Community and gave a public lecture entitled "The Sacraments and Friendship." McGinley, who is a writer based in Pittsburgh, urged the audience to think of the importance of friendship and community in Christian life. The sacraments, he argued, find their fulfillment in the community of believers, and friendship has a sacramental quality.



On March 8, Professor Jennifer Newsome Martin, professor in the Department of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame, visited DePaul. She led the class discussion in Professor Scott Moringiello's class for Catholic Studies majors and minors called "Love in the Christian Tradition." In the evening, she gave a public lecture entitled, "The Word Which Shall Be our First': On Beauty and the Human Desire for Transcendence." The lecture argued for the importance of beauty to understanding and proclaiming Christianity.

## Catholic Learning Community

The Catholic Learning Community had another busy year. Each discussion and outing centered on the various ways Catholics celebrate the sacraments. Professor William Cavanaugh of the Catholic Studies Department gave a presentation on the Eucharist, and Fr Derek Swason, CM gave a presentation on Holy Orders. The CLC visited Illinois Masonic Hospital to learn about the Catholic ministry to the ill. And the CLC learned about and participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of the Angels parish. Although the CLC was not able to meet in person in the Spring Quarter, it met through videoconferencing.



## Prof Stan Chu Ilo chosen as the Alan Richardson Fellow for 2019/2020 by Durham University



Prof Stan Chu Ilo chosen as the Alan Richardson Fellow for 2019/2020 by Durham University Prof Stan Chu Ilo in Fall, 2019 was chosen as The Alan Richardson Fellow at Durham University, Durham, England for 2019/2020 academic year. This Fellowship is awarded annually, and is endowed to promote research into the exposition and defense of Christian doctrine within the context of contemporary thought and its challenges. Prof Ilo was the first Black African to be awarded this fellowship. He also gave the Annual Richardson Lecture titled: God in Africa: Modernity, Christianity and Africa's Future. In recognition of his research and publications, Durham University also awarded Prof Ilo the title of Honorary Professor of Religion and Theology from 2020-2023.

# CWCIT Partners with SECAM for the First Pan-African Catholic Congress on Theology, Society and Pastoral Life



*(Professor Stan Chu Ilo, Professor Stan Chu Ilo's mother, and Professor Emanuele Colombo)*

The Center for World Catholicism and Inter-Cultural Theology recently partnered with Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu, Nigeria and the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar in organizing the first Pan-African Catholic Congress on theology, Society, and Pastoral Life. The theme of the Congress was taken from John 6: 28, "What must we do to perform the works of God." There were over 1000 participants and speakers drawn from 25 countries at the Congress including CWCIT director, Prof Bill Cavanaugh, the Chair of the Catholic Studies Department, Prof Emanuele Colombo, and Prof Stan Chu Ilo, who served as a co-convenor of the Congress. The event which took place from 5-8 December, 2019 had nine plenary sessions and six concurrent sessions. Each day ended with a cultural and liturgical festival celebrating Africa's diverse cultures and traditions. There will be two books to be published (later this year) by Paulines Publications Africa on the proceedings from the Congress, as well as a documentary on African Catholicism. There is also a website featuring the works of all the scholars who have now come together as a network of Catholic scholars.



## “Heart Speaks to Heart” Interview with Ceni De La Torre Alumni Relations, Alumni Spotlight

Azucena “Ceni” De La Torre graduated from DePaul in 2014. She’s been busy since then. She’s received two advanced degrees—one in theology and another in mortuary science. Now she serves as a ministry coordinator for Catholic Campus Ministry, working on retreats and faith formation. She can easily pull the thread tracing her trajectory from her undergraduate studies to her current work: an attention to the turns of the heart.

During her mortuary program for example, Ceni embalmed bodies of persons who were unclaimed. “They must have had stories. It’s no one’s goal to end up on a table for students to practice.” For her, this was the corporal work of mercy in burying the dead. Embalming helped her understand her own faith better. She cites Psalm 139: “For it was you who formed my inward parts; you who knit me together in my mother’s womb.” As she studied people from the inside out, she came to see us as very much knit together.

Ceni reappeared on the radar of Catholic Studies for more than one reason. She has returned to work in campus ministry. She is also one of the intended celebrated speakers for TEDx DePaul University 2020. The event was scheduled for late April 2020 and has been cancelled to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In her talk, she planned to discuss the burning question, “How’s Your Heart?” She hoped to draw others to Cardinal John Henry Newman’s conviction that heart speaks to heart, *cor ad cor loquitur*. This was Newman’s motto that he chose upon his appointment as Cardinal, adapted from a letter in the 17th century by Francis de Sales. Ceni’s own work has borne out this fundamental principle of the faith in attending to the ways that love and loss help overcome barriers despite differences.

Ceni grew up in Logan Square, watching its gentrification through the lens of her family's funeral home. From the well of her experience, she regrets our society's struggle with death. "We need to normalize death." She cites the change of language from 'funeral' to 'celebration of life.' It's an understandable attempt to sanitize the experience of loss, she admits, but has long-term effects in circumventing the natural process of grief. In helping walk mourners through tragedy, she became convinced of the worth of studying something that matters. For her, that was theology.

She chose Duke Divinity School, which was once nicknamed "Mother Duke," due to its vibrant Catholic connections among the theological faculty, students, and intellectual tradition. Yet she also embraced the aspects of her minority identity, seeking out Duke as a new challenge. She was the only Catholic woman in her Master of Theological Studies cohort.

One of the key features in her return to DePaul is her understanding and appreciation of these markers of difference. She has learned that she doesn't need to reserve any part of herself when she steps into a space. This includes the fullness of who she is—her education, her life experience, and her faith. She cites Duke professor emeritus Stanley Hauerwas, who critiques modernity in stating: 'We live at a time when we believe we should have no story, except the story we chose when we had no story.' Ceni knows differently: "God doesn't waste anything."

College is often a time when students are trying to shed their stories. Ceni's work in CCM is an opportunity to encourage students to embrace those different aspects of their identity, of themselves, helping them integrate the different aspects of their experience as they find their way in the world. Today's undergrads at DePaul are "struggling with issues of identity that may have not been in previous years the central focus," she remarks, "now, there is a space for it in our faith communities." They struggle with the harm and great sin of sexual abuse in the Church, the MeToo movement, the intense political climate that brings immigration and marriage to the fore. There are "timely ways that {these have} unearthed a whole world of pain. Now we're coming into naming it and healing it."

# Autumn 2020 Course List

LSP 110 | Medieval City and Chicago | Karen Scott | ONLINE

LSP 110 | Global Catholicism in Stories and Stone | William Cavanaugh | ONLINE

LSP 110 | Irish in Chicago | Mary McCain | ONLINE

HON 102 | The Old Regime and the French Revolution | Matthew Maguire | MW 1:00-2:30

CTH 180 | Introduction to Catholicism | Michael Budde | ONLINE

CTH180 | Introduction to Catholicism | Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée | TTH 1:00-2:30

CTH 180 | Introduction to Catholicism | Stan Ilo | ONLINE

CTH 220 | Catholic Experience I | Scott Moringiello | ONLINE

CTH 228 | Medieval Mystics in Europe | Karen Scott | ONLINE

CTH 266 | Contemporary Spiritual Memoirs | Scott Moringiello | ONLINE

CTH 248 | Contemporary Moral Issues: Happiness | Sheryl Overmyer | ONLINE

CTH 248 | Contemporary Moral Issues: Happiness | Sheryl Overmyer | ONLINE

CTH 276 | Catholicism in Africa | Stan Ilo | ONLINE

CTH 293 | Notable Vincentian Women: Elizabeth Bayley Seton | Betty Ann McNeil | ONLINE