

# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDIES

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## STUDY ABROAD

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Photo credit: DePaul Study Abroaders Michaela Kaun and Kaleigh Mazzone

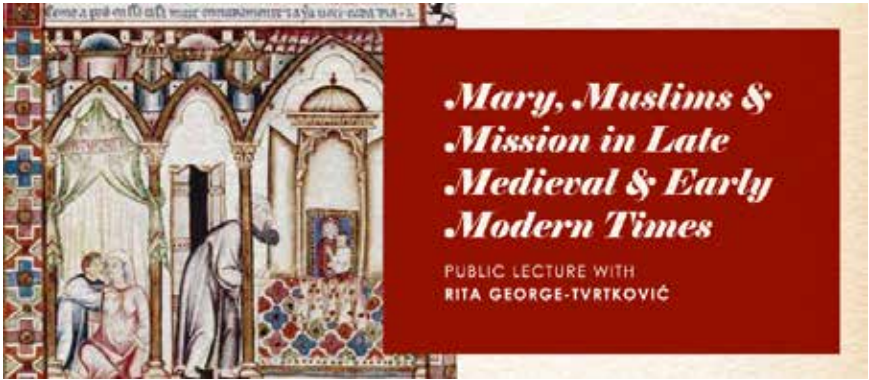
### **Rome & Roman Catholicism:** *A Study Abroad Retrospective*

Thirteen DePaul women joined Professors Colombo and Overmyer to study church history in Rome this December, marking the third iteration of the short-term study abroad program "Rome and Roman Catholicism." Student highlights included the Priscilla catacombs with the earliest known image of the Virgin and Child, the Colosseum, a day trip to a magnificently serene Assisi, the first Baroque Jesuit churches, multiple trips to the Vatican and St. Peter's, and a General Audience with Pope Francis. The program will run again in December 2017 and is currently [accepting applications](#).

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## EVENT RECAPS

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On February 7, 2017, in a room filled with more than fifty students and faculty, Rita George-Tvrtković (Associate Professor of Theology at Benedictine University) presented her research on Mary and Islam, a preview of her forthcoming book *Christians, Muslims, and Mary: A History* (Paulist Press, Fall 2017). Professor George-Tvrtković examined Late Medieval and Early Modern Christian representations of Mary as a tool for mission in the Muslim world. The lecture included discussion of the illustrated medieval Iberian text *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, with fascinating images of Marian icons helping to convert Muslims, and introduced the views of the thirteenth-century Dominican missionary William of Tripoli and the fifteenth-century German philosopher Nicholas of Cusa. Dr. George-Tvrtković also discussed the iconography of “Our Lady of Victory,” the Virgin Mary represented as the stronghold against Islam after the Battle of Lepanto (1571). Finally, she discussed Marian representations in Jesuit missions to the Mughals.

The lecture was the second of the series “Catholic Missions and Dialogue,” organized by Emanuele Colombo and co-sponsored by the Department of Catholic Studies, the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, and the Office of Mission and Values. The third lecture will take place at DePaul University on May 2, 2017: Dr. Alison Forrestal will talk about [“Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform.”](#)

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## EVENT RECAPS

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On February 11, 2017, the Department of Catholic Studies sponsored “An Afternoon with the Well-Read Mom”. Well-Read Mom ([wellreadmom.com](http://wellreadmom.com)) is a movement of women who are accompanying one another in reading the classics, great books, and timeless spiritual works from the Western and Catholic tradition in order to awaken the moral imagination to a greater truth of reality. In the fall of 2012, twenty women gathered in a living room in Crosby, MN, for the first Well-Read Mom meeting. Now, there are hundreds of groups in over 40 states and 10 countries, that’s approximately 1,000 women who are reading more and reading well.

Introduced by Emanuele Colombo, Chair of the Department of Catholic Studies, the program included a talk on “Awakening the Moral Imagination, Awakening the Culture” by Marcie Stockman, founder of Well-Read Mom. Paula McQuade, Associate professor of English at DePaul University and Affiliated Scholar of Catholic Studies talked about “Well-Read Moms: From the Renaissance to the Present,” the topic of her forthcoming book *Catechism and Women’s Writing in Seventeenth-Century England* (Cambridge University Press, fall 2017); Dr. Scott Moringiello, Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies, discussed “Faith and Fiction in Lewis and Tolkien,” and Jennifer DesLongschamps introduced the art of contemporary Peruvian artist Ernesto Gutierrez. The afternoon ended with “The Surprise of Friendship through Literature,” a panel discussion led by a group of women involved in Well-Read Mom in the Milwaukee and Chicago areas.

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## EVENT RECAPS

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In his work for a wide-ranging project called Catholics and Cultures, Dr. Thomas M. Landy travels the globe to learn about and experience the ways lay Catholics integrate their cultures into the practice of their faith. On February 20, 2017, Landy, director of the McFarland Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture at College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA), spoke at DePaul about two of his recent trips. In his talk, "Putting Your Whole Self into It: Dancing, Walking, and Sacrificing, from La Tirana to Lough Derg," Landy recounted moments in which Catholics enact their prayer with their bodies, along with their minds and hearts.

In Chile, Landy observed the multi-day festival for the Feast of the Virgen of Carmen in La Tirana. A small village in the northern desert, La Tirana's population explodes to 200,000 of the faithful in July each year. Participants come organized in formal dance groups with incredibly intricate sacred clothing. The groups are ushered into the church to dance before the image of the Virgin for 20 minutes each, around the clock over many days. Landy stressed – as participants had stressed to him – that these dances are prayer, not revelry.

The ancient pilgrimage of Lough Derg, on an island in a lake in Ireland closely connected to St. Patrick, illustrates a different, more penitential, approach to embodied prayer. Here, Landy noted, pilgrims go without sleep and with one small daily meal. They complete the ritual's nine stations with a prescribed group of prayers and actions. Pilgrims go barefoot over the stony area; some do parts or all of the pilgrimage on their knees. Participants told Landy the experience made them feel "stripped away," or "broken," with a sense of renewal follows later.

More information about La Tirana and Lough Derg, along with other practices explored by Landy and his colleagues, can be found at [catholicsandcultures.org](http://catholicsandcultures.org).

This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Catholic Studies, the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, the Department of Latino and Latin American Studies, and the Irish Studies Program.

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## UPCOMING CATHOLIC STUDIES EVENTS

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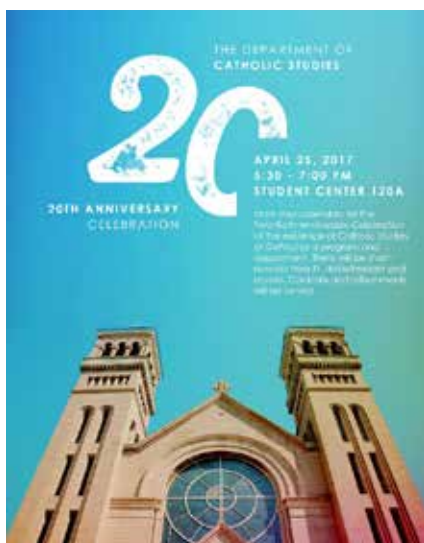


### **6th Annual Catholic Studies Breakfast with Sr. Helen Prejean**

April 19, 2017, 8:00 - 9:30 AM  
Student Center 314A

You are invited to join us for our sixth annual breakfast on April 19, 8:00-9:30am with Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, a leading advocate against the death penalty and author of the book *Dead Man Walking*. Sr. Helen formalized her special relationship with DePaul University in 2010, donating her papers — including letters, photographs of inmates, and drafts of her book — to the Special Collections & Archives. She visits DePaul every spring for a week to discuss her work with students, staff, and faculty.

Sponsored by the Department of Catholic Studies and the Office of Mission and Values



### **Catholic Studies 20th Anniversary Celebration**

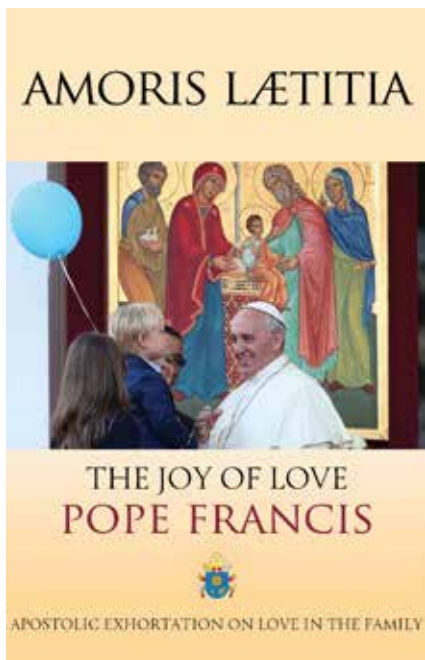
April 25, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Student Center 120A

Mark your calendars for the Twentieth Anniversary Celebration of the existence of Catholic Studies at DePaul as a program and department on April 25, 2017 from 5:30-7:00pm. There will be short remarks from Fr. Holtschneider and alumni. Cocktails and refreshments will be served.

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## UPCOMING CWCIT EVENTS

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### **Love, Joy, and Sex: Reflections on Pope Francis' Amoris Laetitia in a Divided Church**

March 30, 2017, 5:30 PM

Student Center 314B

One year after Pope Francis released *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love*, Catholics around the world remain fiercely divided over what this apostolic exhortation means in daily life. This panel explores some of its many different interpretations—and its hopes and challenges—for both lay and clergy Catholics, especially those in the global South. The panelists are:

**Carolyn Chau**—Associate Director, Centre for Advanced Research on Catholic Thought; King's University College at Western University (*London, ON, Canada*)

**Rev. Nicholas Segeja**—Director of Pastoral Theology Department; Catholic University of Eastern Africa (*Nairobi*)

**Teresa Delgado**—Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies; Iona College (*New Rochelle, NY*)



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## UPCOMING CWCIT EVENTS

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### **Gathered in My Name: Ecumenism in the World Church**

April 28-30, 2017

Student Center 314AB

In 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This April—500 years later—here in Chicago, speakers from places as diverse as India, Nigeria, Brazil, Chile, and Sri Lanka gather for this year's World Catholicism Week to address the lingering repercussions of the Reformation in the global South—Asia, Africa, and Latin America—as well as the efforts there to bridge ecclesial divides. The keynote speakers are:

**Paul D. Murray**—Editor, *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning*; Member, Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission

**Sr. Teresa Okure, SHCJ**—Member and sole representative of Catholic Africa, Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission

**Rev. Felix Wilfred**—President, *Concilium: International Journal of Theology*; Chief editor, *International Journal of Asian Christianity*

For more information about the Department of Catholic Studies and the Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology, visit:



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