

# Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology

## 2021-2022 Annual Report



# Table of Contents

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## About Us

- 2 Who We Are
- 2 Our Mission
- 3 Our Staff

## Year In Review

- 4 2021-22 Events
- 7 World Catholicism Week 2022
- 10 Collaborations
- 11 CWCIT Publications
- 13 Research Fellows
- 14 CWCIT Online

# About Us

## Who We Are

Housed at DePaul University in the Department of Catholic Studies, the Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology (CWCIT) focuses on the global nature of Catholic Christianity especially but not exclusively in the global South—Africa, Asia, and Latin America. CWCIT seeks to be at the forefront of the discussion about the relationship between globalization and the Catholic Church's future as a truly worldwide Church.

## Our Mission

CWCIT was founded at DePaul University in 2008 to produce research that will serve the Church and the academy. To fulfill this mission, we have paid special attention to the world Church that has emerged since the Second Vatican Council and its growth in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

While our focus has been on the present global communion of faith, we also attend to historical, theological, and cultural questions that will contribute to a fuller understanding of Catholicism and the dialogue of cultures today.



July 2017 (Nairobi) African Catholic scholars gathered to discuss the first drafts of the *Handbook of African Catholicism*, published in June 2022.

## Our Staff



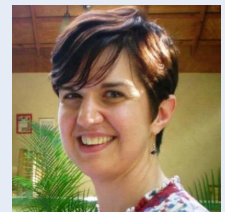
**William T. Cavanaugh**  
*Director, CWCIT*  
*Professor, Catholic Studies*



**Michael L. Budde**  
*Senior Research Professor, CWCIT*  
*Professor, Catholic Studies*  
*& Political Science*



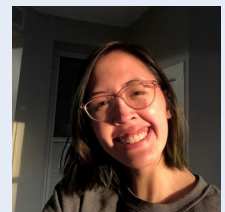
**Stan Chu Ilo**  
*Research Professor, CWCIT*  
*Associate Professor, Catholic Studies*



**Karen M. Kraft**  
*Communications & Editorial Manager*



**Marlon B. Aguilar**  
*Budget & Operations Manager*



**Finnegan Chu**  
*Student Assistant*  
*(graphic design/video editing)*

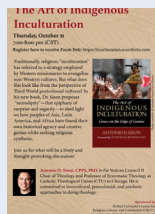


**Morgan Monaghan**  
*Student Assistant*  
*(social media/editorial)*

# Year In Review

After hosting events online again during the fall and winter quarters, we saw COVID's grip slowly began to loosen, and come spring, we were able to make a hesitant return to in-person events. And so that our international audience could continue to participate, we tried our hand—successfully!—at livestreaming those events on Facebook with the use of some innovative software.

## Cosponsored Events



**The Art of Indigenous Inculturation**  
October 21

**Antonio D. Sison, CPPS**

Vatican Council II Chair of Theology and professor of systematic theology at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago and author of *The Art of Indigenous Inculturation*.



**Fashion Revolution 2022**

April 19

Featuring a fair trade fashion show, clothing swap, and the speaker Andrea Reyes, chair of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition and the founder of the organization A. Bernadette, which provides mentorship to students, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and all striving to incorporate more sustainable practices into their work and lives.



**The Second Annual Berrigan-McAlister Award: Celebrating Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation**

May 10

DePaul's formal recognition of Precious Blood's mission of "restorative justice" and reconciliation work in Chicago neighborhoods that daily face the challenges of violence and incarceration.

## 2022 Immigrant Lecture Series



**African—or Public—Theology?**

November 4

**Paul Gifford**

Emeritus professor of the study of religions at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and author of *Christianity, Modernity, and Development in Africa*.



**American Warsaw: Polish Catholic Immigrants in Chicago**

January 18

**Dominic A. Pacyga**

Emeritus professor of history at Columbia College (Chicago) and author of *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* which won him the Oskar Halecki Award from the Polish American Historical Association for the second time.

# Year In Review



## Vietnamese-American Catholics...or American-Vietnamese Catholics?

March 1

### Peter C. Phan

Vietnamese-born scholar who holds the Ignacio Ellacuría Chair of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University and has authored or edited over 30 books and 300 essays.



## Chicago Católico: Making Catholic Parishes Mexican

April 5

### Deborah Kanter

Author of the award-winning *Chicago Católico* and professor emeritus of history at Albion College where she continues to be engaged in the mentorship of first-generation college students.



## Black Catholics from Migration to Revolution

May 17

### Matthew J. Cressler

Associate professor of religious studies, affiliate faculty of African American Studies at the College of Charleston, and author of *Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: The Rise of Black Catholicism in the Great Migrations*.

## Attendee Feedback and Statistics

"The presentation itself was stellar, and he provided direct and meaningful insight into the questions—which were a wonderful feature."

"The informational presentation allowed me to understand more about the South Side history. Dr. Pacyga's flow throughout the presentation also really kept me intrigued. Overall, a great way to learn about past life."

"Informative, eye-opening, learned something new about local history."

"Asked important questions. I worked in Africa and felt that our development was often self-serving. We needed to empower those we worked with to take leadership roles."

# 10 countries with the greatest number of attendees this year:



1. United States



6. Switzerland



2. Kenya



7. Poland



3. Egypt



8. United Kingdom



4. Switzerland



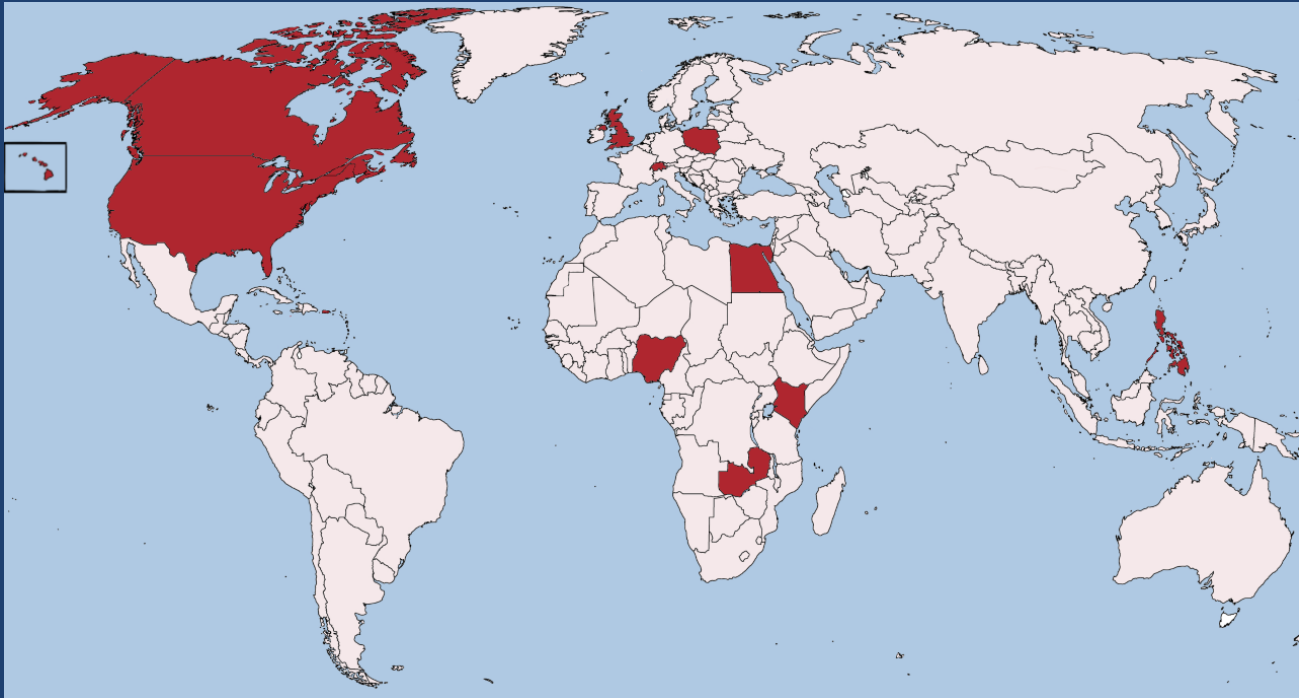
9. Zambia



5. Philippines



10. Canada



# World Catholicism Week **2022**

May 6-8



## The Church of Now: Young People and Global Catholicism Today

In the spirit of *Christus Vivit*, this year's World Catholicism Week brought scholars and activists together on Zoom from Lebanon, Nigeria, India, Brazil, Burundi, the Central African Republic, China, Mexico, the Philippines, Uganda, and the U.S. to address questions of

- Vocation and discernment
- Faith formation
- Trauma and moral courage
- Sustainable development
- Young people's leadership in the Church

**“Young Catholics are not merely on the receiving end of pastoral activity:  
they are living members of the one ecclesial body.”**

~ Pope Francis, in his 2019 apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit*



June 2019 (Rome) XI International Youth Forum



## **We were honored to have the following keynote presentations:**

### **The Fluid Reconstruction of Religious Identity among U.S. Hispanic and Latin American Youth across Cultural and Diasporic Borders**



**Hosffman Ospino**

Chair, Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry,  
Boston College (Boston, MA)  
President, Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the  
United States

### **Young People and the Church: A True Journey of Walking Together**



**Agatha Natania**

Member, Vatican's International Youth Advisory Body  
(Jakarta, Indonesia)  
Executive Director, Youth Organization of the Association of  
Southeast Asian Nations

### **There is Hope: Young People & Catholic Social Teaching on Solidarity**



**Brenda Noriega**

Member, Vatican's International Youth Advisory Body  
(Brighton, MA)  
Member, Maryknoll's Young Adult Empowerment Team

### **Rooted in our Mission: We are the Salt and Light of the Middle East**




**Émile Abou Chaar**


Member, Vatican's International Youth Advisory Body  
(Beirut, Lebanon)  
Clinical pharmacist & spiritual care practitioner, Centre  
Neuchâtelois de Psychiatrie (Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

**Statistically speaking...we had 155 registrants representing 21 countries. And when asked what they liked most about the conference, our attendee responses included:**

"The amount of dedicated involvement with young people the presenters demonstrated"



"The energy of the young people and their intense commitments, including the staff of CWCIT"



"Elizabeth Titilayo Aduloju's section on 'Media Mindfulness and Youth Faith Formation'"

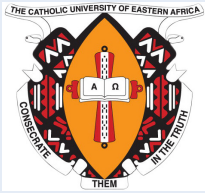


"Some excellent presentations: keynote panel and keynote speaker, especially"



## 2021-22 Collaborations

### External Collaborations



**Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)**



**Chicago Fair Trade**



**Orbis Books**



**Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network (PACTPAN)**

### Cross-Campus at DePaul

Catholic Campus Ministry

Center for Religion, Culture and Community

Department of Catholic Studies

Department of Environmental Science and Studies

Department of Religious Studies

DePaul Fair Trade Committee

Division of Mission and Ministry

Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies

Special Collections and Archives, John T. Richardson Library

**DEPAUL  
UNIVERSITY**



## December 2021

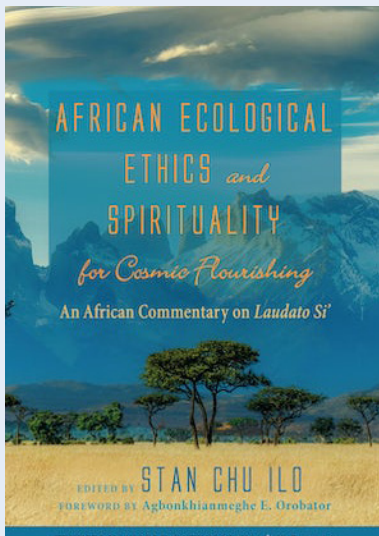


### ***Carta Encíclica "Fratelli Tutti"—Una recepción crítica desde América Latina y el Caribe***



Published in Spanish by Tirant Editorial and edited by Carlos Mendoza-Álvarez, this volume is a collection of interdisciplinary commentaries on Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*, from eight Latin American and Caribbean scholars. During this next academic year, the English translations of these essays will be published in CWCIT's book series, *Studies in World Catholicism*, (Wipf and Stock Publishers), along with 24 other commentaries—eight each from Asian, African, and North American/European scholars—in a single, large volume titled "*Fratelli Tutti*": *A Global Commentary*.

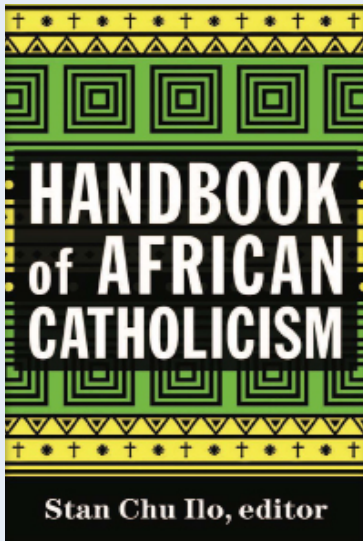
## June 2022



### ***African Ecological Ethics and Spirituality for Cosmic Flourishing: An African Commentary on Laudato Si'***



Edited by our professor, Stan Chu Ilo, this is volume 11 in our Studies in World Catholicism series with Cascade Books/Wipf and Stock and the definitive African text on ecological ethics, African environmental spirituality, a theology of creation, and climate justice. The contributors are African environmentalists, theologians, and peace advocates who, in conversation here with Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, develop a roadmap for pastoral, local, and global education on ecological consciousness in order to bring about ecological conversion.



## ***Handbook of African Catholicism***



More than five years in the making, the *Handbook of African Catholicism* was published by Orbis Books in June. A landmark reference volume, the *Handbook* serves as a road map for scholars, offering the best and most up-to-date research in Africa. It features over 50 contributors who engage some of the most pressing and pertinent issues in diverse fields of African Catholicism studies.

### **Praise for the *Handbook***

"A breathtaking and spectacular cartography of the spiritual and theological force of contemporary African Catholicism."

—**Susan Abraham, president of *Concillum: International Journal of Theology***

"This volume, an amazing achievement of immense service to the academy and the ordinary reader, assures interest in the development of theology in Africa, and in the indispensable role of African theology at the service of the local and world church."

—**Elochuckwu Uzukwu, author of *A Listening Church: Autonomy and Communion in African Churches***

"Fills an important theological lacuna in the African theological landscape and is a must-read for students, scholars, and lovers of African God talk. This long-awaited and long-overdue volume is an oasis in our Sahara Desert. Now we can all quench our thirst with the *Handbook of African Catholicism*."

—**Musa W. Dube, professor of New Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology**

"A product of several years of collaborative palaver, this volume is a triumph for Africa's Catholic scholars; indispensable for academics, pastoral agents, and all interested in global Catholicism."

— **Paul Gifford, author of *Christianity, Development, and Modernity in Africa***

## Research Fellows



**Paul Gifford** (Fall 2021)

Emeritus Professor, Study of Religions  
School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS)  
University of London

*(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)*

**Research Project:** "African—or Public—Theology?"



**Erico João Hammes** (Winter 2022)

Professor of Systematic Theology  
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul

*(Porto Alegre, Brazil)*

**Research Project:** "A Spirit Christology of Peace and Nonviolence in the Discipleship of Jesus"

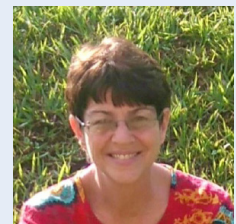


**Jakob Egeris Thorsen** (Winter 2022)

Associate Professor of Theology (Diaconia)  
Aarhus University

*(Aarhus, Denmark)*

**Research Project:** "Maya Religious Practices and Catholic Theology of Inculturation: An Ethnographic Analysis of Maya Catholicism in Guatemala and a Constructive Theological Proposal"



**Jodi Mikalachki** (Spring 2022)

Associate Professor of English  
University of Burundi

*(Bujumbura, Burundi)*

**Research Project:** "Fragile, Handicapped, Young: Martyrdom and Peace in Burundi"



**Vimeo**

Vimeo.com/CWCIT

- 21 new videos
- 1,645 new impressions

## Top 10 Countries



Italy



United States



Germany



Canada



India



Philippines



United Kingdom



Australia



New Zealand



Lithuania



**YouTube**

CWCIT at DePaul

- 39 new videos
- 136 new subscribers
- 4,546 views

## Top 10 Countries



United States



India



Philippines



Brazil



United Kingdom



Canada



Switzerland



El Salvador



Taiwan



Kenya



## Facebook

Facebook.com/WorldCatholicism

- 9,370 total likes
- 9,546 total followers

### Top 10 Countries



Philippines



United States



Ethiopia



Vietnam



Kenya



India



Uganda



Nigeria



South Sudan



Thailand



## Near and Far Podcast

SoundCloud.com/WorldCatholicism

- 8 new episodes (17 total)
- 4,186 total plays across 50 countries

### Top 10 Countries



United States



Germany



United Kingdom



Canada



Russian Federation



Spain



Denmark



India



Brazil



France

### This Year's Top 3 Episodes

- **161 plays:** "Award-Winning Journalist, David Cayley, on the Revolutionary Priest & Cultural Critic, Ivan Illich"
- **151 plays:** "Sr. Maria Vasantha, MD: Practicing Eastern and Western Medicine (and the Catholic Faith) in India"
- **115 plays:** "African—or Public—Theology? A Conversation with Scholar Paul Gifford"



# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Center for World Catholicism  
and Intercultural Theology*



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WorldCatholicism



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Near and Far