



Loyola Institute Newsletter

Winter 22/23

The Festival of Theology



Some of the speakers and chairs – from L to R

Prof. Cornelius Casey, Founding Director Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin. Prof. Robert Wozniak, Pontifical Academy of Theology, Kraków. Prof. Fáinche Ryan, Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin. Prof. Dirk Ansorge, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule, Sankt Georgen. Prof. Sharon Rider, Uppsala University, Sweden. Prof. Josef Quitterer, University of Innsbruck. Prof. Sergio-Thomas Bonino, Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Rome. Prof. Michael Kirwan Director of Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin. Prof. Shane Allwright, Pro-Chancellor, Trinity College Dublin. Prof. Massimo Faggioli, Villanova University.

The highlight of 2022 for the Loyola Institute was the Festival of Theology, which we hosted from 19-21 May. This was an international conference on the theme, 'Theology and the University', which drew a range of acclaimed scholars to reflect upon the challenges, relevance and difficulties of doing theology in a modern academic setting.

The event marked the first ten years of the Loyola Institute, and its attempt to do theology at the intersection of the academy, the Church, and the

wider society. It was also a chance to celebrate the contribution of its first Director, Prof. Cornelius Casey. Cornelius delivered a keynote lecture entitled 'Theology in a Conversation about Hope', which was followed by a reception in his honour.

During the conference itself, we heard contributions from Germany and Austria (Prs Dirk Ansorge and Josef Quitterer); Rome (Prof. Sergio-Thomas Bonino OP); Sweden (Prof. Sharon Rider); Belgium (Prof. Lieven Boeve), Poland (Prof. Robert Wozniak), and Ireland



Loyola Institute alumni (L to R)
Ciara Gaffney, Colm Fitzpatrick and Imanni Keogh



Prof. Sharon Rider, Uppsala University, Sweden who delivered a paper entitled 'Higher Education as a Road to Somewhere'.

(Profs. Michael Conway, Fáinche Ryan, Michael Kirwan). Prof. Massimo Faggioli, a well-known theologian and commentator on the Church, used Pope Francis' notion of the 'field hospital' to discuss theology 'between' the university and the church. These were very different perspectives and approaches, and it would be wrong to suggest they can be easily brought together. Even so, the presenters were all looking to offer 'things old and new' in understanding pressing questions: What is the university for? What role does theology have in its life? How is theology different from other ways of studying religion? What about the critical role of academic freedom?

The very fine papers which we heard over the three days will be published in the near future, giving us a robust platform to think about the work and vision of the Institute, as it moves confidently into its second decade.



Loyola Institute alumni Mary Egan and Dorothy Glennon with Prof. Cornelius Casey.

Videos of all speakers are available on the [Loyola Institute YouTube channel](#).

Visit to Chester Beatty Library

Emma Rothwell, Education Officer at the Chester Beatty Library pictured here with some of the students from the undergraduate module in Medieval Theology, on a recent Library visit with Prof. Fáinche Ryan. Emma, a graduate of the MPhil in Christian Theology, gave us a most informative tour of Chester Beatty's current exhibition First Fragments: Biblical Papyrus from Roman Egypt. We saw early biblical papyri, dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD, revealing a world of early Christian scholarship in Roman Egypt.



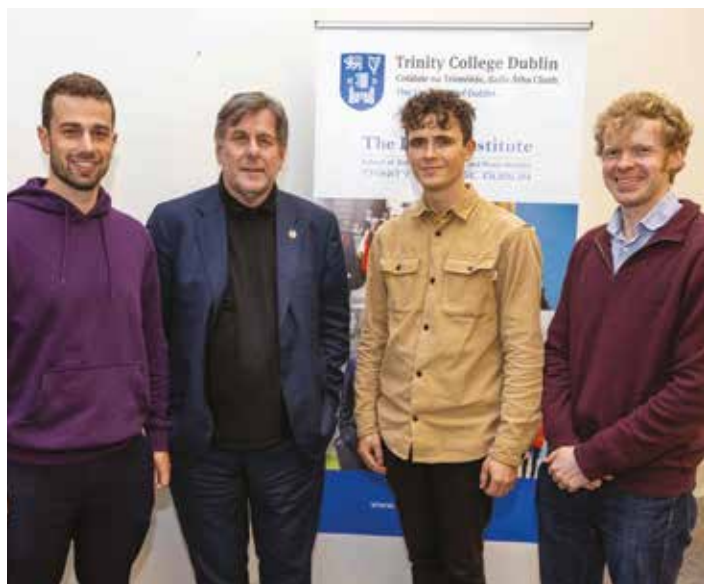
Decision-Making in an Uncertain Time. Should You Always Obey Your Conscience?

In 2019, Prof. Raphael Gallagher, CSsR published *Conscience: Writings from Moral Theology* by St Alphonsus (Liguori Publications, 2019). This work, a translation of Alphonsus of Liguori's (1696–1787) 'Treatise on Conscience', together with insightful commentary, was celebrated in a stimulating and challenging, interdisciplinary colloquium at the Loyola Institute Friday 10th June 2022. The issue of good moral decision-making is particularly acute in today's world where there is an exponential growth of uncertainties and doubts, a world wherein we are continuously confronted by complex personal, political, and societal dilemmas.

A special issue of the Open Access Journal *Religions*, edited by Prof. Fáinche Ryan, has published the papers from the colloquium, together with some additional papers, to further explore moral decision-making from historical, theological, philosophical, and legal perspectives. To access the link to the Special Edition, 'Decision Making in an Uncertain Time. Should You Always Obey Your Conscience?' [Click here.](#)



Back L to R: Fr. Dan Baragry, Provincial Dublin Province, Irish Redemptorists (who kindly sponsored this symposium).
Prof. Patrick Hannon, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.
Prof. Desmond Ryan, Trinity College Dublin.
Front L to R: Prof. Stefania Tutino, University of California (UCLA).
Prof. Raphael Gallagher CSsR, Alphonsianum, Rome.
Prof. Fáinche Ryan, Trinity College Dublin.
Prof. Cornelius Casey CSsR, Trinity College Dublin.



Prof. Michael Kirwan with Loyola Institute PhD students Endika Martinez who's research is on *Philosophical and Theological uses of the concept of analogy by Hans Urs von Balthasar*; Paul Corcoran who's research is entitled *Christian Wonder and the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh* and Alexander Cupples who's research is on *The Early Irish Church and its Theology*.



Prof. Michael Kirwan, with post-graduate students Thabi Madide and Chloe Lubinski at a recent research seminar for our postgraduate students. It was on the theme of Reading Laudato Si' in light of Scandinavian Creation Theology, and was delivered by Prof. Ryszard Bobrowicz from Tübingen.

Irish Research Council Award



Loyola Ph.D. Student Emmett O'Regan is a recipient of an award from the prestigious Government of Ireland Irish Research Council, which recognises and funds pioneering research projects. It also addresses new and emerging fields of research that introduce creative and innovative approaches across all disciplines, including the sciences, humanities and the arts. Emmet's Ph.D is entitled *The Indefectibility of the Apostolic See*. Speaking of this award, Emmet's supervisor Prof. Fáinche Ryan said Emmet's work is particularly pertinent in light of the current movement toward synodality. The question arises as to how, and indeed if, a church can be at once synodal and yet work within an understanding of an 'indefectible Apostolic See'.

Bridget Clancy Scholarship



Frances O'Callaghan from Co. Monaghan, the first recipient of the Bridget Clancy scholarship (2022-23) pictured with Sr Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St. John of God.

This scholarship, for women who are Irish nationals, was gifted in 2021 to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the John of God Sisters.

We are sincerely grateful for this support, and are delighted to announce that the Sisters have decided to offer this scholarship for a further three years. The Church in Ireland will be enriched by the theologically literate women whose formation the John of God Sisters are supporting so generously.

Loyola Institute's Active Role in International Theology Network

An important part of academic life is keeping in touch with international colleagues. This is especially true for the Loyola Institute, and for the health of theology in Ireland. During the pandemic years, much of this was done by Zoom; 2022 saw a return to in-person events in Europe and further afield. Fáinche Ryan and Michael Kirwan represent, respectively, the Irish and British Catholic theologians at the European Society for Catholic Theology. In this capacity we attended a meeting of the ESCT in Luxembourg in February 2022, at which the challenges for academic theology in Europe were discussed. Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was an informal session with Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, who spoke very honestly and realistically about the European church on its synodal path.

The British and Irish theologians came together for a joint conference at Maynooth in September, which marked the 40th anniversary of the 'Lima Document', an important ecumenical agreement on Baptism, Ministry and Eucharist. It is hoped that this theological co-operation

across the water will continue, with Loyola theologians making a significant contribution.

The networking took us further afield (it's a hard life! ...). Michael Kirwan attended the meeting of the International Association of Jesuit Universities in Boston in August. Prof. Jake Erikson flew the flag for the Institute at the American Academy of Religion. This is a massive annual jamboree of theology and religion scholars, which took place this year in Denver in November. One of the sessions he attended was themed on 'Process Thought in Roman Catholicism: Challenges and Promises'. Jake will report on this in a future newsletter.

I should add that the Loyola team also spend a huge number of Zoom-hours keeping in touch with theological colleagues across the globe; so it isn't all jet-setting ...



A Student's Experience



Prof. Fáinche Ryan with Sarah Clarke

The M.Phil in Christian Theology has been an exciting journey for me. I have learned a lot about the faith, traditions and practices of the Catholic church as well as had opportunities to learn from those attending other Christian churches. I've debated the meanings of

various theological texts and learned a lot about how faith has impacted our individual and cultural identity. I have had to consider my beliefs like never before which can be a little unsettling at times, but some discomfort is necessary to dig deeper in our search for answers.

Professionally, as an Art Teacher, it has changed the way I introduce some artworks to my students. Knowing more about the practices and beliefs of the early Christian world has helped me to connect dots in new ways. Gallery visits are more meaningful as I notice subtle details which prior to this were simply decoration. So far, I am enjoying the challenge and looking forward to learning more.

Sarah Clarke is winner of the Loyola Trust Scholarship for Teachers. For details of this and other scholarship see www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute

Join Our Students in Module on The Book of Kells Starting 23rd January

The Book of Kells, one of the greatest treasures of Trinity College Dublin, is perhaps the most renowned illustrated manuscript of the early medieval period. In studying this module the students will learn the theology and the iconography of this

wonderful manuscript. The module will also introduce students to the world in which this manuscript was created, and to some other aspects of insular art. The module is designed to be accessible to students coming from all disciplines in College who have an interest in the Ireland of the early medieval world.

This course is also available for auditing by those who are not students of Trinity College. It is suitable for all who have a curiosity about theology, about the early Irish Church, as well as those who may be considering undertaking further studies in theology. This is a daytime course and comprises of a two-hour lecture once a week (Mondays at 2 pm) for an eleven-week term starting 23rd January 2023. There is no assessment for those who attend as auditors. The classes take place on the Trinity College Dublin campus. Details of venue to be confirmed later.

Lecturer: Prof. Fáinche Ryan (with some visiting lecturers)

How to Apply: To register please [download application form here](#) and complete application form and send along with a cheque or postal order made payable to: **Trinity College Number 1 Account**, for the attention of Ms Helen McMahon, Loyola Institute, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, ISE/Loyola Building, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2.

Fee: The fee per module is €150. A concession rate of €100 is available to unemployed persons and those in receipt of a social welfare pension.

Any **questions** please contact Ms Helen McMahon, Loyola School Executive officer, by e-mail: Loyola@tcd.ie or by telephone (01) 8964790.



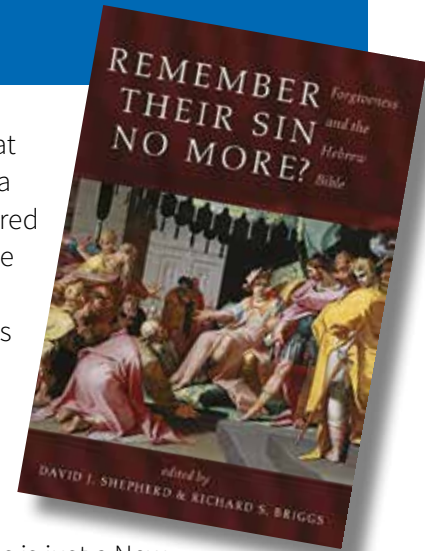
Remember their Sins No More?

Back in 2018, in the wake of renewed interest in forgiveness in antiquity and recent suggestions that it bears little resemblance to modern conceptions, Prof. David Shepherd gathered a group of scholars at Trinity to consider where and in what form, if at all, “forgiveness” might be found in the Hebrew Bible - a text which is foundational for Western religions and the cultures they have influenced over the last two millennia. Supported by the Loyola Institute and in collaboration with the Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies, this short symposium investigated the ways in which the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament itself conceptualizes forgiveness. Those gathered were challenged to consider how and in what ways does God forgive in the Old Testament, where do we see forgiveness between people in the Old Testament and what does it look like? Thanks to the generosity of the Loyola Trust, it was agreed that the fruits of this conference should be shared with the wider world, not least because genuine forgiveness remains as rare and precious a commodity as ever.

The resulting volume, *Remember Their Sin No More? Forgiveness and the Hebrew Bible*, edited by Prof. Shepherd and Prof. Richard Briggs, includes most

of the contributions heard at the conference, along with a couple of essays which offered additional perspectives. The volume has received initial praise from various quarters including from Prof. John Goldingay, Emeritus Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, who notes that “One hears it said that forgiveness is just a New Testament idea: the Old Testament God is too wrathful to forgive people and the Israelites are too vengeful to forgive anyone! How excellent it therefore is to have this study of key passages in the Old Testament that talk about God’s forgiveness and about people forgiving each other (without oversimplifying what the Old Testament does have to say).” Such praise suggests that others with a serious interest in Scripture and/or forgiveness may find this volume a stimulating addition to their library.

We hope to host an event linked to this book during 2023. Watch our website for details.



Faith Seeking Understanding - ‘How to be a Mystic’.

After two years of being online, the *Faith Seeking Understanding* series will take place in person in Spring 2023, with the title ‘How to be a Mystic’.

The Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner famously declared that ‘the Christian of the future will be a mystic, or they will not exist at all’. How are we to respond to this challenging statement? How do we become ‘mystics’? And what can the great traditions of spirituality teach us?

The *Faith Seeking Understanding* series will explore the relationship between theology and mystical spirituality, and its relevance for the task of becoming mystics. Sessions will run from 5.30 to 8.00 pm on a Wednesday evening here in Loyola Institute in Trinity College Dublin.

Dates and topics

February 1st (Feast of St Brigid): Women and the Early Irish Church

February 8th: The Spanish Mystics, then and today

March 1st: Mysticism and the Struggle for Social Justice.

Watch our website for registration details.



Vetera Novis Augere. The Resources of the Thomist Tradition in the Current Context



Roccasecca, Italy

The XI International Thomistic Congress, organised by the Pontifical Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas (PAST) was hosted by the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome (September 2022). It was a fantastic experience with about 300 participants from all over the world,



Prof. Serge-Thomas Bonino, President of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas and Dean of the Angelicum's faculty of Philosophy, speaking at the papal audience for the 300 participants from all over the world. Prof. Bonino was a speaker at the Festival of Theology hosted by Loyola Institute.

chaired wonderfully throughout by current president of PAST Serge Thomas Bonino op. The conference afforded a unique opportunity to hear from, and present to, the best international specialists in the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

I was delighted to return to the Angelicum, my alma mater. My paper focused on Aquinas' careful consideration of the Hebrew midwives and how their lie to the King of Egypt might be judged. In a post-truth world Aquinas' work continues to confront us with challenging insights.

A highlight of the conference was a visit to Aquino and Roccasecca 'in the footsteps of Aquinas'. This came on the last day of the conference, so we were all able to relax, enjoy a glimpse of the medieval world Aquinas grew up in, and particularly enjoy one another's company and forge new friendships. A key learning of the conference was that despite the great diversity of ways of interpreting Aquinas, and the variety of Thomisms, it is possible to join together in prayer, scholarship and conviviality. There is a great richness in diversity.

Prof. Fáinche Ryan, Loyola Institute

Check Out Loyola Institute YouTube Channel

We are building a valuable resource in our Loyola Institute YouTube Channel.

Among the resources you will find are:

- Videos of all the speakers at our recent Theology and the University Conference
- Presentations by a number of Loyola Institute post-graduate students on their chosen area of expertise

- Videos of the five lectures in the "Columcille in Context: Theologians and Historians in Conversation" This series organised by the Loyola Institute, Commemorated the 15th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Columba of Iona (521/ 2021)

To access it [click here](#).

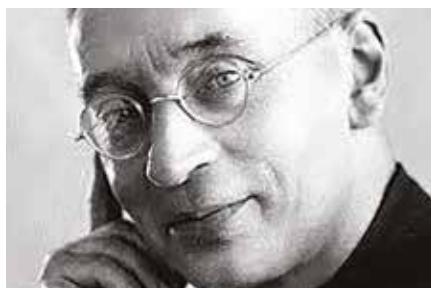


The Loyola Institute is grateful for the generous support of the Loyola Trust (Augustinians, Carmelites (O.Carm.), Columbans, Jesuits, Loreto Sisters, Marists, Oblates, Society of African Missions).

For The Diary

Wednesday 15th February 2023

***Titus Brandsma:
Ethical Resistance in
Turbulent Times.
A Carmelite Friar Facing
National Socialism***



Saint Titus Brandsma

Titus Brandsma a Dutch Carmelite friar and theologian, was canonised on May 15th 2022. Brandsma is perhaps best known for his heroic resistance against the Nazi occupation and his death in the Dachau concentration camp. He was also a journalist of note, seeing journalism as an excellent 'modern' opportunity to give the spiritual life a place in the increasingly secularising society. Fr. Titus forcefully spoke out against Nazi anti-Jewish laws, and his ever-burning passion for truth and freedom shone through in his journalism, and his life.

The Loyola Institute is delighted to welcome Fr. Prof. Fernando Millán, O.Carm. (Prior General 2007 – 2019) to address us on this most interesting saint, and his resistance, as priest, teacher and journalist, to National Socialism, and his ongoing battle for truth and freedom in journalism, and for people's lives.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th February in the Thomas Davis Theatre, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin, and will be followed by a reception. All Welcome

The event is generously funded by the Carmelite Congregation.

March 2nd/ 15th/23rd

***Loyola Institute Lenten Series, 2023
'Authentic, Effective Reform in the Church:
Reading Yves Congar Today'***



Yves Congar OP

In 1950 the Dominican theologian Yves Congar wrote 'True and False Reform in the Church', a ground-breaking book which influenced the future Pope John XXIII and his vision for the Second Vatican Council. This series of three lectures will re-read Congar in the light of the present day, and examine how this classic text can help us in discerning ways forward for the Church.

Talks are free, and will take place at the Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin on

Thursday March 2nd, 7.30-9.00 pm

Wednesday March 15th, 7.30-9.00 pm

Thursday 23rd, 7.30-9.00 pm

(note that the second lecture is on Wednesday 15th because of the holiday weekend).



The Loyola Institute *School of Religion*

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

is dedicated to education and research in theology in the Catholic Christian tradition and offers degrees at postgraduate level, both taught and by research.

Scholarships available.

Further information: www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute

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