



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020
Academic Year



IHE

 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



Annual Report

June 2019 - May 2020



Joseph E. Capizzi,
Ph.D.

Executive Director
Institute for Human Ecology

Professor of Moral Theology
The Catholic University of America

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taking up the mantle to build a just culture

The Institute for Human Ecology had an exciting, impactful third year. We sponsored conferences from D.C. to Oxford to Munich on topics including just war, the care of disabled persons, immigration, and nationalism. Our scholars promoted the dignity of the family, drafted legislation to restore constitutional integrity in the United States, exposed the dangers of socialism, exhorted entrepreneurs to work for the common good, and promulgated ethical guidelines for medical workers in the pandemic.

The Institute supports 14 Ph.D. students at The Catholic University of America and maintains a cohort of more than 50 faculty scholars. We graduated the first class in our M.A. in Human Rights Program and recently hosted our third Civitas Dei Fellowship, a week-long conference with the Thomistic Institute that brings together students from top academic institutions and organizations to discuss “Faith, Reason, and the State.”

Additionally, we hosted numerous events and substantially increased our online presence, thereby making our voices heard in the public sphere. Highlights of the 2019-2020 academic year include a discussion with Chinese civil rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng about human rights, a debate between Sohrab Ahmari and David French, a cultural and educational trip for ten students and faculty to Israel, multiple sessions with Faith & Law on Capitol Hill where we introduced Hill staffers to Catholic social doctrine, book-launch events with George Weigel (*The Irony of Modern Catholic History*) and Ross Douhat (*The Decadent Society*), and a conference, cosponsored by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, on disability in the Body of Christ.

Through our work, we are a vital contributor to The Catholic University of America. We are fulfilling, we believe, Pope Leo XIII’s charge to the University “to give to the Republic her best citizens.” This year, we took up the mantle in a new way by introducing our Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program. We look forward to maintaining — even accelerating — our momentum.

We are grateful for your interest in the Institute for Human Ecology. All of us at the IHE are humbled by your support of our mission, which is so fundamental to individuals, communities, and the wider culture.

Joseph E. Capizzi



Mission Statement

The Institute for Human Ecology (IHE) at The Catholic University of America is the nation's leading academic institute committed to increasing systematic understanding of the economic, cultural, and social conditions vital for human flourishing. Drawing on the Catholic intellectual tradition, the mission of the IHE is to educate students, sponsor multidisciplinary and social scientific research, advise Church leadership and policy-makers, and organize symposia, conferences, and lectures for the academy and the public square. IHE programs challenge the deterministic and reductive institutions and arguments that thwart the pursuit of greater freedom and prosperity for all.

Table of Contents

Overview.....	6
Highlights	8
The IHE's Pillars	10
The IHE's Impact.....	12
The Civitas Dei Fellowship	14
Examples of Events 2019-2020	18
Special Events.....	22
Select Speakers	24
Faces of the IHE.....	27
Graduate Fellow Testimonials	28
Undergraduate Fellow Testimonials	33
Select Faculty Fellows.....	34
Leadership.....	36
IHE Fellow Highlights	38
Master of Arts in Human Rights.....	40
Advisory Council.....	43
Program on the Constitution and Catholic Social Doctrine.....	48
The Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program.....	52
Various Initiatives	56
Select Publications.....	62
Gratitude	67



OVERVIEW

A sanctuary for those hungry for the wisdom of eternal truth

In the 2019-2020 academic year, public interest in the IHE grew significantly. The first event of the year, a panel discussion with Sohrab Ahmari and David French, drew hundreds of attendees to Catholic University's campus and has since been viewed more than 30,000 times online. The IHE's vigorous output continued throughout the year, even after the pandemic hit. Our speakers and scholars captivated audiences with their ability to imbue the cutting edge with the sapiential. People are hungry

for the wisdom of the Catholic tradition and excited by the prospect of examining contemporary questions in light of eternal Truth.

To feed this growing hunger, we launched an undergraduate program to offer bright, faithful students robust intellectual, spiritual, and civic formation in the legacy of the program's patron, Saint John Henry Newman. We graduated the first five students in our

M.A. in Human Rights Program. In collaboration with The Thomistic Institute, we are also developing an alumni network for the 132 students who have participated in our Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship. Our scholars have introduced Hill staffers to Catholic social doctrine on issues of business, human rights, and theology through lectures with Faith & Law on Capitol Hill. The IHE is a sought-after partner for events, programming, and strategizing around themes of economic and political liberty.

The IHE has increased its social media presence. Two of our Fellows, Jennifer Frey and Mark Bauerlein, host popular podcasts. Additionally, the IHE produces a detailed monthly e-newsletter to share its activities. The IHE livestreams its events and is active on Twitter, garnering hundreds of followers who track our events and enjoy our feast day posts. Further, *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat is a Media Fellow with the IHE. The IHE is growing a network of relationships with media and other institutions, including *First Things*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Thomistic Institute, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Dallas, Villanova University, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, ALEC, Stand Together, the Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, the Pioneer Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Catholic Information Center.

In a few short years, much has been accomplished. We have hosted numerous high-profile speakers who have edified the attendees and increased the name

recognition, stature, and prestige of the IHE, helping attract students and professors. We have built a cohort of more than a dozen graduate students, nearly a score of undergraduates, and over 50 Faculty Fellows, including 30 at Catholic University. Through our events, sponsorships, and the work of our scholars, we are influencing academia, policy-making, and discussion in the public square.

For the upcoming academic year, we are working on a number of exciting items, including a screening of a new documentary about Flannery O'Connor, a seminar series on the classical liberal tradition and the Constitution with our Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Fellows, and an evening event with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. In August, we cosponsored a webinar on Hiroshima with Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services and welcomed our second class in the Master of Arts in Human Rights Program.

*Thank you for your support
and your interest in what
is bound to be a bright and
robust future.*



HIGHLIGHTS

PH.D. FELLOWSHIPS

The IHE supports exceptional doctoral students, providing tuition and stipends. Candidates are considered from (i) the School of Philosophy, (ii) the School of Theology and Religious Studies, and (iii) the School of Arts and Sciences (in particular, the departments of Psychology, English, History, and Politics).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In collaboration with The Thomistic Institute at the Dominican House of Studies, the IHE runs a weeklong conference, the Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship, for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. The focus of this annual event is instruction in the political and moral bases of human freedom, as well as modern constitutional jurisprudence and its impact on a free society. It includes a meeting at the Supreme Court with Justice Samuel Alito. In the summer of 2019, it featured Adrian Vermeule of Harvard Law School, Father Aquinas Guilbeau of the Dominican House of Studies, and IHE Fellow Chad Pecknold.

FACULTY FELLOWS

The IHE has over 50 Faculty Fellows representing top universities throughout the world. In addition to 30 Fellows at Catholic University, other institutions include the University of Virginia, the University of Dallas, Pepperdine University, Princeton Theological Seminary, Villanova University, and Oxford. Beyond their scholarship and teaching, they assist the IHE in numerous ways, including generating ideas about programs and conferences, suggesting partnerships with like-minded organizations, recommending faculty and graduate students, helping the IHE grow by networking with people in their fields, and raising the IHE's profile by participating in lectures, symposia, and conferences.

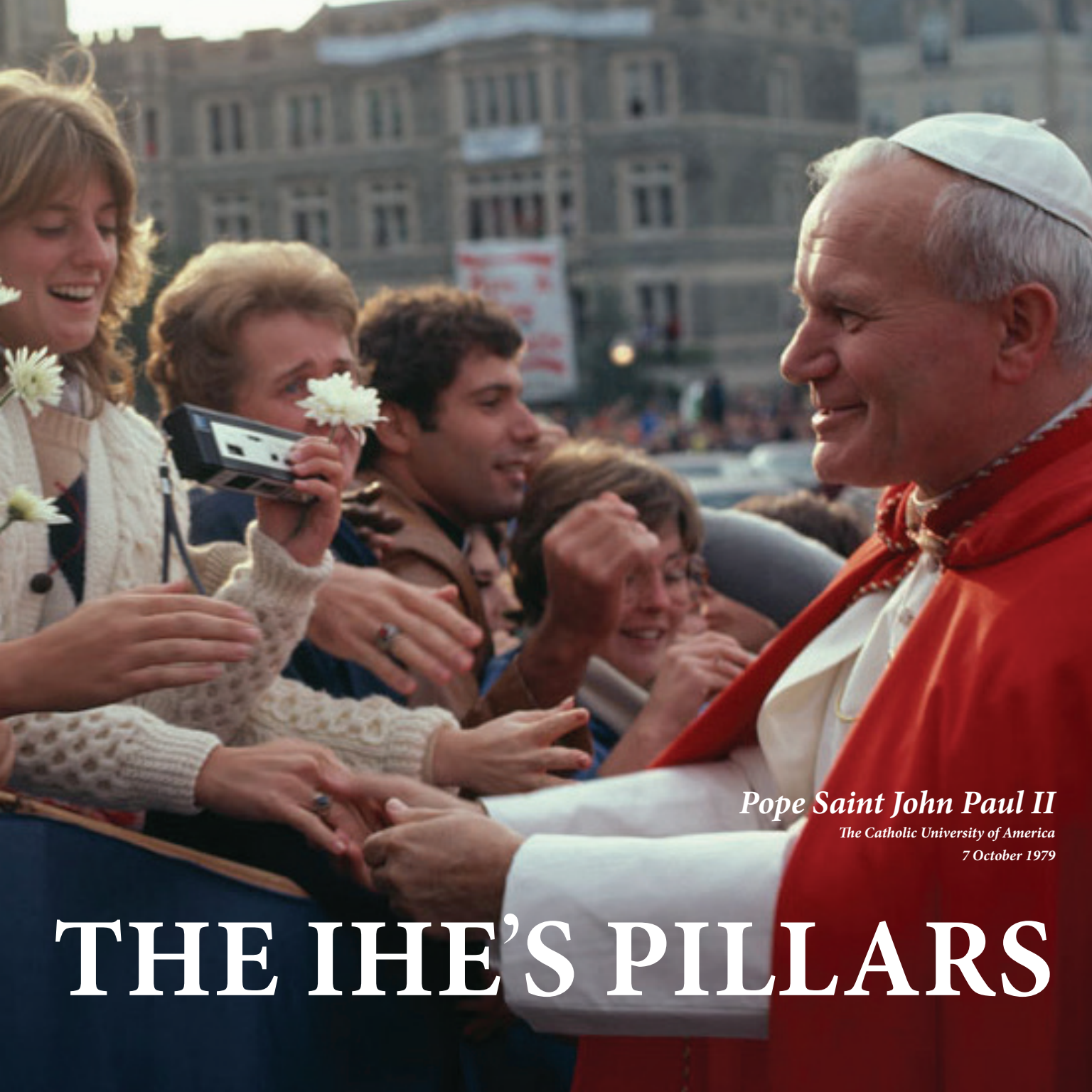
EVENTS

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the IHE held numerous events, including speakers such as:

- Ross Douthat, *New York Times* columnist
- Sohrab Ahmari, *New York Post* opinion editor
- David French of the National Review Institute
- George Weigel, acclaimed Catholic author and NBC News Senior Vatican Analyst
- Chen Guangcheng, Chinese human rights lawyer
- Timothy Carney, author of *Alienated America*
- Ramesh Ponnuru of *National Review*
- A panel of four journalists with extensive experience reporting on national security: Julian Barnes of *The New York Times*, Ellen Nakashima and Peter Finn of *The Washington Post*, and Steve Coll, the dean of Columbia University's School of Journalism and a former correspondent for *The Washington Post*
- Andres Guilarte, a Venezuelan student working with The Fund for American Studies to raise awareness of socialism in his home country
- Stephen Bartulica, Special Advisor for Religious Affairs to Croatian President
- Brad Wilcox, IHE Fellow and family sociologist at the University of Virginia
- Douglas Farrow, who presented the annual *First Things* lecture

EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES

- Conference at Oxford University on Just War featuring IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi
- Presented at a week-long course to students at the American Enterprise Institute, "Capitalism & Christianity: Do Markets Allow Us to Love Our Neighbor?"
- Cohosted the Migration Studies Summer Academy in Eichstätt, Germany
- At the invitation of Passages Israel, the IHE's Managing Director Stephen Higgins and several IHE graduate students toured Israel and the Holy Land. The IHE and Passages planned a second trip of 40 undergraduates for March 2020, but it was canceled because of the pandemic.
- Roundtable with clerics and business leaders entitled "Finance for Good: A Discussion on *Oeconomicae e Pecuniariae*"
- Several presentations by IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi, including: "Nationalism and Catholicism" (Army Navy Club), "God, America, & Nationalism" (National Press Club), "Just War and Catholic Faith" (Duke University), "Private Property in the Catholic Tradition" (University of South Carolina)
- Webinar on economics and theology with the Mercatus Center
- Lunchtime lectures for Capitol Hill staff on key issues with Faith & Law
- Joint statement, "Moral Guidance on Prioritizing Care during a Pandemic," led by multiple IHE Fellows



Pope Saint John Paul II
The Catholic University of America
7 October 1979

THE IHE'S PILLARS



FREEDOM

The foundation of human flourishing

“The freedom of the individual finds its basis in man’s transcendent dignity . . .”

– *Pope Saint John Paul II, Message for 1981 World Day of Peace*



FAMILY

The fundamental social unit of a healthy, functioning society

“The family may be regarded as the cradle of civil society . . .”

– *Pope Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae*



ECONOMY

The intersection of free enterprise and ingenuity ordered towards human flourishing

“It is . . . an error to say that the economic and moral orders are so distinct from and alien to each other that the former depends in no way on the latter.”

– *Pope Pius XI, Quadragesimo Anno*



CULTURE

The driving force behind the way we form human relationships

“Human beings interpret and shape the natural environment through culture, which in turn is given direction by the responsible use of freedom, in accordance with the dictates of the moral law.”

– *Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate*

The IHE's **IMPACT**

2019-2020 Academic Year



Our people



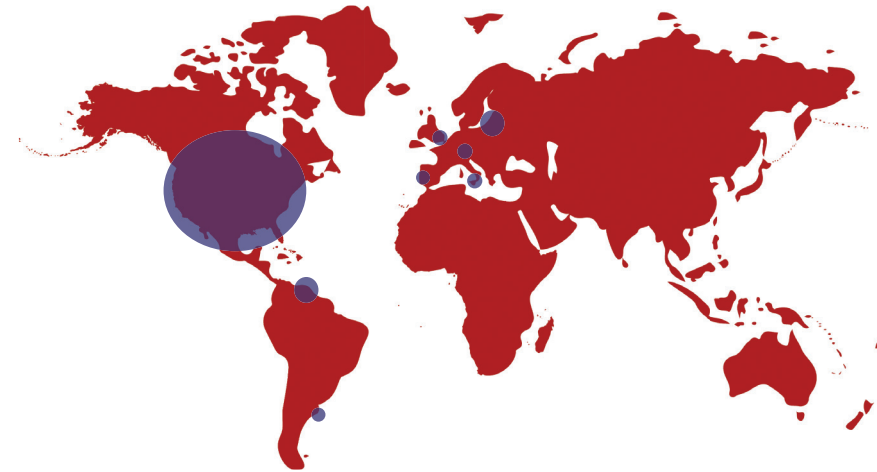
78
STUDENTS



52
FELLOWS

Where we are

Our faculty, students, and Civitas Dei Fellows hail from top universities in eight countries and throughout the United States.



19
PODCASTS

First Thoughts
Mark Bauerlein
Sacred and Profane Love
Jennifer Frey



43
PUBLICATIONS

10 Academic Journals
11+ Books & Chapters
22 Op-eds in Major Publications



32
EVENTS

31,973 Online View Record for Single Event
14 Large-Scale, Public Events
18 IHE Community Events

IHE Fellow Highlights



Ross Douthat
(page 38)



Jennifer Frey
(page 39)



Mark Bauerlein
(page 55)



THE CIVITAS DEI FELLOWSHIP: A MISSION OF TRADITION

Week-long summer program with The Thomistic Institute

For a week in July of 2019, a group of rising scholars (graduate students and a few advanced undergraduates) from top doctoral and legal programs in the United States, Canada, England, Spain, Thailand, and Colombia participated in the Civitas Dei Fellowship, an annual conference cosponsored by the Institute for Human Ecology and The Thomistic Institute.

The second cohort of students in the Fellowship comprised 45 students from various institutions including The Catholic University of America, Harvard, Oxford, Cornell, Columbia University, University of Barcelona, UC Berkeley, Georgetown University, the University of Applied Sciences (Regensburg), the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, UNC Chapel Hill, the University of St. Thomas, Boston College, and the Dominican University (Ottawa).

This year's theme was "The Person, the Polis, and the Search for Happiness." Students were introduced to foundational themes in the natural law tradition, with a focus on the political and moral bases of human freedom, as well as modern constitutional jurisprudence and its impact on a free society. Similar conferences are held each summer.

Father Aquinas Guilbeau of the Dominican House of Studies, Professor Adrian Vermeule of Harvard Law School, and IHE Fellow Chad Pecknold of The Catholic University of America taught daily, multi-hour classroom sessions. The talks were framed by meals, prayer, and Mass.

The President of Catholic University, John Garvey, spoke on the first day to welcome the students. The students visited sites in Washington, D.C. and encountered outstanding Catholic public figures, such as Assistant Attorney General John Demers. The conference included a private tour of the Supreme Court and an hourlong meeting with Justice Samuel Alito.

The week provided a superb way to explore the intersection of contemporary questions within the Catholic intellectual tradition and the practical consequences that follow — all taking place in the heart of the nation's capital.

The Civitas Dei Fellowship has two main purposes. First, we want to gather the brightest Catholic graduate students studying in elite doctoral and legal programs to introduce them to the Catholic intellectual tradition. We hope to whet their appetites for further study that will help them see the integrated nature of knowledge. This, in turn, will lead them to understand that their studies in physics, economics, sociology, law, technology, and other disciplines are different truth-seeking avenues — all pointing to greater

understanding of a world created by a good God welcoming human ascent to truth and understanding. Second, we are building a community of like-minded scholars who can reinvigorate our colleges and universities and teach future generations of students to know, love, and serve God and each other through their work.

For many of these students, this experience initiated a life-long journey of reflecting and acting upon the principles valued by the Institute for Human Ecology. They are the principles at the heart of the Catholic intellectual tradition: freedom and human agency, political engagement for the common good, and the pursuit of human flourishing ordered toward God.



See the following pages for some images captured during the second edition of Civitas Dei



Past and present Civitas Dei Fellows catch up at the closing banquet.



Civitas Dei Fellows during an afternoon seminar.



A private Mass celebrated in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



Executive Director Joe Capizzi, Ph.D., with Father Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P.



Fellows hear from Assistant Attorney General John Demers.



Fellows explore D.C. on their way to the Supreme Court.



EXAMPLES OF EVENTS

2019-2020 Academic Year



Thirty Years After Tiananmen Square: Human Rights in China Today

9 October 2019

The second annual Human Rights Lecture featured Chen Guangcheng, a Chinese human rights lawyer and advocate. Popularly known as the “barefoot lawyer,” Chen drew worldwide attention to forced abortion in China and is a tireless advocate for the oppressed in China. With William Saunders, J.D., Director of the IHE’s Program in Human Rights, Chen reflected upon developments since the Tiananmen Square protest in 1989.



Chen pointed to increased state surveillance, including the surveillance of Chinese students studying abroad in other countries and government crackdowns on free speech. Chen, who is blind, also told the story of his escape from house arrest and eventual journey to the United States, where he is now professionally devoted to raising awareness of ongoing human rights abuses in China.

It's now @CatholicUniv that hosts the most important discussions taking place in Washington D.C.

Patrick Deneen



The Media and Intelligence Accountability: The Public’s “Right to Know” or “Need to Know”?

1 October 2019

The U.S. intelligence community’s responsibility to protect our country requires it to wield powerful capabilities that could, if unchecked, violate the rights of U.S. citizens. Because U.S. intelligence agencies must be accountable to the American people, they are subject to formal mechanisms of oversight, especially the designated congressional intelligence committees.

Nicholas Dujmovic, Assistant Professor of Politics and the Director of The Catholic University of America’s Program in Intelligence Studies, moderated the discussion of four journalists with extensive experience reporting on national security: Julian Barnes of *The New York Times*, Ellen Nakashima and Peter Finn of *The Washington Post*, and Steve Coll, the dean of Columbia University’s School of Journalism and a former correspondent for *The Washington Post*.



Alienated America

7 November 2019

Timothy Carney, commentary editor at the *Washington Examiner* and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, shared his insights on the political success of Donald Trump. Building from his own anecdotal evidence as a reporter and fresh sociological data, Carney argued that the critical factor in Trump’s success was the localized erosion of civil society. After his lecture, Timothy Carney and Emmett McGroarty, Director of the IHE’s Program on the Constitution and Catholic Social Doctrine, engaged in a panel discussion on the challenges facing modern America and the relevance of Catholic social doctrine in understanding and solving them.



Venezuela . . . My Story, Your Future?

23 January 2020

Andrés Guilarte had to leave his life in Venezuela after an oppressive regime crippled the economy, caused widespread starvation, blanketed the nation in blackouts, and jailed those who spoke out to criticize the government. With an eyewitness perspective, he addressed the collapse of a wealthy, growing country and how policy and social change can help the United States avoid a similar economic situation. Guilarte’s story shows the power of perseverance, the importance of faith, and provides a powerful example of why resisting these policies in our country is still necessary today.



For as Long as Our Love Shall Last: How the Soulmate Myth Makes Marriage Less Stable and Less Happy

4 February 2020

Since the 1970s, more Americans have embraced the Soulmate Myth, the idea that marriage is about an intense emotional connection between two people that should only last as long as that connection remains happy and fulfilling. Not surprisingly, this myth powered the divorce revolution of the 1970s, as feelings are a fragile foundation for durable marriage. Brad Wilcox, a sociologist at the University of Virginia, showed that the Soulmate Myth is also counterproductive to fostering higher quality marriages. He proposed prioritizing family unity over personal satisfaction, focusing on the central realities of married life: shared economic resources, extended family, and children.



Nationalism: Virtue or Vice?

23 September 2019

In this special event hosted in collaboration with the Catholic Information Center in Washington, D.C., the IHE continued a year of discourse about nationalism. Dr. Samuel Goldman, Assistant Professor of Political Science at The George Washington University, and Ramesh Ponnuru, senior editor for *National Review* and visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, engaged in a spirited debate about the recent rise of nationalist sentiment in the West. IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi moderated the event, driving critical questions that examined the relationship between national loyalty and human flourishing with an emphasis on Catholic ideas of solidarity, subsidiarity, human dignity, and the common good.



Recognizing the Body of Christ: A Theological Engagement on Disability

9-10 November 2019

In November, the Institute for Human Ecology and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability sponsored a symposium at The Catholic University of America to provide an introduction to the Catholic approach to disability. The sold-out, two-day conference drew clergy, religious, pastoral and catechetical leaders, seminarians, theology students, and academics.

International experts on the pastoral care of Catholics with disabilities joined theologians, including the IHE's Dr. Reinhard Huetter, to discuss topics like human dignity, administration of the sacraments, and catechesis for and about people with disabilities.

The symposium closed with Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which was televised on EWTN.

First Things Annual Lecture: The Secret of the Saeculum

5 March 2020

The challenge of adjusting to our increasingly secularized world is the central conversation in the modern Church. In this lecture cosponsored by *First Things* and the Institute for Human Ecology, Professor Douglas Farrow addressed whether Christians still understand the dynamic of the age and the mission of the Church as our fathers in faith did and what effect this lack of understanding has on the present age. To answer these uncertainties, Dr. Farrow employed Christian eschatology to challenge false notions of secularism operating both inside and outside the Church and to highlight the perennial importance of Christ's reign over all of history.

SELECT SPEAKERS



George Weigel

The Irony of Modern Catholic History

17 September 2019

In September, George Weigel delivered a lecture to celebrate the first day of the public launch of his latest book, *The Irony of Modern Catholic History*. Weigel led attendees on a breathtaking journey through the past 250 years of Catholic history. Charting a path beyond hackneyed conservative and liberal clichés, he proposed a dramatic new reading of several key events, including the reorganization of the Papal States, the pontificate of Pope Leo XIII, and the Second Vatican Council. After the lecture and audience questions, Weigel signed copies of the book.



Ross Douthat

The Decadent Society

25 February 2020

Renowned *New York Times* columnist and IHE Media Fellow Ross Douthat launched his new book *The Decadent Society* at an event hosted by the IHE. After the book signing, he discussed the nature of decadence with IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi. This discussion, followed by a lively question and answer session, touched on questions about what happens when a rich and powerful society ceases advancing, how long our era of stagnation and repetition might last, and how, whether in renaissance or catastrophe, our decadence might ultimately end.



Sohrab Ahmari and David French

Cultural Conservatives: Two Visions Responding to the Post-Liberal Left

5 September 2019

Throughout the summer of 2019, Sohrab Ahmari of the *New York Post* and David French of the *National Review* Institute published dueling essays on how cultural conservatives should respond to the post-liberal left. Ahmari contended that social conservatives should assertively use their power to oppose the secular left. French held onto the classical liberal approach to resisting leftist policy proposals. IHE Fellow and *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat moderated the event.

Ahmari and French sparred before a standing-room-only crowd, debating whether the public sphere is sufficiently “neutral” to permit Christians the freedoms necessary to practice their faith. Ahmari pointed to the rising influence of gender theory to argue to the contrary, while French pointed to his legal successes defending campus groups as proof that the right laws can permit conservatives and liberals to peacefully coexist.

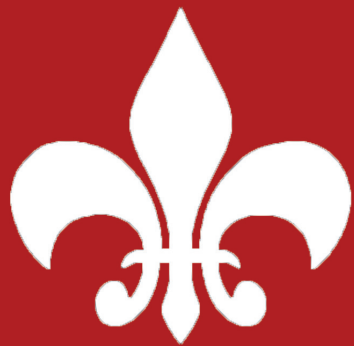
The event drew over 500 attendees in person and accumulated over 30,000 video views within a single week. It was covered widely by the media and led to a follow-up debate organized and hosted by Notre Dame.

For someone whose vocation requires making Catholicism intelligible to a skeptical audience and bringing serious academic work into the realm of mere journalistic scribbling, the opportunity to be an IHE Fellow has been a great gift. In bringing me to Catholic University, the Institute has both put me in conversation with a range of serious scholars and students, and created opportunities for public events that have advanced, in a meaningful way, the fraught and difficult conversation about how to renew our Catholic faith.

Ross Douthat



FACES OF THE IHE



Graduate Fellow Testimonials



Vincent Birch

*School of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. in Historical and Systematic Theology*

“The Institute for Human Ecology has given me the opportunity not just to witness but to participate in diverse academic conversations pertaining to human flourishing. Besides being personally edifying, I have found that involvement in interdisciplinary conversations has nurtured my research in exciting and unexpected ways.”



Monica Burke

*School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy*

“The Institute for Human Ecology is more than a great academic resource, it is a community. The relationships I have made through the IHE have enriched my research by placing my philosophical studies in conversation with other disciplines, against the broader backdrop of Catholic social teaching. The IHE has helped me to thrive as a student and will help me to succeed as a scholar.”



Meghan Duke

*School of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. in Historical and Systematic Theology*

“The funding provided by the IHE has made graduate studies possible for me. But more than that, the IHE has enriched my studies in theology by creating a community of graduate students and scholars across disciplines united in a common pursuit of truth regarding the human person, God, and the conditions for human flourishing.”



Sarah Dunford

*School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics*

“In addition to the (much appreciated) funding support from IHE, I have benefited greatly from the community of scholars they have assembled. Nearing the end of my first year of graduate studies, I have found great delight in being a ‘fly on the wall’ in their conversations both in public events and the interdisciplinary meetings IHE hosts.”



Genevieve Frank

*School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy*

“As a graduate student, I am deeply grateful for the many resources offered by the Institute for Human Ecology. However, the most important part of the Institute is simply the interdisciplinary community of scholars, professors, and students that it cultivates. Conversations over John Courtney Murray dinners and post-lecture receptions add color and depth to the education received in the classroom and allow for real friendships to develop that have challenged and inspired me academically and personally. Without the friendship of minds that is fostered by these conversations, the academy remains pale and confined, rather than serving as a place where the most central questions about human flourishing may receive deep reflection that naturally contributes to their discussion and treatment in the greater political, religious, and cultural community.”



Micah Harris

*School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics*

“I hesitated over pursuing a Ph.D. because of the way high-level scholars tend to study a small piece of life in isolation from the whole. The IHE has provided a substantial answer to this problem by making a place for me to specialize within a community that is larger than a single department (and larger than a single university).”



Patrick Jones

*School of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. in Moral Theology*

“The IHE offers invaluable interactions with students, professors, and authors across a field of disciplines. Events and lectures provide fellows with the opportunity to reflect on contemporary realities with focus gained from our studies. The IHE enables a network of conversation and investigation which extends beyond the university to culture and public life, fostering a community informed by, but not limited to, individual disciplines. The interdisciplinary character of the IHE and its dialogue with those in the public square have significantly enhanced my experience of graduate studies.”



Camelia Lelesan

*School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics*

“The Institute for Human Ecology encourages us to be courageous in our thinking and humble in our search for truth. Through its commitment to the question of human flourishing and its interdisciplinary approach, the IHE has greatly enriched my work on the human person. IHE has been an invaluable resource in connecting me with leading scholars and academics in a variety of fields, providing an incredible opportunity to participate in conversations that have shaped my intellectual path.”



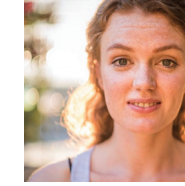
Daryl Li

*School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy*

“Human flourishing is something that we should all strive for naturally. Yet, many amongst us do not have a clear account of what it entails. It is fortunate, then, that the IHE had planned and organized various events to engage people in dialogue about this inherently human endeavour. The IHE's effort to foster awareness of what it means to flourish is now more necessary than ever as we begin 2020 with the pandemic looming ominously over our future. More than ever, we must invest ourselves more deeply and broadly into the question ‘What does it mean for us to flourish, and can we still do so?’ In this respect, the IHE stands out through its commitment to involve people of all walks of life in pursuing this human, all too human, drive.”

“The IHE encourages us to be courageous in our thinking and humble in our search for truth.”

Camelia Lelesan



Elizabeth McCarthy

*School of Architecture and Planning
M.A. in Architecture*

“I’m very grateful for the IHE. The monthly meetings and gatherings have been a great opportunity for me to connect my studies to a greater whole. It is easy within my field to become tunnel visioned and to forget the reason I began studying in the first place. These interdisciplinary monthly meetings have been a great place for me to meet fellow graduate students with similar questions and understand the cultural significance of my studies.”



Jason Paone

*School of Theology and Religious Studies
Ph.D. in Historical and Systematic Theology*

“The IHE is much more than a source of funding for exciting scholarship. Far more importantly, it is the seedbed of a scholarly community that is constituted as such by its shared engagement with certain key anthropological questions and enriched by a carefully cultivated diversity of talent and perspective. As a doctoral student, I am grateful to be party to this profound discourse about human flourishing, and my hope, as a scholar in formation, is that my own sensibilities will one day reflect some measure of the richness of IHE’s scholarly culture.”



Bridget Safranek

School of Philosophy

Ph.D. in Philosophy

“The Institute for Human Ecology has been a tremendous resource for me, particularly given its commitment to the question of human flourishing. The interdisciplinary events hosted by IHE consider practical answers to important philosophical questions: as a student in the School of Philosophy, these events have showed me that questions regarding human flourishing must be approached through a variety of disciplines in order to reflect the multifaceted nature of human life.”



Ian Tuttle

School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. in Politics

“By bringing scholars from every discipline into conversation, and by bringing the resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition to bear on urgent concerns, the IHE demonstrates its commitment to ‘the idea of a university.’ Learning from, and alongside, professors and students from across Catholic University has enriched and deepened my work, and served to remind me that we share one truth and one common pursuit.”



Morgan Whitmer

School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. in Politics

“The Institute for Human Ecology encourages constructive dialogue between various disciplines concerning the flourishing of human persons, in both the scholarly and popular spheres. I am grateful for the opportunity that the IHE offers to orient my studies, writing, and teaching toward participation in this dialogue. Through engagement in this shared dialogue, we come to comprehend and communicate truth that is both transcendent and unchanging.”



Javier Mazariegos

Philosophy & English, Maryland

“The exposure we have had to the Institute for Human Ecology has shaped my first year at Catholic University in such a way that I am sure I have invested in the best for my future. Through dinner discussions with Mark Bauerlein and talks sponsored by the Institute for Human Ecology, we have had our intellectual horizons broadened. Our college experience has truly become a quest for answers, a quest for clarity, and a quest for truth. I am dearly thankful for all the IHE has done to make our college life a noble endeavor.”

Sophie Palmer

Psychology and Brain Sciences, Maryland

“Being a part of this undergraduate program created such a wonderful and fulfilling experience for my freshman year of college. The open environment and intellectual seminars about a multitude of topics in philosophy and morality revealed the fruitful benefits of discussing material rather than just passively receiving information. My friends and I had many conversations about the material after the seminars, and we cannot wait for what next semester will bring!”

Renee Rasmussen

Secondary English Education, California

“I can always count on the IHE to put on great events for our campus. The IHE has been an amazing opportunity for me to hear from speakers that address current issues. These events always start discussions around campus and create a great community centered around growing in knowledge.”

Rita Rogers

Nursing Major, Philosophy Minor, Virginia

“The opportunity to participate in vibrant and edifying discussions on topics of philosophy and literature has been a joy for me as a STEM major. I am very grateful for the insightful professors and peers who share the same pursuit of Truth and have inspired both my intellectual and spiritual growth.”



Undergraduate Fellow Testimonials



Select Faculty Fellows



Dennis Coyle, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Politics Department Chair
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Constitutionalism, Political Culture, Catholic Social Thought



Ross Douthat

New York Times Columnist | Film Critic for *National Review*
Expertise: Media, Church History, and Theology



Jennifer A. Frey, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of South Carolina
Expertise: Philosophy of Action and Ethics



Angela McKay Knobel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Philosophy
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Moral Philosophy, Thomistic Ethics, Virtue Ethics



V. Bradley Lewis, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Philosophy
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Political Philosophy, Jurisprudence, Ethics



Chad C. Pecknold, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Fundamental Theology, Theological Anthropology, Theological Politics



Jay W. Richards, Ph.D.

Assistant Research Professor
The Catholic University of America
Executive Editor of “The Stream”
Expertise: Political Philosophy, Moral Theology, Economic Theory



Frederic Sautet, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Political Economy and Entrepreneurship Theory
The Busch School of Business at The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Political Economy, Entrepreneurship Theory



Stephanie Saroki de García

Cofounder and Managing Director of Seton Education Partners
Expertise: Education Philanthropy, Academic Leadership, Public Policy



Lucia Ann Silecchia, J.D.

Professor of Law, and Director, Summer Law Program in Rome
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Environmental Law and Ethics, Catholic Social Thought and Law, Catholic Higher Ed.



Erin Tuttle

Public Policy Consultant
Expertise: Federalism, Education



Brandon Vaidyanathan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Sociology
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Work and Professions, Religion and Globalization, Religion, Science, and Health



Joseph Capizzi, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Stephen P. Higgins, J.D.
Managing Director



William L. Saunders, J.D.
Director of the Program in Human Rights



Emmett McGroarty, J.D.
Director of the Program in the Constitution and Catholic Social Doctrine



Jeanne Marie Leo
Administrative Assistant



Beatriz Lopez-Bonetti
Media Fellow



This Institute, I think, is a very important expression of the renaissance that's underway at Catholic University in these recent years, and I'm delighted to be part of that.

George Weigel

Leadership

IHE Fellow Highlights

Ross Douthat



 @DouthatNYT

 @theargument

Ross Douthat is a Media Fellow with the IHE. He joined *The New York Times* as an Op-Ed Columnist in 2009. Previously, he was a Senior Editor at *The Atlantic* and blogger for theatlantic.com. He is the author of *To Change the Church: Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism* (Simon and Schuster, 2018), *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics* (Simon and Schuster, 2012), and *Privilege: Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class* (Hyperion, 2005). He is the co-author, with Reihan Salam, of *Grand New Party: How Republicans Can Win the Working Class and Save the American Dream* (Doubleday, 2008). Mr. Douthat is also the Film Critic for *National Review*.

Mr. Douthat has collaborated on numerous events with the IHE. In September 2019, he moderated “Cultural Conservatives: Two Visions Responding to the Post-Liberal Left,” an IHE-organized debate between Sohrab Ahmari and David French. On the February 2020 publication date of Douthat’s latest work, *The Decadent Society*, the IHE hosted his book launch with a signing and lecture. During this event he discussed the decadence of our era, what happens when a rich and powerful society ceases advancing, how long our era of stagnation and repetition might last, and how — whether in renaissance or catastrophe — our decadence might ultimately end.

IHE Fellow Highlights

Jennifer Frey

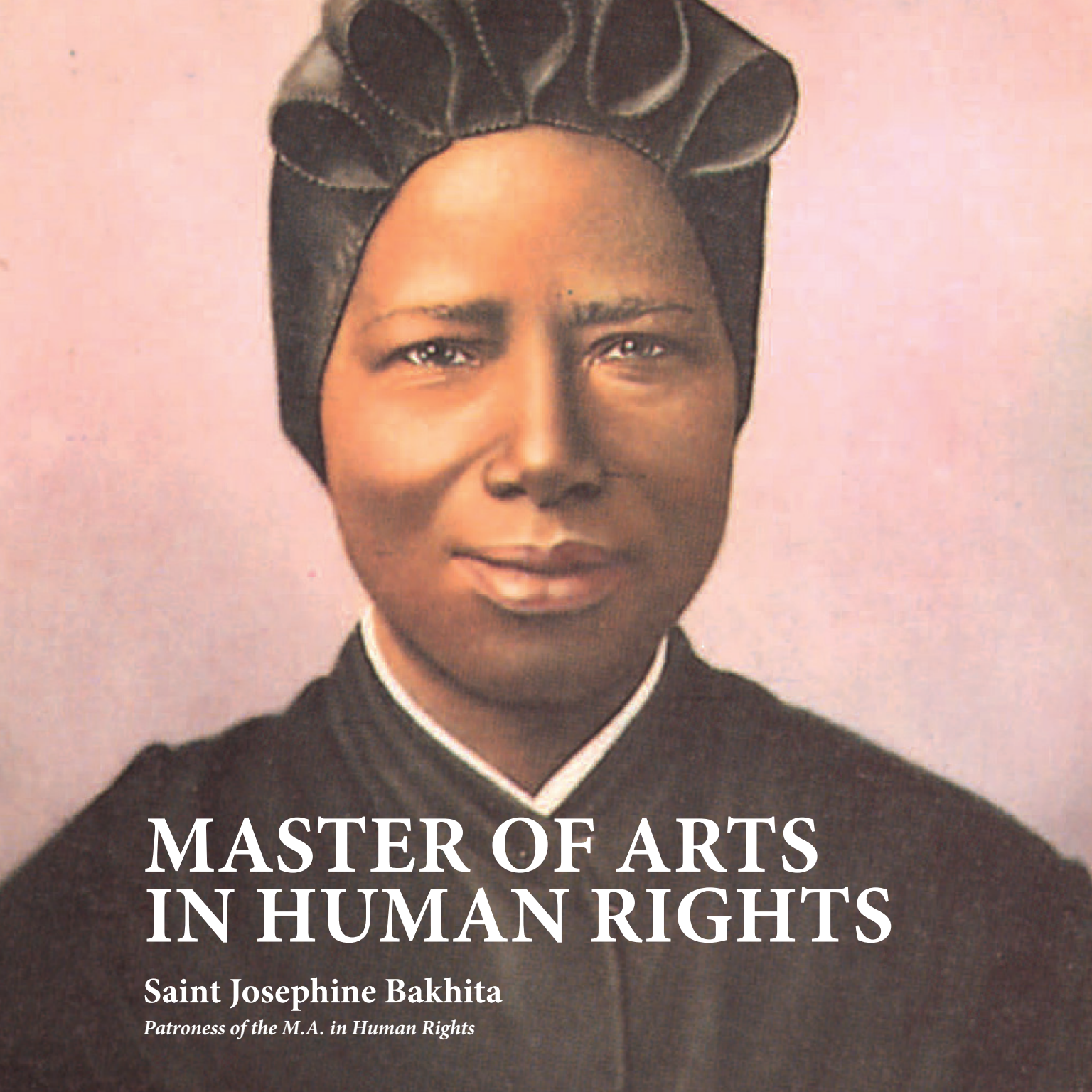


 @jennfrey

 @eudaimoniapod

Jennifer A. Frey, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina working at the intersection of the philosophy of action and ethics. She was recently a principle investigator of a three year, 2.1 million dollar research project entitled, “Virtue, Happiness, and Meaning of Life.” She is the author of many articles, recently co-edited *Self-Transcendence and Virtue: Perspectives from Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology*, and writes for *The Virtue Blog*. Throughout this academic year, Dr. Frey has given many lectures on topics of virtue ethics, Aquinas, and suffering.

The IHE sponsors Dr. Frey’s philosophy podcast, *Sacred and Profane Love*, in which she discusses literature and philosophy with prominent scholars like IHE Fellow Dr. Angela Knobel, Fr. Gregory Pine, O.P., and Dr. David McPherson.



MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Saint Josephine Bakhita

Patroness of the M.A. in Human Rights

First Class of Students Graduated in May 2020

A nine-month Master of Arts in Human Rights designed by human rights expert and IHE Fellow William Saunders, J.D.

The Institute for Human Ecology is pleased to celebrate the successful first year of the Master of Arts in Human Rights, designed for graduate students from the United States and abroad, with diverse academic interests and backgrounds, who wish to study human rights from a distinctly Catholic perspective.

The interdisciplinary degree is awarded by the School of Arts and Sciences through the IHE's Center for Human Rights.

Through this program graduates will:

- (1) Know the international legal structure of human rights
- (2) Advocate from a rich understanding of the Catholic anthropology of the human person
- (3) Grasp the natural law of rights and the place of rights in the political order
- (4) Analyze and discuss whether claimed rights are defensible as such
- (5) Understand the intersection of human rights concepts and Catholic Social Doctrine
- (6) Contribute to the building of a culture of human rights that advances the good of the human person in community

Saint Josephine Bakhita, born in Sudan in 1869, was kidnapped at the age of seven and sold into slavery. She was sold several times, eventually becoming a nanny for an Italian family. While the family traveled, Josephine was placed in the care of Italian Canossian Sisters, who introduced her to Christ. Josephine gained her freedom and became a Canossian Sister, where she spent her life preparing missionary sisters to work in Africa as an exemplar of Christian charity. When asked what she would do if she could meet her captors, she replied: "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today." Program Director William Saunders formed a devotion for Saint Josephine while working in Sudan, where he founded an organization to combat slavery and genocide.

Future Leaders Formed by Human Rights Heroes

Program Director William Saunders, J.D., utilizes his extensive network to bring students into contact with heroes of our time.

The program consists of 30 semester hours of post-baccalaureate coursework, including a capstone course designed to bring together the insights from other courses in examining the Church's work at the United Nations and with other international bodies. In addition to coursework, students reap the benefits of a D.C. education, meeting regularly with human rights activists and international leaders.



*"Meeting once a week with a **hero** of the human rights movement has been an incredible supplement to my courses in the Master's program."*

Abigail Wilkinson, M.A.



"[William Saunders] is genuinely a human rights hero, a person who has literally . . . put his life on the line upholding human rights in very dangerous places like the Southern Sudan."

Robert P. George



"As a student in the Master of Arts in Human Rights program, attending the United States Commission on Unalienable Rights was an extraordinarily privileged moment. Attending this commission meeting instilled hope in me."

Joseph Enzler, M.A.



Advisory Council

Robert P. George
Princeton University

Mary Ann Glendon
Harvard Law School

John Dilulio
University of Pennsylvania

John Keown
Georgetown University

Kevin Flannery, S.J.
Gregorian University

Thomas Farr
Religious Freedom Institute

Helen Alvaré
George Mason Law School

I think this [program] will really bring something new to the table. That is an understanding of human rights rooted in the deep tradition of thought that takes us back to Athens and to Jerusalem, an approach to human rights that really anchors human rights in the truth about the human person and the flourishing of the human person We need that kind of deep understanding.

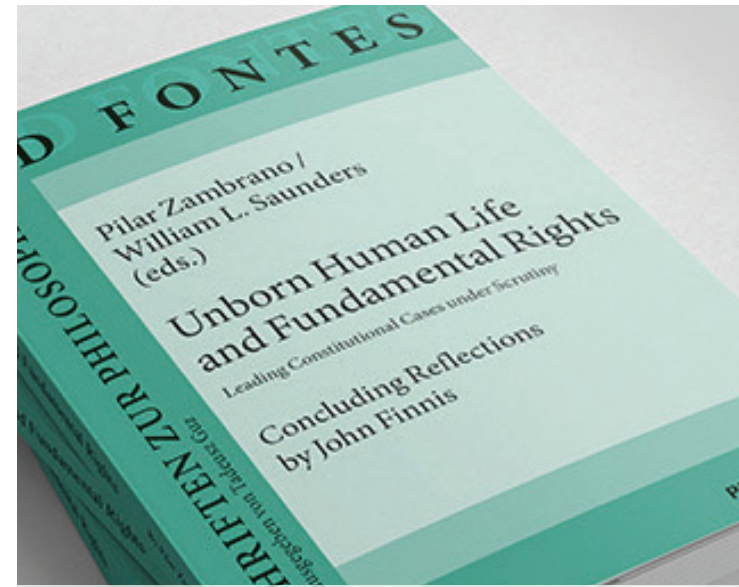
Robert P. George,
Princeton University's McCormick
Professor of Jurisprudence



Andrew Bennett, Director of the Cardus Religious Freedom Institute, spoke to students about the Catholic perspective on religious freedom in Canada.



Students met with **Father Charles Kitima**, Secretary General of the Tanzanian Conference of Bishops, to discuss the geopolitical situation in Tanzania, particularly Christian-Muslim relations, in light of the country's history and governmental structure.



William Saunders, J.D., presents a collection of studies by top scholars (including Saunders himself, Gerard Bradley of Notre Dame, and William Binchy of Ireland) on leading cases from twelve different countries defining the legal status of unborn human life.

“My favorite moment of the March for Life is always the view back from Constitution Avenue just before turning to approach the Supreme Court. When I looked back this time, the end of the March was not in sight — a powerful visual statement of the movement’s size and strength. A mother next to me was struggling to lift her young son above the heads of the crowd. I was able to lend a hand and was rewarded by his own wonder at seeing the mass of people.”

Michael Moss, M.A.

*“The Master of Arts in Human Rights is giving me the tools necessary to identify the evils that exist in our world as well as the tools to combat them. I am **grateful** for the education I am receiving and the **knowledge** imparted by those we meet in the human rights field.”*

Joseph Enzler, M.A.



Program Director **William Saunders** and M.A. students attended the March for Life to show support for the pro-life cause, perhaps the greatest human rights issue of our time.



Students met with leaders of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation and discussed how their work helps to further human rights in business.



M.A. in Human Rights Student Testimonials



Joseph Enzler

M.A. in Human Rights

“As a student in the Master of Arts in Human Rights Program, I have come to appreciate the work of the Institute for Human Ecology. Human ecology is at the center of human rights and a proper understanding of it is essential for protecting them. I am grateful for the work the IHE does and will support the institute for years to come.”



Emily Hausheer

M.A. in Human Rights

“I loved the experience of human rights experts coming to speak to us. Opportunities such as the trip to the Commission on Unalienable Rights proved priceless, as well as the proximity to the Capitol and Library of Congress to study in daily. Professor Saunders has great connections with interesting people and stories!”



Steven Howard

M.A. in Human Rights

“The M.A. in Human Rights enriched my understanding of human rights by illuminating their Christian origins. As I deepened my study of Catholic Social Doctrine, I developed a new appreciation for the moral clarity it provides for the challenging issues of our day. Experiencing the community of Catholic University was also incredibly rewarding for me as a Catholic. Moving forward, I feel more solidly grounded in Catholic Social Doctrine and prepared to tackle human rights challenges.”



Michael Moss

M.A. in Human Rights

“As a student in the IHE, I was able to participate in conversations that moved ideas beyond the classroom into law, political activism, and religion. I could dive into my particular studies and simultaneously witness discussions by the people changing culture and policy right now. I appreciate the Institute’s combination of the Catholic intellectual tradition and current events, especially since Catholic moral anthropology is able to offer the full vision of human life so often missing in public debate.”



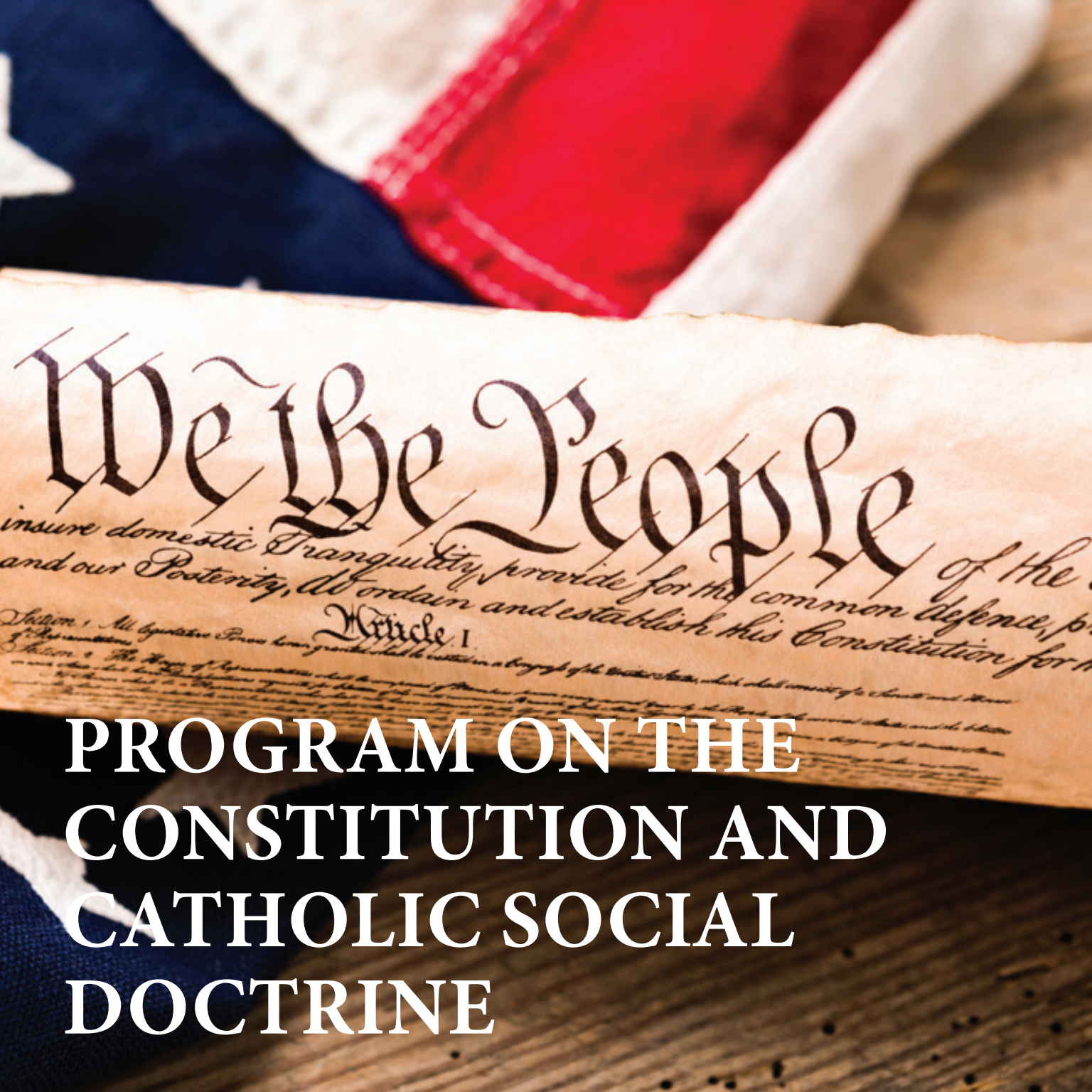
Abigail Wilkinson

M.A. in Human Rights

“The Institute for Human Ecology has played an indispensable role in providing resources and guidance for my academic work. But, more significantly, it has proved to be a community of scholars, mentors, students, and friends who have challenged and inspired me to consider my work in the light of human fulfillment and Catholic social teaching. I know with certainty and with gratitude that the people I have met and the opportunities I have been afforded as a student associated with the IHE have contributed to my personal and intellectual flourishing.”

As I deepened my study of Catholic Social Doctrine, I developed a new appreciation for the moral clarity it provides for the challenging issues of our day.

Steven Howard



PROGRAM ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE

The Program on the Constitution and Catholic Social Doctrine

This Program, led by IHE Fellow Emmett McGroarty, makes the moral argument that the deterioration of the constitutional structure — especially federalism and the separation of powers — has impaired the formation of strong communities and has undermined local and national solidarity. The Program also develops policy solutions and propagates them through national and state-based policy organizations.

Some of the questions driving this conversation include:

- Does government interfere with, or protect, the natural yearning of individuals to order their lives and the surrounding world?
- Does American government abide by the constitutional structure — a form of political subsidiarity?
- Does the violation of subsidiarity and federalism principles affect solidarity?
- Does government take from the individual opportunities to practice, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church observes, “the natural tendency . . . to associate with one another for the sake of attaining objectives that exceed individual capacities”? Are such abuses disproportionately injurious to the poor and the weak?
- What policy solutions can restore the integrity of the constitutional structure?

Background

Our Program on the Constitution and Catholic Social Doctrine previously existed as another entity’s Project on Federalism. It is continuing the work at the Institute with the benefit of the university’s scholarship and research resources.

- Program Director Emmett McGroarty and IHE Fellow Erin Tuttle coauthored *Deconstructing the Administrative State: The Fight for Liberty* (Sophia Institute Press/Liberty Hill, 2017).
- Emmett McGroarty is adept at interjecting policy issues into the public square, having served on the development team of the federal government’s human trafficking awareness program and having been one of the key leaders of the grassroots effort against the federal government’s Common Core effort.
- Prior to his work at the IHE, Emmett McGroarty served at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, at the Trafficking in Persons Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and with a national think tank.

The Program in Action

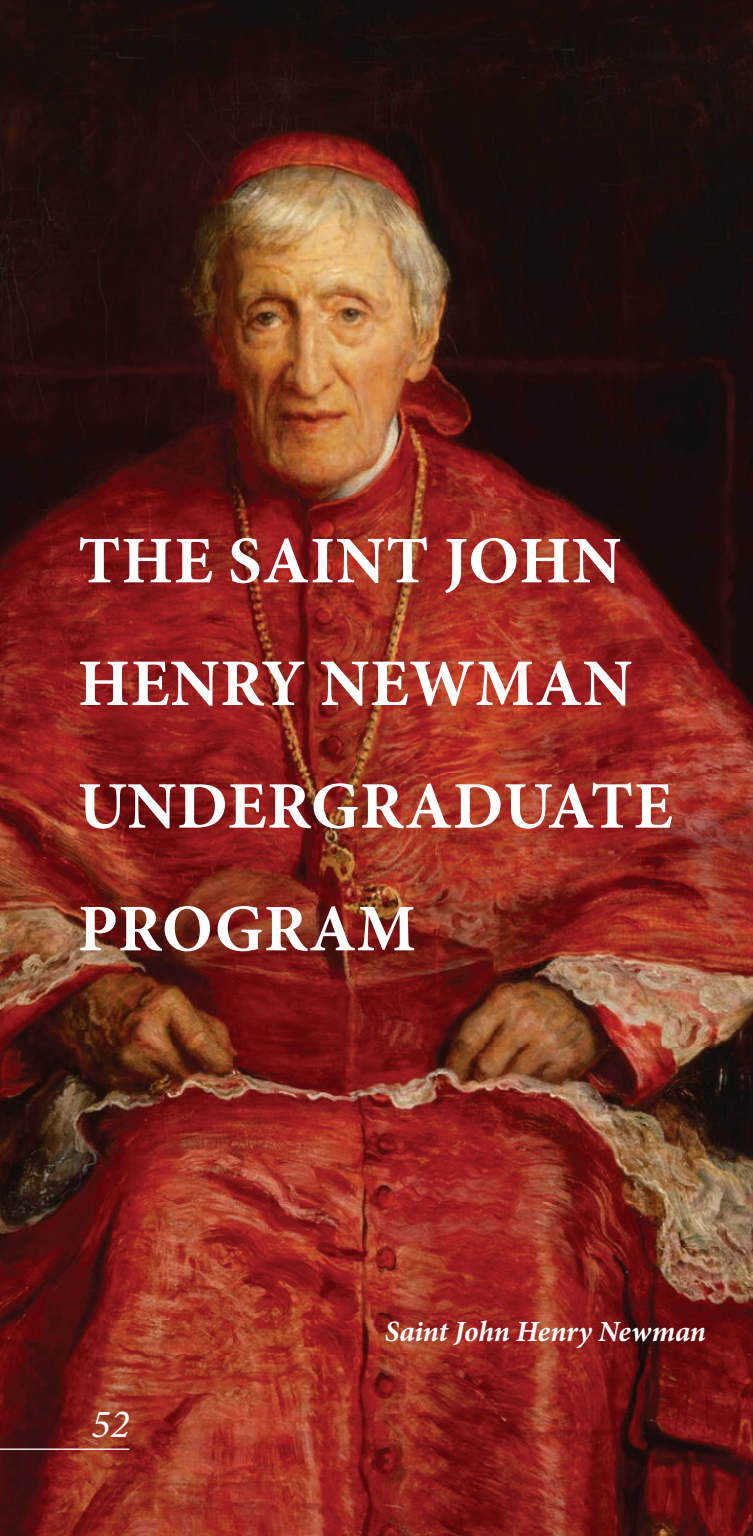
The Program enriches and shapes public discourse:

- The Program hosts public discussions with leading influencers on matters of civil society. For example, in 2019 it hosted an event with the American Enterprise Institute's Timothy P. Carney to discuss the findings in his book, *Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse*.
- Through both academic and popular publications, the Program propagates its analyses and findings.
- The Program contributes to several study groups comprised of representatives from other academic and policy institutions that share research on government's effects on civil society. These groups include leading thinkers from institutions such as The Heritage Foundation, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Stand Together, and the Cato Institute.
- In 2019, the IHE, the Cato Institute, The Heritage Foundation, and the Pioneer Institute formed a working group on federalism and education policy.
- The Program develops model policy solutions to remedy various injuries to the constitutional structure, with an emphasis on "bite-sized" solutions that would fix significant problems but which can be easily implemented.

For example:

- *The Reforming How Federal Grants Are Provided to the State Model* would establish statewide procedures for how a state receives and considers grant offers from the federal government, including requirements that notice of the application be provided to the legislature and the governor along with a cost-benefit analysis and a report on the implications to state policies; that the governor approve a grant application before its submission to the federal government; and that the executive branch establish a public database of such grants. Indiana enacted the model in 2019, making it the first state with a comprehensive approach to handling federal grant offers.
- *The Economic Analysis Unit Model* would establish an office under a state's legislature to evaluate regulations and federal grant offers, thus giving the legislature an independent means of acquiring critical information. Through legislature rule, the West Virginia legislature is establishing an office based on this model.
- In 2020, in consultation with a former state legislator, the Program developed a model state resolution to call attention to the entrenched, common federal practice of embedding in federal-to-state grant offers requirements on how a state is to consider and approve the offer.





THE SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Saint John Henry Newman

“If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course, I say it is that of training good members of society.”

Saint John Henry Newman
The Idea of a University
Discourse 7, paragraph 10

On 10 April 1887, Pope Leo XIII gave his blessing to the American bishops to establish a university, founding The Catholic University of America. Pope Leo XIII, an early champion of Catholic social doctrine, understood that forming young people in the intellectual tradition of the Church is crucial to building societies that promote the flourishing of all.

Pope Leo XIII had a comrade in Saint John Henry Newman. Saint John Henry, the legendary Oxford scholar and Catholic convert, articulated his vision of Catholic education in *The Idea of the University*. Its key themes are reflected in Pope Leo XIII’s founding letter to the American bishops. It is no surprise, then, that Pope Leo XIII himself elevated Newman to the cardinalate less than a decade before founding Catholic University.

“Give to the Republic her best citizens.”

Pope Leo XIII
Letter to James Cardinal Gibbons on the founding of The Catholic University of America

Now, 133 years later, the Institute for Human Ecology is taking up the mantle of these Catholic giants. We are proud to announce, as of January 2020, the successful launch of our Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program.

Students in the Program represent diverse majors and backgrounds. They are united by a common thirst for intellectual discussion and desire lively engagement with passionate peers, professors, and mentors.

Through spiritual, civic, and intellectual formation, the Saint John Henry Program provides undergraduates with the opportunities and community to flourish at Catholic University and renew society through lives of holiness, courage, and truth.



Pope Leo XIII



The Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program gathers bright, eager students into cohorts for discussion groups, lectures, liturgical worship, and cultural events. We offer them opportunities to leverage the riches of the IHE for robust personal formation aimed at, as Saint John Henry Newman called it, the “cultivation of the mind.”

The goal of the program — to give to the Republic her best citizens — is accomplished by inculcating students with a deep sense of a thriving human ecology. We prepare them to complete their university studies with cultured minds, deepened faith, and civic virtue.

In the Program’s first semester, we:

- Solidified a cohort of 15 first-year students from diverse majors
- Held a dinner seminar led by IHE Fellow Mark Bauerlein where students discussed the distinction between natural goodness and Christian holiness in Dante’s *Inferno* and Tennyson’s “Ulysses”
- Introduced students to IHE Fellow and University of Virginia Sociologist, Dr. Brad Wilcox, after his February lecture “For As Long As Our Love Shall Last: How the Soulmate Myth Makes Marriage Less Stable and Less Happy”
- Built community through informal lunch and dinner gatherings
- Held a second seminar on Zoom with Mark Bauerlein, discussing John 18:28-40 (Christ’s trial before Pilate), Nietzsche’s *The Antichrist*, and Anatole France’s *The Procurator of Judea*

Students in our program reap the unique benefits of studying at The Catholic University of America:

- A thriving sacramental life
- Top-tier professors who bring their Catholic faith into diverse academic fields
- A flexible academic curriculum designed for engagement in the liberal arts
- D.C. location
- Engaged, sober-minded peers interested in pursuing the great questions

**IHE Fellow
Highlights**



Mark Bauerlein

🐦 @mark_bauerlein
📍 @firstthings

Mark Bauerlein is Senior Editor at *First Things* and Emeritus Professor of English at Emory University, where he taught after earning his Ph.D. in English at UCLA in 1989. He served as Director of the Office of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts 2003-2005. He is the author of many scholarly as well as popular articles and several books, including *Whitman and the American Idiom* (1991), *The Pragmatic Mind: Explorations in the Psychology of Belief* (1997), *Literary Criticism: An Autopsy* (1997), *Negrophobia: A Race Riot in Atlanta 1906* (2001), and *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future* (2008). Dr. Bauerlein also hosts *The Conversation*, a podcast at www.firstthings.com.

Professor Bauerlein joined the IHE to help develop the Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program. He brings his experience of founding an undergraduate program at Emory University to the unique environment of The Catholic University of America.



JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY DINNER SERIES

These meetings brought faculty and graduate students together for multi-hour sessions to discuss the Catholic Church and its relationship with the world.

The relationship between Catholicism and liberalism has always been fraught. The outright enmity between the two was increasingly mitigated, beginning with the opening to the modern world proposed by Pope Leo XIII. Upon his elevation to the cardinalate by the same pope, Saint John Henry Newman proudly spoke about his own lifelong opposition to the “great mischief” of liberalism in religion, while noting that he saw “much in the liberalistic theory which is good and true.”

A century later, Catholic thinkers such as John Courtney Murray and Saint John Paul II brought new attention to the discussion. With liberalism continuing to dominate the political thought and practice of the modern world, the IHE introduced a dinner series to give Fellows the opportunity to wrangle with questions raised by liberal thought in the light of our Catholic faith.

Two Fellows of the Institute for Human Ecology — Bradley Lewis and David Walsh — moderated the John Courtney Murray Dinner Series during the 2019-2020 academic year. Dr. Lewis, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Catholic University, and Dr. Walsh, Ordinary Professor of Politics at Catholic University, led five separate sessions of the dinner series.

Enlightened by carefully selected readings and interdisciplinary discourse, professors, graduate students, and academics focused on several driving questions: What is the difference between the practical and theoretical construals of liberalism? How much has the Catholic Church defined with respect to liberalism? Which elements of liberal practice and institutional organization could be improved or illuminated by Catholic social thought?

VARIOUS INITIATIVES

INTERDISCIPLINARY MEETINGS

To stimulate discussions of timely topics, promote ties across disciplines, and foster partnerships among the professors, the IHE holds interdisciplinary meetings of the professors and graduate students during the academic year.

Eat, Fast, Feast: Heal Your Body While Feeding Your Soul — A Christian Guide to Fasting

Professor Jay Richards presented his Amazon bestselling book, *Eat, Fast, Feast: Heal Your Body While Feeding Your Soul — A Christian Guide to Fasting*, which argues that Christians should recover the fasting lifestyle, not only to improve their bodies, but to bolster spiritual health as well. In his engaging presentation, he combined neglected spiritual wisdom on fasting and feasting with the burgeoning literature on ketogenic diets and fasting for improved physical and mental health. He explored how Christians can substitute hunger for God for our hunger for food, and what both modern science and the ancient monastics can teach us about this practice.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY

Catholic University Research Day 2020 showcased research conducted by students, faculty, and staff of The Catholic University of America. Students have the opportunity to present the fruits of their research and engage with the University about their areas of study.

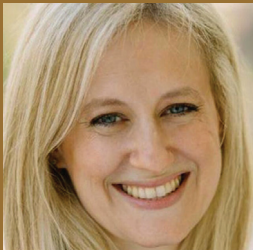
At this year's Research Day

IHE Fellow Morgan Whitmer, a doctoral student in Political Theory, prepared a paper for presentation. In her paper, "Thrasymachian 'Pouring,' Socratic 'Stamping,' and Platonic 'Periagoge': An Examination of the Educational Philosophies in the Republic," she discusses three educational models presented in Plato's Republic. The first, put forth by Thrasymachus, treats the soul as an essential passive receptacle that can be "filled" with opinion. Second, Socrates challenges this view by offering his own account of education, that of "stamping" the soul, through which the soul and the passions are moderated instead of drowned. The final account of education, Plato's dialectical education, builds on the harmonized soul formed by Socrates' "stamping" education and turns the soul toward the Good.



FAITH & LAW

The IHE collaborates with Faith and Law, a non-profit that enables Members of Congress and Hill staff to think deeply on how faith impacts their duties in the public square. Faith and Law seeks to encourage and endow policy-makers with understanding of the biblical worldview and thereby help shape future Christian leaders. The IHE has cosponsored multiple Friday Forums, semi-monthly Hill staff lunches in either a House, Senate, or virtual room, which invite a variety of distinguished speakers to address contemporary political and cultural issues. Several IHE Faculty Fellows have recently lectured for Friday Forums, providing their valuable expertise on Catholic social doctrine as it relates to current events.



The Chinese Communist Party and the Coronavirus

Director of the M.A. in Human Rights, William Saunders, J.D., and Chen Guangcheng, a Chinese civil rights lawyer, addressed congressional and Hill staff about the Chinese government, civil rights, and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Economic Implications of the Covid Crisis

IHE Fellow and Assistant Professor of Economics at The Catholic University Busch School of Business Dr. Catherine R. Pakaluk shared her insights on the economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, with special attention to impact on families.

When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment

IHE Fellow Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., addressed gender theory's increasing hold on the culture and how this ideology negatively impacts Americans. He also engaged questions about transgender legislation and policy. His research and writing focuses on marriage, bioethics, religious liberty, and political philosophy. Anderson is also the founder and editor of *Public Discourse*, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, New Jersey.

The Church in Quarantine: Thinking Theologically about the Covid Crisis

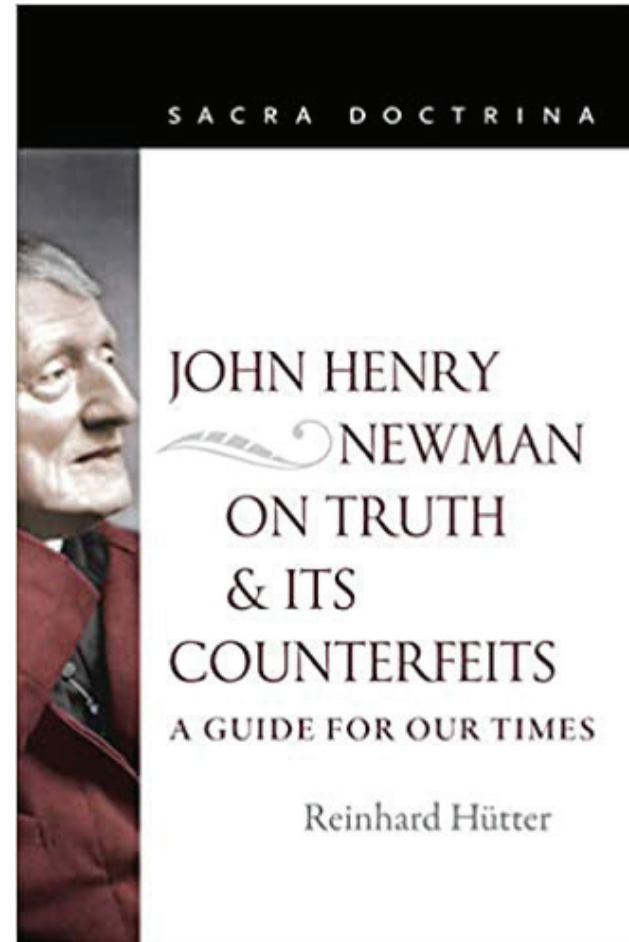
Father Thomas Petri, O.P., of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception joined IHE Executive Director Joseph Capizzi and IHE Fellow Chad Pecknold for a webinar on faith during the quarantine. Their discussion provided deeper insight on the current COVID-19 health crisis, elucidating a theological perspective of the pandemic for those struggling to resume 'normal' social and spiritual life.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

John Henry Newman on Truth and Its Counterfeits: A Guide for Our Times

Reinhard Huetter

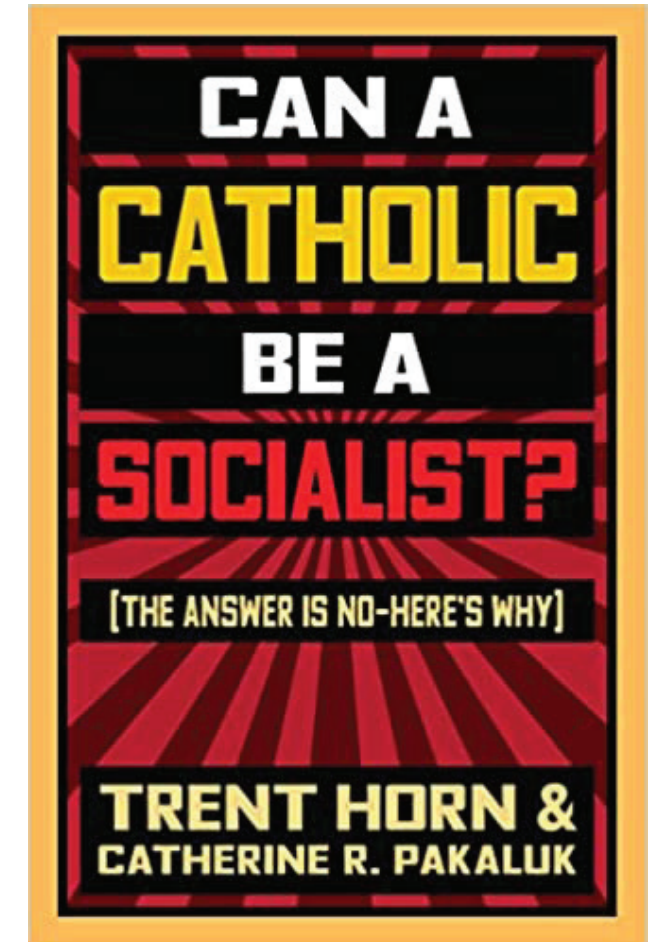
Reinhard Huetter's main thesis is that Saint John Henry Newman, in his own context of the nineteenth century, faced the same challenges that we do today: liberalism in religion, rationalism, and the unfettered reign of private judgment in matters of religion. Newman's engagement with these problems offers a prescient and prophetic diagnosis of where these problems lead — consequences which have more or less come to pass — and an alternative which is at once thoroughly Catholic and deeply relevant.



Can a Catholic Be a Socialist?

Catherine R. Pakaluk and Trent Horn

In this timely book, IHE Fellow Catherine R. Pakaluk and Trent Horn argue that socialism is incompatible with Catholic doctrine. Firmly rooted in Scripture, history, Catholic social teaching, and economics, they debunk claims that socialism is a Christian approach to government. They also lay out commonsense economic principles that are in line with the Faith. Readers will be equipped to point out the flaws of socialism and participate in a call for the renewal of society founded in human freedom.



I Served a Saint

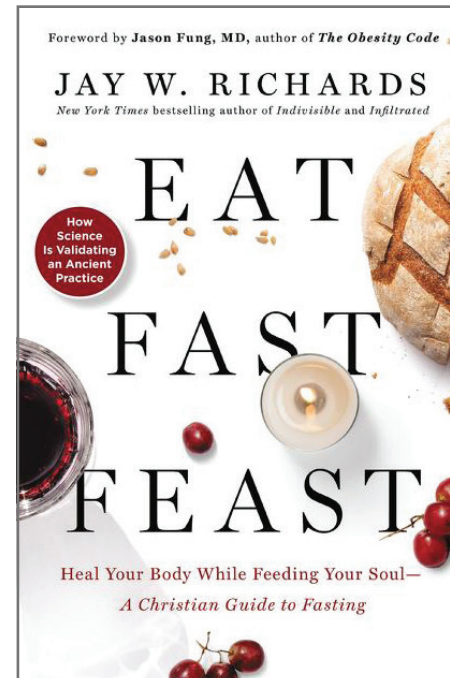
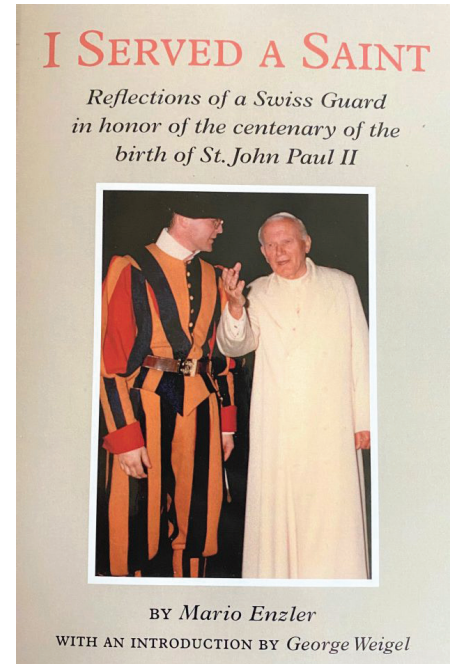
Mario Enzler

What is it like to work every day in the presence of a saint? Mario Enzler shares his true and fascinating experience as a Swiss Guard for Saint John Paul II. While he currently serves as a Fellow for the Institute of Human Ecology at The Catholic University of America, higher education was not his original plan. Also a former musician and tax fiduciary, Enzler shares the dramatic and delightful journey of a layman and a Pope, each on the quest to know, love, and serve God. How their paths cross is a story only God could dream up; Enzler was blessed enough to live it and write it down.

Eat, Fast, Feast: Heal Your Body While Feeding Your Soul — A Christian Guide to Fasting

Jay Richards

Professor Jay Richards argues that Christians should recover the fasting lifestyle, not only to improve our bodies, but to bolster our spiritual health as well. In *Eat, Fast, Feast*, he combines forgotten spiritual wisdom on fasting and feasting with the burgeoning literature on ketogenic diets and fasting for improved physical and mental health. Based on his popular series “Fasting, Body and Soul” in *The Stream*, *Eat, Fast, Feast* explores what it means to substitute our hunger for God for our hunger for food, and what both modern science and the ancient monastics can teach us about this practice.



Science and Christian Ethics

Paul Scherz

A growing crisis in scientific research is evident in failures to reproduce experimental results, fraud, lack of innovation, and burn-out. Paul Scherz traces these problems to the push by governments and businesses to turn scientists into competitive entrepreneurs who use their research to stimulate economic growth. The result is a competitive environment aimed at commodifying the world. To confront this problem, Scherz examines the alternative Aristotelian and Stoic models of reforming character, found in Alasdair MacIntyre and Michel Foucault. Against prominent virtue ethicists, he argues that individual scientists need a regime of spiritual exercises, such as those found in Stoicism as it was adopted by Christianity, to refocus on the good of truth in the face of institutional pressure. His book illuminates pressing issues in research ethics, moral education, and anthropology.

Unborn Human Life and Fundamental Rights: Leading Constitutional Cases under Scrutiny

Edited by William L. Saunders and Pilar Zambrano

This book, co-edited by IHE Fellow and Human Rights Program Director William Saunders, J.D., presents a collection of studies by top scholars (including Saunders himself, Gerard Bradley of Notre Dame, and William

Binchy of Ireland) on leading cases from twelve different countries defining the legal status of unborn human life. The cases under study pertain to three distinctive cultural and constitutional systems: Latin American Constitutional Courts and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, European Constitutional Courts and the European Court on Human Rights, as well as Common Law jurisdictions. With a special conclusion by Professor John Finnis, drawing together the many threads of the individual chapters into a comprehensive whole, this book lays the basis for further comparative study of the legal and moral reasoning underlying judicial decisions which either recognize or deny legal personhood to unborn human beings.

Mercenaries and Missionaries: Capitalism and Catholicism in the Global South

Brandon Vaidyanathan

Mercenaries and Missionaries examines the relationship between rapidly diffusing forms of capitalism and Christianity in the Global South. Using more than two hundred interviews in Bangalore and Dubai, Brandon Vaidyanathan explains how and why global corporate professionals straddle conflicting moral orientations in the realms of work and religion. Seeking to spotlight the role of religion in debates about the cultural consequences of capitalism, Vaidyanathan finds that an “apprehensive individualism” generated in global corporate workplaces is supported and sustained by a “therapeutic individualism” cultivated in evangelical-charismatic Catholicism.



GRATITUDE

*We extend our deepest appreciation to our benefactors
and to everyone who has assisted the IHE.*

Your support has made our achievements possible.

Thank you!





IHE

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Human beings interpret and
shape the natural environment
through culture, which in
turn is given direction by the
responsible use of freedom, in
accordance with the dictates of
the moral law.

Pope Benedict XVI
CARITAS IN VERITATE (2009)

ihe.catholic.edu
ihe@cua.edu
[@catholicumaneecology](https://www.instagram.com/catholicumaneecology) 
[@HumanEcologyCUA](https://www.twitter.com/HumanEcologyCUA) 

620 Michigan Avenue, NE
339 Caldwell Hall
Washington, DC 20064