



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022
Academic Year



The Institute for
Human Ecology



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

COVER: *The Coronation of the Virgin*, Italian Renaissance oil on canvas painting created by Tintoretto, 1580.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute for Human Ecology (IHE) at The Catholic University of America is the nation's leading academic institute committed to identifying 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 research, advise Church leadership, and organize symposia, conferences, and lectures for the academy and the public square. IHE programs challenge the materialistic and reductionist worldviews of institutions, policy-makers, and opinion-formers that stand in the way of prosperity and human dignity.

The IHE's Four Pillars

FREEDOM

The foundation of human flourishing.

FAMILY

The fundamental social unit of a healthy, functioning society.

ECONOMY

The intersection of free enterprise and ingenuity ordered toward human flourishing.

CULTURE

The driving force behind the way we form human relationships.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2021
2022

Message from the Executive Director	5
Overview	6
Impact by the Numbers	8
Events Timeline	10
Highlights	12
Partnerships	14
Leadership	16

Shaping Public Discourse

IHE Voices	21
Program on Catholic Political Thought	22
<i>The Lamp</i>	24
Does America Need a Catholic Politics?	26
Faith & Law on Capitol Hill	28
The Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship	30
Program on the Constitution and CSD	34
The IHE in the Media	36

Generating Scholarship

Select Faculty Fellows	38
IHE Featured Scholars	40
Morally Responsible Investing	42
<i>Sacred and Profane Love</i> Podcast	43
Select Publications	44

Forming the Next Generation

Forming the Next Generation	48
Newman Undergraduate Program	58
Shaping the Landscape of Catholic University	64
M.A. in Human Rights Program	66

Public Engagement

Events	75
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Conclusion

Gratitude	83
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ANNUAL REPORT

June 2021 - May 2022



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

*Shaping public discourse, generating scholarship,
and forming the next generation*

2022 was a pivotal year for the Institute for Human Ecology. Emerging strongly from the pandemic, we streamlined our activity around a core set of goals: shaping public discourse, generating scholarship, and forming the next generation. To advance the voice of authentic Catholic thinking in the public sphere, we launched our Program on Catholic Political Thought and IHE Voices, brought in a strategy consultant to form our scholars for media engagement, hosted important public conversations, and deepened our academic community here at Catholic University and beyond.

Our community — undergraduates, M.A. students, Ph.D. Scholars, Civitas Dei Fellows, Media Fellows, and Faculty Scholars — is flourishing. Our new Director of Student Programs worked with this community to fortify a strong network of mentorship between our students and faculty. The more our students engage in the academic work and civil discourse modeled by our Faculty and Media Fellows, the more I am convinced that The Catholic University of America is the seat of international renewal in thinking through and living out the fullness of the Catholic faith in today's complex world.

We have great minds, seasoned academics, brilliant students, a faithful audience, and an effective team. We are fulfilling Pope Leo XIII's charge to the University "to give to the Republic her best citizens." We are committed to giving — through student formation, academic publication, media engagement, and public events — a healthy and clear vision of human flourishing, informed by Catholic Social Doctrine, to our world.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Institute. I am humbled by the generous support that makes it possible and look forward to sharing our successes with you.

OVERVIEW

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Institute for Human Ecology successfully refined our mission to meet a critical need in our community and beyond, providing a sound voice of Catholic thought in an increasingly fractious world. The IHE is a trusted source of scholarship on pressing political, moral, and theological matters. Drawing from our diverse pool of talented scholars, we supplied guidance on issues ranging from just war and the Ukrainian-Russian conflict to ethical investing as a Catholic.



A keystone of our work is our new Program on Catholic Political Thought, led by IHE Scholar V. Bradley Lewis (Philosophy). Through the Program, we offer the world's only interdisciplinary Ph.D. specialization in Catholic Political Thought. Students now enjoy the freedom and world-class faculty guidance to study core questions

of human community from the perspectives of theology, philosophy, and political theory — right here in Washington, D.C. We also announced the addition of renowned philosopher and legal scholar Russell Hittinger to the Program. He joined Catholic University's philosophy faculty as a Senior Researcher and IHE Scholar in August 2022.

Thanks to our new Director of Student Programs, all of the IHE's student cohorts have continued to grow and deepen. We completed the second full year of our 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 third class in our M.A. in Human Rights Program, have educated over 185 Civitas Dei Fellows, and supported 18 Graduate Scholars through stipends, scholarships, and community engagement (including a three-day intellectual retreat led by IHE Fellow Jennifer Frey).

Our scholars introduced not only the Catholic University community, but also the wider public, to Catholic teaching and intellectual thought on issues of human rights, ethics, theology, politics, and aesthetics. The IHE became an increasingly sought-after partner for events, programming, and strategizing as we increased our number of organizational partners to 31, including the Thomistic Institute, Zephyr Institute, National Review Institute, and more.

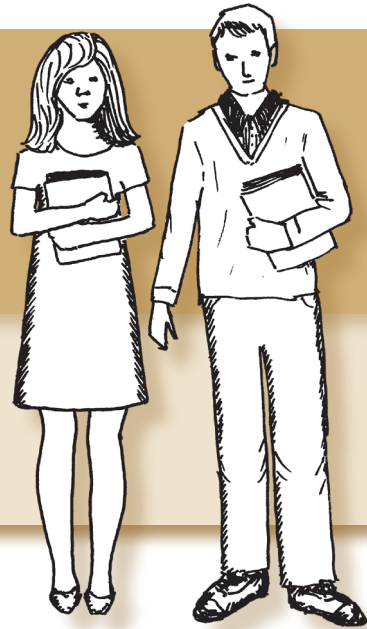
The IHE increased its social media presence. IHE Fellow Jennifer Frey hosts the popular podcast *Sacred and Profane Love*, which is sponsored by the IHE. Additionally, the IHE produces a detailed monthly e-newsletter to share its activities. The IHE livestreams its events and is active on Twitter, garnering hundreds of followers for our events, feast day tweets, and updates on our undergraduate and

graduate students. *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat remains a Media Fellow with the IHE, and a new cohort of our Scholars have received media training to activate their scholarship for wider, public benefit. The IHE enjoys a strong network of relationships with media and other institutions, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the University of Notre Dame, University of Dallas, Mercatus Center, Stand Together, Pioneer Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the Catholic Information Center, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Baylor in Washington, and Scala Foundation.

We hosted numerous high-profile speakers, who edified attendees and increased the name recognition, stature, and prestige of the IHE, helping attract students and professors. We built a cohort of 18 graduate students, nearly a score of undergraduates, and 59 Faculty Fellows, including 27 at Catholic University. Through our events, sponsorships, and the work of our Scholars, we are shaping public discourse, forming the next generation, and generating scholarship. For the upcoming academic year, we are working on a number of exciting items, including a fall conference on Catholic Political Thought cosponsored by The Thomistic Institute and the Project on Constitutional Originalism and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Thank you for your support and interest in the IHE's bright future.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



IHE Students

306

18

Graduate STUDENTS

80

Undergraduate STUDENTS

8 M.A. STUDENTS
in 2021 (15 Alumni)

Faculty SCHOLARS

59

27

at Catholic University

32

at other Institutions

IHE Voices MEDIA EXPERTS

16

185 Civitas Dei Scholars
(as of 2021)



9 Internal Events
Seminars and Dinners



3 Student Reading Groups
16 participants



2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR



26* PODCAST APPEARANCES

*Not including IHE Fellow Jennifer Frey's podcast, *Sacred and Profane Love*.
For more information, see page 45.



22 PUBLIC EVENTS

Virtual Events: 12
In-person Events: 10



12 E-NEWS LETTERS



41* OP-EDS IN MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

*Not including Ross Douthat's NYT column.



31 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A YEAR OF EVENTS

13 OCTOBER 2021

Does America Need a Catholic Politics?

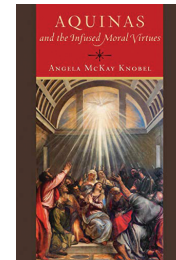
Read more on page 26



27 OCTOBER 2021

Book panel on *Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues*

Read more on page 45



25 JANUARY 2022

Common Good Capitalism



3 MARCH 2022

The Future of *Roe v. Wade*?

Read more on page 80



5 APRIL 2022

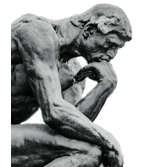
Virtue in the Loop: Designing Ethical Military AI Systems



26 APRIL 2022

Book panel on *Permanent Crisis: The Humanities in a Disenchanted Age*

Read more on page 81



9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Book panel on *Measuring Well-Being: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from the Social Sciences and the Humanities*



19 OCTOBER 2021

Human Rights Lecture: Ambassador Sam Brownback

Read more on page 72



11 NOVEMBER 2021

In My Heart: The Life of Saint Margaret of Castello



10 FEBRUARY 2022

Saint Scholastica Lecture

Read more on page 76



8 MARCH 2022

First Things Annual Lecture: Dr. Joshua Mitchell, "By the Sweat of Your Brow"

Read more on page 78



19 APRIL 2022

What Does a Truly Accessible Parish Look Like?

Read more on page 77

HIGHLIGHTS

Program on Catholic Political Thought

The Program on Catholic Political Thought brings together scholars in Theology, Philosophy, and Politics to create a place where students can engage with the Catholic political thought tradition, scholars can extend and apply it, and the general public can learn from it. The Program draws on core principles of Catholic political thought: the centrality of conscience, the common good, subsidiarity, human dignity, human rights, and limited government. It aims to make these ideas available to students in their original sources and with the aid of scholars committed to the truth.

The Program employs resources across the University to provide doctoral students with the means to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the tradition of Catholic Political Thought by serving as a clearing house for information about the study of political ideas at Catholic University. It does this in a variety of ways, including sponsoring lectures and colloquia both for faculty and students within the University and faculty and students from other universities and encouraging and assisting faculty in carrying out and disseminating their scholarship in both academic and other public forums.

Graduate Scholars

The IHE supports exceptional doctoral students, providing tuition and stipends in many cases. Candidates are 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). Any graduate student at Catholic University, however, is welcome to apply to our Graduate Scholars program by submitting his/her curriculum vitae and statement of purpose.



Faculty Scholars

The IHE has 59 Faculty Scholars representing top universities throughout the world. In addition to 27 Scholars at Catholic University, Scholars come from other institutions such as the University of Virginia, Baylor University, University of Dallas, Pepperdine, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Villanova. 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.

IHE Voices

IHE Voices consolidates the talent of our wide Faculty Scholars pool into a select cohort of Scholars and Fellows who draw on their academic work, writing, and deep formation in the Catholic tradition to be a voice of wisdom in the public media. They model robust civic engagement, especially in conversations related to the health of Church and society, the flourishing of families, and the truth that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. (Read more on page 21.)

Examples of Initiatives

- In March 2022, IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi presented at the AEI's "Toward a Humane Post-Pandemic Economics."
- Each semester, the IHE held a Mass for our community of scholars, students, and supporters.
- In collaboration with the Center for the Human Person at the Columbus School of Law, the IHE held a three-part lecture series on the philosophical, legal, and social dimensions of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.
- This year, Chen Guangcheng, Faculty for the IHE's M.A. in Human Rights Program, launched a podcast on human rights in China and implications for freedom today in the United States and abroad.
- The IHE continued sponsoring Jennifer Frey's podcast and hosted a live recording of an episode.
- Student and Faculty Scholars discussed and refined their work through IHE-sponsored paper workshops.

Events

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the IHE held numerous events, featuring speakers such as:

- Ross Douthat**
New York Times columnist
- Sam Brownback**
Former Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom
- Elbridge Colby**
Co-founder and Principal of The Marathon Initiative
- Rebecca Heinrichs**
Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute
- Helen Alvaré**
Robert A. Levy Endowed Chair in Law and Liberty at the Antonin Scalia Law School
- Dr. Josh Mitchell**
Professor of Government at Georgetown University
- Mark Rienzi**
Professor at Catholic University Law School
Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School
President of the Becket Fund
- Leila Marie Lawler**
Author
- Dr. Samuel Gregg**
Research Director at the Acton Institute
- William Mattison**
Professor of Moral Theology at University of Notre Dame
- Mary Hirschfeld**
Associate Professor of Economics and Theology at Villanova University

PARTNERSHIPS

The Thomistic Institute



In 2021, the IHE and the Thomistic Institute co-hosted the fourth annual Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship. This week-long conference, held at Catholic University and the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., draws an international cohort of graduate students to attend seminars, outings, and liturgical opportunities, exploring questions at the heart of the polis.

(Read more on page 32.)

Faith and Law



Faith and Law on Capitol Hill hosts Friday lunch lectures for Hill staffers, forming them through contact with faithful perspectives on core political issues. The IHE regularly sends scholars to deliver lectures, answer questions, and shape the minds of government leaders.

(Read more on page 30.)

National Catholic Partnership on Disability



Now in its third year, “Recognizing the Body of Christ,” a joint initiative of the IHE and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, has become a popular and informative venue for conversation. The initiative features two annual events, which study the nature of disability from a theological perspective and implement practices to better integrate persons with disabilities and their families into the sacramental and communal life of the Church. *(Read more on page 79.)*



LEADERSHIP

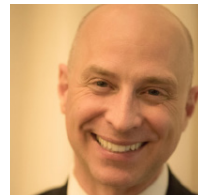


“The IHE brings together a mission-minded team of staff and scholars of the highest caliber. Their dedication to excellence in the pursuit of truth is what makes the IHE what it is: a lively intellectual community and instrument of outreach, actively shaping discourse and influencing culture.”

Stephen Higgins, J. D.



Joseph Capizzi, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Stephen P. Higgins, J.D.
Managing Director



Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, J.D.
Strategy Consultant
IHE Media Fellow



Jeanne Marie Leo
Institutional Coordinator



Suzanne Beecher, J.D.
Director of Student Programs



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



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



John Henry Hobgood
Administrative Assistant

Leadership Feature

Suzanne Beecher

In response to the rapid growth of the IHE’s student cohorts and a desire to offer greater resources and deeper formation, the IHE hired Suzanne Beecher, J.D., to serve as Director of Student Programs. The Director of Student Programs is dedicated to providing opportunities for The Catholic University of America’s students at every level: undergraduate, masters, and doctoral. The IHE’s student programs span disciplines, supplementing a student’s knowledge by offering discussions on topics outside of their area of study and also allowing them to go deeper within their field of study by sponsoring internal events and attendance at conferences across the nation and throughout the world.

Suzanne Beecher, J.D., serves as the Director of Student Programs at the Institute for Human Ecology. Prior to joining the Institute, Suzanne was associate counsel at a nonprofit organization focusing on First Amendment litigation and an analyst at the Office for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Originally from Chicago, Suzanne received a law degree from the University of Notre Dame, where she was a fellow at the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture and an assistant rector in one of the university’s residence halls. Suzanne studied economics and political science as an undergraduate at Baylor University and participated in a semester at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.



“As someone with a background in law, I have long known that I wanted to work in the sphere of policy and civil society, but became increasingly convinced that my call was to do so not through a traditional legal career, but through promoting a deeper understanding of what it means to be human and how society can promote human flourishing. The IHE does just that — brings together scholars and students in conversation about the practical application of transcendent truths.”

Suzanne Beecher, J. D.

Andrea Picciotti-Bayer

Leadership Feature

To mark the next frontier in the IHE's growth, Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, civil rights lawyer and Director of the Conscience Project, joined the IHE team as Strategy Consultant and Media Fellow. Andrea works with Institute Scholars and Fellows to present sound Catholic perspectives and model healthy, truth-centered discourse in the midst of contemporary cultural debates.



Andrea is Director of the Conscience Project, a religious-freedom and conscience-rights advocacy and public-education organization. A Stanford-educated lawyer, Andrea launched her career in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, specializing in institutional reform and appellate litigation. She is a legal analyst for EWTN News and the *National Catholic Register*, focusing primarily on religious freedom matters before the Supreme Court. Andrea has also written for *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, SCOTUS blog, the *New York Post*, *National Review*, *RealClear*, *The Washington Times*, the *Washington Examiner*, *Public Discourse*, *Spectator World*, and *Crux*, and is host of the National Catholic Register's Religious Freedom Matters podcast. Andrea lived in Colombia for over a decade. She has ten children and lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

"Andrea brings tremendous energy, grace, and expertise to publicly leveraging the work of IHE Scholars. She has already distinguished herself in both Catholic and secular media as a faithful Catholic voice responding to the ongoing threats to religious freedom and the rights of conscience. We look forward to harnessing her drive."

Joseph E. Capizzi, IHE Executive Director



The IHE is a trusted voice. Our Scholars and Fellows unite cutting-edge research and the ancient wisdom of the Church to think through contemporary problems in academic and public settings. As questions about a healthy relationship between the Church and state have surged to the fore of public discussion, the Institute has been on the front lines to model civil discourse and capacious, orthodox engagement in these important conversations.



“There is no place like the Catholic University of America when it comes to understanding and advancing Catholic thought in an academic setting. And the Institute for Human Ecology, housed within CUA itself, is unparalleled in its efforts to apply Catholic teaching to the political, social, and economic life of today. To be attached to both institutions as IHE begins a new venture that will attempt to reclaim and promote a deeper understanding of the civic dimension of Catholic teaching is a great honor. I am humbled to become a part of this much-needed effort, and I look forward to serving the needs and goals of these venerable institutions.”

Jack Butler, *National Review*



IHE VOICES

“What does the Catholic Church say about . . . ?”

Versions of this question abound in contemporary conversation. Often, answers range from true but incomplete to entirely false. That many people want to know what the Church teaches regarding ethical and political matters is an occasion to take seriously the complexity of Catholic thought and strive to accurately model what it means to “think with the Church.”

In 2022, the IHE launched a critical new initiative to leverage the best of our Fellows’ scholarship for the public good. IHE Voices consolidates Scholars and Media Fellows from diverse fields into a highly effective, media-active cohort that readily illuminates public conversation with sound Catholic thinking.

These Scholars and Fellows are trained to bring the fruits of their academic work into public conversation, offering trusted guidance and corrective criticism on matters of religion, ethics, and political thinking.



Joseph Capizzi,
Ph.D.



Andrea Picciotti-Bayer,
J.D.



V. Bradley Lewis,
Ph.D.



Russell Hittinger,
Ph.D.



Jack Butler



Ed Condon,
J.C.D.



Jennifer A. Frey,
Ph.D.



Fr. Aquinas Guilbeau,
O.P.



Paul Scherz,
Ph.D.



Lucia Ann Silecchia,
J.D.



Stephanie Slade



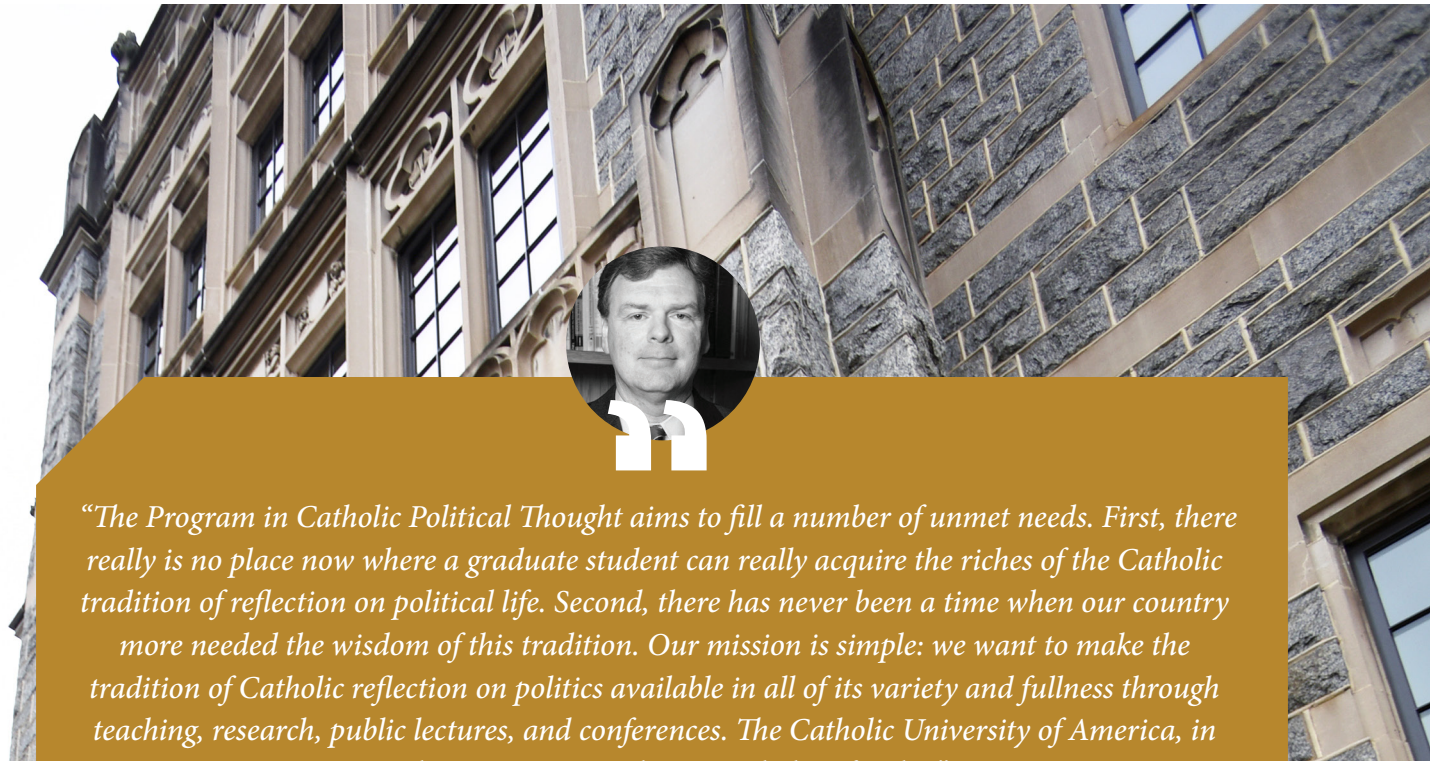
Brandon Vaidyanathan,
Ph.D.

Program on CATHOLIC POLITICAL THOUGHT

The Program on Catholic Political Thought is delighted to welcome Russell Hittinger as a Senior Fellow this fall. Professor Hittinger's involvement distinguishes the Program and is an important example to scholars and students alike of the intellectual seriousness of the Program. Professor Hittinger's preeminence in the area of Catholic political thought makes him unparalleled in his ability to contribute to the Program and position it as a trusted place for the public and scholars to turn for guidance on crucial questions within this sphere.

This fall, the Program hosted a conference, bringing together scholars to discuss core principles of Catholic political thought. The conference opened with a public lecture on the current state of Catholic political thought and continued with a series of smaller group seminars, in which distinguished scholars came together to consider critical aspects of Catholic political thought.

We see these discussions as a way to not only foster crucial conversations between influential scholars in the area of Catholic political thought, but also to provide a space for them to connect with one another and to discover ways they can collaborate to facilitate a renewal and deepening of Catholic political thought in public discourse.



“The Program in Catholic Political Thought aims to fill a number of unmet needs. First, there really is no place now where a graduate student can really acquire the riches of the Catholic tradition of reflection on political life. Second, there has never been a time when our country more needed the wisdom of this tradition. Our mission is simple: we want to make the tradition of Catholic reflection on politics available in all of its variety and fullness through teaching, research, public lectures, and conferences. The Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C., is the natural place for this.”

V. Bradley Lewis, Ph.D.



“The social and political challenges of the 21st century are not only practical, but also deeply philosophical and theological. The IHE provides a timely opportunity for scholars and students to reflect upon and to renew the Catholic tradition of political thought.”

Russell Hittinger, Ph.D.

THE LAMP

A partnership in undiluted Catholic orthodoxy

In 2021, the IHE partnered with *The Lamp*, a lay-edited, bimonthly Catholic literary journal. It seeks with in-depth reporting, incisive commentary, and coverage of books and the arts to bring readers a perspective that is not offered by any other generally circulated magazine in the English-speaking world — namely, that of consistent, undiluted Catholic orthodoxy.



“The Lamp is the most remarkable, elegant, and important print venue for Catholic thought today. The IHE is delighted about our partnership and proud to support such an excellent publication.”

Joseph E. Capizzi, IHE Executive Director



Together, the IHE and *The Lamp* serve Catholics and critical thinkers of all backgrounds. In the first year of this exciting partnership, we have:



Hosted large-scale public conversations at Catholic University

(read more about “Does America Need a Catholic Politics?” on page 28)



Gathered writers and readers in person to celebrate the launch of new issues



Started, by popular demand, a podcast called *The Lamplighters*



Launched an online store



“The magazine can’t only have good ideas, it must actually be a beautiful object itself. It is printed on heavy paper with actual plates (I don’t know of another comparable magazine that is not digitally printed). Both our cover artist and our designer have a long history in publishing and regularly contract for Penguin, the New York Review of Books, and The New York Times. We take it as a compliment that they choose to work with us as well.”

Nic Rowan, Managing Editor

“It is entertaining, gorgeously beautiful, and does what it should do: get a Catholic thinking.”

Eduard Habsburg, Ambassador of Hungary to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta

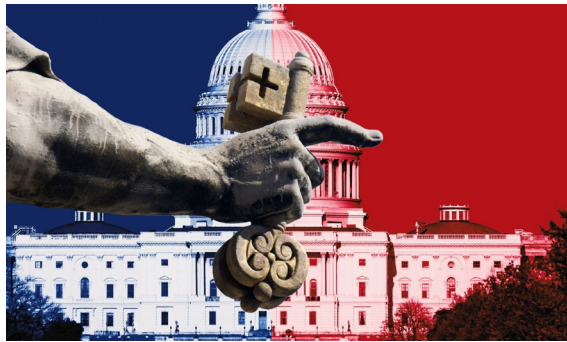


“Inspiring, balanced, truthful perspectives on faith and culture.”

Lila Rose, President of Live Action

DOES AMERICA NEED A CATHOLIC POLITICS?

On 13 October 2021, the IHE hosted a public conversation on the salience of Catholic political thought for the United States with three distinguished writers: Ross Douthat (*New York Times*), Matthew Walther (*The Lamp*), and Paul Baumann (*Commonweal*). The discussion, moderated by Ross Douthat, drew inspiration from Walther's bold *NYT* article, "This Is Why America Needs Catholicism."



In his article, Walther sets forth Catholic social teaching as a guide for thinking robustly about justice in society and reaching across political divides. Noting the rapid polarization of our national politics

and the resulting growth of a party-less middle, he argues that a Catholic approach to political questions would appeal to many Americans today. Douthat and Baumann weighed in on the promise and allure of Walther's proposal. Both, however, expressed doubts about aspects of its content. Baumann noted that American principles of economic liberty will always be in tension with Catholic ideas of solidarity. Douthat likewise expressed skepticism about the existence of a non-Catholic voting bloc which is nonetheless close to Catholic positions on politics. He also lamented that neither political party has produced a Catholic leader who embodies the "complex, transpartisan politics of Catholicism."

The event drew a large crowd to Catholic University's campus, as well as livestream attendees.



“

“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 Media 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, IHE Media Fellow and *NYT* Columnist

FAITH & LAW

The IHE collaborates with Faith and Law, a non-profit that enables Members of Congress and Hill staff to think deeply about how faith impacts their duties in the public square. Faith and Law seeks to encourage and endow policy-makers with an understanding of the biblical worldview and thereby help shape future Christian leaders. The IHE has cosponsored multiple Friday Forums — semi-monthly Hill staff lunches held 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 Scholars have lectured for Friday Forums, providing their valuable expertise on Catholic Social Doctrine as it relates to current events.



Religious Freedom and Healthcare: Can we both serve the poor and protect Christian doctors and nurses?

As more pressure has mounted on healthcare providers to perform procedures they deem morally objectionable, Louis Brown (Christ Medicus Foundation) and William Saunders discussed how medical conscience rights are necessary for just healthcare — especially in light of injustice done to racial minorities, the disabled, and the unborn.

The Moral Presuppositions of Human Rights Discourse

Robert P. George (Princeton University) and William Saunders discussed how the disagreements on human rights — what they are and what they protect — reveals a need to study the presuppositions of human rights discourse.

The *Dobbs* Case: Is abortion a “right” without a constitutional foundation?

Helen Alvaré and William Saunders discussed the jurisprudence of *Roe v. Wade* in light of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* and the prospects of overturning the former.

The Missing Religious Center: How the decline of Christianity polarized America

Ross Douthat (*New York Times*) discussed how the collapse of Mainline Protestant Christianity left a cultural and political void which has helped polarize and alienate America.

THE CIVITAS DEI SUMMER FELLOWSHIP: A Mission of Tradition

Week-long summer conference with the Thomistic Institute

For a week in June 2021, 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 fourth cohort of students in the Fellowship comprised 46 students from various institutions, including The Catholic University of America, Harvard, Yale, Oxford, the Naval Academy, Stanford, University of Virginia, the University of Tel Aviv, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Dallas, and McGill University.

This year's theme was "Art, Meaning, and the Public Square." Students considered 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.

Civitas Dei Fellows enjoyed a week of seminars, discussions, and formative outings in Washington, D.C. They attended lectures by Father Reginald Lynch of the Dominican House of Studies, IHE Fellow Professor Thomas Hibbs of the University of Dallas, and Professor Philip Bess, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture.

In addition to regular lecturers, students heard from George Mason Law Professor Helen Alvaré. And, although the usual, highly-anticipated trip to the Supreme Court could not take place in the pandemic climate, Justice Samuel Alito joined the students for a virtual session.

The Civitas Dei Fellowship has two main purposes. First, the IHE gathers the brightest Catholic graduate students studying in elite doctoral and legal programs to introduce them to the Catholic intellectual tradition. Through this, their appetites

are whetted for further study to see the integrated nature of knowledge. This, in turn, leads 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, the IHE gathers these students to build a community of like-minded scholars who can reinvigorate the IHE network of colleges and universities and teach generations of students to come 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.

"Civitas Dei presented a terrific opportunity to look at the world around us more closely, examining how both society and art, though crafted by man, still mirror nature (or fail to do so). In Father Reginald Lynch's lectures on image and likeness, he suggested that we can encounter reality and truth through signs and aesthetic experiences. This way of looking at both divine and human artistry has been an incredibly helpful framework that I still draw on today."

Morgan Whitmer
IHE Graduate Scholar, Ph.D., Politics

Professor Philip Hess
University of Notre Dame School of Architecture

Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship

*Mundane Conditions of the 21st Century Lack of Man
Upon Which the Beauty [Beautiful Summum Bonum] of The City of God
Supervenes both Eschatologically and Sacramentally*

Four Lectures from within a Catholic Narrative...



PROGRAM ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE

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

Some of the questions driving this program include:

- To what extent does the government interfere with the natural yearning of individuals to order their lives and their surrounding environment?
- Does the American government, as it now operates, abide by its constitutional structure of political subsidiarity?
- When subsidiarity and federalism are violated, how is the solidarity of the people impacted?
- Does the government thwart the individual's opportunities to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes as "the natural tendency to associate with one another for the sake of attaining objectives that exceed individual capacities" (CCC #1882)? If so, is this disproportionately injurious to the weak and the poor?
- What concrete policy solutions can restore the integrity of the constitutional structure?



About the Director

Emmett McGroarty, J.D.,

is adept at interjecting policy issues into the public square, having served on the development team of the federal government's human trafficking awareness initiatives and been one of the key leaders of the grassroots effort against the federal implementation of Common Core. With IHE Fellow Erin Tuttle and Jane Robbins, he authored *Deconstructing the Administrative State: The Fight for Liberty* (Liberty Hill Press, 2017).

The Program in Action

Academic Colloquia

In partnership with George Mason University's Institute for Humane Studies, the IHE is engaged in a series of events examining centralization, its departure from the constitutional order, and the effect of that departure on the human person. The first event was a discussion among a group of senior faculty in Dallas, Texas, in January 2022. Over three days, scholars of economics, philosophy, political science, theology, law, literature, and urban planning examined the history of progressivism and centralized government's effect on civil society. The second colloquium, which will take place in the spring of 2023, will examine American federalism and its relation to citizen alienation from government. A third event is being planned for the 2023-24 academic year and will be a high-profile public event intended for undergraduate students. It will discuss classical liberalism, the constitutional structure as a product of liberalism, and the causes of citizen alienation.

Working Group on the Administrative State and Civil Service Reform

In partnership with Stand Together Trust, the IHE is engaged in a detailed study of the federal executive branch's procedural rules and practices, as well as a review of proposed improvements from a wide range of sources. This collaborative effort includes 25 policy analysts and academics representing a variety of disciplines and institutions. The first objective is to identify rules and practices that skirt the constitutional structure's guardrails,

impair liberty interests, and distance people from their government and each other. The second objective is to evaluate proposed policy responses in terms of efficacy and their consistency with the constitutional order.

Model Plan to Address Certain Forms of Chronic Poverty

In 2022, the IHE collaborated with Steve Wagner (former Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council) to propose a model plan to move citizens from economic absenteeism into the economic mainstream. The model addresses an unmet need in the response to poverty: the 19 million people who are economic absentees — those whose condition is considered so inconsequential that they are not even counted in unemployment statistics and rarely garner a mention in political discourse. The model requires no statutory or regulatory changes, nor does it require additional appropriations. Its implementation takes advantage of the decentralization ushered in by the 1996 Welfare Reform Act and relies on proven best-in-the-class non-governmental organizations. It rests on a personalized approach that embraces the agency and dignity of the person. By demonstrating the effectiveness of such an approach, the plan will stimulate philanthropy for effective private community solutions. One state is presently reviewing the plan for implementation.

THE IHE IN THE MEDIA

In addition to the IHE Voices cohort, the IHE has multiple Fellows who serve as columnists and editors in major publications. The next time you enjoy your favorite news outlet, keep an eye out for...



Mark Bauerlein

Senior Editor,
First Things

The New York Times  **THEOLOGY of HOME**

Ross Douthat

Columnist,
New York Times

Carrie Gress

Editor,
Theology of Home



Michael Pakaluk

Contributing Writer,
The Catholic Thing

THE STREAM

Jay W. Richards

Executive Editor,
The Stream



Kathryn Jean Lopez

Editor-at-Large,
National Review



The great Dominican A.G. Sertillanges (author of *The Intellectual Life: Its Spirit, Conditions, and Methods*) wrote, “Whoever expresses truth expresses God, the Word, and utters therefore a word of God.” IHE Scholars share a profound commitment to expressing eternal truth through their diverse fields of study and influence. As an Institute, our fundamental mission of sharing the wisdom of the Catholic tradition is rooted in the intellectual work of our faculty and fellows.

SELECT FACULTY FELLOWS



Patricia Andrasik

Assistant Professor and Head
of Sustainability Outreach
The Catholic University of America
Author of *LEED Lab: A Model
for Sustainable Design Education*
Expertise: Sustainable Design/Architecture,
Human Factors of Design



Carrie Gress

Fellow
Ethics and Public Policy Center
Author of *The Marian Option*
and *Theology of Home*
Expertise: Medieval Philosophy,
Catholic Social Thought, Feminine Genius



Jakub Grygiel

Professor, Vice Chair & Director
of Graduate Studies
Department of Politics
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: International Relations,
Grand Strategy



Angela McKay Knobel

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Dallas
Expertise: Moral Philosophy,
Thomistic Ethics, Virtue Ethics



Kathryn Lopez

Senior Fellow
National Review Institute
Editor-at-large
National Review
Author of *A Year with the Mystics:
Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living*
Expertise: Religious Freedom,
Sanctity of Life, Family



James McCrery

Associate Professor of Architecture
The Catholic University of America
Founder and Principal
McCrery Architects
Expertise: Classical Architecture,
Church Architecture, Urbanism Architecture



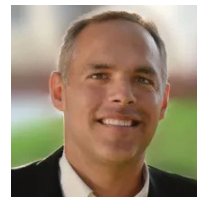
Reinhard Hütter

Ordinary Professor of Fundamental
and Dogmatic Theology
The Catholic University of America
Expertise: Theological Anthropology,
Systematic Theology, Thomistic Thought



Kevin Kambo

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of Dallas
Expertise: Greek Philosophy,
Philosophy of Technology, Liberal Education



Chris Kazcor

Professor of Philosophy
Loyola Marymount University
Expertise: Bioethics, Ethics, Human
Dignity, Positive Psychology and Spirituality



Margarita Mooney

Associate Professor
of Practical Theology
Princeton Theological Seminary
Expertise: The Human Person
and the Social Sciences, Philosophy
and Education, Aesthetics and Culture



Jay Richards

Director
DeVos Center for Life, Religion,
and Family, Heritage Foundation
Expertise: Political Philosophy,
Moral Theology, Economic Theory



Brad Wilcox

Director
The National Marriage Project
Professor of Sociology
University of Virginia
Expertise: Demography, Sociology
of Religion, Marriage, Family, and Politics

Michael Gorman

Featured Scholar



Dr. Michael Gorman holds two doctorates — one in philosophy and one in theology. He is Ordinary Professor in Catholic University's School of Philosophy, where he has taught since 1999. Dr. Gorman's theological research focuses largely on Christology. His philosophical research focuses on questions of metaphysics and human nature, and he has a special interest in the idea that concepts in these areas are irreducibly normative. Dr. Gorman is a regular speaker for the Thomistic Institute. For the 2021-2022 academic year, he took a sabbatical to focus on two works: a contemporary introduction to Thomistic metaphysics and a short book tentatively titled *Human Nature and Human Dignity*.

“The IHE brings together committed faculty from across the university, which is increasingly important as academic fields become more specialized. This interaction appears not only in formal events, like lectures and colloquia, but also informally and unofficially — in conversations, over coffee or in the hallway, that drive inquiry and keep us aware of what’s going on outside our disciplines. These conversations don’t just include faculty, however; they include students, faculty from other universities, and the wider social and political community. In this way, the IHE responds to a deep need of our fragmented and noisy society: not more tweets and hot takes, but patient reflection.”



Featured Scholar

Brandon Vaidyanathan

Dr. Brandon Vaidyanathan is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at The Catholic University of America. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and HEC Montreal respectively, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Vaidyanathan's research examines the cultural dimensions of religious, commercial, medical, and scientific institutions, and has been published in journals such as *Business and*

Society, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Social Forces, Social Problems, Sociology of Religion, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior, and Work, Employment, and Society. His research has been funded by grants from the John Templeton Foundation, Templeton Religion Trust, and the Lilly Endowment.



“Sociology helps us understand how social structures (e.g., families, markets, policies, norms) can help or hinder human flourishing. In my work I draw on a wide range of methodologies, such as surveys, interviews, ethnography, experiments, and archival research, to examine the relationship between human persons and the social structures that emerge from our interactions.”

Current projects:

Mental Health in Congregations Study,
Principal Investigator

Work and Well-Being in Science,
Principal Investigator

The largest cross-national research initiative to examine key factors that affect the well-being of scientists. The study focuses on scientists in physics and biology departments in four countries (India, Italy, the UK, and the US), and includes a survey of nearly 3,500 scientists. It is the first international empirical study examining the role of aesthetics in science, and finds that experiences of beauty, awe, and wonder play an important role in the practice of science and shape the well-being of scientists.

Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations,
Collaborator

Beauty at Work, *Founder*

National Study of Catholic Priests,
Lead Investigator

This study focuses on how the clergy sex abuse crisis and the Church's response to it has impacted priests and their trust in bishops. The study includes a nationally representative survey of more than 3,500 diocesan and religious clergy. Data from the study provides an in-depth look at priests' experiences and opinions, and provides insights into how to move forward to rebuild trust. It is a vital step towards measuring the success of any new initiatives aimed at recovery.

MORALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING



“Morally Responsible Investing was an empowering reminder that the Catholic Tradition’s riches don’t have to stay in the classroom. By bringing insights from Scripture and Catholic social teaching to bear in firm analysis, I’m better prepared to serve the Truth with my money as well as my mind.”

John Kish,
IHE Undergraduate and Project Intern

Catholics in the Contemporary Economy

In fall 2021, IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi collaborated with John Grabowski, Professor of Moral Theology, Catholic University; Laurence Alvarado, Professor of Business, Catholic University; and J. Patrick Kearns, Senior Vice President and Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley, to produce these guidelines, revised by IHE Scholars for use by the USCCB and Catholic institutions and philanthropists. The guidelines offer principles for discerning financial investment including scriptural and traditional perspectives on wealth, cooperation with evil, and legitimate positive uses for investing. The document includes case studies to guide financial decision making and analysis pertaining to the differences between large shareholders and direct managers.

***Morally Responsible Investing* has received tremendous praise since its wide distribution. It is accessible for free on the IHE’s website.**

<https://ihe.catholic.edu>



The IHE sponsors the popular podcast, *Sacred and Profane Love*, hosted by IHE Scholar Jennifer A. Frey. The podcast examines the relationship between love, happiness, and meaning in life through classic works of literature.

Jennifer A. Frey is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina, where she is also the Peter and Bonnie McCausland Faculty Fellow in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to USC, she was a Collegiate Assistant Professor of Humanities at the University of Chicago, where she was a member of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and her B.A. at Indiana University in Bloomington. In 2015, she was awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation, titled “Virtue, Happiness, and the Meaning of Life.” She has published widely on virtue and moral psychology, and she has edited three academic volumes on virtue and human action. Her writing has been featured in *Breaking Ground*, *First Things*, *Fare Forward*, *Image*, *Law and Liberty*, *The Point*, and *USA Today*. She lives with her husband and six children in Columbia, South Carolina.

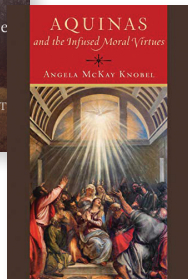
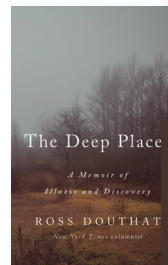
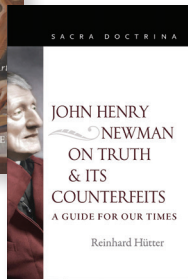
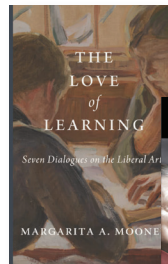
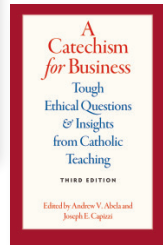
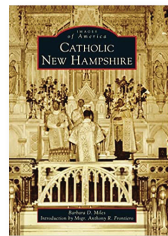
SACRED AND PROFANE LOVE



“The format of the podcast is a conversation, typically with a philosopher, theologian, or literary critic. Whereas philosophical theory operates at the level of the abstract and general, literature operates in the particular and the concrete, which is the space of choice and desire. While the philosopher can articulate the essential structure of vice in her theory, the novelist can show us how vice works to destroy the life of a particular person, in a particular way. Fiction, therefore, has the power to expand our moral imaginations such that we see reflections of ourselves and our own lives in the characters we come to invest ourselves in while reading; in this way, fiction often serves to reveal to us both uncomfortable and hopeful truths about ourselves. In this podcast, the idea is not that we read to escape reality, but to throw ourselves more deeply into it.”

Jennifer Frey

SELECT PUBLICATIONS



Catholic New Hampshire (Images of America)

Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero

Monsignor Frontiero's book gives the history of Catholics in New Hampshire, complete with period photographs.

A Catechism for Business (Third Edition)

Joseph E. Capizzi

A Catechism for Business presents the teachings of the Catholic Church as they relate to more than one hundred specific and challenging moral questions asked by business leaders.

The Love of Learning: Seven Dialogues on the Liberal Arts

Margarita A. Mooney

The Love of Learning tells the stories of how seven renowned scholars fell in love with learning. It invites readers to join the long, ongoing conversation about truth, goodness, and beauty that has its roots in the beginning of Western civilization and is still alive and vibrant today.

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

Reinhard Hüter

In this book, the third volume in the *Sacra Doctrina* series, Dr. Hüter posits that as a saint of the 19th century, Newman is not far removed from the challenges and struggles faced by society today. As one who responded to issues similar to those of today, Newman can serve as a guide to those seeking to navigate such challenges in an authentically Catholic way.

The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery

Ross Douthat

Ross Douthat's story of his five-year struggle with a disease that officially doesn't exist explores the limits of modern medicine, the stories that we unexpectedly fall into, and the secrets that only suffering reveals.

Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues

Angela McKay Knobel

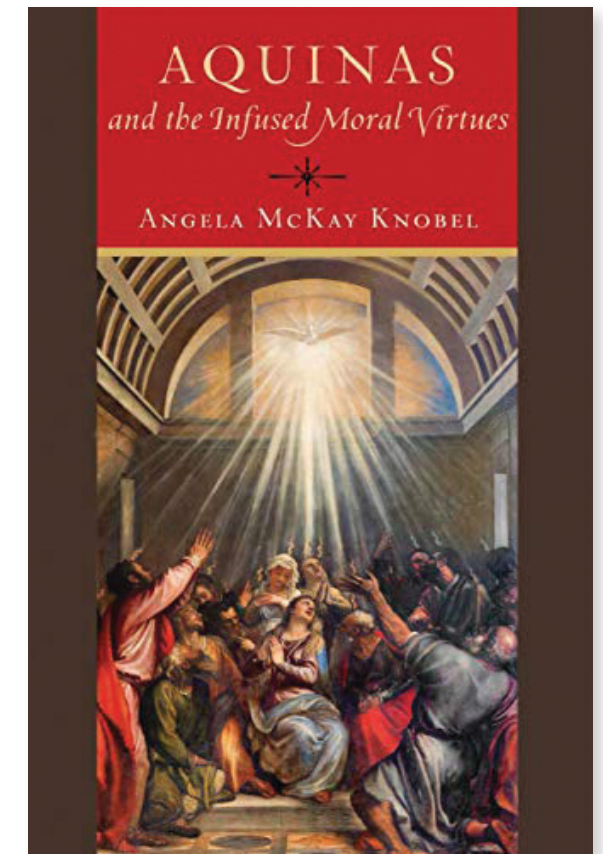
This study locates Aquinas's theory of infused and acquired virtue in his foundational understanding of nature and grace.



Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues

In October 2021, the IHE hosted a panel on Angela Knobel's *Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues* (Notre Dame Press, 2021). William Mattison (Notre Dame) and David Elliot (Catholic University) joined Knobel (University of Dallas) to discuss the book.

Knobel argues that Aquinas's treatment of infused virtues (those which God bestows through grace) and acquired moral virtues (those which we habituate through repeated good acts) deserves scholarly attention. She examines the explicit references of Aquinas to this topic, reviews the various interpretations, and argues that the "correct account lies somewhere between the two most commonly advocated theories."





*“Throughout my graduate studies,
the Institute for Human Ecology
has been a source of inspiration and support.”*

Bridget Knuffke,
IHE Graduate Scholar, Ph.D., School of Philosophy



FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Institute supports graduate students who are enthusiastically pursuing the truth and using their scholarship to transform academia and the broader culture.

The IHE recruits exceptional doctoral students in politics, economics, history, philosophy, and theology, providing them the resources to rise as leaders in their fields.



Ph.D. Student Testimonials



Vincent Birch

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

“The Institute for Human Ecology has been an invaluable part of my experience as a graduate student. The IHE offers me scholarly formation through engagement with the community of fellows, it presents me with opportunities to expand my intellectual horizons through interdisciplinary dialogue, and it provides me with needed support to succeed in my program. The IHE helps me stay attuned to how my work relates both to the broader world of academia and to events of domestic and international concern.”



Michael Bors

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

“I’m thankful for the opportunities the IHE has provided for cultivating the Catholic intellectual tradition at Catholic University: lectures, seminars, social events, and funding scholarly travel. It’s a pleasure being part of this community of friends, colleagues, and scholars in pursuit of a common intellectual and moral goal. I look forward to seeing what my next year as an IHE Graduate Scholar brings.”



Monica Burke Jeffery

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

“In our increasingly specialized and (dare I say) compartmentalized academic climate, the IHE provides opportunities for interdisciplinary conversation and collaboration. I have especially enjoyed my discussions with other IHE scholars whose different viewpoints continue to shed light on my own work. Moreover, we have hosted some of today’s most influential scholars and public figures on our campus, who have brought with them a valuable perspective on how to apply our research to contemporary issues. My education would not be the same without the IHE.”



Jeanne-Michelle Datiles

School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in History

“The IHE has not only offered a general culture of intellectual exchange and true *communitas* on campus, as most if not all IHE Scholars will attest to, but has been a resource for specific support to its graduate students. In my case, I’m grateful to the IHE for grant funding to participate in a valuable Rare Book School program last summer. I am constantly using the paleography, translation, and research skills from that program in the archival research for my doctoral dissertation. In a time of competitive, limited funding sources across the humanities, the IHE remains a solid support for its graduate student fellows.”



Meghan Duke

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

“The IHE has not simply provided me the material support that has made graduate studies possible, it has provided me — in the example of other graduate fellows and the many scholars associated with the IHE — a model for the Catholic intellectual life. The IHE inducts Graduate Scholars into a faith-filled academic community that rigorously pursues the truth across academic disciplines in a common journey to the Truth Himself.”



Genevieve Frank

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

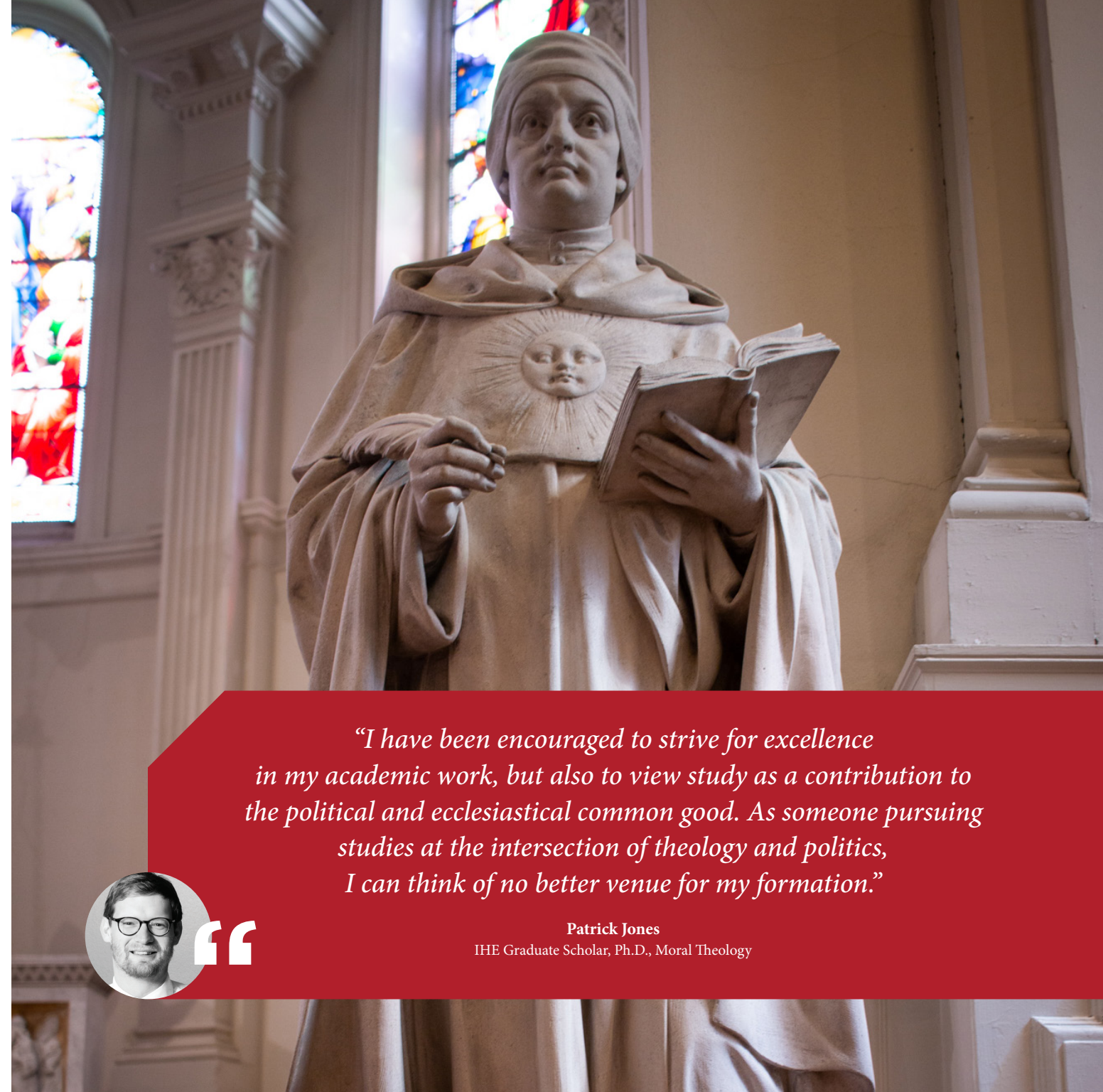
“University life is necessarily divided by disciplines and degree programs, but the IHE draws the efforts of many together into a unified academic culture and pursuit of truth. Over the last year, the IHE’s support has been a true gift as I pursue my studies. From grants to support research and conferences to opportunities to lead and join reading groups, or to meet scholars and public intellectuals and collaborate with them, the IHE’s offerings have been invaluable in my development as a scholar.”



Joseph Gazaille

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

“The Institute for Human Ecology has allowed me to lead reading seminars with the Undergraduate Newman Fellows, which has been a wonderful opportunity. This spring’s seminar on The Great Tradition explored questions about the nature of education. The Newman Fellows were honest, thoughtful, and insightful; it was a delight to see what great young minds are present on Catholic University’s campus.”



“I have been encouraged to strive for excellence in my academic work, but also to view study as a contribution to the political and ecclesiastical common good. As someone pursuing studies at the intersection of theology and politics, I can think of no better venue for my formation.”



Patrick Jones
IHE Graduate Scholar, Ph.D., Moral Theology



Ph.D. Student Testimonials



Micah Harris

School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics

“The IHE has made a real start toward resolving a contradiction between the theory and the practice of community. Without IHE, my graduate work might have been prohibitively lonely and expensive. This would, of course, be a bitter irony for someone who theorizes about the value of community.”



Patrick Jones

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

“The IHE has enhanced my graduate studies by offering an interdisciplinary community of fellow students as well as engagement with scholars and public figures applying the Catholic intellectual tradition to contemporary social life. As an IHE Graduate Scholar, I have been encouraged to strive for excellence in my academic work, but also to view study as a contribution to the political and ecclesiastical common good. As someone pursuing studies at the intersection of theology and politics, I can think of no better venue for my formation.”



Daryl Li

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

“What I appreciate most about the IHE is providing me with a community of fellow graduate students who I can learn from and with. And although some of us are now located in different states, we’ve kept up with our meaningful discussions via various channels as we pursue excellence in our respective fields.”



Jason Paone

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

“I consider the Institute for Human Ecology to be an alma mater of my intellectual development at least as much as any of the universities that I have attended as a student. The IHE fosters both the intellectual and material life of its graduate students by providing generous Graduate Scholarships and by planting its Graduate Scholars at the center of its community of world-class Catholic intellectuals. Both components of the IHE’s care for its graduate students were and continue to be essential to my career.”



Bridget Safranek Knuffke

School of Philosophy
Ph.D. in Philosophy

“Throughout my graduate studies, the Institute for Human Ecology has been a source of inspiration and support. In addition to aiding my own philosophical research, the IHE has given me the opportunity to see how philosophy interacts with and benefits from other subjects in the wider pursuit of human flourishing.”



Ph.D. Student Testimonials



Ian Tuttle

School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics

“In the wake of a period of uncertainty and anxiety, it’s a privilege to be part of an organization dedicated to rebuilding and revitalizing. By establishing and nurturing a community of faith-filled reflection, within the University and beyond it, the Institute for Human Ecology shows how the renewed mind can meet a world in need.”



Morgan Whitmer

School of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D. in Politics

“The IHE provides a space for discussion about the nature of the human person and the society in which the human person flourishes. As a graduate student, I’ve been grateful for the opportunity to attend lectures, participate in conferences, and take part in seminars that bring my own academic work into conversation with others who have the same questions and goals. Without the IHE, not only would I be unable to pursue my graduate studies, but I would also miss the vibrant community of students and scholars that has made pursuing these studies a joy.”



Attention, Moral Perception, and Contemplation:

*An Intellectual Retreat
with Dr. Jennifer Frey*

In July 2021, IHE Graduate Scholars attended a three-day intellectual retreat led by Jennifer Frey, IHE Scholar and Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina. The retreat gave students the opportunity to engage core philosophical ideas as a community in seminars led by Dr. Frey, to worship together at adoration and Mass offered by Dominican priests, and to contemplate together transcendent works of art.

INTELLECTUAL RETREAT



“What was most extraordinary about this seminar?”

We didn't just discuss contemplation, we spent time contemplating together: in study of great texts, of course, but also in the National Gallery, where we spent time appreciating the paintings of El Greco, and in the chapel, where we engaged in contemplative prayer together.

We also spent time with the painter, Andrew de Sa, in his studio, where we not only enjoyed his art, but also learned more about how contemplation figures in his own work. Andrew also led us in a fruitful discussion of Joseph Pieper's essay, 'Learning How To See Again.'

The graduate seminar was an excellent opportunity for me to read Murdoch, Weil, Augustine and Aquinas with graduate students who not only value contemplation, but also practice it in their lives.

I am grateful to the IHE for bringing me to The Catholic University of America this summer to teach its students. I can only hope that the students learned half as much from me as I did from them!”

Dr. Jennifer Frey, IHE Fellow



“We spent time contemplating together.”



SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate Program brings together undergraduate students of every level and from across the disciplines to grapple with life's central questions through conversations led by preeminent thinkers. The Program allows students to grow in friendship as they pursue truth. The Program also exists to integrate various facets of an undergraduate student's life — social, intellectual, and spiritual — as well as to bring the disciplines of the University into conversation with each other. The goal of the program, “to give the Republic her best citizens” (Pope Leo XIII), is accomplished by inculcating students with a deep and thriving sense of human ecology — how human beings flourish

in community. The Program prepares students to complete their university studies with cultured minds, deepened faith, and civic virtue.

This year's speakers included Dr. Matthew Mehan, who spoke on lessons in statesmanship from Shakespeare's *Sir Thomas More*. Students considered what constitutes an authentic statesman and how to cultivate the qualities of a statesman today. Dr. David Corey of Baylor University led a conversation on liberal education and the life of the mind. He helped students to consider the role of liberal education in shaping engaged citizens who are well-positioned to contribute to society and to promote the common good.

“I want the same roof to contain both the intellectual and moral discipline. Devotion is not a sort of finish given to the sciences; nor is science a sort of feather in the cap... I want the intellectual layman to be religious, and the devout ecclesiastic to be intellectual.”

Saint John Henry Newman



Reading Groups

The Saint John Henry Newman Undergraduate program develops reading groups formed around various topics and books each semester. This past year, groups focused on several diverse themes: totalitarian regimes, art and modernity, and the Western literary tradition. IHE Graduate Scholars lead these discussion groups, get to know the undergraduate fellows, and help them to deepen their intellectual life and community beyond the classroom.

Engagement with Faculty

The John Henry Newman Program partnered with faculty on several events this past year to expand the way we serve the undergraduate community and campus more broadly. In the spring semester, students joined Dr. Buttaci, School of Philosophy, and Dr. Paxton, Department of History and Director of the University Honors Program, for a dinner discussion of themes in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* before attending a live performance of the play. Dr. Catherine Pakaluk hosted a student movie and discussion night featuring *Chariots of Fire*. Students explored

the message of the film and considered how it reinforced what they were studying in the classroom.

Speakers

Several times each semester, the IHE hosts speakers from within the University as well as from other prestigious institutions. Past speakers have included IHE Media Fellow Ross Douthat, Mark Rienzi, IHE Fellow Jennifer Frey, Michael Hanby, IHE Fellow Mark Bauerlein, David Corey, IHE Fellow Lucia Silecchia, Matt Mehan, and many others. Our undergraduate speakers come to campus for private dinner seminars and public lectures. Attending these talks provides undergraduate fellows with opportunities to meet and gain insights from leading scholars.

Internships

The IHE is pleased to afford our student fellows the opportunity to apply for paid internships with the Institute. These opportunities allow students to develop professional skills, better understand the work of the Institute, and forge connections that will serve them during their time at Catholic University and long after they graduate.



Undergraduate Student Testimonials



Pablo Mazariegos

Philosophy and Media and Communication Studies
Maryland

“The IHE provides a platform for the truth through educational formation in the dinner discussions and lectures. Most importantly, it kept me in contact with beauty through the monthly IHE mass at Caldwell Chapel. As an IHE intern, I got to know the staff and other fellows. They truly carry their mission in their hearts. I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with this Institute, which has provided so much to me in my young years as an undergraduate.”



Renee Rasmussen

English
California

“The IHE offers a unique opportunity for students to grow in knowledge while also growing in virtue. Through guest lectures, book clubs, and much more, the IHE inspires community and interdisciplinary conversations that revitalize the college experience. It is a great experience for undergraduates, no matter what they are studying.”



Tony Crnkovich

Philosophy
Virginia

“The IHE does a lot of good in many different ways, but I am most grateful to them for their ability to bring together good people from all corners of campus to work for the common goal of human flourishing. I’ve met many of my good friends through the IHE, and the institute has put me in touch with some of the best professors on campus, making my time here at Catholic University truly memorable.”



Marie-Sophie Brackstone

Chemistry and Music
Bermuda

“My participation as an IHE Saint John Henry Newman Fellow has allowed me to be a part of an intellectual community with other students on campus who are animated about life, the Catholic faith, and the truth. I appreciate how the IHE considers many different questions that arise both academically and socially and seeks to view them from a Catholic perspective. As an undergraduate trying to find my place in the world and grow in my faith, I have met and formed relationships with exceptional faculty and students who courageously live out their faith in a truthful and authentic way, which inspires me greatly in my studies and future endeavors. Such relationships make being a Catholic in the contemporary world all the more beautiful and fulfilling.”



Noah Sell

Theology
Georgia

“The IHE Undergraduate Fellowship has given me the opportunity to engage with the great tradition and learn from thinkers of the past and present and apply their wisdom to our modern context.”



Javi Mazariegos

Philosophy and English
Maryland

“This year the IHE provided me a place to have some of the most intellectually fruitful conversations I have had the entire year. Dr. Matthew Megan’s seminar on Thomas More shed insight on how to handle the headwinds facing faithful Catholics today. Dr. David Corey’s seminar on liberal education made me pause and consider hard questions about the good life. All of this took place with great peers which made it all the more enjoyable. I’m deeply grateful.”

UNDERGRADUATE READING GROUPS

During the fall semester the IHE sponsored two reading groups for undergraduates, each led by IHE Graduate Scholars. These groups enabled students to gather periodically to discuss important themes, which they developed alongside their graduate student leaders.

Totalitarian Regimes

led by Ian Tuttle, *Ph.D. Student in Politics*

The spiritual-political catastrophes of the 20th Century continue to cast a long shadow over our 21st Century political landscape. Concerns about emergent fascism and totalitarianism dominate contemporary American political discourse; hyper-polarization, political violence, and social dysfunction seem to many to point toward ultimate disaster. This reading group explored the writings of people who witnessed the 20th century's ideological fevers firsthand — the dissident intellectuals, artists, and apostles whose writings attempted to diagnose the fatal disease of their age, and whose spirits and, frequently, bodies bore its scars. With the help of these authors, students thought clearly about what goes wrong, in persons and societies, to lead to political cataclysm; about authentic modes of spiritual and political resistance to ideological entrapment; and about the condition of our own body politic.

Art and Modernity

led by Genevieve Frank and Joseph Gazaille, *both Ph.D. Students in Philosophy*

Artistic developments in the 20th century continue to challenge our understanding of art. Must art be beautiful? Is art necessarily connected to truth? What role does art play in political life, and how is it different from propaganda? Students discussed a selection of short texts which offered different approaches to these related questions, considering not only visual art, but also performing arts, architecture, and literature. They reflected on how human creativity is connected to the desire for truth, capacity for error, and communal nature. Many of the authors consulted were Catholic, so discussions also took up these questions in a religious context to discuss the role of art in the celebration of the liturgy.

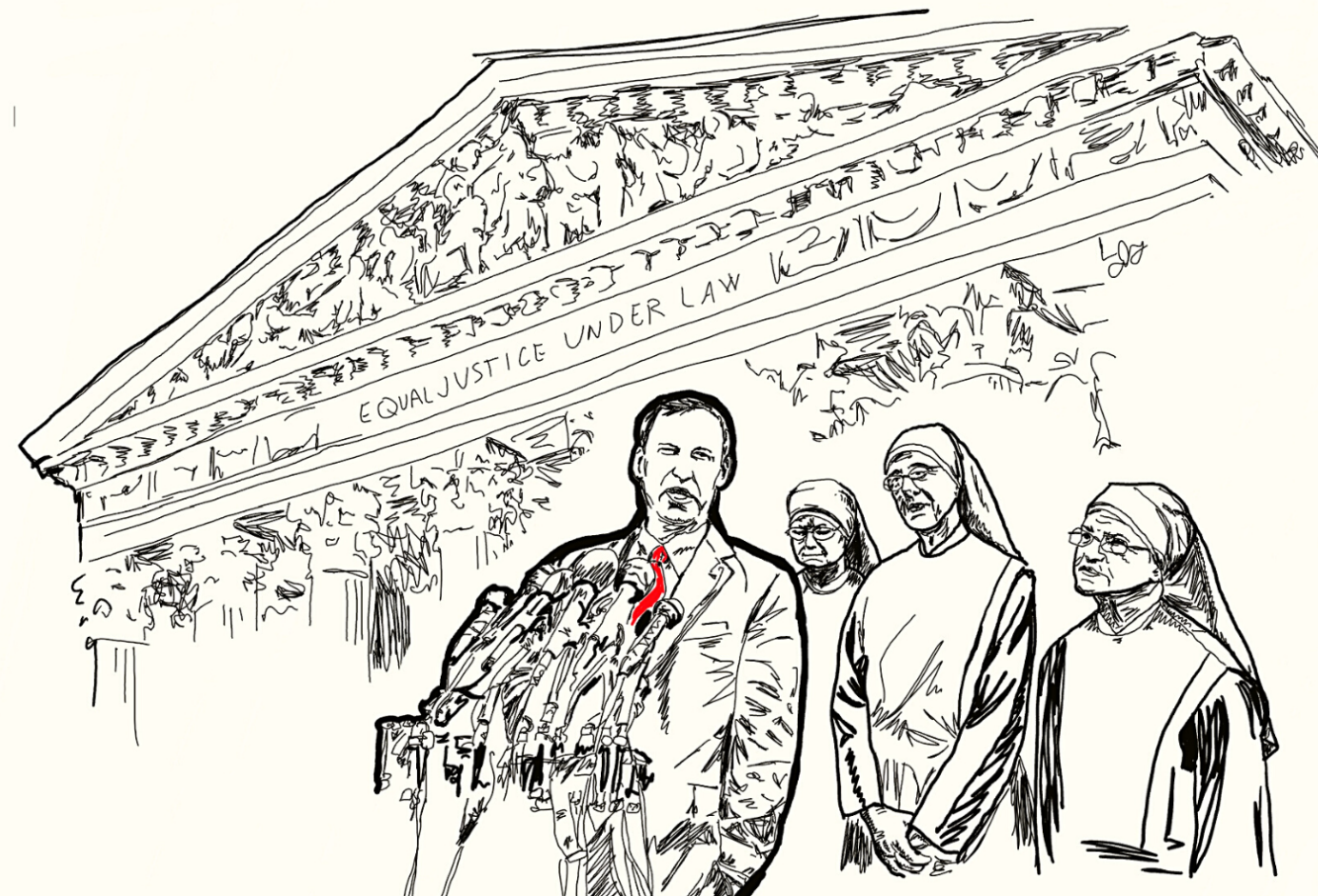
“The IHE’s reading group on 20th century totalitarianism offered students the opportunity to examine and discuss some of the most important political episodes of modern times, and to draw on the insights of dissidents and friends of freedom to inform how we can think about political action and discourse today.”

Joseph Accardi, IHE Undergraduate - Politics, New Jersey

CONSTITUTION DAY LECTURE

Division, Unity, and the Supreme Court

Mark Rienzi, professor in the Columbus School of Law and President and CEO of the Becket Fund, spoke about the ways the Constitution can channel our profound disagreement in constructive ways to build a more just society. Professor Rienzi also discussed the benefits of robust disagreement for politics, and he exhorted citizens to engage in dialogue in civil and respectful ways.



SHAPING THE LANDSCAPE OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

The IHE is proud of our vibrant contribution to student life and campus culture at The Catholic University of America. In addition to our student programs and public events, which foster orthodox intellectual community, we shape the life of the University through the active involvement of our students and faculty.



We congratulate two IHE students on their election as President of the Graduate Student Association (Sarah Dunford, Ph.D. Student in Politics) and President of the Student Government Association (Tony Crnkovich, Class of 2023).



Sarah and Tony will be the first student body presidents to serve under Catholic University's new president, Peter Kilpatrick, and new chaplaincy, led by Father Aquinas Guilbeau, O. P., and the Dominicans of the Eastern Province.

"At this unique moment in our school's history, I hope to serve the Catholic University community by fostering institutional pride, solidifying traditions into the new era, and ensuring that our new university leaders hear the voice of all the undergraduates who desire the best of what an authentically Catholic education has to offer. I'm honored that my peers chose me to represent them, and I look forward to a great year ahead."

Tony Crnkovich, IHE Undergraduate - *Philosophy, Virginia*

University Research Day

IHE students participate in the academic life of the University through their roles as students, teachers, and research assistants. In 2022, seven of our students were selected to present their research to the wider community at University Research Day.

Carolyn Albright, School of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate
"Change, Stress, Gratitude, and Life Satisfaction Among College Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Brady Baylis, School of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate
"Like a Rolling Stone: Bob Dylan's Masterful Fairy Tale"

Marie-Sophie Brackstone, Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, Undergraduate
"Reimagining the Genius of Beethoven: Franz Litz's Transcription of Beethoven's Symphony No 2 in D Major"

Jack Decelles-Zwerneman, School of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate
"Birth of a Nation: A Legacy of Film Technique"

Micah Harris, School of Arts and Sciences, Ph.D. Student in Politics
"Common Reservations: Politics of the Person in Catholic, Protestant, and Afrocentric Thought"

Sarah Jane Jagas, M.A. in Human Rights
"Brides to Be: Women and Girls in China's Sex Trafficking Industry"

Brigid McGroarty, School of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate
"Studying the Effect of Positive Priming on Body Image"

MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Third Class of M.A. Students Graduate



The IHE's Master of Arts in Human Rights is a unique program offering an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to human rights grounded in the inviolable dignity of each and every human being. The students come from the United States and abroad. The Master of Arts in Human Rights can be completed full-time in one academic year or on a part-time basis.

Graduates leave the program with:

- An understanding of Catholic anthropology of the human person
- Knowledge of international human rights law
- Connections with leading human rights advocates
- A close-knit group of students who share their commitment to human rights
- A depth and breadth of understanding of the nature and origin of rights
- The confidence and background to engage intellectually and practically in human rights policy-making and advocacy



Students reflect on their meetings with HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES



Chen Guangcheng

“It was an honor to hear the testimony, first-hand, of such a staunch defender of human rights. Despite harassment, torture, and imprisonment, Chen Guangcheng never abandoned his mission in upholding the truth. His story is both an inspiration and a wakeup call to those in the free world who must oppose tyranny as a matter of justice.”

Gillian Richards

Robert George

“The esteemed professor of jurisprudence conversed with us about the state of affairs, particularly regarding current threats to free speech/cancel culture and the necessity of reclaiming the professional sphere of human rights advocacy, including the language that presently shapes contemporary discourse on the subject.... Congenial and engaging, George spoke of past and present battles over the inherent dignity of the human person, stressing that what is most needed nowadays is the virtue of courage. All in all, it was a great day engaging a great man of extraordinary scholastic accomplishment, a happy warrior for all that is good and true.”

Brandon Showalter

Yuri Mantilla

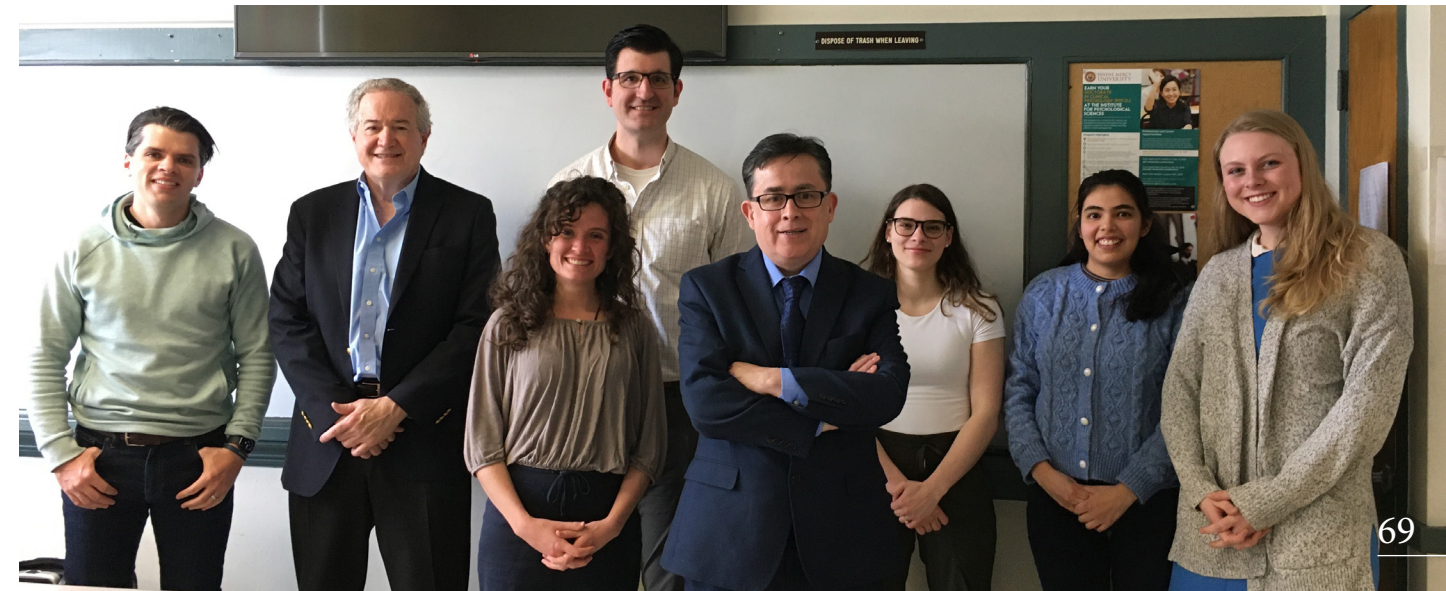
“Last March 25, 2022, the human rights cohort met with Dr. Yuri Mantilla, a professor of law at Liberty University and a longtime practitioner and scholar of international human rights. Although his scholarship on international human rights spans different fields, such as international legal theory, religious freedom, and bioethics to name a few, the lecture he gave us was on the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.”

Francisco Socrates

Helen Alvaré

“Professor Alvaré shared her experiences representing the Holy See at the UN and the many positions she has held throughout the years. She spoke of her career and vocation in the most admirable of ways, making mentions of her husband and children and the vital role they play in her life. This more personal meeting with Professor Alvaré showcased her dedication to her family, profession, country, and faith. She remains a font of knowledge on women and family issues and true ‘daughter of the Church.’”

Jane Jagas





M.A. Student Testimonials



Brandon Showalter

School of Arts and Sciences

M.A. in Human Rights

“This is a truly unique program, and I consider it a privilege and an honor to have spent this year doing it. I plan to dig even deeper in the years to come (especially in the writings of Ratzinger and in the Catholic Social Doctrine encyclicals). I’m deeply grateful for this year at CUA.”



Francisco Socrates

School of Arts and Sciences

M.A. in Human Rights

“The combination of the courses really lived up to the program’s interdisciplinary character — approaching the question of human rights from different angles. While it provides a firm foundation in Catholic doctrine, it also gives you some ideas on how we can engage human rights issues on a practical level. It really is a very good start for anyone who wants to get into human rights work, in different forms.”



Gillian Richards

School of Arts and Sciences

M.A. in Human Rights

“I found the MA program deeply enriching on an intellectual, professional, and personal level. I appreciate the small size of the program, because it gave each student a chance to really connect with speakers and professors. The opportunities and resources Professor Saunders provided were truly unique and valuable. Almost every class we took was excellent — the teachers were truly top-tier scholars. Our extracurricular events and discussions further reinforced these foundations, and provided us with practical avenues for human rights work.”



Tom Shakely

School of Arts and Sciences

M.A. in Human Rights

“I started this program not expecting much beyond the classes and classwork itself, and was frankly amazed at the depth of relationships our cohort formed, the closeness and intellectual seriousness of each informing the spirit of the whole. The commitment of Professor Saunders to exposing us to the key organizations in Washington, D.C. related to human rights, particularly the human right to life, and his introducing us to so many friends and co-laborers in the cause of human rights, provided so much more than was apparent ‘on paper’ when I was first making the decision to apply.”

FOURTH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURE



The M.A. Program hosted its Fourth Annual Human Rights Lecture. Ambassador Sam Brownback joined Program Director William Saunders for a conversation on international religious freedom.

Ambassador Sam Brownback has dedicated his life to promoting religious liberty. As former United States Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, Brownback developed networks to combat human rights abuses on a global scale. He served as Governor of Kansas from 2011 to 2018. Prior to that, he represented his home state in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. While a member of the Senate, he worked actively on the issue of religious freedom in multiple countries and was a key sponsor of the International Religious

Freedom Act of 1998. Ambassador Brownback currently serves as co-chair for the International Religious Freedom Summit.

The conversation reflected on religious freedom as a foundational human right, the protection of religious freedom in the context of international law, the prevalence of religious persecution, and ways to promote religious freedom worldwide. Ambassador Brownback shared details of his experience in religious freedom advocacy across the globe both as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and in previous work in the field and exhorted listeners to take action to protect this precious and fundamental human right.



“The IHE provides a uniquely interdisciplinary community that weaves together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students with complementary interests. Its lectures and seminars cultivate friendships that have greatly contributed to a holistic graduate education.”

Genevieve Frank
IHE Graduate Scholar, Ph.D., School of Philosophy



The IHE hosted numerous events throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, edifying attendees with insightful conversation, prominent speakers, and opportunities to engage in audience discussion and Q&A. For a complete list of this year’s events, as well as their recordings, visit www.ihe.catholic.edu/all-events.

Examples of EVENTS

Liturgy of Home



“Liturgical Living in the Home: How to Sanctify Daily Life Through the Wisdom of the Church” was the IHE’s first annual event in honor of Saint Scholastica on a theme relating to the Benedictine motto “Ora et labora.” Our panelists included Michaela Harrison and Jeremiah Harrison, founders of the website, *Liturgy of the Home*, Leila Marie Lawler — who authored *The Summa Domestica* — and Jay W. Richards of the IHE. They discussed how we can make the home a space that fosters holiness in the everyday, live liturgically, and effectively feast and fast.

Recognizing the Body of Christ



The IHE cosponsored a bi-annual event with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability on the topic of disability and the Church. In November 2021, the IHE held an event with the NCPD on “In My Heart: The Life of Saint Margaret of Castello.” In the virtual event, panelists Father Bernard Timothy, O.P., Sister Theresa Paul, O.P., and Sister Kathleen Schipani, I.H.M., reflected on the life of Saint Margaret of Castello, a fourteenth-century lay Dominican who gave her life to service despite social ostracism due to disabilities, and how devotion to her can shape and challenge our understanding of the universal call to holiness.

Examples of EVENTS

First Things Annual Lecture: By the Sweat of Your Brow



The IHE was proud to cosponsor the annual *First Things* Lecture in the spring of 2022. Professor Joshua Mitchell of Georgetown University gave a lecture titled “By the Sweat of Your Brow You Shall Labor.” Professor Mitchell mused on how identity politics — the politics of innocence and transgression — has become a fever in America. He surveyed longer developments in the conservative movement and more recent politics, with a view to clarifying the crisis in which American citizens now find themselves. Dr. Mitchell offered an alternative to the politics of innocence and transgression, namely, the politics of competence, and explained why a healthy American future should be built around it.

New World Order



The IHE sponsored an event in the spring of 2022 on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its geopolitical implications. Ross Douthat (*New York Times*) joined Elbridge Colby (Marathon Initiative), Rebecca Heinrichs (Hudson Institute), and Jakub Grygiel (IHE) for a discussion on “New World Order: What the War in Ukraine Means for American Grand Strategy.” Panelists discussed how Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, along with retaliatory Western sanctions, has caused a reassessment of America’s foreign policy. They also debated if Russia’s invasion of Ukraine portends the end of the Pax Americana or if the unified Western response shows American strength.



Examples of EVENTS

Lecture Series: The Future of Roe v. Wade?



In anticipation of the *Dobbs* decision in the summer of 2022, the IHE cosponsored a series of lectures in spring 2022 on “The Future of *Roe v. Wade*?” The three lectures focused on different aspects of *Roe* and the abortion debate generally. Professor Joel Alicea (Columbus School of Law) gave a talk on “*Dobbs* and the Future of Constitutional Interpretation.” David Crawford (John Paul II Institute) spoke on “Abortion and the Meaning of Life: Some Anthropological Implications of the Viability Standard.” And Helen Alvaré (Antonin Scalia Law School) lectured on “It’s More Complicated Than You Think: Abortion and Women’s Freedom.”

Are the Humanities in Crisis?



The IHE was pleased to host a live recording of “Sacred and Profane Love,” a podcast by Jennifer Frey (IHE) and sponsored by the IHE. Jennifer Frey (University of South Carolina, IHE) was joined by Zena Hitz (St. John’s College, Annapolis, IHE), and Chad Wellmon (University of Virginia) for a discussion of Dr. Wellmon’s book (co-written with Paul Reitter), *Permanent Crisis: The Humanities in a Disenchanted Age* (University of Chicago Press, 2021). Participants debated the fraught history of the humanities and their perennial crises, the relationship to the university and professionalization, and the future of the field.





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

 [@catholicuhumanecology](https://www.instagram.com/catholicuhumanecology)

 [@HumanEcologyCUA](https://twitter.com/HumanEcologyCUA)

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