



REV. MICHAEL C. MCFARLAND, S.J.

CENTER FOR RELIGION,
ETHICS AND CULTURE

2023-2024 *Year in Review*

By the Numbers:

29	In-Person Events
1,900	In-Person Event Attendees
38,749	McFarland Center YouTube Views
47	Virtual Classroom Visits
325,609	Catholics & Cultures Page Views
181,896	Catholics & Cultures YouTube Views
21,700	Catholics & Cultures YouTube Subscribers
10,140	Journal of Global Catholicism Downloads

GLOBAL CATHOLICISM

This year, we upgraded [Catholics and Cultures'](#) website architecture while continuing to research new areas of the world and bringing the study of Catholicism to a broader audience. Currently, we are in the process of updating the countries' national demographics.



NEW ON CATHOLICS AND CULTURES

MALTA

UPLOADED NOVEMBER 2023

In late 2023, we added a new country to the Catholics and Cultures website: [the historically intensely Catholic island nation of Malta](#). The new articles cover everything from [parish feasts](#) and [Holy Week traditions](#) to [gender norms](#) and [immigration](#).

[Explore Maltese Catholicism](#)



RITUALS AND FEASTS IN CHILE

UPLOADED FEBRUARY 2024

Chile is home to a number of dramatic devotional events, two of which we wrote about this year: [The feast of San Sebastián](#), and [Cuasimodo](#). Cuasimodo in particular is a ritual like no other – thousands of satin-costumed cuasimodistas ride through the city streets and country roads of Chile's Central Valley.

NORTHEAST INDIA

UPLOADED MAY 2024

Most recently, we began to fill a major gap in our India research with an in-depth exploration of the [majority-Catholic Northeastern state of Meghalaya](#). The Northeast region not only stands out from "mainland" India but is also diverse within.

[Explore India by state](#)



GLOBAL CATHOLICISM

Global Catholicism is more than a few independent projects for the McFarland Center. 2023 was the start of moving our existing programs into a broader initiative, and this work will expand in 2024 and 2025. We're excited to continue to collaborate with the two new scholars Religious Studies brought on this year and create new opportunities to engage audiences both on and off campus.

Journal of Global Catholicism

GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM II

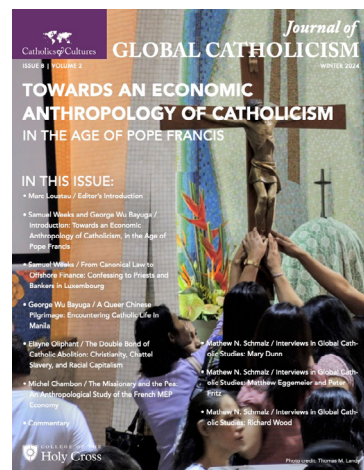
NOVEMBER 2023

In Summer 2022, the JGC held a graduate student symposium with students from Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram in Bengaluru, India. This conference directly resulted in this issue's two articles.

TOWARDS AN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY OF CATHOLICISM IN THE AGE OF POPE FRANCIS

FEBRUARY 2024

This issue, which focused on the historical and politico-economic dimensions of contemporary Catholicism, came more than a decade into the papacy of Francis. Pope Francis's unique navigation through global issues and employment of community dialogue inspired this issue's diverse scholarship, led by guest editors Samuel Weeks, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Thomas Jefferson University, and George Bayuga, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.



CONFERENCE / APRIL 18 AND 19, 2024

April 7, 2024, marked the 30th commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. In solidarity with Rwandans, this two-day symposium gathered international scholars to unpack the complex role of the Catholic church in the genocide and its aftermath, as well as explore broader implications for the global church today.

Rev. Marcel Uwizeza, SJ, a genocide survivor, presented the keynote, **"Theology and Ecclesiology from Wounds of the Genocide."**

This Catholics & Cultures conference was organized by Audrey Seah, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, with additional funding from the Kraft-Hiatt program. The talks will result in an upcoming issue of the JGC.

10,140 JOURNAL DOWNLOADS

325,609 CATHOLICS & CULTURES PAGE VIEWS

181,896 CATHOLICS & CULTURES YOUTUBE VIEWS



JEWISH-CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING

In 2023-24, the College, with support from the Kraft-Hiatt family, continued to deepen understanding of Judaism and promote Jewish-Christian relations. We also laid the groundwork for exciting new programs coming in the next academic year, including Reading From the Roots, a new online home coming in Summer 2024 for Catholic clergy looking to preach from the Hebrew Scriptures in ways that are authentic to both Catholicism and Judaism. **The following events were a part of the Kraft-Hiatt program last year:**



FEMINIST RAGE AND THE BOOK OF JUDITH

APRIL 14, 2024

Jennifer L. Koosed, Chair of Religious Studies at Albright College, examined the multivalent violence wielded against and by Judith, focusing especially on the ways this scene has become a site of female resistance and feminist rage. This lecture was in memory of Alice Laffey, a long-time professor of Religious Studies at Holy Cross who passed away in 2023.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

O LUNGO DROM (THE LONG ROAD)

AN ORATORIO ON THE SINTI AND ROMA

APRIL 5, 2024

Ever since they appeared in Europe over a thousand years ago, the Roma have been subject to constant discrimination and persecution, punctuated by infernal periods of enslavement and genocide. Jointly with his home institution Boston College, Holy Cross premiered **Ralf Yusuf Gawlick's** oratorio *O Lungo Drum*, chronicling the history of the Roma and Sinti through the words of Roma/Sinti poets and writers themselves.



WHEN IMMIGRATION WAS STOPPED BY EUGENICS

A DARK CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Daniel Okrent, a prize-winning author of six books, talked about how the 1920s movement to stop immigration from Southern and eastern Europe united with the simultaneous development of the false science of eugenics.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

THE SURVIVORS AMONG US

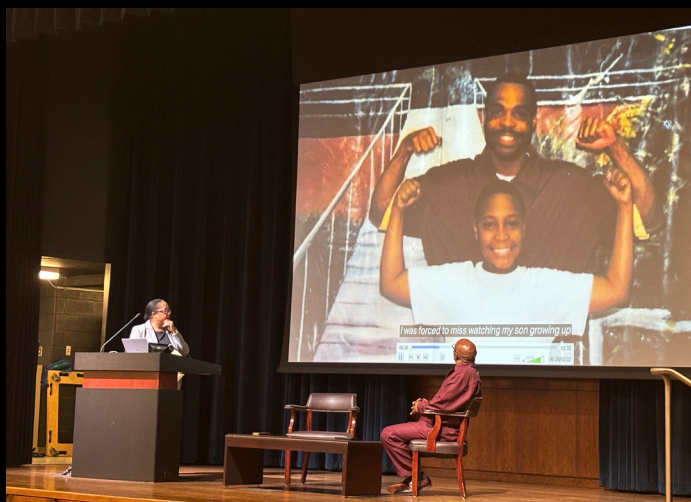
TODAY AND TOMORROW

MARCH 18, 2024

Alan Rosen examined what might lie behind the questionable focus on Holocaust survivors' disappearance and set out a different way to think about the survivors among us, highlighting the lessons we continue to glean.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

REHM FAMILY FUND



29 TOTAL IN-PERSON EVENTS
1,900 IN-PERSON EVENT ATTENDEES

WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN MODERN AMERICA

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Christina Swarns, Executive Director of the **Innocence Project**, and **Marvin Anderson**, exoneree, talked about the challenges we face to prevent wrongful convictions and how we can create more compassionate & equitable systems of justice for everyone.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

JUST PEACE

ECOLOGY, ECONOMICS, AND EDUCATION IN AFRICA

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Drawing on his work in Uganda at Bethany Land Institute, **Fr. Emmanuel Katongole**, Professor at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for Internal Peace Studies, explored the connections between peace, ecology, and the notion of human development within the Catholic Social Tradition.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

VOCATION OF THE WRITER

CREATIVE WRITING'S WORKING WRITER PROGRAM

OCTOBER 19, 2023

W. Ralph Eubanks discussed writing his book *A Place Like Mississippi*.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

CLOSE AND APART

COLLABORATION, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Several collaborators - **Matthew Jaskot**, composer and Professor of Music, and **Susan Elizabeth Sweeney**, poet and Professor of English, along with **Eric Gregory** and **Grace Gregory** - discussed the making of *Close and Apart*, the song cycle inspired by Eric's memoir, *All My Tomorrows: A Story of Tragedy, Transplant, and Hope*. The memoir is based on Eric's experience after his son Chris died from a brain aneurysm, and his organs were donated to strangers in need.

[WATCH THE PANEL](#)

BOTS IN THE KITCHEN

A PHILOSOPHICAL TAKE ON THE DIGITAL FOOD TRANSFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Andrea Borghini, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Milan, Italy, unearthed the ethical and theoretical perils and prospects that digital food transformation creates.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

SAVING THE UNIVERSITY FROM DOOM

ETHNIC STUDIES AS ETHICS; COMMUNITY AS PRAXIS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Lorgia García Peña, professor at the Efron Center for the Study of America and the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, proposed community and ethnic studies as an antidote to the ethical dilemma we face as a university community, confronting the legacies of colonialism and slavery.

DEITCHMAN FAMILY LECTURES ON RELIGION & MODERNITY

A THEOLOGY OF MIGRATION, THE BODIES OF REFUGEES, AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 25, 2023

With **Fr. Daniel Groody, C.S.C.**, professor of theology and global affairs, is the vice president and associate provost for undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)



RETHINKING THE ETHICS OF WAR IN THE FACE OF THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

OCTOBER 19, 2023

With **David O'Brien**, Professor Emeritus at Holy Cross, **Andrea Bartoli**, President of the Sant'Egidio Foundation for Peace and Dialogue, and **Laurie Johnston**, Associate Professor of Theology at Emmanuel College and co-author of *Can War be Just in the 21st Century?*.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

THE 272

THE IMPACT OF SLAVE SALES ON AMERICAN CATHOLICISM

MARCH 20, 2024

Rachel Swarns, **President Vincent D. Rougeau**, **Board of Trustees Chair Helen W. Boucher, M.D. '86**, and **Jesuit Provincial Joseph M. O'Keefe, S.J., '76** discussed Swarns' research on the families who were enslaved and sold to fund the American Catholic Church, as well as the impact of this history on Holy Cross' mission and values.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

CATHOLICISM REPRESENTED

CATHOLICISM AND DEMOCRACY FROM 1789 TO THE PRESENT

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

With **John McGreevy**, distinguished historian and Provost at the University of Notre Dame.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)



HEATHEN

RELIGION AND RACE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

MARCH 26, 2024

With **Kathryn Gin Lum**, Chair of Religious Studies at Stanford University.

INFINITE CANAAN

THE NEW SPACE RACE IN COLONIAL CONTEXT

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

With **Mary-Jane Rubenstein**, Professor of Religion and Science in Society at Wesleyan University.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

MCFARLAND CENTER EVENTS

THOMAS MORE LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES

APRIL 10, 2024

A talk and conversation about the future of humanities with **Heather Cox Richardson**, Professor of History at Boston College, along with President **Vincent D. Rougeau** and **Provost Elliott Visconsi '95**.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)



THE UNLEARNED LESSONS OF WAR

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AND GLOBAL CONFLICT

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

With author **Phil Klay**, winner of the National Book Award for his essay collection *Uncertain Ground: Citizenship in an Age of Endless, Invisible War*.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

WHY WOMEN WON

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Claudia Goldin, Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and 2023 Nobel Prize for Economics winner, explained how the civil rights movement and new women's rights legislation were behind the many critical moments in women's rights history that happened between 1963 and 1973.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)



HOW DID WAR BECOME PERMANENT?

MARCH 19, 2024

Nikhil Pal Singh, Chair of the Department of Social & Cultural Analysis at New York University, reflected on the recent history of permanent war, considered how this idea has morphed into the notion of a permanent civil war "at home," and suggested steps we might take to break from this logic.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

VALUE VS. VALUES

ESG INVESTING AND THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS

APRIL 4, 2024

With **Ann M. Lipton**, Michael M. Fleishman Associate Professor in Business Law and Entrepreneurship and Associate Dean for Faculty Research at Tulane University.

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

CONTEMPLATION IN THE CLASSROOM

ADAPTATIONS OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AND BUDDHIST MEDITATION

MARCH 14, 2024

With **Gloria Chien**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University

[WATCH THE LECTURE](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY & STAFF



IGNATIAN PILGRIMAGE

Thirteen faculty and administrators from Holy Cross joined peers from other Jesuit institutions at the annual summertime pilgrimage to visit important sites in the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Faculty Scholarship Lunch series

ONLINE WRITING INTERVENTIONS, LGBTQ+ WELL-BEING, & MOMENTS OF REPRIEVE

A mixed-method analysis in South Central Appalachia

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Stephenie Chaudoir, Associate Professor of Psychology, described research examining whether brief, theory-based writing interventions can improve mental and behavioral health among LGBTQ+ young adults living in South Central Appalachia.

DIVERSITY IN THE DARK

Illuminating the secrets of cave beetle evolution

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Karen A. Ober, Professor of Biology, explored the evolutionary history of eastern North American cave beetles, focusing on how geology influences the great biological diversity.

WORLD SCHOOLERS

Mobile families, global kids, and the search for the "good life" in uncertain times

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Jennie Germann Molz, Professor of Sociology, discussed her ethnographic study of world-schoolers, families who educate their children and work remotely while traveling the world.

HIMALAYAN VISTAS

Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Career in Religious Studies

MARCH 14, 2024

Todd Lewis, Distinguished Professor of Arts and Humanities, discussed the ways he broadened his work on textual analysis to include anthropology, art, ethnography, and Asian history as he studied the living Buddhist tradition in Kathmandu, Nepal.

NEUROPSYCHIATRIC APPLICATIONS OF MACHINE LEARNING

APRIL 10, 2024

Shannon Stock, Associate Professor of Statistics, described machine learning algorithms that aim to enhance clinical decision-making by providing transparent insights into the patterns of risk factors that influence patient outcomes.

Virtual Classroom Visits

The McFarland Center funded 47 virtual class visits in 2023-2024.

These visits give students first-hand access to scholars, authors, performers, and community leaders whose work they are studying. Initiated during a year of remote learning, the Virtual Classroom Visits program continues to make possible unparalleled opportunities for student engagement with scholars in the classroom.

[VIEW THE LIST OF VISITS](#)