

Concurrent Sessions At-A-Glance

Friday Morning

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Freedom Across Theological Diversity—Invited Session | Lakeshore A |
| 2. Anthropology—Topic Session | Lakeshore B |
| 3. Theology of Peacebuilding and Nonviolence—Interest Group | Lakeshore C |
| 4. An Exploration of Unfreedom in the Moral Life—Selected Session | Gilpatrick AB |
| 5. Lonergan—Consultation | Solomon Juneau |
| 6. Theories of Freedom and Contemplative Praxis—Selected Session | Milwaukee A |
| 7. Catholic Theology and the Contemporary University—Interest Group | Milwaukee B |
| 8. Spirituality—Topic Session | Crystal |
| 9. Latino/a Theology—Consultation | Executive C |
| 10. Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church—Consultation | Executive D |
| 11. Christianity and Judaism—Consultation | Pere Marquette |

Friday Afternoon

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| 1. Doing Theology from the Peripheries—Selected Session | Lakeshore A |
| 2. Freedom at the Beginning and End of Life—Selected Session | Lakeshore B |
| 3. Christ—Topic Session | Lakeshore C |
| 4. Thomas Aquinas—Consultation | Gilpatrick AB |
| 5. Mental Health in Theological Perspective—Interest Group | Solomon Juneau |
| 6. Rahner—Consultation | Milwaukee A |
| 7. Catholicity and Mission—Topic Session | Milwaukee B |
| 8. Public Theology—Interest Group | Crystal |
| 9. Black Catholic Theology—Consultation | Executive C |
| 10. Church/Ecumenism—Topic Session | Executive D |
| 11. von Balthasar—Consultation | Pere Marquette |

Saturday Morning

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Ethical Challenges in a Post-Roe America—Invited Session | Lakeshore A |
| 2. Synodality and Freedom in the Church—Selected Session | Lakeshore B |
| 3. Practical Theology—Topic Session | Lakeshore C |
| 4. Freedom, Coercion, and Self-Realization—Selected Session | Gilpatrick AB |
| 5. Disability Theology—Interest Group | Solomon Juneau |
| 6. Bioethics/Healthcare—Topic Session | Milwaukee A |
| 7. Comparative Theology—Topic Session | Milwaukee B |
| 8. Catholic Social Thought—Topic Session | Crystal |
| 9. Moral Theology—Topic Session | Executive C |
| 10. Fundamental Theology/Method—Topic Session | Executive D |
| 11. Creation/Eschatology—Topic Session | Pere Marquette |

Saturday Afternoon

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Decolonizing Catholic Theology—Interest Group | Lakeshore A |
| 2. The Liberating Theology of James Hal Cone—Interest Group | Lakeshore B |
| 3. Asian/Asian American Theology—Consultation | Lakeshore C |
| 4. Pre-liberal Theologies of Freedom in a Post-liberal Age—Selected Session | Gilpatrick AB |
| 5. Liturgy/Sacraments—Topic Session | Solomon Juneau |
| 6. Historical Theology—Topic Session | Milwaukee A |
| 7. Fieldwork in Theology—Interest Group | Milwaukee B |
| 8. Moral Theology—Topic Session | Crystal |
| 9. Freedom for All of Us—Invited Session | Executive C |
| 10. Theology and Science—Topic Session | Executive D |
| 11. God and Trinity—Topic Session | Pere Marquette |

Pre-Convention Events, Thursday, June 8, 2023

CTSA Board Meeting

**9:00 AM–4:30 PM
Crystal Room**

**Minowaking debwemagad (The good land, it is true):
An Indigenous Experience of Milwaukee**

11:30 AM—2:30 PM

For convention participants interested in respectfully engaging in Indigenous knowledge, we are offering an opportunity to meet with several Indigenous people who now live and work in the local Minowakiing (Milwaukee); we shall engage in a narrative relationship to this place as its original inhabitants called it, *the good land*. Our guides will share narratives of local Indigenous philosophy and praxis which provide the methods and methodologies of actively living out a flourishing of life in this place. We will visit several local landmarks to help to orient us to Indigenous life, including the mouth of the three rivers, Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnikinic; the location of the original Indian community school; and the current fire circle at the University of Milwaukee, hosted by the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education. Our guides will be Dr. Mark Freeland (Sault Ste Marie Ojibwe) and Elder in Residence Vern Altman (Walpole Island Reserve, Canada). Box lunch and transportation from the hotel included with purchase at time of registration.

Registration

**1:00 PM–4:30 PM
and 6:00 PM–7:00 PM
Regency Prefunction**

Exhibits

**1:00 PM–7:00 PM
Atrium**

Women's Consultation on Constructive Theology

**3:00 PM–5:30 PM
Lakeshore**

Administrative Team: Jessica Coblentz, Jennifer Owens-Jofré, Julia Feder, Margaret Mary Moore

Convener: Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education

Moderator: Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education

Presenter: Theresa Yugar, California State University, Los Angeles

Presenter: Teresia Mbari Hinga, Santa Clara University

Panel Précis: It's been 40 years since the publication of Rosemary Radford Ruether's *Sexism and God Talk: Towards a Feminist Theology*. Considering this year's conference theme, 'Freedom', this panel will explore how much freedom women, particularly feminist theologians, have gained since Ruether's strivings for the beginnings of a feminist theology. It will honor Ruether's contribution and use it as a foundation

to ask the pressing questions for feminist theologies today such as women's roles in the Church, women's bodies and reproductive capabilities, violence against women and the ongoing silencing of them in the Church and the academy. Theresa Yugar and Teresia Hinga, coeditors of *Valuing Lives, Healing Earth: Religion, Gender and Life on Earth*, written in honor of their mentor and close friend, Ruether, will be the panelists for this session.

Ann O'Hara Graff Memorial Award

4:30 PM

The 2023 Ann O'Hara Graff Memorial Award will be awarded to Cecilia González-Andrieu

Business Meeting

5:15 PM–5:30 PM

Thursday Evening, June 8, 2023

Opening and First Plenary

**7:00 PM–9:00 PM
Regency Ballroom**

Presiding:

Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Harvard Divinity School
President, CTSA

Land Acknowledgement

The Catholic Theological Society of America acknowledges the Menominee, Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Fox, Mascouten, Sauk and Ojibwe nations, on whose homeland we convene in Milwaukee in June 2023. Members of these nations have known these lands as relatives for millennia, and their descendants remain our hosts. We also acknowledge that Milwaukee is located along the southwest shores of Michigami (meaning "big water" in Anishinaabemowin), where the Milwaukee River, Menomonee River and Kinnickinnic River meet. We are mindful of our responsibility to practice good relations with the land and water as elders and ancestors past, present and emerging have done.

Our responsibility here, and where we live and teach, entails learning about these cultural traditions that inform good stewardship of our environment and practicing ongoing good relations with the sovereign nations who care for it. In a spirit of reconciliation, we can create the conditions of hospitality for current Indigenous community members and all yet to walk with us. We likewise remember, in the same spirit of repentance and with a resolve to work for healing and reparation, other legacies of violence, enslavement, displacement, and dispossession that have created the local landscape here. We recall, in particular, how Milwaukee's history of institutionalized racism has yielded the hyper-segregated city that it is today.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Address: Andrew Prevot, Georgetown University
“Elusive Freedom: The Struggle Continues”

Reception

9:00 PM
Atrium & Executive Ballroom

Donors

Boston College

Harvard School of Divinity, Harvard University

John LaFarge Jesuit Community

Friday Morning, June 9, 2023

Registration

9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Regency
Prefunction

von Balthasar Society Breakfast

7:00 AM–8:15 AM
Executive A

Mentorship Breakfast

“Transitioning into Careers in Theology”

7:00 AM–8:15 AM
Executive B

Comparative Theology Reading Group Breakfast

7:00 AM–8:15 AM
TBD

Schillebeeckx Breakfast

7:00 AM–8:15 AM
TBD

Zen Meditation

Ruben Habito, SMU Perkins School of Theology

7:15 AM–8:15 AM
Crystal

Memorial Service

Remembrance of Deceased CTSA Members

8:30 AM–9:00 AM
Regency Ballroom

Exhibits

8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Atrium

Second Plenary Session

9:00 AM–10:30 AM
Regency Ballroom

Presiding:

Christine Firer Hinze, Fordham University
Past President, CTSA

Address: Darlene Fozard Weaver, Duquesne University
“Freedom in a Morally Diverse World”

Respondent: Melissa Pagán, Mount Saint Mary’s University

Coffee Break

10:30 AM–11:00 AM
Atrium

Concurrent Sessions

11:00 AM–12:45 PM

Freedom Across Theological Diversity: Engaging the Past as Invitation and Limitation—

Invited Session

Lakeshore A

Convener: Linh Hoang, OFM, Siena College

Moderator: Conor M. Kelly, Marquette University

Panelists: Shawn Colberg, St. John’s University
Lisa Fullam, Jesuit School of Theology
Linh Hoang, OFM, Siena College

Précis: This invited session aims to promote community through a robust appreciation of theological diversity. The presenters will bring forth the varied ways in which their work in the areas of moral theology, systematic theology and history engages the past as a resource and obstacle to fruitful theological and spiritual expressions. Rather than presenting a series of papers, the panelists will engage in a facilitated conversation with one another and conference participants on the ways that this engagement has been limiting and freeing in theological reflection.

Anthropology—Topic Session

Lakeshore B

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Pyne, Eric Meyer, Tiffany Hartnell-Howden

Convener: Elizabeth Pyne, Mercyhurst University

Moderator: Eric Meyer, Carroll College

Presenter: Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo, Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Paper Title: “‘No one takes my life, I give it freely’: Reimagining Human Freedom in Light of Ecomartyrdom”

Précis: This paper reflects theologically on human freedom in light of the assassination of land and environmental defenders. The phenomenon of ecomartyrdom elucidates what it means to be free for living a life of discipleship committed to human and

ecological flourishing, even in the midst of contexts where it is impossible to enjoy freedom from injustice, violence, and ecological degradation. Given that Indigenous land and environmental defenders are disproportionately at risk of assassination, particular attention will be paid to the need for Christian theological anthropology to learn from Indigenous conceptions of how human freedom exists only in embodied relationships of reciprocity with more-than-human creation.

Presenter: Jessica Coblenz, Saint Mary's College

Paper Title: "Freedom from Sexual Attraction? Thinking with Asexual Reappraisals of the Human Person"

Précis: Today "asexuality" denotes a sexual orientation claimed by individuals who experience less sexual attraction than is mandated by the norms of contemporary Western society. This paper considers how attention to asexuals—to those who live relatively free from sexual attraction—can transform Catholic conceptions of the human person, including assumptions about the naturalness of sexual attraction, the workings of sexual orientation, the realities of nonsexual kinship, and our visions of human flourishing.

Presenter: Daniel Minch, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Paper Title: "The Promise of the Future Is Also the Threat of the Future: Money as *Theos* and the Constraints of *Homo Oeconomicus*"

Précis: The predominant image of humanity has transitioned away from *homo religiosus* or *homo faber*, and towards that of *homo oeconomicus*. This paper will argue from that this economic anthropology is also a theological anthropology that presupposes money as *theos*. Second, this paper will outline how this reshapes human behavior and society around the promise of freedom. Money promises possibilities for the future but this is simultaneously the threat of future exclusion from the market and society. This paper will illustrate how the 'threat of the future' is radicalized into the structural exclusion of social, racial, and political groups.

Theology of Peacebuilding and Nonviolence—Interest Group

Lakeshore C

Administrative Team: Eli McCarthy, Leo Guardado, Teresia Hinga

Convener: Eli McCarthy, Georgetown University

Moderator: Teresia Hinga, Santa Clara University

Presenter: Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College

Paper Title: "Can the Theology of Nonviolent Peacebuilding Co-Exist with the Permission of Just Defense?"

Précis: Pope Francis's responses to the invasion of Ukraine are defined by the priority of nonviolence, especially from a Christian standpoint; yet he acknowledges Ukraine's right to self-defense; while nevertheless decrying the actual effects of

the prolonged conflict, including the displacement of millions, torture and rape, the loss of countless lives, and destruction of the nation's infrastructure. Does the apparent papal ambivalence about the absolute exclusion of armed force reflect a real moral dilemma as well as a political quandary for Catholic Christian theologians, ethicists, and peacebuilders? How might theological ethics address this question?

Presenter: Leo Lushombo, Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University
Paper Title: "Environmental Justice, Peacebuilding, and Nonviolence"

Précis: This paper will use the environmental context in Congo to help us understand the state of the broader conversation on the use of and relationship between peacebuilding and nonviolence. It will critically examine and challenge some world political ideas of environmental preservation at work in the Congo and assess their impact on the intersection of peacebuilding and nonviolence. Finally, it will investigate key actors' innovative approaches to foster the convergence of peacebuilding and nonviolence.

Respondent: Heather Dubois, Boston College
Paper Title: "An Appreciative Inquiry"

Précis: This paper will define peacebuilding and nonviolence in relation to cognate terms, and then explore how Catholic theologies contribute to these realities (if not these literatures) by naming and mitigating numerous forms of violence. It will also point to promising, emergent topical and methodological trends.

An Exploration of Unfreedom in the Moral Life—Selected Session

Gilpatrick AB

Convener: R. Zachary Karanovich, Boston College
Moderator: Daniel P. Scheid, Duquesne University

Presenter: Xavier M. Montecel, St. Mary's University
Paper Title: "Liturgical Vice: Unfreedom and Injustice in Christian Worship"

Précis: Most approaches to linking liturgy and ethics operate in one direction. It is liturgy or the sacraments which are understood to inaugurate or inspire ethical living. But what does ethics have to say about liturgy? In this paper, I will perform a moral theological analysis of liturgical worship through the lens of virtue ethics, with special attention to vice. Worship bears the presence of God for us, but it is also a human practice. I propose the notion of "liturgical vice" as a means of articulating the ways in which worship can deform moral character and suppress possibilities for justice and flourishing, while at the same time serving as a means of grace and invitation to freedom.

Presenter: R. Zachary Karanovich, Boston College
Paper Title: "Agency on the Other Side of Oppression: Evaluating Moral Constraints on the Freedom for Solidarity"

Précis: In analyzing situations of oppression, the complexities of oppressors' motives, identity, and agency often remain obscured. Using the example of rural, working-class, white Christian communities—uniquely representative of both oppressed and oppressors—and their role in perpetuating racism, this paper seeks to better understand persons constrained from full flourishing or who are morally injured but nonetheless work toward a virtuous life. Situating this evaluation within discussions of moral luck, burdened virtues, and the impact of the socio-cultural structures on moral agency illuminates the complex realities of racial injustice and the role identity formation plays in inhibiting the freedom for solidarity.

Presenter: Kate Jackson-Meyer, Harvard University
Paper Title: “Tragic Dilemmas and the Precarity of Moral Goodness in Light of Constrained Moral Agency”

Précis: Catholic moral thought should affirm a category of tragic dilemmas understood as times when non-negotiable moral obligations conflict. This category reveals how unjust social structures can create situations that undermine moral freedom and compromise moral goodness because no action is right or without culpability even when making the best decision possible. Catholic moral thought traditionally proposes to solve such cases using various strategies, but I argue that these obfuscate how unjust structures force hard choices. While moral goodness in those cases is jeopardized for the individual and society, hope in redemption should drive us to admit wrongdoing and work for change.

Lonergan—Consultation

Solomon Juneau

Administrative Team: Erica Siu-Mui Lee, Jennifer Kendall Sanders, Brian Bajzek

Convener: Erica Siu-Mui Lee, Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology and Philosophy

Moderator: John Dadosky, Regis College, University of Toronto

Presenter: Jeremy W. Blackwood, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
Paper Title: “Graced Freedom as *Memoria* in Conversation: Developing Lonergan with Doran and Lawrence”

Précis: This paper argues that the theologies of Robert Doran and Frederick Lawrence offer fruitful developments of Bernard Lonergan's theology of triune grace. Placed together as two poles of a dialectic of contraries, Lawrence's processional theology of conversation and Doran's relational theology of *memoria* foster a more thorough understanding of one's freedom in grace that may withstand both the individualist and the collectivist errors of our age. In so doing, the paper draws together two major, different strands of Lonergan scholarship, making this study itself a demonstration of this balance.

Presenter: Christopher Krall, S.J., Creighton University
Paper Title: “‘The Truth Will Set You Free’: The Freeing Power of the Virtue of Humility Backed by the Neuroscience of Self-Esteem”

Précis: Authentic human freedom is the honest admission of our existence. Using Lonergan's understanding of grace and neuroscience studies on self-esteem, this paper explores the strengthening powers of the virtue of humility. Mortality and the proclivity to sin necessarily induce reactionary existential angst. Yet, ironically, acknowledging this weakness is humanity's strength. The theological virtue of humility is not self-abasement but confession of our rightful place. Growing in humility is freedom from the anxiety of life's trials and brain-imaging is confirming the regulatory strength of healthy self-esteem. As a humble beggar for grace, the fear of death is regulated, and self-esteem enhanced.

Presenters: Eric A. Mabry, University of St. Thomas (Houston)
Paper Title: "Deliberatio Christi: Did Christ Decide Which Parables would be Best?"

Précis: Was Jesus Christ free in all the ways that we are free? Chalcedon affirms with the *Epistle to the Hebrews* that Christ was like us in all things save sin. But despite the affirmation of Christ's human will and freedom by the Third Council of Constantinople (680), nevertheless reticence to affirm deliberation within the human volition of Jesus persisted well into the twentieth century. Even Bernard Lonergan maintained that deliberation would be "superfluous" in Christ. This paper argues that deliberation ought to be affirmed and that it is a crucial aspect of the freedom of Christ.

Theories of Freedom and Contemplative Praxis—Selected Session

Milwaukee A

Convener: Jacob W. Torbeck, Valparaiso University
Moderator: Anne M. Carpenter, St. Mary's College of California

Presenter: Min-Ah Cho, Georgetown University
Paper Title: "Reclaiming Silence as a Spiritual and Political Practice of Freedom"

Précis: In the face of violence, Christian communities of women and persons of color can reclaim silence as a spiritual and political practice of freedom. By drawing parallels between the spiritual dimension of silence utilized in political struggles for justice and Jesus' silence in the passion narrative, this paper distinguishes between forced silence and contemplative silence. Ultimately, contemplative silence invites one to a life of deep and active contemplation where liberation from the disruptive and destructive forces of the world is accessible and individuals are freed to move toward divine love.

Presenter: Jacob W. Torbeck, Valparaiso University
Paper Title: "One is Undone: Kenotic Freedom in Christian Mystical Theologies"

Précis: Against distorted notions of freedom as a kind of autarchy, this paper puts forward a notion of kenotic freedom, drawn from the mystical traditions of Christian spirituality, that weds liberation for the soul to liberation from material oppression. Drawn from historical theological understandings of theosis,

contemplation, and attention, this understanding of freedom as “letting go of the self” relies upon an imitation of God’s self-emptying attention, which continually creates and sustains all creatures. Freedom so-conceived reorients understandings of autonomous freedom as “having oneself in hand” for the sake of giving oneself away.

Presenter: Kathleen McNutt, Marquette University
Paper Title: “On Care for our Common *Gnōmē*: Eco-spirituality and Freedom in Maximus the Confessor”

Précis: This paper argues that Maximus the Confessor’s distinction between gnostic and natural will can help us to think through the meaning of freedom in relationship to ecological action and spirituality. Against a false conception of freedom and free will that values the human capacity to choose among objects, freedom in the deified person means union with God’s freedom in seeking the good. Engaging with John Chryssavgis’ work on ecological theology and spirituality, the paper will reflect on the distinction between a consumerist desire for unrestricted freedom of choice and a freedom that opens us up to the planetary community.

Catholic Theology and Contemporary University—Interest Group

Milwaukee B

Administrative Team: Edward P. Hahnenberg, Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos

Convener: Edward P. Hahnenberg, John Carroll University

Moderator: Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos, University of Detroit Mercy

Presenter: J. Matthew Ashley, University of Notre Dame

Presenter: Craig Ford, St. Norbert College

Presenter: Elisabeth Vasko, Duquesne University

Panel Title: The Human Person and the Catholic University

Précis: This interest group seeks to reignite conversation about the ways in which the Catholic theological tradition can inform how our institutions respond to the challenges facing higher education in the United States today. Following last year’s focus on ecclesiology, this year’s panelists explore the ways in which long-standing commitments and contemporary insights in theological anthropology challenge university culture from the dorm room to the board room.

Spirituality—Topic Session

Crystal

Administrative Team: Mary Frohlich, Axel Marc Oaks-Takacs, C. Vanessa White

Convener: Mary Frohlich, Catholic Theological Union

Moderator: C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union

Contemplation and Freedom in Late Modernity

Presenter: Benedict Shoup, University of Notre Dame

Paper Title: “The Freedom of Being Before God: Edith Stein, Jean-Yves Lacoste, and the Sanjuanist Paradigm of Freedom in the Twentieth Century”

Précis: In this paper, I propose that John of the Cross played a surprisingly significant role in shaping twentieth-century Catholic conceptions of freedom. My analysis focuses on John’s influence on Catholic phenomenology. I argue that Edith Stein and Jean-Yves Lacoste’s reception of John leads them to adopt similar paradigms of freedom built around two themes: the re-centering of the self on God, and the liberating power of “nocturnal” experiences of human failure. I conclude by proposing that these themes provide a framework for understanding John’s influence on other major approaches to freedom. I point to Gutiérrez and Balthasar as suggestive examples.

Presenter: Kristen Drahos, Baylor University

Paper Title: “Re-Calling Contemplation: Byung-Chul Han and the Promise of Mysticism”

Précis: Byung-Chul Han is the prophet turned mystic for the neoliberal world. His works unveil the multivalent threats of compulsory burnout, infocratic politics, and techno-frantic society. I argue that Han’s corpus offers a philosophic itinerarium for the neoliberal condition. I claim that Han struggles to move beyond the critic’s purgative analysis due to the absence of transcendence in his mystical ascent. I agree with Han that, now more than ever, the world needs to re-call the power of contemplation, but I claim that re-collecting a form for the negative is equally necessary to transect and transfigure the world’s neoliberal dangers.

Presenter: Christian Krokus, University of Scranton

Paper Title: “Christian de Chergé and the Martyrdom of Love”

Précis: From the film *Of Gods and Men* many know the-recently-beatified Christian de Chergé (1937-1996), his final Testament, and his and his Trappist confreres’ decision to remain in Algeria during the 1990s civil war even though it would result in their deaths. How did they arrive at such radical freedom? I explore how the martyrdom of love, an expression he learned from St. Jane de Chantal (1572-1641), grounded de Chergé’s friendships and mutual-learning with Muslims and how it prepared the Tibhirine monks neither to flee nor to choose sides but ultimately to remain freely in loving solidarity with their neighbors.

Latino/a Theology—Consultation

Executive C

Administrative Team: Jennifer Owens-Jofré, Mauricio Najarro, Cesar “CJ” Baldelomar

Convener: Jennifer Owens-Jofré, Saint Louis University

Moderator: Cesar “CJ” Baldelomar, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Presenter: Ish Ruiz, Emory University

Paper Title: “Liminality, Pedagogy, and Freedom: Exploring the Liberatory Practices of Queer Puerto Rican Catholics”

Précis: In this paper, I will argue that the experience of queer Puerto Rican Catholics (QPRCs), who often reconcile various conflicting identities representing oppressor and oppressed, provides unique insights about a process of liberation that is collaborative and self-edifying. The first part of this paper will offer an overview of the oppression faced by QPRCs. The second part will apply a pedagogy of liberation to explore ways in which QPRCs have synthesized these internal identities. The third part will then draw parallels between this internal process of pedagogical liberation and an external quest for overall liberation as intersectional individuals.

Respondent: María Teresa Dávila, Merrimack College

Respondent: Miguel Díaz, Loyola University Chicago

Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church—Consultation

Executive D

Administrative Team: Stan Chu Ilo, Julia Feder, Daniel Horan

Convener: Cristina Traina, Fordham University

Moderator: Megan McCabe, Gonzaga University

Framing the Problem: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Global North and South

Presenter: Julie Hanlon Rubio, Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University

Presenter: Paul Schutz, Santa Clara University

Paper Title: Framing the Problem: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from the United States

Précis: Until very recently, most theologians responding to clergy perpetrated sexual abuse in the Catholic Church have utilized the familiar methods of theological, ethical, and historical analysis aided by narrative evidence and survey data. These analyses (primarily of ecclesiologies, theologies of priesthood and the laity, canon law, and theologies and ethics of sex and gender) have shed light on root causes of CPSA, as did social scientific work in the John Jay reports and other studies. Fordham's grant project, "Taking Responsibility: Jesuit Institutions Confront the Causes and Contexts of Clergy Sexual Abuse," provided resources and encouragement for innovative interdisciplinary research. Santa Clara's report, "Beyond 'Bad Apples': Understanding Clergy Perpetrated Sexual Abuse as a Structural Problem and Cultivating Strategies for Change," brought together two years of empirical study and theological analysis. The study's authors will reflect on how doing research on a team with experts in psychology and sociology helped them to see the limits of existing theological and empirical studies, pushed them to work through the difficulties of going beyond methodological boundaries, and convinced them of the potential for breakthroughs when social scientists and theologians work closely together.

Presenter: Stan Chu Ilo, DePaul University

Presenter: Sr. Josée Ngalula, Catholic University of Congo, Kinshasa

Paper Title: Framing the Problem: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Central Africa, Nigeria, and Congo

Précis: One of the last acts of Pope Benedict XVI in Africa was to force the resignation of both Archbishop Pomodoro of the capital Bangui of Central African Republic, and Xavier Yombäindjé, évêque de Bossangoa. No reason was given. However, Vatican investigator then-Archbishop Sarah inveighed generally against priests who lived “double lives” without mentioning the women, young girls, and offspring who were caught up in them. With a particular focus on the clerical abuse of nuns, this presentation will use data gathered from Central Africa, Nigeria, and Congo by Fr. Stan Chu Ilo and Sr. Josée Ngalula to argue that (i) one of the greatest challenges Catholic Africa is the culture of “sacred silence” about the seriousness of clerical sexual abuse and boundary violations by clerics and religious and that (ii) a toxic mix of clericalism, hierarchism, patriarchal world views, dominant masculinity, and abuse of religious authority fuels and sustains an ecclesial culture of covering up abuses “for the good of the church” and condoning double lifestyles as “a coping strategy” for celibacy. It will recommend reform through a triple A: *ecclesiology of accountability, accompaniment, and action*.

Christianity and Judaism Consultation

Pere Marquette

Administrative Team: Nicole Reibe, Andrew Massena, Carol Ann Martinelli

Convener: Nicole Reibe, Loyola University Maryland

Moderator: Mia Theocharis, St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto

Presenter: Andrew Massena, Loras College

Paper Title: “Freedom with the Law: Proposing a Christian Practice of *Torah Lishmah*”

Précis: Texts such as Gal 3:11 give an unambiguous impression that Christians are free from the “Law” or commandments of Torah. But these commandments are part of the Hebrew Bible, which the church has canonized. What does it mean for the Law to be canonized in Christian Scripture? To answer this question, I propose Christians adopt the rabbinic concept of *Torah lishmah*. *Torah lishmah* for a Christian can mean to study the commandments, because they are *divine teaching*, given as gifts to be studied and known intimately in all their detail. Such dedication is an act of lovingkindness toward God.

Respondent: Bethany Slater, Denison University

Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2023

Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology Luncheon

**1:00 PM–2:15 PM
Executive AB**

Hearing of the Resolutions Committee

**1:00 PM–2:15 PM
Regency Ballroom**

Presiding: Nancy Pineda-Madrid
Loyola Marymount University
Vice-President, CTSA

Parliamentarian: William Loewe
Catholic University of America

Concurrent Sessions

2:30 PM–4:15 PM

Doing Theology from the Peripheries: Roundtable Discussion and Analysis from North American Working Group for the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development Project—Selected Session

Lakeshore A

Convener: Bradford Hinze, Fordham University
Moderator: Meghan J. Clark, St. John’s University

Précis: Five members of the CTSA took part in a project initiated by the Migrants and Refugees section of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development in 2022. Through one-on-one and small group conversations in major cities throughout North America, they listened to those who occupy the margins of society and the church. This roundtable discussion introduces their methods, discusses what they learned from their dialogue partners, and identifies implications for theological construction.

Panelist: Stan Chu Ilo, DePaul University
Paper Title: “Encounter—Listen—Discern—Learn—Humble Accompaniment”

Panelist: Jennifer Owens-Jofré, Saint Louis University
Paper Title: “Doing Theology in Ways that Develop Right and Just Relationships”

Panelist: Darren Dias, University of St. Michael’s
Paper Title: “Doing Theology by Engaging People Where They Are”

Freedom at the Beginning and End of Life: Constrained and Enhanced in Healthcare Structures—Selected Session

Lakeshore B

Convener: Daniel J. Daly, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Moderator: Shaun Slusarski, Boston College

Presenter: Emma McDonald, Boston College
Paper title: “Freedom and Constraint in Transnational Surrogacy and Gamete Donation”
Précis: This paper draws on Catholic social teaching and critical realism to critique the structure of the global reproductive marketplace. Examining constrictive and enticing powers in global hubs for ova and sperm donation, surrogacy, and

fertility services, this paper argues that the unregulated global reproductive marketplace operates viciously, constraining the freedom of surrogates and donors and threatening human dignity and solidarity. Recognizing how global surrogacy and gamete donation rely on global inequalities to operate alerts us to the need for stronger international regulation to protect human dignity and for transformation of fertility consumer practices to foster solidarity with surrogates and donors.

Presenter: Daniel J. Daly, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Paper title: “The Constrained Moral Agency of the Dying: The Contribution of Structural Analysis to Catholic End-of-Life Ethics”

Précis: Catholic end of life ethics has undertheorized the role of structures in enabling and constraining the agency of patients and caregivers regarding end-of-life treatment. Moral freedom at all stages of life is situated in a socio-structural context. Although other subdisciplines of Catholic ethics have begun to appreciate this reality, end of life ethics has yet to develop a structural vision. The paper analyses how the Church’s teaching on end-of-life ethics relies on the existence of organizational structures within the church and church-sponsored hospitals to enable patients and caregivers make decisions that comport with the tradition’s end of life ethics teaching.

Respondent: Daniel K. Finn, St. John’s University

Christ—Topic Session

Lakeshore C

Administrative Team: John Thiede, S.J., Mary Kate Holman, Eugene Schlesinger

Convener: John Thiede, S.J., Marquette University

Moderator: Mary Kate Holman, Benedictine University

Presenter: Flora Tang, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: “The Queerness of Jesus and the Ungendered Flesh of Christ: Hortense Spillers and M. Shawn Copeland’s *Enfleshing Freedom* in Conversation”

Précis: This paper reads M. Shawn Copeland’s *Enfleshing Freedom* via the Black feminist theory of Hortense Spillers, who coined the term “ungendered flesh,” to speak to the denial of kinship and womanhood to enslaved Black women. Through Spillers’ theory, I read Copeland’s theology of the queer flesh of Christ to suggest that the queerness of Christ’s flesh, traditionally interpreted by other queer theologians as a site of solidarity for LGBTQ+ individuals, first and foremost speaks to the experiences of ungendering—the denial of gender, domestic space, and kinship— that Black and marginalized women face in the underside of coloniality.

Presenter: Giadio DeBiasio, Boston College
Paper Title: “Freeing the Pathway to Salvation: Christ’s Death and the Salvation of Unbaptized Infants Who Die”

Précis: The paper presents participation in Christ’s death as a way to reflect on the salvation for infants who die without Baptism, overcoming certain theological obstacles in the 2007 ITC document. Building on the theological contributions of Lonergan, the *mors corporis* assumed by Christ, and the Law of the Cross, suffered in death by these infants, become their pathway to an “extra-sacramental configuration” with Christ and his Mystical Body. This presentation will discuss the nexus *mysteriorum* between Christology and original sin, levels of consciousness and the relation to the baptismal grace, freeing up a more inclusive understanding of salvation in Christ.

Presenter: Taylor Ott, Leuven University, Belgium
Paper Title: “Following Jesus the Dissident: Developing a Theory of Dissent for a Liberative Church”

Précis: This paper asserts that dissent is a normal and necessary part of liberative action and begins to develop a theory of the dissent that is necessary for the Church to be capable of liberation both inside and out. Recapturing the image of Jesus the Christ as a vocal dissident from the religio-political, oppressive power of the Roman Empire in 1st Century Palestine can serve as a counterbalance to the legalistic approach of the RCC to dissent. Without romanticizing it, developing and enacting a theory of dissent should prove a safeguard to the freedom of Catholics, especially those whose humanity is under-recognized.

Thomas Aquinas—Consultation

Gilpatrick AB

Administrative Team: Daria Spezzano, David Elliot, Gregory LaNave

Convener: Daria Spezzano, Providence College

Moderator: Shawn Colberg, St. John’s University

Presenter: William C. Mattison, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: “Virtue and Freedom: Resources from Aquinas on Habit”

Précis: How do virtues incline a person to flourish while at the same time guarding human freedom? From a Thomistic perspective, virtues are habits, and thus they incline a person to act more promptly and with greater facility. How does the “funneling” of action that occurs in habituation both perfect human activity and guard free choice? Based on the speaker’s new book *Growing in Virtue: Aquinas on Habit* (Georgetown, 2023), an account of habit will be offered that both advances practical reasoning through stable specification of a person’s powers, and additionally necessitates (not simply permits) practical reasoning and the instantiation of the person’s habitual ends in concrete actions.

Presenter: Robert Barry, Providence College
Paper Title: “Freedom under Original Sin”

Précis: What way do actual preexisting inclinations toward particular goods diminish or exclude the possibility of freely consenting to the deliberation and choice of the highest good? By contrast, what habits make possible the exercise of freedom to love God for God's own sake in the first moment that one attains the age of reason? This paper will delineate that dynamic in the first act of the reason one exercises upon attaining the age of reason: how is one in that state free, or not, to consent to the possible judgment that God is to be loved for God's sake. (*ST I-II, Q. 89, A. 6*).

Presenter: Nicholas Ogle, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: "Aquinas on Free Choice and the Scope of Moral Responsibility"

Précis: In this paper, I defend a reading of Aquinas on free choice that views him primarily as an intellectualist, but one who nevertheless integrates voluntarist elements into his account. I then consider how this reading makes sense of some of the more puzzling aspects of his account of moral responsibility, including his discussion of the voluntariness of omissions and the culpability of actions performed with an erroneous conscience. I argue that strictly intellectualist readings of Aquinas on free choice fail to provide an adequate psychological basis for affirming key conclusions of his moral theology regarding the scope of moral responsibility.

Mental Health in Theological Perspective—Interest Group

Solomon Juneau

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Antus, Jessica Coblentz

Convener: Jessica Coblentz, St. Mary's College

Moderator: Marcus Mescher, Xavier University

Presenter: Todd Whitmore, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: "Who is My Brother and Sister?: A Kinship Approach for Responding to Addiction"

Précis: The paper begins by both appreciating and critiquing the turn to interpreting addiction as a "brain disease." While the brain disease model has led to important developments like Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction, it has also shifted attention away from social factors. I argue that neuropsychology needs to be set within a broader social psychology. I then turn to kinship as one social lens through which to interpret addiction, given that kinship is one of the key ways we think about and practice social belonging (or exclusion). The theological aspect of the piece would begin by critiquing the dominant understandings of kinship and belonging in American Christianity, understandings which have worked to exclude persons with addictions. Predominant modes of American Christianity have done this through reinforcing certain social norms in what I call the "kinship of the normal." I argue that the gospels set out an ethic that is also built around kinship, but one that is rather a "kinship of the deviant." The ethic is one of extending kinship practices like shared meals and hospitality to those considered to be socially deviant; I add that

extending such practices to the socially deviant is itself deviant (that is, does not follow social norms).

Respondent: M.T. Dávila, Merrimack College
Respondent: Tiffany Hartnell-Howden, Boston College

Rahner—Consultation

Milwaukee A

Administrative Team: Mark Fischer, Jakob Rinderknecht, Mary Beth Yount
Convener: Brandon Peterson, University of Utah
Moderator: Michael Rubbelke, St. John's School of Theology

Panel Title: "Grace, Freedom, and the Church: A Conversation with Richard Lennan about *Tilling the Church* (2022)"

Précis: In his new book, *Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project*, Richard Lennan argues that the church is quite unlike a precision-crafted, uniform product of an assembly line. Especially considering its rich internal diversity, its messy scandals and setbacks, and its potential for new growth and emerging life, the church is more analogous to an agricultural setting, which God graciously "tills." How does human freedom participate in such tilling? Resist it? How does Karl Rahner's thought help us to better understand this church, the "seed and beginning of God's Kingdom" (LG 5) which holds great promise and also needs care and cultivation?

Panelist: Richard Lennan, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Panelist: Mary Beth Yount, Neumann University

Panelist: Michael Canaris, Loyola University Chicago

Catholicity and Mission—Topic Session

Milwaukee B

Administrative Team: Laurie Johnston, Antonio Sison, Cristina Lledo Gomez
Convener: Laurie Johnston, Emmanuel College
Moderator: Antonio Sison, Catholic Theological Union

Presenter: Kevin Ahern, Manhattan College
Paper Title: "Liberating Charism: Freedom, Grace and the Mission of Catholic Institutions"

Précis: Can a more robust theological framework of charism and its corporate elements resist the temptations to the institutionalization and routinization of mission? Building on a wider research project and the insights of José Comblin and Sandra Schneiders, this paper proposes a more robust understanding of the corporate dimension of charism with a particular focus in the experience of Lasallian, Jesuit and Mercy higher education.

Presenter: Daniel Rober, Sacred Heart University

Paper Title: “Catholic Higher Education and Theologies of Mission at the Crossroads of Identity and De-institutionalization”

Précis: Catholic institutions of higher education today face challenging decisions about financial solvency and mission amidst changing demographics and secularization. Their responses have taken several forms, with some schools de-emphasizing Catholic identity, some doubling down on it, and many in the middle. This center, however, will not hold for much longer. This paper examines these situations against the lens of contemporary theologies of mission to think about how institutions can best situate their freedom—academic and otherwise—in a changing world and church. It concludes that the best approach—though not suitable to all institutions—is to embrace Catholic mission grounded in living tradition.

Respondent: Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute for Theological Education

Public Theology—Interest Group

Crystal

Administrative Team: Rosemary P. Carbine, David DeCosse

Conveners: Rosemary P. Carbine, Whittier College
David DeCosse, Santa Clara University

Moderator: Rosemary P. Carbine, Whittier College

Précis: This interest group will facilitate a multi-year shared space for theological scholars across various interdisciplinary fields to further develop and future the praxis of doing Catholic public theology in the twenty-first century commensurate with a postcolonial, multiracial, global people of God. To align thematically with this year’s convention, this inaugural session centralizes and problematizes different prevalent discourses and practices of limited and limiting realizations of freedom in the United States to which Catholic public theologies critically and constructively respond, especially in light of systemic and structural oppressions manifested in racism, sexism, poverty and homelessness, homophobia and transphobia, ethno-nationalism, militarism, exceptionalism, neocolonialism, neoliberalism, and so on. Showcasing recent salient publications that interweave ethics, history, literature, and systematic/constructive theology about theologies of freedom and freedom movements, this session offers a panel that engages with critical and constructive theological views, both historical and contemporary, about how more just alternative visions of Catholic discourse and praxis around freedom emerge from contextual, liberationist, decolonial, and human dignity-based perspectives about the divine, relationality in suffering and in hope, and embodiment in the body politic.

Presenter: Teresa Delgado, St. John’s University

Paper Title: *A Puerto Rican Decolonial Theology: Prophecy Freedom* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

Presenter: David DeCosse, Santa Clara University

Paper Title: *Created Freedom under the Sign of the Cross: A Catholic Public Theology for the United States* (Pickwick Publications, 2022)

Black Catholic Theology—Consultation

Executive C

Administrative Team: Rev. Emmanuel Osigwe, Chanelle Robinson, Nicole Symmonds, LaRyssa Herrington, Craig Ford, Jr.

Convener: Rev. Emmanuel Osigwe, St. John Vianney Seminary

Moderator: Chanelle Robinson, Boston College

Presenter: Kayla August, Boston College

Paper Title: “Preaching as a Path to Freedom: Narrative Homiletics as A Tool of Healing the Black Community and Reclaiming Our Story”

Précis: Preaching is one way we find a voice within the church. In doing so, we ignite the call of all the baptized to make God known. This calls for particularly marginalized voices to tell our story. As a homiletic practice, narrative preaching invites us to tell our unique story in the light of God’s presence within it. Stories can be a powerful tool that allows us to reclaim our world and our place inside it. From the Black Catholic context, I argue that we have been the recipient of a story, not our own. As un-centralized characters in the American story, we have often been discarded and dehumanized within the U.S. narrative.

Panelist: John Barnes, Fordham University

Paper Title: “The Sound of Sweet Repose: The Black Musical Tradition as a Theological Response to Black Violence and Death”

Précis: In this presentation, I will analyze the ways in which Black people have sought refuge and solace from gun violence and other forms of traumatic assaults in their communities through various sonic expressions. The primary question for consideration is: What theological affirmations are laden in various forms of Black music that enable the community to thrive in the midst of pervasive violence? These fundamental questions will preoccupy this presentation, especially as they relate to the Black experience.

Church/Ecumenism—Topic Session

Executive D

Administrative Team: Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Kathryn L. Reinhard, Elyse Raby

Convener: Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Manhattan College

Moderator: Kathryn L. Reinhard, Gwynedd Mercy University

Presenter: Layla Karst, Loyola Marymount University

Paper title: “Bold Speech: Lay Liturgical Preaching and the Synodal Church”

Précis: Pope Francis has continually called for a synodal church marked in equal measure by speech that is bold, honest, and free (parrhesia) and listening that is humble and open. Building on insights that are emerging from interviews with members of two liturgical assemblies that celebrated virtual Liturgies of the Word during recent pandemic lockdowns, this paper will consider their practice of lay liturgical preaching in light of Pope Francis' synodal ecclesiology and show how the inclusion of lay preachers in the Sunday liturgy is a powerful liturgical expression of the synodal church.

Presenter: Jaisy Joseph, Villanova University
Paper title: "From Humiliation to Healing: A Mimetic Account of Finding Freedom through the Forgiving Victim"

Précis: The U.S. Catholic Church is not immune from the consequences of the color line that divides US society. In fact, rather than the Church becoming leaven in society, the color line within reveals how much society has become leaven in the Church. My paper first addresses how rituals of humiliation have reinforced racialized trauma around the Eucharistic table. I then consider how James Alison and Rebecca Adam's use of mimetic theory speaks to the possibility of interior conversion, which frees individuals from being locked into the us vs them binary of humiliation and resentment.

Presenter: Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University
Paper title: "In Bondage and In Freedom: Intimacies of a Black and White Catholicism"

Précis: The mission church of St. James the Greater (outside Charleston) is one of the longest standing Black Catholic Churches in the nation. What do we learn about freedom and unfreedom from this community, established before the Civil War and surviving its trauma outside of diocesan control? Archival research on a bonded pair of women—Henrietta of St. James (an enslaved Catholic woman) and Elizabeth Perry Bellinger Pinckney (a Catholic slaver)—brings to light some of the intimacies and complexity of freedom and unfreedom in Catholic history.

Von Balthasar—Consultation

Pere Marquette

Administrative Team: Jennifer Newsome Martin, Charlie Gillespie, Danielle Nussberger

Convener: Jennifer Newsome Martin, University of Notre Dame

Moderator: Drenda Landers, Marquette University

Presenter: Christopher Hadley, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Paper Title: "The Spirit's Personal Freedom in Balthasar's Theology"

Précis: The paper examines Balthasar's pneumatological and trinitarian points in the context of the death of Christ on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and in the action of the Spirit in his narrative of Mary Magdalene and Peter on early Easter Sunday morning in Heart of the World. Recently, Shelly Rambo has shown how Balthasar's poetic-narrative task in this book bears witness to the Spirit's

presence in chaos and trauma. The present task is to examine what the Spirit's abiding presence even in the midst of such chaos and trauma implies about personhood and freedom, both divine and human.

Presenter: Travis LaCouter, KU Leuven

Paper Title: "Playing the Part: Dramatic Action in Balthasar and Stanislavski"

Précis: I propose to consider Balthasar's discussion of finite and infinite freedom from *Theo-Drama*, vol. 1 alongside Konstantin Stanislavski's theories of dramatic action, in order to: a) better define Balthasar's understanding of theodramatic freedom; and b) draw out previously underdeveloped similarities, and dissimilarities, between Balthasar and Stanislavski. For both thinkers, genuine freedom consists precisely in some paradoxical combination of constraint and creativity—a connection that carries with it theological implications in missiology, eschatology, Mariology, and beyond. Comparative analysis of this kind also provides a chance to see Balthasar's method of appropriation when it comes to thinkers outside the traditional theological canon.

Respondent: Megan Heeder, Marquette University

Friday Evening, June 9, 2023

CTSA Business Meeting

4:30 PM–6:00 PM
Regency Ballroom

Presiding: Francis X. Clooney, S.J.
Harvard Divinity School
President, CTSA

Parliamentarian: William Loewe
Catholic University of America

President's Reception for New/Newer Members
Prior registration required—ticket provided in packet

6:15 PM–7:45 PM
Executive AB

What is the Future of CTSA?

8:30 PM–9:30 PM
Regency Ballroom

The dramatic changes in higher education in the U.S. entail serious cultural and financial implications for the discipline of theology, for theology departments, for the social location of theologians, and for learned societies such as the CTSA. The Board of Directors recently constituted a "Centennial Committee" – not to plan for our 100th anniversary celebration – but to begin imagining our future as individual theologians and as a corporate Society. In this special

session, we invite a conversation among our members regarding the future of theology and the future of CTSA.

Saturday Morning, June 10, 2023

Registration	9:00 AM–4:00 PM Regency Prefunction
Karl Rahner Society Breakfast	7:15 AM–8:45 AM Executive A
Benedictine Universities and Colleges Breakfast <i>Sponsored by the College of St. Benedict & St. John's University</i>	7:00 AM–8:20 AM Executive B
Zen Meditation	7:15 AM–8:15 AM Crystal
Morning Prayer	8:30 AM–8:45 AM Crystal
Exhibits	8:30 AM–4:00 PM Atrium
Third Plenary Session	9:00 AM–10:30 Regency Ballroom

Presiding: Kristin E. Heyer
Boston College
President-Elect, CTSA

Panel: Leo Guardado, Fordham University
“Caged and Liberated in the Historical Struggle for Freedom Across and Beyond Borders”

Stan Chu Ilo, DePaul University,
“Freedom and Eschatological Fulfilment: The Perils and Promise of Afro-Modernity”

Mary Mee-Yin Yuen, Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology & Philosophy
“Inner Freedom and Outer Constraint: Reflections in an Asian Context”

Coffee Break

**10:30 AM–11:00 AM
Atrium**

Concurrent Sessions

11:00 AM–12:45 PM

Ethical Challenges in a Post-Roe America—Invited Session

Lakeshore A

Convener: M. Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College
Moderator: Christina Astorga, University of Portland

Presenter: Jana Bennett, University of Dayton
Paper Title: “Challenges Facing the Pro-Life Movement”

Précis: With the overturning of Roe, the pro-life movement has achieved a goal that has motivated it for half a century. This presentation will consider the next set of challenges facing the pro-life movement in a variety of legal and social contexts. A key topic will be efforts of the pro-life movement to support women facing crisis pregnancies, their babies and their families.

Presenter: Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, Mount Mary University
as read by C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union
Paper Title: “Pro-Birth v. Pro-Life: A Womanist Expands the Perspectives”

Précis: To highlight the wisdom of Shawnee Daniels-Sykes after her untimely passing, C. Vanessa White has kindly agreed to read her essay for *Political Theology* on how a womanist perspective can expand our frame for discussing abortion from pro-birth to pro-life.

Presenter: M. Cathleen Kaveny, Boston College
Paper Title: “Challenges Facing the Law”

Précis: Dobbs returned the question of abortion to the states. In doing so, it created a number of legal and moral problems. This presentation will look at a number of emerging issues, such as the fact that abortion is a felony in some states and a protected right in others, the phenomenon of states which have banned abortion trying to prevent their citizens from traveling to states where abortion is legal, and the status of medication abortion, whose materials can easily be transported in the mail or in other ways.

Synodality and Freedom in the Church—Selected Session

Lakeshore B

Convener: Martin Madar, Xavier University
Moderator: James Nickoloff, College of the Holy Cross

Presenter: Kristin Colberg, College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University

Paper Title: “Synodality as an Act of Ecclesial Self-Actualization”

Précis: In the theological tradition, freedom is not the ability to choose among neutral options, but an act of self-actualization. Pope Francis' efforts at cultivating greater synodality are directed towards renewing the church so that it might live its identity most authentically. This paper will consider the synod on synodality as a moment of ecclesial self-actualization by examining its theology, the process itself and what it has illumined thus far. The first part will explore the theology of synodality with special attention to how it draws on Vatican II's teachings and particularly the council's treatment of freedom. The second part will consider *how* the church has listened and *what* it heard in the diocesan and continental phases of this process. Here, I will draw on my experience as a member of the theological commission supporting the synod on synodality and on reports produced by multiple dioceses and episcopal conferences. Key questions to be examined are: in what ways can we see synodality as an exercise of freedom? To what extent has the freedom of the laity been recognized in the synodal process? What is the role of freedom in a process of communal discernment? What paths forward have been illumined?

Presenter: John J. Markey, O.P., Oblate School of Theology

Paper Title: “Freeing the Spirit to Free the Church: Implications of the Pneumatological Principle for a More Authentic Synodal Process”

Précis: Yves Congar called the fundamental ecclesiological insight and guiding vision of Vatican II the “pneumatological principle.” This principle and its ecclesiological implications should be the defining vision of the synodal process as well. Unfortunately, the process seems to be held captive by ineffective episcopal leadership, vague organizational goals, an unclear process of actual discernment and a lack of confidence that the process can result in genuinely substantive changes. In this paper, I propose three practical implications of this pneumatological principle that could aid in freeing the synodal process so that it can free the church to better actualize its mission.

Presenter: Mary Kate Holman, Benedictine University

Paper Title: “The Freedom to Speak and the Freedom to be Heard”

Précis: Synodality promises a more dialogical approach to ecclesial deliberations. Taking a historical approach, this paper examines the experiences of three French thinkers at Vatican II to understand how institutional structures can both facilitate and hinder freedom to participate in ecclesial dialogue. Henri de Lubac, Marie-Dominique Chenu, and Marie-Thérèse Lacaze (laywoman and assistant to the secretary of the Church of the Poor Working Group) each encountered tension with the Catholic hierarchy in their earlier lives but were received with vastly different attitudes at the council. Analyzing historical anecdotes with an eye towards our present moment, this paper explores the tension between institutional

access and the prophetic perspectives of the marginalized, which, although sometimes mutually exclusive, are both necessary for authentic synodality.

Practical Theology—Topic Session

Lakeshore C

Administrative Team: Susan Bigelow Reynolds, Milton Javier Bravo, Ish Ruiz

Convener: Susan Bigelow Reynolds, Emory University

Moderator: Milton J. Bravo, Edgewood College

Religious Freedom and Human Liberation: Mapping Dissonances

Presenter: James Bretzke, S.J., John Carroll University

Paper Title: “‘Pride’ and Prudence in Catholic Schools Identity: Flagging Freedom and Liberation”

Précis: In June 2022 Worcester Bishop Robert McManus forbade the Sacraments and stripped the “Catholic” designation from the Nativity Middle School due to their flying Gay Pride and Black Lives Matter flags. In addressing this and similar episcopal conflicts (e.g., Indianapolis, Phoenix, etc.) this presentation proposes a broader application of the ancient Roman family law distinction of authority of *auctoritas* (moral authority or prudence) exercised by the *Mater familias* in conjunction with the *Pater familias*’ exercise of *potestas* (juridical power). Exercise of both these two aspects of authority may help promote a better *modus vivendi* for the Catholic communities involved.

Presenter: Cynthia Cameron, University of St. Michael’s College

Paper Title: “Living into Freedom: A Developmental Framework for a Theology of Freedom for Children and Adolescents”

Précis: How is the experience of freedom limited by our ability to understand what freedom is? Do children and adolescents develop the ability to be free? What difference do theories of cognitive development make in our theological understandings of freedom as an attribute of a human being who develops over the lifespan? This paper uses the work of constructive-developmental theorist Robert Kegan as a framework for describing “freedom” and “agency” as developmental tasks for young people; this perspective suggests the need to nuance Catholic theologies of freedom and to account for development in our pastoral ministries.

Presenter: Richard Hanson, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Paper Title: “Secularity and Religious Freedom: Charles M. Taylor’s narrative of secularity and secularization as a resource for understanding the dynamics of religious freedom in modern societies”

Précis: “Religious Freedom” is a potent area of controversy—as evidenced in the discussion around recent US Supreme Court decisions. This paper looks at the

underlying assumptions about religion and secularity in the context of these controversies, and invokes the analysis of freedom and secularity developed by philosopher Charles M. Taylor as a practical lens for understanding these issues.

**Freedom, Coercion, and Self-Realization: Voices from
20th Century Theology—Selected Session**

Gilpatrick AB

Convener: Catherine Yanko, Catholic University of America

Moderator: David Cloutier, Catholic University of America

Presenter: Catherine Duggan, University of Notre Dame

Paper Title: “Preserving Freedom in Love-Governed Civic Liberalism”

Précis: How is freedom preserved in a society animated by love as a political virtue? Scholars re-envisioning the political community through a retrieval of Augustinian thought must grapple with Augustine’s acceptance of coercion—an extreme form of love—exercised against heretics. In conversation with this Augustinian tradition, I will examine Eric Gregory’s proposal for love as a civic virtue, specifically by querying three of his claims: Can justice function as love’s internal restraint, preventing love from becoming coercive? Is coercion justified in order to defend the vulnerable? Finally, can we preserve freedom without shared theological beliefs?

Presenter: Catherine Yanko, Catholic University of America

Paper Title: “The Ethics of Self-Realization According to Herbert McCabe”

Précis: In what does our freedom lie? This paper places Herbert McCabe within the 20th century turn to narrative ethics and its relation to ideas of freedom as self-realization by considering his convictions about language, action, and communities. McCabe’s philosophy of language offers a communal and embodied account of human freedom. While McCabe suggests that human freedom develops through narrative, each person’s narrative account of their actions is necessarily fragmented. Freedom is actualized when an individual’s narrative is described within the eschatological narrative of the Church. Finally, this paper reflects on what a McCabean renewal would mean for contemporary narrative ethics.

Presenter: Darren Yau, Princeton University

Paper Title: “Non-Violence and the Problem of Political Coercion”

Précis: Non-violence is one of the 20th century’s most compelling expressions of political agency in societies where freedom and justice appear nowhere to be found. This paper takes up a challenge facing recent accounts of non-violence in conversation with developments in democratic theory that place protest at the heart of democratic culture. In light of these developments, this paper asks: is non-violent resistance ever impermissibly coercive on others in a society that values the autonomy of all citizens? The question, raised by Reinhold Niebuhr, will be

answered with attention to lived resistance exemplified in Daniel Berrigan and Dorothy Day.

Disability Theology—Interest Group

Solomon Juneau

Administrative Team: Mary Jo Iozzio, Miguel Romero

Convener: Mary Jo Iozzio, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Moderator: TBD

The Past: Looking for Evidence of Disability

Presenter: Megan Hopkins, Boston College

Paper Title: “Conversion through Convalescence”

Précis: The incident which spurred St. Ignatius of Loyola’s conversion story is well-known and is typically filtered through an ableist lens in which Ignatius’ experiences of pain and suffering are received as gift. This paper recasts the narrative of this event, subsequently recovering Ignatius as a disabled person. Ignatius is received in his historical social context of 16th c. Spain, in which conceptions of disability were emergent. This affords a fresh reading of the *Autobiography and Spiritual Exercises*, in which Ignatius’ rectified disabled identity is resonant. Implications are drawn for Jesuit spirituality and Jesuit institutions.

Presenter: Miguel Romero, Salve Regina University

Paper Title: “Disability and Medieval Theology: A Subversively Orthodox *Ressourcement*?”

Précis: On the horizon of an entire lifetime, the diverse phenomena, social dynamics, and experiences typically organized under the contemporary heading “disability” are an unavoidable aspect of every particular person’s life. Thus it is no surprise that those phenomena, dynamics, and experiences have held a place of prominence in the Catholic intellectual tradition and the teachings of the Catholic Church. That prominence has been ignored at times and regularly faces challenges from various quarters in contemporary Catholic theology. Today, there is a need for a revitalized Catholic theological engagement with these themes, one which draws deeply from the sources of the Catholic tradition, translated and extended to meet the challenges of our time.

Bioethics/Healthcare—Topic Session

Milwaukee A

Administrative Team: Nichole M. Flores, Stephanie Edwards, Daniel J. Daly

Convener: Nichole M. Flores, University of Virginia

Moderator: Dorie Goehring, Boston College

Presenter: Jason Eberl, Saint Louis University

Paper Title: “Freedom of Conscience and the Common Good During a Pandemic”

Précis: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholics exemplified a spectrum of responses to public health interventions, including vaccination mandates. Pope Francis claimed that there is a moral obligation to be vaccinated, whereas organizations such as the Catholic Medical Association and the National Catholic Bioethics Center argued for robust religious exemptions to vaccination mandates based on appeals to individual conscience. Elucidating Aquinas's understanding of conscience, the teaching of Vatican II on conscience and religious freedom, and the concept of the common good, this presentation engages critics of public health interventions to inform a more unified and effective Catholic response to public health emergencies.

Presenter: Shaun Slusarski, Boston College
Paper Title: "Public Health Beyond Bars: Incarceration, Bioethics, and the Common Good"

Précis: The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the challenges that prison poses to the wellbeing of incarcerated people. The public health threats of incarceration, however, are not limited to the coronavirus. Prison generates and exacerbates various physical and mental health problems for inmates, their families, and indeed society at large. This paper thus questions whether prison is a suitable means for protecting the common good. By exploring Catholic justifications for temporal punishment and engaging public health research on the effects of prison on society, it calls the Church to contribute to the reform of our carceral culture to better serve the common good.

Comparative Theology—Topic Session

Milwaukee B

Administrative Team: Reid Locklin, Stephanie Wong, Julius-Kei Kato

Convener: Reid Locklin, University of Toronto

Moderator: Stephanie Wong, Villanova University

Presenter: Akhil Thomas, Harvard University
Paper Title: "Christian-Hindu poems for South Indian Christians: A Comparative reading of the Christian poetry of Ernst Hanxleden (1681–1732)"

Précis: Reading together Ernst Hanxleden's (1681–1732) Malayalam Christian poem Puthen Pāna and Punthanam Namboothiri's (1547–1640) devotional poem Jñanapāna addressed to Lord Krishna, I explore the formation of a new kind of Christianity imagined by Western Jesuits in South India. This Christianity, for South India, is dressed in Hindu garb so it may be better understood by the native Christians of Malabar. I look closely at Hindu ideas of liberation in the poems and how they are refashioned to accommodate Christian ends.

Presenter: Matthew Vale, Boston College
Paper Title: "Natural Liberation: A Christian Reception of Dzogchen"

Précis: Creation *ex nihilo* means that created realities are grounded nowhere else than in God's unqualified "Yes" to their being. The inalienable ground floor of our being,

then, is this radiant joy, this “yes.” Here, I articulate how the Tibetan Buddhist traditions of Mahāmudrā and Dzogchen discover this indestructible trace of our createdness. They do so by training us to recognize the radiant freedom from distress that is the ground (*gzhi*) and nature (*ngo bo*) of awareness. Dzogchen practice, then, can be a Christian theological source, a practice of settling into our native luminosity, our createdness.

Respondent: Tracy Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University

Catholic Social Thought—Topic Session

Crystal

Administrative Team: Jens Mueller, William George, Kate Jackson-Meyer

Convener: Jens Mueller, Notre Dame of Maryland University

Moderator: Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University

Presenter: Christopher Welch, Rivier University

Paper Title: “Work and Human Freedom in Consumer Culture and Higher Education”

Précis: This paper investigates both the twenty-first century “Maker Movement” and the college student experience of paid employment through the interpretive lens of John Paul II’s theology of work, especially his focus on the free person as the “true subject” of work. The Maker Movement manifests the human desire to contribute creatively in ways that are often hard to find in the world of paid employment, and which the Church, including through its institutions of higher education, must promote. College students’ experience of paid employment, however, may serve merely the funding of educational expenses or the perpetuation of consumer lifestyles rather than the freedom of the creative producer.

Presenter: Nicholas Olkovich, St. Mark’s College

Paper Title: “The Politics of Religious Freedom: Revisiting the Murray Project for a Polarized Age”

Précis: In recent years, John Courtney Murray’s juridical reading of the right to religious freedom has come under increasing attack from post-liberal authors such as David L. Schindler. Schindler develops a Christocentric interpretation of human dignity and freedom designed to avoid both liberalism and strong forms of integralism or confessionalism. Notwithstanding Schindler’s insightful critique of Whig Thomism, it is my contention that his alternative tends to inappropriately prioritize truth over freedom. Drawing on the work of Bernard Lonergan and Pope Francis, I aim to retrieve and update the ‘Murray project’ for our polarized age.

Moral Theology—Topic Session

Executive C

Administrative Team: Rachel Bundang, Kate Ward, David Kwon

Convener: Rachel Bundang, Santa Clara University

Moderator: Marcus Mescher, Xavier University

New Methods for Urgent Moments

Presenter: Cristina Traina, Fordham University

Paper Title: “Freedom or License? The Path through Vulnerability”

Précis: Political claims for personal freedom often slide into the language of selective license, or carte blanche permission to do as one wishes in some spheres of life. Returning to the language of the common good, to Catholic theology of existential and moral freedom, or to conscience to resolve the distinction is often fruitless, as conflicts over these concepts are at the root of the problem. Drawing on the work of Hille Haker, Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar, and others, this paper will employ ethics of care, (inter)dependency, and vulnerability in an effort to develop a critical distinction between license and freedom.

Presenter: Anna Floerke Scheid, Duquesne University

Paper Title: “Agency, Technology, and Freedom from Radicalization”

Précis: Given racist, antisemitic mass shootings, and the January 6 insurrection, it is clear that political violence is a demonstrable reality disproportionately effecting minoritized communities in the U.S., negatively impacting the freedom of vulnerable people, and degrading democratic values and institutions. Among the factors contributing to radicalization are social media algorithms that operate absent specific human agency. These algorithms challenge Catholic ideas about agency, such that Catholic ethicists must reshape our conceptions. With special attention to how collective agency is fostered in community, Catholic ethics has a role to play in efforts to prevent online radicalization toward religious extremism and political violence.

Presenter: Ish Ruiz, Emory University

Paper Title: “Rescuing Probabilism: A Tool to Guide Catholic Schools Forward on Matters of LGBTQ+ Inclusion”

Précis: This paper argues that probabilism can help Catholic school leaders navigate controversies pertaining to LGBTQ+ inclusion in schools. Rather than solving theological or moral questions, probabilism allows Catholics to evaluate the validity of conflicting moral arguments and ultimately allows the conscience to act freely, thus justifying a necessary pluralism that will allow Catholic institutions to teach magisterial doctrine while welcoming conscientious dissenters. This paper will (1) offer an overview of the controversy in Catholic schools, (2) explain the tool of probabilism and its relationship to freedom of conscience, and (3) apply probabilism to matters of LGBTQ+ inclusion in Catholic schools.

Fundamental Theology/Method—Topic Session

Executive D

Administrative Team: Mary Beth Yount, Ryan Duns, S.J., Nicholas Olkovich

Convener: Mary Beth Yount, Neumann University

Moderator: Nicholas Rademacher, University of Dayton

Presenter: Christina McRorie, Creighton University

Paper Title: “When contexts condition our agency, what’s going on theologically?”

Précis: This paper asks about the conditions and possibilities of theologically interpreting experiences of nonvoluntary social conditioning. This process will depend not only on our estimation of whether and how social contexts mediate sin and grace, but also on our theology of freedom. This paper outlines a ‘compatibilist’ account in which determinants conducive to virtuous formation enhance our freedom, even when causal. Such a view raises as many theological questions as it answers, illustrating the care required when reading our social formation as experiences of sin, grace, and redemption.

Presenter: Peter Nguyen, Creighton University

Paper Title: “Edith Stein on the Freedom of the Individual’s Interiority amid the Threat of Totalitarianism”

Précis: For Edith Stein, the establishment of the individual’s interiority, understood as the soul, is the world of truth and freedom because the exterior world’s things do not constrain it. This paper examines Stein’s discourse on individuality and interiority in dialogue with Hanna Arendt’s study of totalitarianism. It suggests that Stein’s discourse of finding one’s interiority is essential for the person’s individuation, and, thus, protective against totalitarianism’s pervasive terror that makes one a “mass man.” Furthermore, a proper inward turn, wherein one encounters God’s presence, can awaken the soul to one’s vocation, helping one find the freedom to resist evil.

Presenter: Jack Pappas, Fordham University

Paper Title: “Metanthropology and the Problematic of Freedom in Balthasar and Rahner”

Précis: This paper provides a critical assessment of the respective accounts of divine and human freedom articulated by Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar. In doing so, it explicates how their diverging notions of freedom shape Rahner and Balthasar’s conflicting approaches to the question of revelation, and their related efforts to integrate theological anthropology in Christology. Ultimately, this paper makes the case that Rahner’s incarnational approach performs a more thorough integration of divine and human freedoms than does Balthasar’s counter-subjective emphasis on divine otherness.

Creation/Eschatology—Topic Session

Pere Marquette

Administrative Team: Daniel Horan, Elizabeth Groppe, Daniel Scheid

Convener: Daniel Horan, Saint Mary’s College

Moderator: Elizabeth Groppe, University of Dayton

Presenter: Dylan Belton, Villanova University

Paper Title: “‘Openness’ to the Transcendent and Human Animality: Re-reading Henri De Lubac’s *Mystery of the Supernatural*”

Précis: In light of recent scholarship on human animality, I revisit Henri de Lubac’s *Mystery of the Supernatural*. I indicate the text’s ambiguity surrounding the animal status of the human as well as its tendency to emphasize the human being’s limitless openness to the transcendent in contrast to the “enclosed” nature of non-human animal existence. By orienting the theological imagination toward an excessive focus on reason and the will, this framework creates a twofold blind-spot in relation to: first, the myriad aspects of the natural world that we are perceptually closed off from but which other animals are open to; and, second, the sensual-perceptual dimensions of human openness to the transcendent.

Presenter: Colleen Carpenter, Carleton College

Paper Title: “‘Behold I Make All Things New’: Prophetic Eschatology and Climate Fiction”

Précis: In 2016, Amitav Ghosh argued in *The Great Derangement* that while literary fiction has traditionally addressed key social problems, it is incapable of addressing climate change. Focused on individual moral change, literary fiction had not, in his opinion, found a way to portray the systemic issues that comprise the climate crisis. In this paper, I will argue that fiction is indeed beginning to appropriately open our imaginations to the challenges we face in the climate crisis, and its success is rooted in the habits and tropes of prophetic eschatology. Matt Bell’s novel *Applesseed* will be the central literary text examined.

Respondent: Vincent Miller, University of Dayton

Saturday Afternoon, June 10, 2023

***Theological Studies* Editorial Consultation Luncheon**

**12:50 PM-2:15 PM
Manager’s Suite, Third Floor**

CUERG Luncheon

**2:50 PM–2:15 PM
Executive AB**

Concurrent Sessions

2:30 PM–4:15 PM

Decolonizing Catholic Theology—Interest Group

Lakeshore A

Administrative Team: Bradford Hinze, Rufus Burnett, Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo

Convener: Rufus Burnett, Jr, Fordham University

Moderator: Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo, Wake Forest University Divinity School

Presenter: Mark Freeland, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Paper Title: “Minowaking as the Good Land: Milwaukee and the Decolonization of Indigenous Relationships to Land and Life”

Précis: This discussion will provide a look at the revitalization of Indigenous languages and the intersectional decolonial process of regenerating life-giving relationships to the spaces we live in. Through a lens of the Indigenous language of Anishinaabemowin, Minowaking, the Good Land (now called Milwaukee), we will demonstrate a fundamentally different way of thinking about and interacting with the land and life around us. Participants will learn critical definitions of worldview that can provide for cultural understanding across difference that does not use the presumption of a universal colonial system of thought based in European languages.

Respondent: Cecilia Titizano La Fuente, Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University
Respondent: Steve Battin, University of Notre Dame

The Liberating Theology of James Hal Cone—Interest Group Lakeshore B

Administrative Team: Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, C. Vanessa White, LaShaunda Reese

Convener: Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, Xavier University of Louisiana

Moderator: LaShaunda Reese, Loyola University Chicago

Black First and Everything Else Second

Presenter: C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union
Paper Title: “James Hal Cone’s Journey to Freedom”

Précis: In James Hal Cone’s final book, *Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody: The Making of a Black Theologian*, he details his spiritual and intellectual journey as a black theologian whose focus was on the dismantling and deconstruction of Western Christianity. His evolution as a black theologian who, in his final days turned his gaze to his own spiritual journey, reinforces the fact that the spiritual life is one that journeys in freedom and liberation in becoming one's true self. This paper will reflect on James Hal Cone's spiritual evolution in freedom as he journeyed towards his own personal union with Christ.

Presenter: SimonMary Asese Ahiokhai, University of Portland
Paper Title: “A Decolonial Anthropology of Freedom: Insights from James H. Cone and Frantz Fanon”

Précis: What is freedom without the ability to wonder and imagine new ways of being in the world? This question is at the heart of the contributions of James H. Cone and Frantz Fanon to the theological world and the response to coloniality operating in the Black world. In this work, I will draw from the insights of Cone and Fanon to

argue for an anthropology that decenters the narrative inherent in whiteness—a decolonial vision of surplus that defines the human person.

Asian/Asian American Theology—Consultation

Lakeshore C

Administrative Team: Edmund Chia, Stephanie Wong, Min-Ah Cho

Convener: Edmund Chia, Australian Catholic University

Moderator: Akhil Thomas, Harvard University

Presenter: (Huili) Kathy Stout, University of Dayton

Paper Title: “Three Competing Visions for Freedom in Republican-era China”

Précis: China stood at a crossroads during the Republican era as it fought for survival and freedom from the western powers, Japanese imperialism, and domestic weakness. Among diverse visions competing among intellectuals of the day, there can be discerned three main currents: liberal, Communist, and Chinese humanist. These currents remain vibrant competing visions in China’s political and spiritual life even today. I will compare them by examining the thoughts of their representative thinkers: Hu Shi, Mao Zedong, and John C. H. Wu. This historical examination will shed light on the challenges yet to be resolved in China’s future.

Presenter: Antonio D. Sison, Catholic Theological Union

Paper Title: “Silent Inculturation: Faith, Unfreedom, and Japan’s Hidden Christians”

Précis: Japan’s Kakure Kirishitan or “Hidden Christians” heroically defied and outlived the great persecution of the Tokugawa shogunate (1630-1867) as they found incredible ways of preserving their Christian faith under the shadow of torture and martyrdom. In the crucible of suppression and suffering, Kakure faith birthed religious iconography, prayers, liturgies, even a sacred text, from fragmentary recollections of missionary catechism and biblical narratives interwoven with Japanese Buddhist-Shinto influences. This paper engages the question of whether inculturation—as against “acculturation”—is realizable in the unfreedom of terror. What might be the contribution of Kakure faith to a more liberative critical reflection on inculturation?

Presenter: Christina Astorga, University of Portland

Paper Title: “Postcolonial Imagination: Towards a Postcolonial Filipina Feminist Theology”

Précis: In the age of antiquity, the Filipina held an honored and respected place in society, but all that was suppressed and erased by the imposition of the Iberian-Catholic colonization. But through the years, the Filipina spirit of old refused to be silenced, and continued to define who the Filipina in her struggle and resistance. While religion was the site of colonization, so it is also a site of decolonization. The proposed Postcolonial Filipina Feminist theology is premised on the iconoclastic image of Mary in her Magnificat that deconstructs the Filipina woman narrative shaped by a Filipino Marian culture which promoted passivity, subservience, and victimhood.

Pre-liberal Theologies of Freedom in a Post-liberal Age—Selected Session **Gilpatrick AB**

Convener: Michael C. Magree, S.J., Boston College

Moderator: Stephen Pope, Boston College

Presenter: Michael C. Magree, S.J., Boston College

Paper Title: “Origen on Freedom: Christian Exaltation of the Human in the Face of Gnosticism”

Précis: Origen’s theology of freedom needs to be read in the profound theological context of his own day. Gnosticism tended toward a division of humanity that was completely frozen in stratified layers ordained by cosmic powers. For Origen, by contrast, the appeal of Christ to his followers was a sign that every human soul is by nature ordered to the truth, and that the truth has to appeal to people spontaneously and on its own terms. This gives hope for a Christian vision of political community built around persuasion.

Presenter: Elisabeth R. Kincaid, Loyola University New Orleans

Paper Title: “Francisco Suárez, SJ: Freedom for Whom?”

Précis: In the work of the early-modern theologian and philosopher, Francisco Suárez, SJ, we encounter a strangely disjunctive approach to political freedom. Suárez departs from his time in arguing for greater political freedom for pagans, Jews, slaves, women rulers, and citizens in general grounded upon an organic theory of community. However, he also argues stridently *against* freedoms for baptized heretics. In this paper, I will explore Suárez’s understanding of the effect of sin and grace on the will and the formation of the virtues in order to determine if his theory of political freedom might be retrievable in a post-liberal context.

Presenter: Grant Kaplan, Saint Louis University

Paper Title: “The Freedom of a Catholic? Johann Adam Möhler’s Political-Theological Turn”

Précis: Möhler’s famous 1828 case for clerical celibacy also included a surprising defense of the papacy. Möhler declared laconically, “In him [the pope] we are free.” This was a remarkable claim for the author whose ecclesiology breakthrough, *Unity in the Church*, was shockingly unconcerned with the hierarchy. Möhler’s turn, this paper will argue, hinged on his worries about church-state relations. As newly-consolidated German states began to look beyond early modern mono-confessional models, religious freedom came to rest on shaky ground. Möhler’s defense of celibacy and the papacy, it will be argued, derived from a more neuralgic concern to preserve religious freedom against state power.

Liturgy/Sacraments—Topic Session

Solomon Juneau

Administrative Team: Kimberly Belcher, Xavier M. Montecel, Benjamin Durheim

Convener: Kimberly Belcher, University of Notre Dame

Moderator: Thomas McLean, KU Leuven

Presenter: LaRyssa Herrington, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: “Baptism as Mystical-Political Engagement? Exploring the Rite of Baptism in African American Slave Narratives During the Antebellum Period”

Précis: This paper examines the boundary between a slave’s autonomy and compulsion by institutions of domination concerning the rite of baptism during the Antebellum period. While not a “free” practice, accounts from the period reveal that enslaved persons possessed a keen interest in the rite despite the various restrictions placed on it by the Church. This interest is most evident in baptismal accounts derived from African American slave narratives. Thus, this paper explores the ritual and spiritual significance of baptism and concludes that baptism as mystical-political engagement becomes a legitimate image for thinking about the rite in relation to diasporic Africans.

Presenter: Bruce Morrill, S.J., Vanderbilt University
Paper Title: “Taking Liberties with Liturgy: Consistency and Conflicts in Principles, Legal and Theological”

Précis: Recent cases of U.S. bishops declaring decades-old baptisms and subsequent sacramental celebrations for individuals invalid have generated personal and communal anxieties and popular questioning about the church’s liturgical norms, texts, and their execution. This presentation will address canonical and theological principles in relation to pastoral and ecclesial values at stake. One must ask whether more profound questions of freedom inherent to the gospel, in scripture and tradition, are in play, and not only in these media-grabbing controversies but in the wider scope of the liturgical texts and their instructions. The orders of baptism and the Mass will provide critical examples.

Presenter: Erin Kidd, St. John’s University
Paper Title: “Is the Feminist Free to Pray on Her Knees?”

Précis: 4E cognition is a framework in the cognitive sciences that attends to movement intrinsic to, rather than merely expressive of, human meaning-making. In this presentation, I track the prescribed bodily movements of an ordinary Sunday Mass with an eye to how they enable and constrain a congregation’s religious understanding—particularly around the intersections of gender and power.

Historical Theology—Topic Session

Milwaukee A

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Huddleston, Joshua R. Brown, Rita George-Tvrtkovic

Convener: Elizabeth Huddleston, National Institute for Newman Studies

Moderator: Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Benedictine University

Presenter: Joshua R. Brown, Mount Saint Mary’s University
Paper Title: “The Cultural Challenges of Creation: Catholic Faith and Chinese Reason in Giulio Aleni’s *Wanwu zhenyuan* 萬物真原”

Précis: Giulio Aleni's *Wanwu zhenyuan* 萬物真原 sought to present a Catholic doctrine of creation to a Chinese audience and render it credible by appealing to arguments from both classical Scholastic philosophy and theology and concepts from Chinese intellectual traditions. This paper analyzes and assesses Aleni's work as a model for Catholic theology that draws upon Chinese philosophies, which seeks to learn from Aleni's successes and missed opportunities to look towards the further development of a Chinese Catholic theology of creation.

Presenter: Xueying Wang, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: "Introducing a Renaissance Pedagogy to Late-Ming China: Alfonso Vagnone, S. J. and his *Tongyou jiaoyu* 童幼教育 ("On the Education of Children")"

Précis: Alfonso Vagnone, an Italian Jesuit missionary in China, wrote *Tongyou jiaoyu* ("On the Education of Children") in Chinese around 1632, which made him the first Westerner that introduced a Renaissance pedagogy to a Chinese audience. This presentation explores how Vagnone transmitted and accommodated the pedagogical and moral ideals of Renaissance in the cultural context of late imperial China. Special attention will be paid to how Vagnone presented a Western pedagogy in Chinese philosophical terms, and how he made connections between the Western Christian moral precepts and Confucian moral precepts.

Presenter: Robert Trent Pomplun, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: "Faith and Reason in the Tibetan Writings of Ippolito Desideri (1684–1733)"

Précis: The Jesuit missionary Ippolito Desideri (1684–1733) is one of the rare examples of a Catholic scholastic philosopher who engaged another scholastic tradition in its own language. After introducing the archival sources that show us how Desideri was trained at the Jesuits' College Romano, this paper will trace the presentation of "faith" (*dad pa*) and "conviction" (*yid ches*) in Desideri's Tibetan writings, paying special attention to larger debates about faith and reason in Catholic theology and their application in Asia missions.

Fieldwork in Theology—Interest Group

Milwaukee B

Administrative Team: Layla A. Karst, Jaisy Joseph, Lorraine Cuddeback-Gedeon

Convener: Layla A. Karst, Loyola Marymount University

Moderator: Lorraine Cuddeback-Gedeon, Mercy High School

Presenter: Laurel Marshall Potter, Boston College

Paper Title: "¡Que viva la ronda! Dialogue as a Framework for Theological Fieldwork"

Précis: In her classic article, "The Problem of Speaking for Others," Linda Alcoff describes how social location and structural power dynamics can undercut efforts to understand and communicate knowledges between diverse groups. As a North American specializing in Latin American theologies, Potter takes seriously Alcoff's conclusions that speaking with others is often a helpful alternative

framework for avoiding the barbs and pitfalls of speaking for. This paper reflects critically upon Potter's recent fieldwork, identifying some challenges and opportunities of speaking with research partners over the course of the project. The paper concludes by suggesting several best practices for fieldwork in theology.

Presenter: Dorris van Gaal, Calvert Hall High School
Paper Title: "Migration Experiences as a *Locus Theologicus*: Qualitative Research in Migration Theology"

Précis: This paper reflects on the importance of engaging in qualitative research in the field of migration theology. First, it presents methodological reflections that argue for the need to consider the stories and experiences of migrants as a source for theological reflection. It suggests a two-step approach in which empirical research is combined with theological analysis and reflection. Secondly, the paper presents the author's recent research among African Migrants to the USA as an example to show how she addressed ethical challenges and the challenges of accountability encountered in her qualitative research.

Respondent: Edward P. Hahnenberg, John Carroll University

Moral Theology—Topic Session

Crystal

Administrative Team: Rachel Bundang, Kate Ward, David Kwon

Convener: Marc Rugani, Saint Anselm College

Moderator: Kate Ward, Marquette University

Freedom in Pursuit of the Common Good

Presenter: Elizabeth Block, Saint Louis University
Paper Title: "Searching for Truth: What Religious Freedom Can Teach Us about Moral Freedom"

Précis: This paper argues that magisterial reflections on religious freedom can teach us something about moral freedom, namely, that more space is needed for people to seek truth in more places and ways. Incorporating lessons learned from religious freedom yields a robust account of moral freedom, one that acknowledges that moral freedom is bound by truth but that also gives appropriate room for agents to do the work of moral discernment.

Presenter: Ramon Luzarraga, Saint Martin's University
Paper Title: "John Courtney Murray: Prophet"

Précis: John Courtney Murray warned that cultural and political debates in the United States would not progress because of the loss of a societal consensus grounded in a shared philosophy. The alternatives Murray identified to this consensus (like majoritarianism) he judged as wanting. History has justified Murray's concerns.

Ironically, those alternatives bought us time to discover a new consensus: an ethic of Convivencia where we with our deepest religious, philosophical, and political convictions could learn to conspire or “breathe together” anew so that we regenerate the United States as a mosaic of communities which could debate and develop shared philosophies.

Presenter: Sara Bernard-Hoverstad
Paper Title: “Climate Anxiety, Moral Agency, and Social Ethics”

Précis: Emerging research in moral psychology on climate-induced grief and anxiety describes the profound impact that climate change can have on moral agency. In *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis remarks that we ought to be sensitive to the social conditions that threaten agents' ability to act freely for justice and care for our common home. In the face of growing climate grief and anxiety, this paper proposes reframing the problem of climate change in order to provide agents with the creative and grounded freedom needed to engage in positive action for sustainable social change and the common good.

Freedom for All of Us—Invited Session

Executive C

Convener: Bryan Massingale, Fordham University
Moderator: Miguel Díaz, Loyola University Chicago

Précis:

Presenter: Bryan Massingale, Fordham University
Paper Title: TBD

Presenter: Elsie Miranda, The Association of Theological Schools
Paper Title: TBD

Respondent: Adam Beyt, St. Norbert College

Theology and Science—Topic Session

Executive D

Administrative Team: Chelsea King, Kevin Vaughan, Megan Loumagne Ulishney
Convener: Chelsea King, Sacred Heart University
Moderator: Megan Loumagne Ulishney, Gannon University

Presenter: Charles Gillespie, Sacred Heart University
Paper Title: “Freedom and Observation: Theodramatics Meets Quantum Theory”

Précis: Physicist Carlo Rovelli proposes a “relational quantum mechanics” (RQM) that includes the observer in the relations observed. In RQM, there is “no external standpoint” from which to predict the freedom of phenomena in a quantum system. The phrase “no external standpoint,” however, belongs to Hans Urs von Balthasar and his theodramatic account of the confrontation between God's infinite freedom and the finite freedom of God's creatures. My paper invites theodramatics into dialogue with RQM to illuminate theological observations of

divine and human freedom. Observation—whether theatrical, experimental, or theological—prompts an encounter not fated or pre-determined, but live and free.

Presenter: Ligita Ryliškytė, SJE, Boston College
Paper Title: “The ‘Cosmic’ Freedom and Emergent Probability”

Précis: An adequate analogical reading of human and non-human freedom demands both a historically-minded theological anthropology and an ontology that accounts for the dynamic world order. In conversation with contemporary voices, such as Sarah Coakley’s and Martin A. Nowak’s, this paper proposes such a reading grounded in Bernard J. F. Lonergan’s critical metaphysics, theology of history, and soteriology. It is argued that the willingness to forego personal advantage out of love is the pinnacle of human freedom, in which the “cosmic” freedom of the upwardly but indeterminately directed world order becomes conscious of itself.

Presenter: Benjamin Hohman, Providence College
Paper Title: “Has John Haught Freed Freedom Enough?”

Précis: This presentation evaluates John Haught’s newest contribution to theology and science, *God After Einstein* (2022). In particular, it will address Haught’s post-Einsteinian reading of the categories of “time” and “human freedom” in relation to the cosmic scope of “Big History.” After situating this book in relation to Haught’s larger body of work, it will assess this newest contribution in relation to both (1) alternative scientific accounts of these topics rooted in theories of emergence and (2) the influential understanding of the category of human freedom inherited from Thomas Aquinas, particularly as read through the interpretations of Bernard Lonergan.

God and Trinity—Topic Session

Pere Marquette

Administrative Team: Susie Babka, Darren Dias

Convener: Susie Babka, University of San Diego

Moderator: Mary Ann Hinsdale, Boston College

Presenter: Robert Elliot, Boston College
Paper Title: “Human Freedom as Participation in Trinitarian Shared Intentionality”

Précis: My paper argues that the phenomenon of shared intentionality can serve both as an analogue for God as Trinity and as an explanatory concept for speaking about human freedom as participation in the life of the triune God. My paper has three parts. First, I use recent scholarship in comparative and developmental psychology to clarify the phenomenon of shared intentionality. Second, I show how shared intentionality can serve as an analogue for God as Trinity. Finally, I argue that human freedom consists in being conformed to the shared intentionality of the Persons of the Trinity.

Presenter: Jonathan Heaps, Boston College
Paper Title: “Divine Desire, Divine Freedom, and Contemplative Prayer”

Précis: In *God, Sexuality, and the Self*, Sarah Coakley’s methodological centering of contemplative prayer has potential to illuminate trinitarian avenues on the question of divine freedom. This paper argues that correlating Coakley’s account of divine desire with Bernard Lonergan’s account of divine freedom can help to clarify a) why contemplative prayer is a radically liberating practice for human persons, b) why it can help to illuminate a robustly trinitarian account of divine liberty, and c) why that account will give the Holy Spirit renewed theological priority. Finally, it considers how this correlation indicates Lonergan’s mature theological vision may be called “incorporative.”

Presenter: Brianne Jacobs, Emmanuel College
Paper Title: “Prodigal Love: Gendered Parent Language and God”

Précis: In the Christian tradition, parent-language about God is often used to describe the loving way that God “sees” us. This paper seeks to evaluate some of the places parent-language is used in the Christian tradition, and to connect the meaning of that parent language back to the fundamental usage about the kind of freedom-granting love God has for us. The thesis is that parent language about God is not about God’s “gender,” but about the kind of love God has for us. God’s love for us, God’s grace, is about freedom: a prodigal love that is completely open to who we are and may become.

Saturday Evening, June 10, 2023

Eucharist at Old Saint Mary Parish **6:00 PM**
844 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Walking Directions: Exit the hotel and turn right onto Kilbourn Ave. and walk to N. Broadway. The church is located on the corner of E. Kilbourn Ave. and N. Broadway.

John Courtney Murray Award Reception and Banquet **7:45 PM**
Regency AB

Sunday Morning, June 11, 2023

Convener’s Breakfast **7:15 AM–8:45 AM**
Executive Ballroom

Zen Meditation **7:15 AM–8:15 AM**
Crystal

Morning Prayer **8:30 AM–8:45 AM**

Crystal

Fourth Plenary Session: Presidential Address

**10:00 AM–10:15 AM
Regency Ballroom**

Presiding: Nancy Pineda-Madrid
Loyola Marymount University
Vice President, CTSA

Address: “Freedoms and Fears: The Musings of a Comparative Theologian on the Future of the CTSA”
Francis X. Clooney, S.J.
Harvard Divinity School
President, CTSA

Appointment of the New President

**10:00 AM–10:15 AM
Regency Ballroom AB**

Breakfast and Reception/Coffee

**10:15 AM
Atrium**

Meeting and Luncheon: CTSA Board of Directors

**11:00 AM–1:00 PM
Crystal**

The CTSA would like to thank the following members for their service and assistance with the annual convention:

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