On March 6, 2022, Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, was inaugurated as the eighth president of Catholic Theological Union and first woman religious to lead the school.

With great celebration, Sr. Barbara was joined in the ceremony by two previous leaders of CTU: Chancellor Donald Senior, CP, and President Emeritus, Mark Francis, CSV. Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, offered the invocation before a capacity crowd gathered at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Hyde Park.

Cardinal Blase Cupich shared a written message of congratulations on the occasion:

> With great delight I share these greetings for your inauguration as the eighth president of the Catholic Theological Union.

We give thanks that CTU’s graduates serve around the world and are also grateful for CTU’s proximity which brings numerous blessings to the archdiocese including vital ministerial leadership provided by the graduates of the Tolton and Romero programs who serve in our parishes, as well as the distinguished work of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center. With God’s grace and your leadership, I am confident CTU will continue to cultivate leaders who nurture relationships that build community and share the joy of the Gospel to ensure the Kingdom of God flourishes.

Representatives of the CTU Corporation, the faculty, the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, and the Hyde Park faith community all shared messages of welcome and gratitude for Sr. Barbara’s ministry as President of Catholic Theological Union.

Doctor William Shiell, President of Northern Seminary and the current vice-president of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, greeted Sr. Barbara on behalf of the 12 graduate schools of theology which make Chicago one of the greatest centers of theological education in the world:

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9 Orobator and Maya receive Honorary Degrees at CTU’s 54th Commencement
12 CTU Young Alumni and the Simon Family honored at 2022 Trustee Dinner
CTU is a vital part of this consortium. May you continue to bring the unique gifts of CTU, an intercultural school of theology and ministry and its focus on the Gospel Message to bear in your mission of forming missionaries and religious order priests for global service, in forming the laity for ministry, and in your commitment to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. The theological education community of Chicago is richer from CTU’s presence.

But for CTU—founded in the spirit of Vatican II—dying to the way things were and giving birth to something new is in our very DNA; that’s what we’ve done from the start.

In these days, we face no less turbulence, as we enter a third year of a global pandemic, in a world at war once again, inhabiting a planet imperiled by global warming, and a church and country ripped apart by scandals, divisions, and racism.

But just as there were remarkable triumphs and signs of hope in our founding years and throughout our history, so too, today, there is new life springing forth, leading to a future full of hope.

Inspired by the leadership and example of Pope Francis, CTU is committed to a vision of a global church that is inclusive, synodal, international, intercultural, and focused on social justice.

— SR. BARBARA REID

In conferring the office of the president of CTU on Sr. Barbara, Rev. James Halstead, OSA, Chair of the Board, offered the following blessing:

President Reid, as you formally take office with God’s help and the support of the CTU community and our friends, stand firm, be courageous and strong and let all that you do be done in love and with humility.

Foster the material, personal, and spiritual resources of CTU. Be clothed in compassion, kindness, and patience. Continue the legacy of CTU in service to the Church and the world. Feed those who hunger for a life of the Spirit by seeking study at CTU. Work with kindness and patience with the faculty, staff, and students, so to foster academic excellence and inspire pastoral leadership. Support our programs and centers that they might succeed in their endeavors. Be a model of service that through your efforts CTU may thrive as a community of collaboration and continually grow in mutual care. Be a good steward of CTU’s finances, development, and facilities. Witness to CTU to our benefactors and wider constituencies. Attend to the welfare of CTU in program and policy. Chart well the future of the school to be a sign and leaven to the world of Christ’s good news of justice, love, and peace.

May God, who inspires every holy resolve, confirm your intention and strengthen your heart to accomplish faithfully all that you have promised. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God through him.

Following the inauguration, hundreds of alumni, community members and friends of CTU gathered at the James and Catherine Denny Center at CTU for a joyous reception in celebration of this historic day.

A recording of the Presidential Inauguration ceremony can be viewed on the Learn@CTU website:
A significant step toward accomplishing these goals has been an upgrade to our technological capacity. Strengthening institutional vitality, including a comprehensive theological, ministerial and formational education; and 3) the Church of tomorrow through offering outstanding accelerated outreach and increasing enrollment; 2) co-creating 2024, we are committed to these three major goals: 1) learning, we at CTU have been extraordinarily blessed. Having and educational strains it has put on all institutions of higher education finance to the role of our Vice President for Finance and operations, most recently as Director at Rush University Medical Center. We are delighted to welcome them to CTU’s leadership.

A significant step toward accomplishing these goals has been our fully successful 50th anniversary capital campaign, Forward in Faith. I am very happy to announce that this Spring we successfully completed the campaign, exceeding our goal of 16 million dollars! Funds from this initiative will be used to maintain the quality of our faculty, to enhance our educational technology and our outreach, and, above all, to increase scholarship support for the exceptional students who come to us to prepare for a life of service. Utilizing the Forward in Faith campaign funds, we now have considerable scholarship support to make CTU degrees and certificates accessible to a growing population of students.

Additionally, we have received a grant of $825,000 from the Hilton Foundation to extend CTU’s efforts in forming women and men religious to become an even more powerful force for peacebuilding and creating racial harmony. Also, the men’s and women’s religious communities of the Precious Blood have endowed a new institute at CTU named after our beloved faculty colleague and a member of the Precious Blood community, Robert Schreiter of blessed memory. The programs of this new institute will be dedicated to the work of reconciliation and peacebuilding.

These are only a few of the many affirmations of the work that CTU is doing, as we continue to thrive in challenging times. We look to the future with great hope. We have thousands of alumni already at work in our country and in scores of countries around the globe, serving the church and God’s people. We are truly grateful for the young women and men who continue to come to CTU preparing themselves for a life of service in the spirit of the Gospel.

Just as a seed has to leave aside its protective husk to allow the life within to be changed to produce more life, so too has CTU continued to change and grow over our 54 years. The new life is in full flower!
Kevin Considine Named as Director of New Schreiter Institute at CTU

Catholic Theological Union announced in February 2022 a partnership with the newly established Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) sponsored by three religious communities: the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and the Sisters of the Precious Blood Sisters of Dayton, Ohio, who each draw their inspiration from devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The blood of Christ shed to give life to others is the spiritual foundation for the commitment of these Catholic religious communities to the work of justice and reconciliation. This unique Institute will collaborate with Catholic Theological Union to offer courses, workshops and support academic research that advance this distinct tradition in the church.

The decision to establish the work of the Institute at CTU was based particularly on the prominent role that the late Fr. Robert Schreiter, C.PP.S.—himself a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood—had at the school. A brilliant and internationally recognized scholar and teacher, Schreiter focused his research on the integration of Catholicism within local cultures and, particularly, on the urgent mission of reconciliation in our modern world—a direct expression of his Precious Blood Spirituality. In his honor, the new Institute bears the official name: The Robert J. Schreiter, C.PP.S. Institute for Precious Blood Spirituality. The Schreiter Institute has become part of The Bernardin Center at CTU.

“We are thrilled to partner with the three Precious Blood communities to establish a new institute at CTU that promotes their charism of justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding,” said CTU president Sr. Barbara Reid, OP. “Named for our beloved colleague Robert J. Schreiter, of blessed memory, this Institute will ensure that his groundbreaking work, and that of his brothers and sisters, will endure into perpetuity and imbue our students, and all who attend the PBSI programs, with his legacy of mission and ministry, most especially needed in the world today.”

Bill Nordenbrock, C.PP.S., speaking on behalf of the PBSI, shared his excitement about the creation of the Robert J. Schreiter Precious Blood Institute at CTU and the naming of Kevin Considine as its inaugural director. “With the selection of Dr. Kevin Considine, PhD, as the initial director of the Schreiter Institute, we are confident that we have found the person to lead the Schreiter Institute,” said Nordenbrock. “Dr. Considine not only has a solid grasp of the work of Robert Schreiter, he also has the necessary academic expertise to further the development of the theology and praxis of reconciliation, as an important element of our Precious Blood Spirituality.”

Considine, began this role in July 2022, returning to CTU as an alumnus and an adjunct professor of Spirituality. He commented, “It is an honor and a privilege to be the inaugural Director of the Schreiter Institute. I knew Fr. Schreiter for more than 15 years, was mentored by him, and look forward to the challenge of integrating the Precious Blood’s spirituality of reconciliation and peacemaking into the curriculum and life-blood of CTU.”
**Sunday@CTU Celebrates “Preaching with the Sciences” Initiative**

**At the 2022 Dr. Barry Rankin Sunday@CTU Lecture Series on God’s Creation, CTU was pleased to introduce to the wider community its new *Preaching with the Sciences* homily outline initiative, directed by Duns Scotus Professor Emeritus of Spirituality and celebrant of the day’s festivities, Edward Foley, Capuchin.**

The *Preaching with the Sciences* initiative has developed a searchable online homiletic resource made possible by a generous $220,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The three-year project is designed to gather leading scientists and homileticians to explore the positive contributions science can make to preaching and, consequently, contribute to more contemporary modes of believing. The *Preaching with the Sciences* homily outlines are written by skilled homileticians and inspired by contemporary scientific processes and discoveries. The library will eventually hold outlines for the full 3-year liturgical cycle, and can be accessed at ctu.edu/preaching. These free homiletic resources have the potential to influence thousands of preachers seeking help each week in crafting sermons, and will help shape a scientifically informed religious imagination among future preachers.

After the liturgy, participants heard from three contributors to the initiative: Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase, Senior Scientist for the Planetary Science Institute; Dr. Gerald C. Liu, Director of Collegiate Ministries, Initiatives, and Belonging for the Global Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church; and Rev. Matthew S. O’Donnell, Pastor of St. Moses the Black Catholic Church in Chicago. Each spoke to the importance of interdisciplinary and ecumenical conversation between the sciences and those in positions of storytelling and preaching in religious spaces.

At the gathering, the CTU community was also pleased to celebrate the 90th birthday of Donna Rankin, wife of the late Dr. Barry Rankin, who has endowed the yearly lecture and liturgy series in his memory.
In March 2022, the third fully revised edition of The Jerome Biblical Commentary for the Twenty First Century was published, co-edited by CTU President, Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, and Chancellor Fr. Donald Senior, CP, together with Yale Old Testament professor John J. Collins, and Gina Hens-Piazza, professor of Old Testament at Santa Clara University.

This monumental volume of more than 2,000 pages is considered a premier resource for biblical study, offering complete commentaries on every book of the Bible along with numerous extended essays on the history, background, and essential features of the Bible and its interpretation—geared for preachers and religious educators as well as for lay men and women eager to learn about the Scriptures in depth.

This completely new edition, which features a foreword by Pope Francis, includes the very latest scholarship by a broad range of international contributors offering a diverse range of perspectives and interpretations of the Scriptures from a Catholic vantage point. In addition to serving as co-editors, Reid contributed an article entitled, “Feminist Biblical Interpretation” and Senior contributed “Interpreting the Scriptures—the Church and the Modern Catholic Biblical Renewal.”

The first edition of this famed biblical resource published in 1968 followed immediately after the Second Vatican Council and its emphasis on the role of the Bible in the Church. This first edition and a later 1990 edition were edited by Fr. Raymond Brown, SS, Fr. Joseph Fitzmyer, SJ, and Fr. Roland Murphy, OCarm, each considered among the most well-known Catholic biblical scholars of the late 20th century.

“When Dominic Mattos of Bloomsbury Publishing approached me about creating a completely new edition of the Jerome Biblical Commentary, I was happy to get involved, even though I knew it would be an enormous project,” said Donald Senior, CP.

“The previous two editions were created by some of the ‘greatest generation’ of Catholic scholars. Their mission was to bring the best of Catholic biblical scholarship to a broad audience—not in a sectarian or competitive spirit—but to draw on Catholic tradition and experience to enrich the meaning of the Scriptures for all Christians. It struck me as a worthwhile contribution to continue that mission for the community of faith for this generation. So we put together an editorial team, sought the best contributors we could find, and the project was launched! We even got Pope Francis to write the Foreword for the volume—an absolute coup! Now that it is in print and beautifully presented, I am very grateful to have been part of this adventure!”

The launch of this monumental biblical resource is being celebrated by two grand public events, one in Rome at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and another later this summer at a session of the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America. CTU is proud that, along with the editors, several of its faculty, present and former, were among the contributors including:

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<th>John R. Barker, OFM</th>
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<td>Song of Songs</td>
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<td>Laurie Brink, OP</td>
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Muslim Philanthropic Initiative Finds a Home at CTU

CTU hosted the third convening of the Community Collaboration Initiative (CCI), a three-year action-based research project of Indiana University’s Lilly School of Philanthropy, in March 2022. We welcomed CTU Trustee and CCI founder, Ms. Dilnaz Waraich, along with 65 colleagues from five Muslim nonprofits sectors, Indiana University’s Lilly School of Philanthropy, and regional and national foundations such as The Chicago Community Trust and the Marguerite Casey Foundation.

Launched in 2020, the CCI seeks to foster an intrafaith culture in the Muslim nonprofit sector that is inclusive and operates from a mindset of generosity and with the power of shared resources.

From its inception, the CCI established incremental goals with annual objectives: The first year focused on collaboration through trust-building; the second year focused on collaboration through shared programming; and the third year focused on collaboration through sustainability. In welcoming the gathering, Waraich shared:

“We are here today to build connections and understanding, to contemplate the ways in which our privilege and access can create a better society through respective expertise.”

— Dilnaz Waraich, CCI founder

Findings from the CCI meetings will be published in a white paper. Proudly, CTU will once again host the CCI this October when the winner of the Muslim Collaboration Prizes award will be announced.

Learn more about the Community Collaboration Initiative.
Leadership and History of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium Has Deep Ties to CTU

STORY PROVIDED BY DR. KIMBERLY LYMORE, DIRECTOR OF THE AUGUSTUS TOLTON PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM AT CTU AND CONVENER OF THE BCTS

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION HAS HAD STRONG TIES to the Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS). The BCTS’ mission is to foster an ethical community of scholarly dialogue within the Black Catholic experience by a commitment to the fundamental humanity of all persons as seen in the plurality of cultural, ethnic, and religious experiences that seeks the development of a theology that reflects our interdisciplinary reality. CTU is proud to support the work of the BCTS, and shares in its commitment to interdisciplinary and intercultural work.

The Symposium was established in 1978 by Rev. Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap, and convened for periodic conferences sponsored by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. The proceedings of that first conference were published as Theology: A Portrait in Black. A second meeting occurred in 1979 around the theme of the Nguzo Saba, but those papers were never published, and the symposium did not meet again until it was re-convened in 1991 by Dr. Jamie T. Phelps, OP. The year prior, in 1990, Dr. Phelps started the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The participants of the third meeting agreed that the Symposium should become a national Roman Catholic interdisciplinary theological society which meets annually. The Symposium, with one exception, has met annually since 1991. In 1992, Dr. Phelps was elected Convener of the BCTS and served in that capacity until 2001.

The Executive Board of the BCTS maintains an active collaborative relationship with CTU. Dr. Kimberly Lymore, current Convener, graduated from CTU with her Masters of Divinity and currently serves as Director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program. Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, who recently completed her terms on the BCTS Executive Board, is the Director of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at St. Xavier in New Orleans. Dr. Bellow received her DMin from CTU in 2005, and has taught liturgy in the Summer@CTU program.

Many members of the BCTS—Fr. Bryan Massingale, Dr. M. Shawn Copeland, and Dr. Diana Hayes, to name a few—have been guest lecturers at CTU’s Annual Tolton Lecture.

Dr. C. Vanessa White, Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry and the former Director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program, instituted the annual Tolton Lecture at Catholic Theological Union in 2000, with Dr. Cyprian Davis giving the inaugural lecture. Maurice Nutt, CSSR, is a former BCTS Convener and a consultant on the cause of Thea Bowman for sainthood for the Diocese of Jackson. Dr. Nutt, who graduated from CTU in 1989 with a Master of Divinity in Word and Worship and also holds a DMin in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology, has taught classes in preaching in the Summer@CTU program, and has been a Tolton Lecturer. The current BCTS Co-Convenor and former Treasurer, Dr. Timone Davis, is a CTU alumna, receiving her MDiv in 2002 and her DMin in 2011. Dr. Davis is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago, and in 2021, was the first Tolton alumna to give the Annual Tolton Lecture. This year, Dr. Nathaniel Samuel, Assistant Professor of Liberation Theology at the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago, and Secretary to the BCTS gave the Annual Tolton Lecture.

CTU has hosted the BCTS annual meeting twice: In 2008 in conjunction with Loyola University, and once again in 2014.
Maya, a devoted educator on both sides of the Mexican-American border, spoke of bridges, their building and their crossing. She girded the graduates for the necessarily courageous work of crossing bridges to places, people, and ideas unfamiliar to them:

“...We draw bridges; we create bridges because we love. That is our mission as ministers of the Reign of God. Our particular kind of bridge-building requires collaboration and dialogue to kindle, nourish, build, encourage, and foster unity. As committed people of faith, we must engage in the art of bridge-building because we know that we are called to be one. Yet we must understand that building the bridge is not enough. You can build bridges, but not everyone crosses them! True, but if there is no bridge, even fewer people will cross..."

— SR. TERESA MAYA

Before the conferral of degrees, student representative and MDiv recipient Emily Davis spoke of Christ’s simple command in the Gospel of John 21:15-17: “Do you love me? Feed my sheep.” Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, received a Doctorate in Theology, honoris causa and Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, received a Doctorate in Ministry, honoris causa. In their commencement addresses, both spoke emphatically about working collaboratively for justice.

Orobator, a pioneer of African Catholic theology, shared stories of a childhood bogeyman native to his culture: Otutu. He called all who were present to recognize the ever-growing Otutu of our present generation—war, disease, hunger, and terrorism—and to link arms in the work of lighting the way out of darkness:

“...Such cruel assaults on human lives are the depressingly familiar Otutu of our times that hurt, distort and violate the dignity of each person created in the image and likeness of God. Happily, today, we are witnessing a different reality, as we celebrate the graduating class of 2022. Friends, by your accomplishment, you offer a different vision for the world, as proud samples of this globally recognised academic institution, imbued with an ecumenical spirit, powered by collaboration, and designed for theological and ministerial excellence in the church and in the world."

— REV. AGBONKHIANMEGHE E. OROBATOR

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— SR. TERESA MAYA

View the commencement ceremony on Learn@CTU.
ONSITE EVENTS

Sundays@CTU Trinitarian Anniversary (A)
Our fall Sunday@CTU lecture and liturgy series celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinity Missions) and featured a presentation by William Porter, PhD, Professor Emeritus at the University of Dayton, “From Lay Apostles to Missionary Disciples: Rev. Thomas A. Judge, CM and the Future of Catholic Laity.”

Faculty Promotion Ceremony (B)
On March 27, CTU celebrated the promotion of two members of the faculty: Steven P. Millies, PhD, to Professor of Public Theology, and Br. Antonio Sison, CPPS, to Professor of Systematic Theology and Vatican Council II Chair in Theology.

Bernardin Center: A Special 25th Anniversary (C, D)
In November, the Bernardin Center commemorated the 25th anniversary of Cardinal Bernardin’s passage to eternity with a panel discussion exploring our hopes for a better future in the light of Cardinal Bernardin’s legacy. Remembering the Past, Facing the Present, Hoping for the Future. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Steven P. Millies, and panelists included Julie Hanlon Rubio, Gloria Purvis, Michael O’Loughlin and Dr. Malka Zeiger Simkovich.

Hidden Mercy Book Launch
Over one hundred attendees gathered in December as the Bernardin Center hosted a book launch for Michael O’Loughlin’s latest book, Hidden Mercy. Set against the backdrop of the HIV and AIDS epidemic of the late twentieth century and the Catholic Church’s crackdown on gay and lesbian activists, journalist Michael O’Loughlin searches out the untold stories of those who didn’t look away, who at great personal cost chose compassion—even as he seeks insight for LGBTQ people of faith struggling to find a home in religious communities today.

Sundays@CTU Schrieter Memorial
On January 23, the CTU and Precious Blood communities gathered to remember Robert J. Schrieter, CPPS, with a memorial mass and special reflections by Rev. Stephen Bevans, SVD, Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture, Emeritus and Dr. Susan Abraham, MA '95, Professor of Theology and Postcolonial Cultures, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Pacific School of Religion. Following the liturgy, Sr. Mi-Kyoung Hwang, DMin ’18, a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood Dayton Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Pacific School of Religion. Following the liturgy, Sr. Mi-Kyoung Hwang, DMin ’18, a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood Dayton community, presented a Spirituality of Reconciliation: Robert Schrieter, a Reconciling Presence in Integrity of Heart.

Religious Life and the Entire Church Encountering Sympoladity (E)
On March 11, the CTU was honored to host Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XAVJ, Under-Secretary for the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, for an event sponsored by the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life (CSCL) titled, Religious Life and the Entire Church Engaging Sympoladity, moderated by Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, who herself has been nominated to the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) to a four-person team that created a process for religious congregations to engage with the synodal process.

Fat Luther, Slim Pickins Book Launch (F)
On April 1, the Bernardin Center hosted Shannon Wimp Schmidt, MAPS ’19, and Marcia Lane-McGee, cohosts of the Plaid Skirts and Basic Black podcast, to celebrate the launch of their new book with Ave Maria Press, Fat Luther, Slim Pickins: A Black Catholic Celebration of Faith, Tradition, and Diversity. Shannon and Marcia recorded the first ever live episode of their podcast during the event, and CTU is pleased to be sponsoring the remainder of the podcast’s season.

Perelmuter Conference and Spring Shapiro Lecture
The Annual Perelmuter Conference returned in-person this year, with the theme Competing Identities: Practice and Faith in the Public and Private Spheres. This year’s Spring Shapiro Lecture—Insiders, Outsiders and In Between: The Jews of Medieval Europe—was presented by Dr. Elisehva Baumgarten of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Taste of CTU
Taste of CTU returned this year with performances and food from numerous countries and cultures represented by CTU’s student body, staff, and faculty.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Fall Shapiro Lecture
Dr. Marc Zvi Brettler, Duke University gave the Fall Shapiro lecture entitled, The Bible With and Without Jesus. This lecture explored what we might learn from discussing the differences and commonalities in interpretation of the Bible that Jews and Christians share, and how these differences and similarities might be appreciated and celebrated.

Luzbetak Lecture
Dr. Peter C. Phan of Georgetown University gave the annual lecture on missiology entitled, Pope Francis’s Ecological Theology in Dialogue with Asian Religions. The lecture reflected on the challenges of ecological destruction, and examined the teaching of Pope Francis on the necessity of preserving our common home, especially in his Laudato Si’ and Queerida Amazonia.

Holocaust Lecture Series
The Catholic-Jewish Studies program hosted its annual Holocaust Rememberance Lecture Series. On May 11, Rabbi Yehiel Poupa gave a lecture titled “Some Perspectives on the Destruction of European Jewry,” and concluded his talk by reading some of his latest poetry. The following weekend, a group of students and CTU supporters participated in a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. The series concluded with a presentation from a Holocaust survivor and friend of CTU, Dr. Adina Sella.

Men of Dialogue Book Launch
On March 1, the Bernardin Center hosted author Gregory K. Hillis, PhD to celebrate the launch of his book Man of Dialogue: Thomas Merton’s Catholic Vision.

Tolton Lecture
The Annual Tolton Lecture was given on February 28 by Dr. Nat Samuel, Assistant Professor of Liberation Theology at the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago. His lecture, Philoctete’s Wound: Black Caribbean Religious Art and the (Re)presentation of a Catholic Mysticism, examined the artwork of leading Caribbean muralist Sir Dunstan St. Omer to expand the canon of liberative theology and extrapolate critical insight for a contemporary Black Catholic mysticism.

Seeking Convivencia
Seeking Convivencia was an online two-part series on Zoom sponsored by the Catholic-Muslim Studies Program and the Hispanic Theology and Ministry Program at CTU. The first lecture, At the Intersections of Islam and Latinidad Yesterday and Today, featured a lively discussion with Dr. Harold Morales and Dr. Jean-Pierre Ruiz on the complex and ongoing history of relations between Muslims and Christians in Al-Andalus, Latin America, and Latin@ USA. The second lecture, Interreligious Dialogue as Lived Practice, featured Dr. Prasanna Sujayan and Marta Felicitas Galedaro who discussed shared exchanges in daily life, cooperative actions for justice, and grassroots contexts that nurture mutual respect and understanding between Muslims and Christians.

Beyond the Left and Right
Both in the Catholic Church and in the world, public discourse has become all the more difficult due to polarization and ideological divide. In a world that has moved beyond conservative or liberal, how do we approach public life as people of faith? What are the particular ideological clashes? And how do we navigate this changing landscape? On February 22, the Bernardin Center hosted a lively dialogue that addressed these questions and more at the event Beyond the Left and Right: Mapping Ideology for a Better Kind of Politics.

Tolton Panel: Why Black Catholics Are Leaving the Church
On February 17, the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program held a panel titled, Where Have All the Black Catholics Gone?, moderated by Dr. Kimberly Lymore, Director of the Tolton Program. Speakers included Dr. Ansel Augustine, Director of the Office of Black Catholics in New Orleans who works with Youthand Young Adults, Rev. Michael Trail, Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Chicago; and Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley, an active minister in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, a retired nurse, and a member of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium.

Winter Shapiro Lecture
The 2022 Winter Shapiro lecture was given by Dr. Laura Arnold Leibman, Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College. Her talk, Voices of Rebellion: Christians and Jews in the Barbadian Battle for Rights, explored the life of Isaac Lopez Brandon and other Barbadian Jews.

Duns Scotus Lecture and Workshop
The 2022 Duns Scotus lecture was given on February 3 by Darleen Pryds, Associate Professor of History and Christian Spirituality at the Franciscan School of Theology at the University of San Diego. Her lecture, “From Lay Apostles to expand the canon of liberative theology and extrapolate critical insight for a contemporary Black Catholic mysticism.”

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Duns Scotus Lecture and Workshop
The 2022 Duns Scotus lecture was given on February 3 by Darleen Pryds, Associate Professor of History and Christian Spirituality at the Franciscan School of Theology at the University of San Diego. Her lecture, “From Lay Apostles to expand the canon of liberative theology and extrapolate critical insight for a contemporary Black Catholic mysticism.”

Beyond the Left and Right
Both in the Catholic Church and in the world, public discourse has become all the more difficult due to polarization and ideological divide. In a world that has moved beyond conservative or liberal, how do we approach public life as people of faith? What are the particular ideological clashes? And how do we navigate this changing landscape? On February 22, the Bernardin Center hosted a lively dialogue that addressed these questions and more at the event Beyond the Left and Right: Mapping Ideology for a Better Kind of Politics.

Tolton Panel: Why Black Catholics Are Leaving the Church
On February 17, the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program held a panel titled, Where Have All the Black Catholics Gone?, moderated by Dr. Kimberly Lymore, Director of the Tolton Program. Speakers included Dr. Ansel Augustine, Director of the Office of Black Catholics in New Orleans who works with Youthand Young Adults, Rev. Michael Trail, Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Chicago; and Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley, an active minister in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, a retired nurse, and a member of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium.

Winter Shapiro Lecture
The 2022 Winter Shapiro lecture was given by Dr. Laura Arnold Leibman, Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College. Her talk, Voices of Rebellion: Christians and Jews in the Barbadian Battle for Rights, explored the life of Isaac Lopez Brandon and other Barbadian Jews.
AFTER LAST YEAR'S ONLINE EVENT, CTU was excited to return for a hybrid 2022 Blessed Are the Peacemakers event this past April. Three hundred guests gathered in-person at the beautiful University Club in the heart of downtown Chicago, while scores of supporters from far and wide joined us online.

This year, CTU recognized the members of the Simon family, longtime supporters of CTU and each an incredible advocate for social change in their own right, through careers in medicine, advocacy, law, and more. The Simon Family received the Diakonia Award, bestowed on those whose lives are testaments of exemplary public service. Raymond Simon, whose children and grandchildren were in attendance, gave a brief comment via video. He said:

We have great affection for CTU, and the affection goes back many years... In addition to all the philosophical reasoning for which we have supported CTU, there are personal reasons as well. Mary and I developed a strong connection with CTU. We had the wonderful opportunity to travel with Fr. Don Senior to Greece and Turkey, and Rome in the footsteps of St. Paul, and more recently to the Holy Land. As you know, Fr. Don is a highly regarded biblical scholar, but he is also down to Earth. Those travels made Jesus and St. Paul more human for us and deepened our faith, and Don's friendship has enriched our lives.

— RAYMOND SIMON

Raymond’s son, Matthew Simon, accepted the award on behalf of his family. “This event not only has given our family a wonderful opportunity, and a welcome one, to reminisce... but it has also provided us with an opportunity to look forward,” he said. “Tonight, we celebrate the accomplishments and the future of CTU. We wish you the very best, we appreciate very much being the recipients of this award, and we thank you.”

CTU was also pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions made by CTU’s numerous alumni to the crucial work of peace, mercy, and justice by naming CTU’s young alumni the joint recipients of the Blessed Are the Peacemakers Award. Student representative, Johnathan Turba, OPraem, spoke of the depth of diversity and breadth of experiences had by CTU students during his speech accepting the award on behalf of the community of alumni. “I have always been struck by the beautifully international and multicultural nature of our community at CTU,” he said. “We are truly a picture of the worldwide Church, learning from one another as we learn together... as Pope Francis has continually reminded us, the Church is alive and the future of the Church is now.”

By the end of our night together, we were pleased to have exceeded our fundraising goal by 25 percent. We look forward to gathering once again for our 2023 Blessed Are the Peacemakers event on April 26, 2023. You can view the recording of this year’s event at Learn@ CTU, and browse the gallery of pictures.
IN MEMORIAM

Rev. John Richardson, CM
March 2022

Fr. Richardson was Dean of the Graduate School at DePaul University during CTU’s early years and later served as the ninth president of DePaul from 1981 to 1993, and as chancellor from 1993 to 2017. In the Spring of 1969, he worked out an arrangement whereby MA students at CTU could take half their courses at DePaul and receive their degree from DePaul until CTU was accredited in 1972 to confer MA degrees. CTU’s records show that 19 CTU students hold MA degrees from DePaul, thanks to the collaboration with Fr. Richardson.

Carol Alexander
January 2022
Mother of CTU faculty, Scott Alexander

Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima
April 2022
The University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary

Sheila Berner
September 2021
2015 Diakonia awardee

Rev. Theodore “Ted” Cirone
September 2021
Life Trustee

Dr. Paul Farmer
February 2022
2015 Blessed are the Peacemakers awardee

Joseph Foley
May 2022
Cherished friend of CTU and husband of Jeanne Foley

Karin Gross, MAPS ’17
November 2021

Blair Lawlor
December 2021
Cherished CTU friend and wife of Life Trustee, Bill Lawlor

Evilin McHugh
April 2022
Cherished CTU friend and wife of Life Trustee, the late John McHugh

Jo Minow
February 2022
2009 Blessed are the Peacemakers awardee
At the annual conference of the National Association for Lay Ministry in May, MaryEllen Knuth received the Juan Diego Award recognizing an outstanding witness to the spirit and values embodied in the life of the lay minister Juan Diego, the first saint of the Americas. The individual has shown faith, patience, and commitment to Gospel values and has been an inspiration to other lay people to accept responsibility as People of God. MaryEllen is Assistant Dean for Student Life.

Rev. vănThanh Nguyễn, SVD’s, What Does the Bible Say About Strangers, Migrants and Refugees? (New City Press) tied for first place in Scripture from the Association of Catholic Publishers 2022 Excellence in Publishing Awards, and is being published in two additional languages.

Rev. Roger Schroeder, SVD’s, Christian Tradition in Global Perspective (Orbis Books) received Third Place Award in Theology from the Association of Catholic Publishers and one of the “Ten Outstanding Books in Mission Studies, Intercultural Theology, and World Christianity for 2021” by the Overseas Ministry Study Center of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, and Rev. Roger Schroeder, SVD, are editors of Engaging Our Diversity: Interculturality and Consecrated Life Today, which is now available in Spanish, titled Comprometernos con la Diversidad: Interculturalidad y Vida Consagrada Hoy (Orbis Books).


President Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, is the General Editor of the Wisdom Commentary Series (Liturgical Press), a 60-volume collection emphasizing feminist interpretation of each text of the Bible. Most recently published editions include John 1-10, John 11-21, and 1-2 Peter and Jude. Editions coming soon include Judith and Acts of the Apostles. Learn more about the series.

Sr. Reid also edited Forget Not God’s Benefits (Psalm 103:2): A Festschrift in Honor of Leslie J. Hoppe, OFM (Catholic Biblical Association), which includes essays by current and former members of CTU’s Bible faculty.

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Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio, at a ceremony in 2021. The award recognizes distinguished women in theology, and was awarded to Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, in 2010.

In the series Disruptive Cartographies: Doing Theology Latinamente, for which Carmen M. Nanko Fernández, DMín, is one of the editors, Jean-Pierre Ruiz’s Revelation in the Vernacular (Orbis Books) tied for first place in Theology from the Association of Catholic Publishers 2022 Excellence in Publishing Awards.
Andrew Cirillo, MDiv ‘17, has taken a new job at the Rochester Institute of Technology as the Assistant Director for Spirituality and Religious Life. To learn more about Andrew, read his biography.

Linda Hansen, MAPS ‘14, has recently been named as Marian Catholic High School’s first Vice President of Ministry and Mission. In this newly created position, Linda will focus on the aspects of ministry and mission that distinguish Marian Catholic from other schools. She will ensure that the identity and integrity of the Catholic values and the Dominican tradition the school embraces are upheld. She will develop, administer, and coordinate religious formation and ministry for students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Bob Hutmacher, OFM, MDiv ’79, will develop, administer, and coordinate religious formation and ministry for students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

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Sr. Kate Katoski, OSF, MTS ’80, was named to Briar Cliff University’s Board of Trustees. Katoski serves as the Director of Development for the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, having been employed with the Sisters of St. Francis for the last 30 years. She also worked for the National Pastoral Life Center in New York City, along with serving at the Archdiocese in Dubuque and the Diocese in Sioux City, Iowa. Katoski is an alumna from Briar Cliff, obtaining her bachelor’s degree in 1969 and thereafter served as registrar and director of media at the institution.

Fr. Dennis Koopman, OFM, MDiv ’70, will be celebrating his 52 jubilee year of priestly ordination this June, 2022. He was in the first CTU ordination class at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Hyde Park, on June 13, 1970. There were nine in the ordination class: five Franciscans, three Passionists, and one Servite.

Mary LaMont, MA ’92, recently signed a contract with Cascade Books to publish her new book, Story Work/Story Play: The Four-Door Method of Narrative Spirituality. She is the director of The Knocking Door, a Chicago-area ministry that provides retreats, workshops, minister training, and spiritual direction for parish groups, schools, and religious orders. LaMont’s master’s degree from CTU is in scripture and sacramental theology and her bachelor’s degree from Notre Dame is in communications. She taught theology for more than 25 years at Loyola Academy in Wilmette and is also trained in Buddhist meditation by the Zen Life Meditation Center. More information about The Knocking Door can be found at her website, theknockingdoor.com.

JoAnn McCaffrey, DMin ’98’s, book At Home in the Journey, which was based on her doctoral thesis and first published in 2005 through CCGM Publications, has a summer reading program focused on its most recent new edition.

Ar Naing, DMin ’20, has been named Academic Dean at his home college of Myanmar Theological College in Mandalay, Myanmar.

Fr. Stephen C. Niskanen, CMF, DMin ’18, had an article based on his DMin thesis-project published in Review for Religious (Winter 2022; Volume 2; Number 1) entitled “Shepherding Sexually Diverse Eros in Religious Formation.”

Glenda R. Spearman, MDiv ’04, Chaplain at Lurie Children’s Hospital, was chosen to be the reflector for the historic mass at Holy Family Church on November 13, to honor the mother of Venerable Augustus Tolton, Martha Jane Tolton. The celebrant was Bishop Joseph N. Perry, postulator for canonization cause of Venerable Augustus Tolton. Along with Glenda, several Tolton alumni were present including Parris Washington, Cheryl Cattledge, Stephanie Gado and Karine Guignard, who was chosen to place flowers at the gravesite of Mother Tolton at Mt. Olivet Cemetery after the Mass.

John Uhal, MA ’15, was recently featured in a new book titled, Pastoral Creativity: Global Experiences Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, by Anthony Le Duc, SVD and John Mi Shen. It was published by Logos Publications, Inc. in 2021. The book is just that, a global collection of stories about the pastoral responses to the pandemic. He submitted an essay based on his ministry in five parishes in Northeast Iowa titled, “Evangelization during COVID-19: Teamwork and Adaptability,” in which he details how quickly and effectively the paid and volunteer staff in Catholic parishes reacted to the pandemic’s challenges. His father, Len Uhal, National Vocation Director for the Divine Word Missionaries, also wrote a chapter titled, “Ministry During COVID-19: A Mixed Bag.”

Shannon Wimp Schmidt, MAPS ’19, coauthored a new book with Ave Maria Press titled Fat Luther, Slim Pickins: A Black Catholic Celebration of Faith, Tradition, and Diversity with Marcia Lane-McGee, with whom she cohosts the Plaid Skirts and Basic Black podcast. The book was named by Essence magazine as one of “56 New Books We Can’t Wait to Read in 2022.” Shannon has also recently accepted a new position with the Archdiocese of Chicago.

CURRENT STUDENTS

David Gayes, a current MA student and Bernardin Scholar, was named a 2022 Fellow by the Disability Lead Institute. In David’s words: “I am incredibly excited about joining this network. This is a Chicago-based network with national and international connections of disability activists and professionals from many fields. I am excited about the opportunities that membership in this network may bring to me in my professional career, but I am also excited about the connections this organization could bring to Catholic Theological Union and the growing field of theology and disability.” Read the announcement from Disability Lead.

Fr. Min Seo Park, a current DMin student, gave a lecture at the 10th Annual Korea National Deaf Catholic Day Conference, held at the Shrine of Peace in Jeonju—the southwestern part of South Korea—on June 5, 2022. Five-hundred and fifty deaf Catholic Koreans and hearing Catholic signers participated, who came from 19 deaf Catholic communities throughout South Korea. Fr. Park is the national chaplain of the Korea National Catholic Deaf Association.
CTU will honor Bryan Stevenson with our 2023 Bless are the Peacemakers award as founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, for his faith-rooted activism and career-long dedication to helping those who are poor, incarcerated, and condemned. At this time in the history of America, we at CTU have been encouraged by the burgeoning anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in our country that Mr. Stevenson has initiated including the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites: the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

For fifty-three years, CTU has advocated, nourished and proclaimed the same social justice ethos Mr. Stevenson so eloquently exudes in his call for people of faith to join him in the critical “prophetic and necessary Christian witness in the world we need so desperately” in political, cultural and social spaces.

Please join us!