Experts Discuss Narratives and Healing in the War on Ukraine

Metropolitan Borys Gudziak, archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA, converses with LCI students at the University of Chicago.

Churches must help give greater voice to Ukrainians in the narrative about the ongoing war in their country, instead of allowing conflicting narratives of world powers to dominate, said a scholar from Boston College, specializing in the intersection of geopolitics, religion and human rights. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, whose most recent work deals with Russian influence-building through religious

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New Executive Director Daniel Wasserman-Soler Interviews Former University of Chicago President Hanna Holborn Gray

Hanna Holborn Gray served as president of the University of Chicago from 1978 to 1993, the first woman to lead an American research university. Trained as a historian of Renaissance Europe, Professor Gray delivered a lecture entitled “Law and Lawyers in Thomas More’s Utopia” to a lively audience at Swift Hall on Saturday, February 4, following a Red Mass for the Hyde Park legal community. The following interview with Professor Gray, conducted by Lumen Christi Executive Director and Gray’s former student Daniel Wasserman-Soler, has been edited and condensed.

DWS: You gave a lecture on Thomas More following our Red Mass. Can you share a recap with our readers?

HG: Thomas More was a man whose execution came about after he performed acts of civil disobedience. He had sworn to uphold the law of the realm and came to the conclusion that he could not obey that law. He could not swear to the proposition that the king had become the head of the Church. He was, at the same time, convinced that he remained a faithful servant of the Crown and the kingdom. On the one hand, he had a remarkable career in which he enforced the law that he had

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Dear friends of Lumen Christi,

In the *Summa Theologica*, Thomas Aquinas describes charity as “the friendship of man for God.” It seems to me that studying the Catholic intellectual tradition is a remarkable way of pursuing our friendship with God. Just as we look forward to spending time with an old friend or getting to know a new friend, so too we have a chance to spend time with God and get to know Him better through studying the written heritage of His Church.

As I reflect on my first nine months at Lumen Christi, I realize that friendship has been a central theme. When introducing myself this year, I often told the story of how my Catholic friends at the University of Chicago made an impact on me. As an undergraduate at the university in the early 2000s, I met – for the first time – peers who were both Catholics and intellectuals (“Catholic nerds,” I like to say). I had grown up Catholic and had attended Mass faithfully all my life, but I had next to no idea that our Church is a thinking Church, one with an extraordinary mind. At age 18, through the witness of my friends, I began to appreciate the Church’s beautiful intellectual and cultural tradition.

One of the great revelations of my time as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago was the basic insight that Catholicism is not only about praying and doing good works. Thanks to friends whom I met through the Lumen Christi Institute, Calvert House, and the university, I learned that the Church has a treasure trove of wisdom in all spheres of life: economics, literature, politics, medicine, music, history, ethics, and so on. My Catholic friends, who would often reference papal encyclicals and cite quotes from the *Summa Theologica* in regular conversations helped me to realize the vast scope of the Catholic tradition.

Now, having returned to Hyde Park to serve the Lumen Christi Institute and the university that transformed my life and made me fall in love with the Catholic Church, I continue to find myself thinking about friendship. Coming out of the pandemic, our students seem less interested in large lectures and more drawn to programs with a personal touch. This year, the support of our donors has enabled us to develop a wide range of small reading groups, offering our students and faculty a chance to discuss fundamental questions and the Catholic tradition in an intimate setting. Last summer, we embarked on another community-building initiative: our Woodlawn residence for graduate students. Housing students from a range of fields – including art history, computer science, economics – this residence has become a center for communal prayer, meals, and friendship, engaging both residents and other students from campus.

Thank you for your support of the Lumen Christi Institute. It is an honor and a pleasure to share the Catholic intellectual tradition both on campus and with the broader society. I welcome you to write to me directly (dwasserman@lumenchristi.org) if I may be of service.

Yours in Christ,

Daniel Wasserman-Soler
Executive Director
The Lumen Christi Institute has fully resumed in-person events, with an even fuller calendar than pre-COVID! While giving pride of place to physical presence, we have incorporated a robust online element, making most of our public lectures and seminars also available to a virtual audience.

2022-23 Academic Year

121 events
2,677 in-person attendees
2,838 online attendees

MAY 5: A master class on “Retribution and St. Thomas Aquinas’s Teaching on Justice” with Fr. Stephen Brock (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross)

APR. 19: A student lunch discussion on “The Legacy of Benedict XVI” with Fr. Stephen Fields, S.J. (Georgetown University)

APR. 27: “America’s Real Sister Act: The Hidden History of Black Catholic Nuns in the United States” with Prof. Shannen Dee Williams (University of Dayton)

MAR. 30: Students share lunch and soak in the wisdom of economist and theologian Prof. Mary Hirschfeld (University of Notre Dame)

OCT. 27: Fellow scholars and friends of Dr. Russell Hittinger gathered to honor him at the symposium “The Future of Natural Law” with Fr. Kevin Flannery, S.J. (Pontifical Gregorian University), Prof. John Bowlin (Princeton Theological Seminary), and Prof. Scott Roniger (Loyola Marymount University)
sworn to uphold, and on the other hand, he later resisted a particular law, which he found impossible to obey. How does one reconcile those two things? I thought about the many different answers that had been given to that question. So many interpretations. I would say that my theme was to try to examine those controversies once again and to look at the *Utopia* from the point of view of how somebody who was already making a very successful legal career at the time of its composition also thought that lawyers should not be in an ideal society. I think the answer is that Thomas More was somebody who lived with a certain tension. To look at his own intellectual development and positions is not to say it had to be one thing or another, but that he actually lived with and experienced some degree of inner conflict, and that that may not be unusual for people of significant achievement.

DWS: During your career, you’ve been an advocate of free speech on college and university campuses. In your view, what is the state of the problem regarding free speech on campuses today?

HG: The campus is a place which should be a stage for freedom of expression. The job of academic administration is to maintain and protect that environment so that the greatest possible freedom for people to do their work and to express whatever it is they have on their minds should take place. One problem nowadays is a fear that if you say the wrong thing, if you offend people, there are going to be consequences. And so people are very careful about saying certain kinds of things. They’re worried about what’s going to happen to them. They’re worried that they’re going to be seen as terrible people. And of course, you have instances of people who are shouted down, not allowed to speak, or cancel culture. What’s happening on campus is an atmosphere of a little bit of fear and a great deal of caution. People are a reluctant to express themselves because they don’t want to offend or don’t want to be thought offenders. And that is certainly a huge reduction in the openness that a campus should have.

DWS: What do you think that Lumen Christi brings to a secular university?

HG: You’ve said, Danny, that the University of Chicago opened your eyes and your mind to the fact that there is an extraordinary tradition of Catholic intellectualism. To bring that to the university is immensely important. It enriches one’s understanding not only of religion, but philosophy, history, you name it. To present these to people who believe in having different points of view to debate is a demonstration of the enrichment that you can bring. You have very high-quality programs, very high-quality people, and any university could only be strengthened by that association.
soft power, said Ukraine is in the middle of a clash of civilizations that in some ways objectifies Ukraine. Each side — the U.S. and Western powers on one side and Vladimir Putin and Russia on the other — blames the other for the war in Ukraine, and both superpower narratives use language that attempts to “sanctify what they are doing.”

Prodromou was part of a panel discussion held at the University of Chicago on the eve of the anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The theme discussed was, “Ideologies of War and Theologies of Healing: Ukraine One Year Later.” The evening event on 23 February was part of a daylong program in Chicago organized by the Lumen Christi Institute and Fordham University’s Orthodox Christian Studies Center. CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association), Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Commonweal Magazine, America Media, the University of Chicago’s Martin Marty Center, and the Three Hierarchs Orthodox Christian Fellowship co-sponsored the event.

A luncheon at the University Club drew 140 people and the evening program drew about 60 people in person and almost 300 online.

It’s very difficult for churches to look to the Gospels and the Gospel message when people are being killed.

Churches face “an enormous challenge” in how to address the war and the kind of healing that will be needed when the war ends, said Prodromou, who also served under two U.S. administrations.

“It’s very difficult for churches to look to the Gospels and the Gospel message” when people are being killed, she said, using terms that do not seem to fit well in the context: “love, peace, justice, judgment, mercy, forgiveness, repentance.”

Another panel member, Perry Hamalis, a Greek Orthodox deacon and professor of religious studies at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, said the war was an opportunity for Christians to offer authentic witness.

“What is the witness that’s being offered to the world in this moment?” he asked. He then proceeded to answer his own question: Two Christian nations are killing each other, torturing, displacing and destroying. The war offers an opportunity for people who are anti-Christian to reduce Christianity to one more ideology that promotes violence, he said.

Hamalis said to prevent this kind of war and suffering from repeating itself, there “has to be an acknowledgment of responsibility and an act of genuine repentance.”

Gayle E. Woloschak, associate dean for graduate and post-doctoral affairs at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, said the Ukrainian community in the diaspora has been split by the war and will need healing once the war is over. She expressed gratitude for Americans who have reached out to offer prayers.

"It’s been so uplifting for Ukrainians to feel this love."

Metropolitan Borys Gudziak, archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, participated in the panel and earlier in the day at a luncheon, where he was the main speaker.

Archbishop Gudziak, who has visited Ukraine six times since the war began, as well as refugees in a dozen countries, noted that 14 million people have been displaced by the war, and he has not seen any of them living on the streets. They were welcomed into people’s homes and institutions, recognizing that humans have dignity and the common good is greater than the individual.

“You can address catastrophe if you do so in the light of Christ,” he told the participants at the luncheon. “It is there that I see hope for peace and a joy that fills the heart of men and women.”

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In 2022, The Lumen Christi Institute received a 3.65 million dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation (Grant #62372) to support the Catholic intellectual tradition on campuses nationwide. The In Lumine Network has expanded this year to a total of nine institutes. We interviewed one of the executive directors of the expanding network of Catholic institutes on university campuses, Dr. Elizabeth Lyon Hall, on the work that goes on behind the scenes. COLLIS was started because of the In Lumine Network and here Dr. Hall shares the story of COLLIS from its birth.

Interview with Dr. Elizabeth Lyon Hall (COLLIS)

LCI: What is the story behind the beginning of COLLIS?

ELH: The origins of COLLIS Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture lie in a phone call between the late Thomas Levergood and Jonathan Lunine, a planetary scientist at Cornell University. Thomas posed the idea of forming a Catholic institute at Cornell and offered to include the institute in a grant application to the Templeton Foundation if Jonathan could put together a board and incorporate within a matter of months. Thomas Levergood called the right person: Jonathan had founded the St. Albert the Great Forum on Science and Religion at Cornell. Several years earlier, co-founded The Society of Catholic Scientists (an international organization) and worked to establish a Cornell chapter of the Thomistic Institute—and in his day job, he was the chair of the Department of Astronomy at Cornell! He gets things done. Jonathan very quickly put together a fantastic board of Catholic faculty, COLLIS incorporated in January 2022, and the board put out a job posting for executive director in February 2022.

That’s where I come in. I am a Cornell alumna (PhD, ’21). Following a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics (Frankfurt am Main), I lectured at Cornell and Ithaca College while also working at Cornell’s campus ministry as music director and part-time campus minister. I had heard rumors around the campus ministry that a group of Cornell faculty was forming a Catholic institute, and when the job posting was announced, I jumped on it. I had been thinking for years that Cornell and Ithaca needed some kind of Catholic center for culture growth.

Growing the In Lumine Network
and learning (and was even working through the finances of what this would look like). So the timing seemed providential. I was hired in July 2022, and we now have one academic year of programming under our belt.

**LCI: What do you think are some of the major accomplishments of this year?**

ELH: After I was hired in July 2022, we obtained diocesan approval, attained 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, applied for affiliate status through Cornell United Religious Work, initiated donor outreach, acquired an office space on Cornell’s campus, all while running a pretty substantial year of programming. This academic year, we presented four lectures, one symposium, three workshops, six grad-faculty seminar” sessions, two non-credit courses, a sacred music choir, a house concert fundraiser, and piloted a community outreach program. It’s taken a lot of legwork to get everything up and running so quickly. I think we benefited from some amount of luck in obtaining approval from three complicated bureaucracies (the IRS, the USCCB, Cornell) with relatively little delay.

On a more human level, the two areas I am most proud of this year are winning significant faculty buy-in and participation and facilitating connections between faculty and PhD students. Most Catholic faculty at Cornell attend the local parishes, rather than the student liturgies on campus. For this reason, most Catholic students have had almost no connection with Catholic faculty. In fact, when I canvassed students about ideas for the institute last summer, students would usually ask me, “Are there any Catholic faculty members?” COLLIS provides a forum where Catholic faculty, students, and staff can interact and learn, and where Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions can be passed down in an authentic way—i.e. in relationship. We’ve had amazing faculty response to our programs and almost a dozen Cornell professors served as instructors or seminar leaders this past year. Connections between Catholic faculty and PhD students is particularly important to me given my own experience of writing on a Catholic topic at Cornell while in graduate school. I encountered challenges both in terms of research (theology is not usually held in esteem here) and in identifying an intellectual community. It turns out that there are actually a number of scholars at Cornell doing research that ties into Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic history, or the arts. In the past there has been no easy way to find each other. COLLIS can provide a context for connection and collaboration among these researchers. It is extremely gratifying to me to observe graduate students approach COLLIS faculty at the end of a session with words like, “Why haven’t I met you before? Can I make an appointment with you? My research is…”

It has been a lifeline to have a community of institutes who can provide know-how and perspective drawn from longer experience, and with whom to initiate meaningful friendships and collaborations. Belonging to a network of institutes has also provided a bona fides of sorts: COLLIS is new, but some of these other institutes (like Lumen Christi and Collegium) are established and have name recognition, even beyond Catholic circles. There have been a number of instances in which explaining that COLLIS belongs to the same network as Lumen Christi has opened doors, helped to communicate our aspirations, attracted speakers, etc…

**LCI: How do you understand the mission of COLLIS?**

ELH: COLLIS aims to develop Catholic thought, culture, and community at Cornell University, enriching students, faculty, staff, and community members of all faith traditions and none.

**LCI: You’re hosting a new summer seminar this summer at Cornell University’s campus. Can you tell us more and what you’re excited about?**

ELH: Yes! The seminar is called, ”Explorations in Integral Ecology: Science, Theology, and Creation.” Over the course of the seminar, participants will integrate theological study with scientific observation of the natural world...

For the rest of the interview, please visit the LCI website at www.lumenchristi.org/lyon
Financial markets have an outsized role in shaping the world in which we live. With so much at stake, how can investors integrate morals and economics? What are the creative solutions Catholic business leaders can apply to the problems of today’s world, to do good?

To confront these questions, the Lumen Christi Institute brought top thought leaders from around the country to the Booth School of Business at the heart of University of Chicago campus. Business ethics has become a major focus in recent years, in large part due to growing concern over unethical practices and contemporary critiques of global capitalism. This past spring, in partnership with Catholics at Booth, a student organization, LCI provided a robust program of scholarship to equip the business leaders of tomorrow with the formative thought of the Catholic tradition. Supplied with the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, speakers such as Dr. Mary Hirschfeld, Dr. Amir Sufi, Dr. Luigi Zingales, Terrence Keeley (former executive at BlackRock), and Sally Blount (CEO of Catholic Charities of Chicago) addressed students on creative approaches to the business problems of today.

Discussion with Professor Mary Hirschfeld and Professor Amir Sufi, March 30

On March 30, Professor Mary Hirschfeld (University of Notre Dame) spent the day at the Booth School of Business, beginning with a lunch conversation with business students and culminating in a public lecture titled “Rethinking Economic Inequality: a Theological Perspective.”

With a PhD in Economics from Harvard and a PhD in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, Hirschfeld, both economist and theologian, contributed a rare combination of expertise to the discussion. Inequality is a popular topic of focus in higher education, but Hirschfeld challenged listeners to take a still more radical view around today’s wealth inequality: apply Aquinas. Using a Thomistic framework, Hirschfeld taught students ways through which society could move “Toward a Humane Economy,” locating the source of economic life in the search for human happiness first. Money was made to serve human beings, not the other way around.

Later that evening, Hirschfeld gave a public lecture at the Booth School of Business. She further highlighted the limits of secular discourse around the problem of economic inequality, and the important role theology has in this sphere. Hirschfeld further foregrounded genuine human flourishing in Thomistic thought and discussed ethical responses today to the problem of economic inequality. Amir Sufi, Bruce Lindsay Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, gave a response to Hirschfeld’s argument. Identifying himself as a longtime fan of Hirschfeld’s work, Sufi added an interfaith and interdisciplinary view, drawing from his own research in corporate finance and macroeconomics, as well as from Islamic perspectives on the danger of pursuing wealth for its own sake.

Professor Luigi Zingales Interviews Terrence Keeley, April 13

Can financial managers fulfill their fiduciary obligations while pursuing the common good? Is it even possible to do well by doing good, and why might ESG (environment, social, governance) investing be a false solution to this problem? To address these questions, the Lumen Christi Institute and Catholics at Booth brought an interview to Booth’s campus featuring Luigi Zingales, Robert...
C. McCormack Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at Booth School of Business, and Terrence Keeley, former Managing Director of BlackRock, Inc., Chairman and CIO of 1PointSix LLC, and recent appointee by Pope Francis to oversee the Vatican Bank. The two had a spirited conversation on Keeley’s new book, *Sustainable: Moving Beyond ESG to Impact Investing*.

Terrence Keeley had lunch with Booth students to discuss his alternative to ESG investing: impact investing. The huge growth in ESG investments shows that there is a market. However, the numbers don’t look good from a data, definitions, or process perspective. But we can do well and do good, Keeley insists. By definition, there is a market in serving the underserved: to uplift minority-owned businesses or to convert factories to green energy. Directly investing in these efforts can give a return to the savvy investor as well as improve the lives of our brothers and sisters and the health of our planet.

“Solving large social and environmental problems requires thoughtful, dedicated capital. Solving our problems can also be quite lucrative when it’s done in the right way:

"Doing well by doing good is the ‘big idea’ behind ESG – and in my opinion the best way to achieve this is by mindfully investing more capital to serve the underserved."

**Lecture and Discussion with Sally Blount, May 11**

Over the last 10 years, “corporate purpose” has been cast in the spotlight, with companies writing ever more expansive purpose statements about how their firms make the world a better place and create meaningful communities. As people of faith, our hope must be in something bigger and more profound. What might Catholic Social Teaching suggest around these questions?

On May 11, Lumen Christi and Catholics at Booth partnered to bring Sally Blount, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Chicago and former dean at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, back to Booth’s campus to engage these challenges with the future business leaders of tomorrow. (Years ago, Blount served as Booth faculty, before moving to Stern School of Business at New York University where she taught and eventually became vice dean.)

Blount shared her wisdom with students, including her lessons from her work with Catholic Charities, where she is leading the organization through a three-year capabilities-building and strategic planning process that will re-imagine charities’ governance and deepen its impact — as they prepare to serve those in need in an increasingly polarized and economically unequal, post-pandemic world.

The momentum each of these conversations with these scholars and experts will carry beyond the lecture hall at Booth’s campus, to the dinner table, and beyond for students who are preparing to take the lead as the businessmen and businesswomen of tomorrow. LCI is excited to be a part of shaping that future.
Interview with Resident of New House of Catholic Graduate Students

This fall, we launched a Catholic residential community for students, after purchasing the former Jesuit community house on Woodlawn Avenue in Hyde Park. With our scholar-in residence, Fr. Peter Bernardi, S.J., serving as chaplain, graduate students across a range of disciplines live together in fellowship and participate in formation activities including regular dinners, prayer, and a seminar exploring the integration of faith and work.

We sat down with Terry Culpepper, a graduate of the University of Chicago who moved into the house last summer when it first opened.

**LCI: You had your own studio in a coveted building in Hyde Park. Why did you decide to move to the Woodlawn residence?**

**TC:** I was attracted by the chapel in the residence, and the opportunity to live with the real presence of the Blessed Sacrament, which helps catalyze one’s spiritual life like nothing else.

**LCI: How has living at the Woodlawn residence impacted your spiritual life?**

**TC:** Living with Christ Himself and having 24/7 access to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament has, I think, fostered much more spiritual development in me than in the counterfactual world where we don’t have such access to Him.

**LCI: What are you doing next year?**

**TC:** I’m pursuing a PhD in Business Economics at Harvard, a joint program between the Economics Department and Business School. I’m planning to specialize in industrial organization and econometrics, and social, labor, and public economics.

**LCI: What lessons will you bring from Woodlawn?**

**TC:** Probably most pertinent are Fr. Pete’s integration seminars - properly integrating my faith with my work is a very big issue for me. Economics in particular is a field where I think a lot of uninformed opinions are thrown around, including from various Catholics. Many people seem to have an axe to grind, whether it be by promoting their own economic policy preferences as the only moral choice Catholics can make (and not recognizing the possibility of faithful Catholics disagreeing on the prudential judgment of whether policy X is the best means of achieving goal Y), trying to attack the foundations of economic analysis as somehow dehumanizing (blindly trusting academic articles with abstracts that promote one’s views instead of checking the methodology), I’ve gotten into a few debates over this. The most important thing, by far, for me to do is to constantly go to Mass and have my daily periods of mental prayer, where I can just talk candidly with God about economics and what I should be doing with it at any given point in time. In this case, that means seeing and loving God through how He guides humans’ social relations.
The Magis Series on Faith and Reason launched last year in a partnership between the Lumen Christi Institute and St. Ignatius College Prep and was so successful that it expanded this spring to include a new school as well – Loyola Academy, located in Wilmette, IL.

The program series brings accessible yet sophisticated lectures on the Church’s intellectual tradition to the broad lay public. The event is open to everyone from high school students to retirees. Anyone who desires a lively entree into the mind of the Church is welcome and encouraged to attend.

This past spring on April 18, Lumen Christi and Loyola Academy hosted a Magis Lecture on “Evil and the God of Love,” at the Loyola Academy McGrath Family Performing Arts Center. The event fostered an intergenerational community – 130 attendees ranging from high school students to retired professionals. Fr. Stephen Fields, S.J. (professor of Theology at Georgetown University) delivered the lecture.

LCI has a dedicated mission to sharing the light of the Catholic intellectual tradition with the university. This is our way of also ensuring that this light shines broadly to our local communities in Chicagoland. We’re thrilled to continue working with Loyola Academy and St. Ignatius College Prep.

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For more information, visit LUMENCHRISTI.ORG/PLANNED-GIVING

Or contact JOHN BUCHMANN at 724-549-4516 or jwbuchmann@lumenchristi.org if you would like more information, wish to discuss making a planned gift that benefits both you and the Lumen Christi Institute, or have already included the Lumen Christi Institute in your estate plans.

“`We need to promote Christ at all different levels. Lumen Christi functions at the scholarly level. In these times, the Church certainly needs more Augustines.”`

- ZITA GAVIN, PHILANTHROPIST

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