When John Henry Newman converted to the Roman Catholic Church in 1845, it was his only hope that he be able “to minister in a humble way to the Catholic Church.” His days of public influence and national fame were at an end, he thought. What a surprise it would have been to the Newman of 1845 to learn that in 2019 he would be declared a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church, seminars and conferences would be held on his thought, and he would be widely recognized as the most influential Catholic theologian of the 19th century.

On Wednesday, October 30th, the Lumen Christi Institute held “John Henry Newman’s Path to Sainthood” at the Holy Name Cathedral Auditorium.

Continued on Page 2
Newman Canonization continued

The event provided an overview of Newman’s significance, influence, and sanctity. Kenneth Woodward, journalist and author of *Making Saints*, hosted a conversation between Melissa Villalobos, the recipient of Newman’s second miracle, and Fr. Ian Ker, the world’s leading scholar of Newman’s thought.

Villalobos narrated in arresting fashion her miraculous healing. While she was pregnant with her fifth child, Villalobos was diagnosed with a subchorionic hematoma that threatened both her and her child’s life. She told the audience of over 150 of her devotion to Newman and his intercession that healed her. “It was a rare opportunity to get to hear from someone who has had a direct intercessory experience,” said Madison Chastain. “It was a privilege to listen to her very vulnerable story and about her devotion to Cardinal Newman.” Villalobos was generous enough to share the story in greater depth than had been reported in public news reports, and the audience was gifted the opportunity to learn about a second intervention by Newman that reassured Villalobos that she would not suffer any lasting consequences from the hematoma. Julie Conway, another attendee, summarized the event well: “Today we can easily be sidetracked by the darkness and hopelessness that bombard us from all sides. Melissa’s story of the miraculous cure she experienced through the intercession of St. John Henry Newman was filled with light, faith, and inspiration.”

Fr. Ker provided a scholarly complement to Villalobos. He elaborated on Newman’s personal sanctity and the significance of Newman’s thought to the Church. “Fr. Ker’s unparalleled expertise provided a theological context for Melissa’s personal story,” said Michael Dinsmore. Fr. Ker was in a unique position because his tireless promotional efforts on behalf of Newman’s canonization were indirectly responsible for both miracles. Both Jack Sullivan (the recipient of the first miracle) and Villalobos had seen a program on EWTN featuring Fr. Ker and began their devotion to Newman afterwards. Lumen Christi
has often had the opportunity to lean on Fr. Ker’s expertise and has maintained a relationship with Fr. Ker since his first lecture for the Institute, on “Newman, Vatican II, and the Hermeneutic of Continuity,” in 2012.

For the past seven years, Fr. Ker has led a Lumen Christi summer seminar at Oxford for graduate students on the thought of John Henry Newman. The seminar provides an opportunity for graduate students from a variety of disciplines and universities to study the thought of the Church’s newest saint. “I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to study at such a beautiful and historic campus. My colleagues brought a wealth of insight from their respective disciplines, and this helped me understand the different facets not only of Newman’s thought but of the Catholic intellectual tradition as a whole,” one participant from 2015 said. The seminar has even helped to refine or expand graduate students’ academic work. One participant who is writing a dissertation on Newman at a German university appreciated the seminar as a “great opportunity for me to learn more about the Catholic intellectual tradition in the 19th century, especially since you cannot find anything like [it] in German academia.”

By organizing these seminars, the Lumen Christi Institute contributes to the Catholic formation of elite graduate students and prepares them to teach classes on Catholic topics when they are hired by a (more than likely) public or secular university.

Other events were held to celebrate Newman’s legacy. On October 31st, Fr. Ker spoke at the University of Chicago on the topic, “Newman’s Apologetics of the Imagination.” And on October 18th, the Lumen Christi Institute held, “The Making of a Modern Saint: John Henry Newman on Faith and Education in a Secular Age.” This conference was the first official event of the Newman Forum, Lumen Christi’s new program to introduce high school students to the Catholic intellectual tradition. Insofar as Newman himself considered that, “from first to last, education … has been my line,” the Lumen Christi Institute is honored to continue that tradition in its outreach to undergraduates, graduate students, and now to high school students as well.
Summer Seminars continued

The Thought of René Girard

This summer, for the first time, the Lumen Christi Institute held a seminar for graduate students on one of the most influential 20th century Catholic thinkers, René Girard. Held at the picturesque Premonstratensian Abbey of Saint-Michel de Frigolet near Avignon, France—Girard’s birthplace—the seminar brought in fifteen students for a week of seminar discussions and fellowship. The seminar was led by Grant Kaplan, Professor of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University, and Wolfgang Palaver, Professor of Catholic Social Thought at the University of Innsbruck. Through an intensive reading of his major works of literary analysis, religious anthropology, and Biblical exegesis, the five-day seminar explored Girard’s key insights into the imitation of desire, conflict, and scapegoating, connecting them to central themes of Christian theology. Students were also able to participate in the abbey’s singing of the office.

Chelsea King, a doctoral student in Theology at Notre Dame and participant in the seminar, said that “This was one of the best experiences I have had as a student. I found that the syllabus was structured well, and I really appreciated studying Girard’s thought from a variety of angles. It was great to have such diverse fields represented in the group and made for a great discussion. There was never a dull moment! I also couldn’t believe how delicious the food was, and how hospitable the monks at the Abby were. I also found that it was a good balance between social activities and academic work. It was great that we had a chance to establish community and friendship outside of the context of a formal seminar. Overall, this was fantastic; an experience I will always remember.”

Business & Catholic Social Thought: A Primer

This summer, the Lumen Christi Institute hosted its fourth annual summer seminar titled “Economics and Catholic Social Thought: A Primer.” This seminar is designed as an introduction and immersion into Catholic social thought for graduate students and junior faculty in economics, finance, or related fields. Following the success of this seminar, two of its leaders, Martijn Cremers and Fr. Martin Schlag, asked Lumen Christi to help coordinate a similar seminar designed expressly and exclusively for doctoral students and faculty in the field of business. Led by Schlag, Cremers, Andreas Widmer, and Lloyd Sandelands, “Business and Catholic Social Thought: A Primer” convened for the first time, at the University of Notre Dame, from June 2 to 5.

Guided by leading scholars of business and Catholic social teaching, the seminar gathered 20 faculty and students from fields ranging from business ethics to accounting for ten sessions of lectures, presentations, and discussion at the Mendoza College of Business. Sessions were designed by the seminar faculty to widen epistemological preconceptions and show practical im-
lications of Catholic social teaching for business in a way that affirms the goodness of business directed toward the common good. Multiple institutions came together to coordinate this seminar: the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought at the University of St. Thomas (MN); the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame; the Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship at the Catholic University of America; the Lumen Christi Institute; and the Markets, Culture and Ethics Research Centre at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome. A second seminar will be held again at Notre Dame in the summer of 2020.

Modern Science and Catholic Faith: Graduate and Undergraduate seminars

A grant received this past year from the John Templeton Foundation has dramatically extended the Lumen Christi Institute’s programming in Science and Religion. This summer, for the first time, the Lumen Christi Institute held two seminars for students in STEM fields, Philosophy, and Theology, on “Modern Science and Catholic Faith,” one for graduate students, and a second one aimed at undergraduates. The graduate seminar was led by microbiologist, Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P. and physicist and president of Society of Catholic Scientists, Stephen Barr. It took place at Providence College, in Rhode Island, and brought in seventeen students for a week of seminar discussions and fellowship. The undergraduate seminar was also led by Barr, along with theologian Chris Baglow, and took place at the Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. Both seminars provided participants with the background knowledge and conceptual tools necessary to understand and think clearly
about the tensions between and integration of science and faith. Providence Seminar participant and Graduate student in Psychology at the University of Toronto Vanessa Chan said that she “found the seminar very informative and provided a solid framework for understanding not only philosophical foundations, but also the perspectives from which secular thinkers are approaching the same questions. It was a lot of fun for someone who hasn’t had much philosophy background, and to be able to share in the viewpoints that scientists, philosophers, and theologians brought to the table. The week was intellectually, spiritually, and socially edifying, and I don’t normally get all three at once, so it was great”.

**Monastic Wisdom Seminar**

Last June, the Lumen Christi Institute held a seminar for undergraduate and graduate students in various disciplines on the tradition of monastic wisdom, discipline, and theological reflection. Hosted in partnership with the community of Trappist monks living at New Melleray Abbey, the seminar brought twelve male students to Iowa for a week of seminar discussions, communal prayer, fellowship, and manual labor on the Abbey’s grounds. As such, the seminar introduced students not only to the monastic wisdom tradition as it can be encountered in classic works of spirituality and devotion, but also to that tradition as a living and shared patrimony appropriated communally and liturgically.

The seminar was led by the monks of New Melleray, including New Melleray’s Abbot, Fr. Mark Scott, OSCO. Students read works by St. Benedict of Nursia—founder of western monasticism and the patron saint of Europe—St. John Cassian, St. Athanasius, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. They also prayed communally with the monks, participating in the prayerful rhythm of monastic life cadenced by the divine office, which the monks gather together seven times daily to pray.

Charles Ducey, PhD student in German at the University of Chicago (and currently a postulant with the Congregation of the Holy Cross), said “I greatly appreciated the chance to attend the monastic wisdom study retreat at New Melleray. I didn’t imagine that I would be able to wake up at 3:15 each morning for vigil prayer, but all of the participants managed to rise for the start of the divine office every day during the retreat. The time with the monks was invaluable—they are very wise and holy men. In addition to the seminar meetings that they led, several of the monks, including the abbot, also joined us for dinner on several occasions and shared about their vocations. Brother Juan Diego, a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, spoke with great conviction about his call to the monastery and gave me some advice about my own spiritual discernment. I speak for all the participants in saying that Lumen Christi ought to repeat and expand seminars of this kind next summer”.

**Future Seminars**

Over the last 10 years, the Lumen Christi Institute’s summer seminars have become a gold-standard for graduate-level summer programming. These latest expansions have allowed the Institute to not only increase the breadth of our offerings, but to also make them available to undergraduate students. We are actively fundraising to support our existing primary seminars, and to continue making available new offerings. Plans for future seminars include a program in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, in Ireland, that brings together undergraduate and recent graduates from America and Ireland; a monastic wisdom seminar for women taking place at a Benedictine monastery; a seminar for African American college students that bring in dialogue the African American and Catholic intellectual traditions; and large “democratic seminars” in Chicago and Paris open to all qualified doctoral students, featuring our top senior scholars, on topics like the mystical theology tradition. If you are interested in supporting these initiatives and would like to learn more, reach out to Julie Ryan at julie.ryan@lumenchristi.org.
For over a decade, the Lumen Christi Institute has been hosting great books seminars for executive-level professionals working in downtown Chicago. These seminars span an academic year and gather together between twenty and thirty professionals monthly for an hour-long discussion over Friday lunch. Lumen Christi’s scholar-in-residence, Fr. Paul Mankowski, SJ, who earned his doctorate at Harvard Divinity School and holds degrees from Oxford University and the University of Chicago, selects a syllabus organized around an annual theme, assigns selections from the texts, and provides guiding questions for discussion. The sessions are occasions for continuing intellectual growth and refreshment for the busy professionals who carve out time to discuss classic works of Christian literature, poetry, and apologetics. This year Lumen Christi partnered with Young Catholic Professionals of Chicago, the local chapter of the national organization devoted to helping young adults witness to Christ in their workplaces, to host a parallel seminar for early-career professionals. Organized and financed jointly, it too is led by Fr. Mankowski and uses the same theme and syllabus—this year, “The Novel and the Crisis of Faith.” The sessions have drawn 35 registrants to dinner, drinks, and discussion of texts by Evelyn Waugh, Flannery O’Connor, Graham Greene, Dostoevsky, and others. The group has developed a lively rapport; participants often attend Mass prior to the seminar gatherings at the law firm Skadden Arps and continue the conversation at happy hours immediately afterward.

Brian Smith, a product manager in the communications platforms industry, initially proposed the idea of the Lumen Christi – Young Catholic Professionals great books seminar last summer. “Many of us in Young Catholic Professionals are impressed and inspired by members of the seasoned Catholic professionals community,” he explained, on account of their commitment “to study of and reflection on important theological issues. We were eager for something similar.”

Cristin Pacifico, a recent alumna of the University of Notre Dame who works as a senior analyst for Home Chef, registered for the seminar because “much of literature is brought to life through discussion,” she said. “I was eager to join a group rather than read these works independently,” she continued. “My favorite part is meeting other young Catholic professionals and engaging them in dialogue about the great books, their meaning, and their relevance.”

Tom Kelly, a senior client portfolio manager at SJS Investment Services, had attended several Lumen Christi events and wanted to get more involved in the Institute’s work. The seminar’s theme hooked him. “The crisis of faith is certainly evident in our world and strikingly prevalent in our generation,” Kelly said. “There’s a real need to be strengthened in faith when we as young Catholic professionals are encountering the world in a new way, and it’s encouraging to know that the anti-Christian themes we’re facing today in politics, culture, and society are really nothing new.”

Anastasia Evanich was a consultant at Deloitte when she joined and recently began her MBA program at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management. “Four years out of college,” Evanich said, “I missed an academic setting in which I could read classical books and ask challenging questions.” The sociable atmosphere in which the group has conducted its discussions has been important for her. “The seminar differs from typical young adult activities insofar as it provides an authentic and sustained opportunity to grow in friendship throughout the course of eight months,” she said. “This is the best Young Catholic Professionals program or event I’ve attended in my four years in Chicago. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Pacifico concurred. “The true benefit of the seminar is coming together in community,” she said. “Together, we engage in prayer, discussion, and laughter.” Kelly agreed: “The seminar has exceeded my expectations, in part due to the meeting of new friends and the fellowship shared before, during, and afterwards.”

Young Catholic Professionals intends to host another seminar cycle in 2020. Registration information for that seminar will be available on the group’s website.
Lumen Christi Welcomes New Development Staff Member Julie Ryan

The Lumen Christi Institute is proud to introduce you to our new Senior Director of Development, Julie Ryan. Lumen Christi hired Julie after undergoing a strategic plan with Petrus Development, a consulting firm specializing in helping Catholic ministries raise more money in order to further their missions.

Julie joins Lumen Christi after a development career that began in 1993. She spent time working in higher education and most recently at a non-profit retirement community. Most notably, she spent almost five years at Benedictine University, where she assisted in closing out a $150 million capital campaign.

Prior to her work in development, Julie graduated from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, with a bachelor's in Humanistic Studies, an interdisciplinary major that was formerly known as Christian Culture, and based upon British cultural historian Christopher Dawson's suggestions for a liberal education. She then received a master's in History from DePaul University, with a concentration in British Imperial history. As a lifelong learner, Julie then attended University of Notre Dame's non-profit management certification program.

Her educational background coupled with her development experience, made Julie an ideal candidate for Lumen Christi. In addition, she has a deep commitment to Catholic education. Her daughter, Bridget, is a senior at Nazareth Academy in LaGrange Park.

“Lumen Christi’s mission of inspiring graduate and undergraduate students, and now high school students through the Newman Forum, to study the Catholic intellectual tradition is a major part of my life’s work as well,” said Julie. “Reading Benedict’s Rule, Augustine’s Confessions, the works of Aquinas, and even Flannery O’Connor formed my perspective on the world. A liberal education rooted in Catholicism creates better business leaders and stronger families. I think it’s vital to maintain the Catholic educational traditions in the midst of vocational teaching that is becoming so prevalent today.”

Part of Julie’s charge at Lumen Christi is to expand their reach into the Chicago suburbs, creating more regularly scheduled programs and events for those interested in the mission of Lumen Christi, but who do not travel to Hyde Park or downtown.

“A monthly Great Books program in the western and northern suburbs would keep people connected to Lumen Christi and be convenient for them,” commented Julie. “As someone who has lived in the western suburbs for most of their life, I know there is a strong interest to support Lumen Christi there.”

Julie’s experience in Planned Giving will also help Lumen Christi as they secure Endowment funds to preserve the legacy of Lumen Christi in the future. As we approach the 25th anniversary in 2022, we want to ensure that Lumen Christi is around for the next 25 years and beyond. If you want to be in touch with Julie about supporting Lumen Christi’s mission, she can be reached at julie.ryan@lumenchristi.edu.
Studies indicate that Latino Catholic communities account for over 70 percent of growth in the US Catholic Church since 1960 and now represent 40 percent of the Catholic population in the United States. Yet meaningful exchanges across cultural and linguistic divides within the Church are few, and Latino communities remain under-resourced by Catholic educational institutions. To help respond to these changing realities, the Lumen Christi Institute was awarded a $20,000 grant from the Our Sunday Visitor Institute (OSVI) for a project aimed at bringing the Hispanic Catholic experience into greater focus for the US Catholic Church.

Lumen Christi’s project, “Bringing to Light the Hispanic Catholic Experience: Broadening and Deepening the Catholic Intellectual Tradition,” has three objectives: (1) to help fortify the formation of Latino/a Catholic leaders in the Catholic intellectual tradition; (2) to transmit to the broader US Catholic Church the insights of the Hispanic Catholic theological tradition and heritage; and (3) to serve as a pilot project that Lumen Christi and other institutions can subsequently expand. The project consists of a series of four visits to Chicago by Latino/a Catholic scholars, two of which occurred in 2019, with two further visits on the horizon in 2020. Each visit includes a public lecture of a scholar’s research, recorded for distribution through our website, as well as a separate workshop for students, teachers, and leaders in Latino Catholic communities.

“Bringing to Light the Hispanic Catholic Experience” launched in April 2019 with the visit of Michael Lee. Of Puerto Rican ancestry, Lee is an Associate Professor of Theology at Fordham University with an appointment in its Latin American and Latino Studies Institute. His recent scholarship focuses on Saint Óscar Romero, the El Salvadorian martyr assassinated in 1980 and canonized last year. On April 11th, Lee presented on Romero’s life and theological legacy to a large crowd in downtown Chicago and participated in a book symposium dedicated to his Revolutionary Saint: The Theological Legacy of Saint Óscar Romero (2018) at the University of Chicago. The evening prior, Lee led a master class at Gavin House on the preferential option for the poor, the precept that Christians are obligated to assist the poor and should view the Gospel through the perspectives of the world’s poor and marginalized.

Lumen Christi continued the event series this fall as it hosted Carlos Eire, the T. Lawrason Riggs Professor of History and Professor of Religious Studies at Yale University. Eire specializes in the religious and cultural history of late medieval and early modern Europe, with a focus on the Protestant and Catholic Reformations, the history of popular piety, and the history of death and the supernatural. Eire is also the author of two memoirs treating his experience as a refugee from Cuba: Waiting for Snow in Havana (2003), which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction, and Learning to Die in Miami (2010). While in Chicago, Eire offered a workshop for leaders in the Latino Catholic community on October 23rd at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, on Chicago’s Lower West Side. On October 24th, Eire presented a lunchtime cultural forum to a downtown audience on The Life of Therese of Avila, and returned to the University of Chicago campus for an evening symposium on his book, The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila: A Biography (2019).

In the winter quarter (March 4th and 5th), Lumen Christi will welcome Hosffman Ospino, Associate Professor of His-

The final scholar visit of the series will occur in the spring quarter (May 20th and 21st), as Lumen Christi welcomes rising Latina moral theologian Nichole Flores, Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Professor Flores’s work addresses a broad set of issues, from migration to family and politics, and emphasizes the contributions of Latino/a and Catholic theologies to notions of justice, emotion, and aesthetics.

Lumen Christi has created a steering committee charged with charting the way forward for this pilot program beyond the project’s initial term. Lumen Christi staff members, Latino/a Catholic scholars, and leaders within the Latino Catholic community sit on this committee.

Upon awarding of the OSVI grant, Thomas Levergood, Executive Director of the Lumen Christi Institute, expressed gratitude and a hope for future endeavors surrounding Latino Catholic initiatives: “We at Lumen Christi are deeply grateful to the Our Sunday Visitor Institute for once again partnering with us to present programming aimed at deepening and broadening the Catholic intellectual tradition’s content and reach. We are confident that this project will bear fruit for the Church as she witnesses significant demographic and cultural developments in the 21st century.”

Questions about “Bringing to Light the Hispanic Catholic Experience” can be directed to Lumen Christi Associate Director and project co-director Michael Le Chevallier at m.lechevallier@lumenchristi.org.
MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation by visiting our website or mailing in the insert attached to this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

JAN 16
“Becoming Human in Light of the Gospel of John”
a lecture by Fr. John Behr

FEB 15
“Creation: Artistic & Divine”
A Newman Forum Conference for High School Students

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED?
You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter or subscribe to our YouTube Channel and podcast.

www.lumenchristi.org

Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, OP leads a discussion during “Modern Science and Christian Faith,” a week-long summer seminar for graduate students held at Providence College.