

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Panel of Graduating Seniors

2013 JCU “Celebration of Scholarship”

**Sadie Curtin, “Sophia: A Challenge for Women’s Equality within the Catholic Church”**

Challenging the predominantly masculine understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, this paper provides an alternative and feminist approach to the image of God through the study of Sophia/Wisdom. The paper identifies the struggles that women face as members of a patriarchal society whose structures directly contradict the message and mission of Jesus in the Gospels. Furthermore, it portrays the inequalities that women face today and argues that church tradition needs to be changed in order to be more in line with what Jesus actually intended so that Catholic women may have equal leadership in the Church.

**Jillian Dunn, “Hope Theology in Relationship with the Legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola: In the World, Out of the World, and Beyond the World”**

This essay explores the “theology of hope” as it was developed by such influential twentieth-century theologians as Dorothee Sölle, Wolfhart Pannenberg, Johann Baptist Metz, and Karl Rahner, and draws correlations between these theological models and the life and work of St. Ignatius of Loyola. I evaluate these past developments in the Ignatian theology of hope with a view toward understanding how that vision of Christian hope is reflected in modern Catholic thought and practice. Building on the past fifty years of work using hope as the theological lens through which to view the ultimate ends of the Christian life, and bringing those recent developments into dialogue with the Ignatian tradition, I explore some of the practical and concrete differences that the Christian hope makes for life in the world today.

**Dónal McGinn Moorer, “Politics and Ethics in the New English Translation of the Roman Missal”**

This presentation critiques the process behind the creation of the 2011 English Translation of the Roman Missal to assess its level of compliance with the translation norms established by the Second Vatican Council and the organizational structure mandated by the Principle of Subsidiarity. I begin with an outline of the actual translation process drawing from such sources as *Liturgiam Authenticam*, the Congregation of Divine Worship’s document on liturgical translations. Then I compare that process to the translation norms outlined by Vatican II in *Sancrosanctum Concilium*. Finally, I evaluate the process in light of the Principle of Subsidiarity (as outlined by *Quadragesimo Anno*) to determine its moral standing. I conclude that the process for the New Translation of the Roman Missal was not only a violation of the norms established at the Second Vatican Council, but also a grave violation of the Church’s social-justice teaching on good governance.

**Jonathan Ruano, “The Case of *Mara Salvatrucha*: How the Catholic Church Is Helping to Prevent the Spread of Violence in El Salvador”**

Violence is a deep-seated element of human society, which poses problems on many levels and diverse ways, perhaps particularly with respect to terrorist and gang activity. This paper is to research one of the most violent gangs in the world, *Mara Salvatrucha*, also known as MS-13. Is this gang a terrorist group? Do they have a terrorist agenda? Do they have terrorist ties? What are their tactics? What are churches, in particular the Catholic Church, doing to help? These are some of the questions that this paper will discuss. I will argue that this gang is not a terrorist group and will also make the point that the Catholic Church, especially in El Salvador, has helped and is continuing to help prevent the spread of violence.