

Winter Adult Education Program

Great women and men have shaped the Church we know today. **“Outstanding Contemporary Catholics”**, a six-week course, samples the writings of Dorothy Day, Henri Nouwen, Pope John XXIII, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Thomas Merton, and Charles Curran.

January 10 - “Don’t Call Me a Saint”: Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day, American journalist and social activist, became known for her social justice campaigns in defense of the poor, forsaken, hungry and homeless. Alongside Peter Maurin, she founded the Catholic Worker Movement in 1933, espousing nonviolence and hospitality for the impoverished and downtrodden.

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien

January 17 - “The Wounded Healer”: Henri Nouwen

Henri Nouwen, a prolific Dutch spiritual writer, shares his own inner struggles while putting his finger on the intimate touch of God in his life. As a wounded healer himself, Nouwen offers hope and insight to others with his spirituality of imperfection.

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien

January 24 - “A Pope Opens the Windows”: John XXIII

When Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was elected pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, many pundits predicted that the rotund Italian would not rock the boat. Much to the surprise of the world, Pope John XXIII opened the windows of the Church, prayed for a new Pentecost, and convened the first ecumenical council in 400 years. Vatican Council II was the first council called neither to combat heresy, pronounce new dogma nor marshal the church against hostile forces. Instead, Vatican II ushered in a new era of Catholic dogma and practice.

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien

January 31 - “Saint of the Gutters”: Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize for her exemplary work among the poorest of the poor. She founded an order of nuns called the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India dedicated to serving the poor. Almost 50 years later, the Missionaries of Charity have grown from 12 sisters in India to over 3,000 in 517 missions throughout 100 countries worldwide. Mother Teresa’s message is simple – love God and love your neighbor.

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien

February 7 - “The Contemplative Critic”: Thomas Merton

Thomas Merton, known for his best seller, The Seven Storey Mountain, combined contemplative living with keen social awareness. Fellow Trappist monk, Basil Pennington says that Merton invites us to get in touch with the contemplative dimension of life – the deeper, transcendent reality that alone gives life enough meaning.

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien

February 14 - “Loyal Dissent”: Charles Curran

In 1968 when the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* reaffirmed the church’s ban on artificial contraception, Charles Curran, then a moral theologian at Catholic University, wrote a dissenting opinion. Father Curran was removed from his teaching position at Catholic University despite strong backing from Catholic theologians. Curran’s life raises the question – “Is it possible to dissent and still be Catholic?”

Wednesday eve, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Day Chapel

Instructor; Jim O’Brien