

THE 39TH ANNUAL FLANNERY LECTURE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 2015, 7:30 P.M.

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, CATALDO HALL, GLOBE ROOM

Love in a Weighted World: The Broken Heart of Catholic Identity

Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Professor of Theology, Fordham University

The question that orients this presentation is, how might we conceptualize the heart of Catholic identity in a world so evidently fractured? Within the Catholic community there is often disagreement on what should bind the collective together. In the wider world, the competing forces of religious diversity and secularization sometimes cause us to question whether holding particular religious commitments is useful at all, especially when we see the ways religious identities can create divisions and perpetuate injustice.

Using her research from interfaith studies, feminist theology, critical theory and Catholic tradition, Dr. Hill Fletcher proposes the possibility of “cosmopolitan religious identities” and considers the broken-heart at the heart of Catholic identity.



About the Speaker: Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Professor of Theology, Fordham University

She writes at the intersection of Catholic identity and various sites of diversity: religious diversity, gender, race and economic disparity. Her books include, *Monopoly on Salvation? A Feminist Approach to Religious Pluralism* (Continuum, 2005) and *Motherhood as Metaphor: Engendering Interreligious Dialogue* (Fordham University Press, 2013).

Dr. Hill Fletcher has served two terms as the co-chair of the Roman Catholic Studies group of the American Academy of Religion. Her current work is concerned about the relationship between religious diversity and racism, and the need for actively anti-racist theologies. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, Dr. Hill Fletcher serves as the Faculty Director of the Service-Learning program with Fordham's Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice. She has learned much also from her work with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, a grassroots social-justice collaborative.

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& OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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