

ENVISIONING A JUST RESPONSE TO THE CATHOLIC CLERGY ABUSE CRISIS

FEBRUARY 25, 2020 | 5:30 PM
Hemmingson Center Ballroom



Dr. Jennifer Beste

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Professor of Theology, College of Saint Benedict and
Saint John's University

In this lecture, Dr. Beste argues that Catholic communities seeking justice and healing must prioritize action on three issues that remain overlooked. First, as a body of Christ, we have not yet fully understood and acknowledged the severe traumatic effects of clergy sexual abuse on youths' sense of self, their capacity for freedom, and their capacity to relate constructively to God, others, and themselves. Second, recognizing the ways in which survivors continue to suffer from traumatization, we need to forge an authentic way of being in solidarity with clergy sexual abuse survivors and supporting them in their pursuit of justice and healing. Third, we need to examine how Catholic assumptions about children and norms requiring children's passivity and obedience contributed to the phenomenon of clergy sexual abuse. We need to develop a revised account of what constitutes justice for children.

About Dr. Beste

Jennifer Beste is Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture and Professor of Theology at the College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University. She received her Master's Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School and her Ph.D. in Religious Ethics from Yale University. She is author of *College Hookup Culture and Christian Ethics: The Lives and Longings of Emerging Adults* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) and *God and the Victim: Traumatic Intrusions on Grace and Freedom* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). Her research interests include trauma theory and Christian theology; ethnography and Christian ethics; sexual ethics; feminist ethics; and children, justice, and Catholicism.

About the Lecture Series

The Flannery Chair of Roman Catholic Theology is an endowed Chair gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence of theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. An outstanding theologian is invited twice per year to deliver The Flannery Lecture in Catholic Theology.

LECTURE IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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