

# TOTUM ET INTEGRUM

*May the God of peace make you **whole and entire**,  
spirit, soul, and body.*

*1 Thess 5:23*

VOL. 2 NO. 3

EST. 2022

FEB 2024

## Fr. Mark: A Lenten Meditation

Dear Friends,

Here in New Orleans, the transition to Lent is rather pronounced. Up until the very last moment, we celebrate the revelry of Mardi Gras—parades, throws, exaggerating excess, putting ourselves on display, as it were, as people in need of something that even all this pageantry and celebration cannot quite give us. So, we clean up, grow quiet, and receive on our foreheads a reminder of our need to “repent and believe in the Gospel.” I like to hear this also as repent, and be the Gospel. During Mardi Gras, we enjoy the brief pleasure of dressing up, of being someone else, for a night or day of fun, of celebration, and then it is past—see you next year! But, to robe ourselves with the Gospel, is to do something more permanent, to dedicate ourselves to becoming more holy, more like God and God’s Word.

Lent reserves a space for us to do that. The noise of Mardi Gras is replaced by silence. We make an extra effort not to get to parades, but to Mass. We go out of our way to pray more, to give away more and to fast, to sacrifice. This Lent our Catholic Studies’ talks will be exploring the mystery and the sacredness of the human person, the ways in which we are, and can more deeply be, God’s ambassadors, as the Ash Wednesday readings urge us to be. We, the students, faculty and staff of the Canizaro Center are eager to dive more deeply into these mysteries this Lent by listening to our speakers, by praying for all of you, and for each other, by coming to know the Word more deeply, through Bible study, by giving of ourselves in service to the community, and by putting aside and giving up those things that keep us from God. That is how we become what we hear and see in the Word. That is how we grow in holiness. That is how we together witness to what it means to be the Church Catholic, our indispensable companion on this journey. Here we share a few of the things which we have done since the beginning of the semester. But, in the spirit of Lent, we eagerly anticipate that the best is yet to come!



CANIZARO CENTER  
FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

Fr. Mark Mossa, SJ





# Meet Our Newest Team Member!

Dear All,

I am Morgan Dufour, and it is both an honor and a privilege to introduce myself as the newly appointed Administrative Assistant for Catholic Studies at Loyola University. As I step into this role, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to this community and play a role in nurturing a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

The Catholic faith, with its rich history, traditions, and intellectual depth, provides a compelling framework for academic inquiry and personal growth. I am excited to engage with students and the wider community in meaningful discussions that delve into the theological and cultural aspects of the Catholic tradition.

Collaboration is a cornerstone of any thriving academic environment, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside two distinguished individuals, Fr. Mark Mossa, SJ and Joshua Hinchie, SJ. Their dedication to the mission of Catholic Studies is inspiring, and I am eager to learn from their expertise and contribute to the collective journey of exploration and understanding.

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the students of Catholic Studies. Your warm welcome has been both heartening and encouraging as I embark on this new role. The positive reception and friendly atmosphere you've extended have made my transition into this community incredibly smooth.

As we embark on this collaborative venture, I am confident that our collective efforts will not only enrich the academic landscape of Loyola University, but also contribute to the spiritual and intellectual development of all those involved. I am truly grateful for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to building lasting connections within the Loyola community as we navigate this exciting chapter together.



Morgan Dufour



**CANIZARO CENTER  
FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES**  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS



# Rome: Study Abroad

This Fall we sent four more students to Rome for a Catholic Studies study abroad experience. This marked the first time that we, along with our partners from a national Catholic Studies consortium, sent students to live at the Pontifical Irish College, and study at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Students studied theology, philosophy, and even novels of Rome, and were able to visit some of the very places described in their readings! Different excursions gave them a taste of life at the heart of the Church, and in neighboring countries. Among the highlights, along with classes, was the experience of community life at the Irish College, where they both lived and studied with other American undergraduates, students from Ireland, and seminarians and priests studying in Rome. These four students returned to us this Spring, enthusiastic about their experience! One said that while he found the courses—and sometimes the other students—challenging. Still, it turned out to be his best semester at Loyola. Here are some of the other things our students had to say:



“My favorite course in Rome would be the Philosophical Anthropology: Aristotle and Augustine taught by Fr. Thomas Sherman S.J.. It was enlightening on what true happiness consists of and how a friendship looks from the Catholic perspective. This information has helped me transition back into everyday life in New Orleans when making decisions on how I spend my time. While in Italy, I found our 3-day excursion to Assisi to be the most engaging. I did not know much about St. Francis and the Franciscan Friars going in, but leaving, I had a wealth of knowledge. My Catholic faith was strengthened by my Rome experience because I got to see the universality of the Church. The students from other universities brought about interesting interpretations of Church doctrine and it was a joy unwrapping everyone's opinions and debating them in classes, like our philosophy course taught by a visiting professor from Providence College.”  
-Michael Chandler

“Rome allowed me to discover new cultures and history, as well as meet people who helped me grow in my faith. There was also a closeness of living experience in the Irish College unlike any other. The classes were engaging and everyone seemed excited about the material, which only motivated us more.”  
-Gabo

“Studying in Rome allowed me to explore my identity in Christ. Every sacred space I entered in the city helped transform me from a girl into a young woman. I was able to stand on my own and explore my faith as an independent. The experience taught me that no matter the situation that arises Christ will always lead me into his safe arms in the sacred space at the altar.”  
-Bevin Kelley





# Rome: Study Abroad

## **What was your favorite course in Rome? What specifically did you learn that has been helpful/inspiring for you?**

My favorite course that I took in Rome was Christian discipleship taught by Father Pidel. The class covered what it means to be a disciple of Christ through various different lenses. This ranged from natural law, self-denial and sacramental grace in relation to the moral law, and how it is seen in the Gospel of Mark. It also explored Jesuit spirituality, the difference between Christian and pagan virtues, and concluded by making an Ignatian Election, with the help of the Spiritual Exercises. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the various topics that I would not have been exposed to, if not for going to Rome. One class that stood out was my philosophy class. In it, we focused on a topic of special interest to me, that of the Second World War, the deployment and use of nuclear weapons, and its philosophical and moral implications. I was able to provide historical and military perspectives to the discussion, which others could not. This personal connection helped me understand the philosophy in a way I had not before.

## **What excursion of the program did you find most engaging?**

I took part in different excursions that included visiting the Scavi in Vatican City, the ancient ruins of Ostia Antica and numerous other sights. It was exciting being able to see places that I had only read about and seen pictures of in history books. The excursion that was most engaging for me was a 3-day trip to Assisi led by a Franciscan Sister. I had the opportunity to visit and learn about the various significant places of Saint Francis' life, and pray there. I took away a deeper understanding and appreciation for Saint Francis' life and home and the ways in which it was preserved from significant destruction in World War II by the German Command and the Bishop of Assisi. Another memorable experience was a visit to the Abbey of Monte Cassino, home of the original abbey founded by Saint Benedict, site of a major battle on the Italian Front during the Second World War. I hiked up the mountain in the midst of a thunderstorm, while praying the rosary. It was a place of peace and solitude even in the midst of a storm. After the storm subsided, I was finally able to see the Abbey, the holy place which I had read about since I was a kid. I was awed by the scale and size of the Abbey and its immense beauty, but also sorrowful at the destruction and loss of great artworks and historical documents it suffered during bombing by the Allied powers in World War II. I also found myself grateful for its ability to recover its tarnished beauty, spirituality and history as the home of both Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica. Happily, God's divine protection would preserve their relics and tombs from destruction.

## **How was your Catholic faith strengthened by your Rome experience? What is a specific experience that illustrates this?**

My Catholic faith was strengthened by the experience of seeing the Holy Father as he passed by, less than five feet away from me! While there I would be able to visit and pray at churches that I had only ever heard of. In Rome, I also encountered my namesakes, Saint Philip the Apostle, and my confirmation saint, Philip Neri. All this access to the churches and the sacraments would really reinforce my Catholic faith by seeing the universality and difference that is being Catholic, and the Church. The great example of how my Catholic faith was strengthened during my time Rome was not a specific moment, but rather a continuing process from the very outset of classes, of exploring and discerning my own call to the priesthood, a second shot to the heart while praying the Divine Office, before daily Mass would start. The other moment was when Our Lady of Victory would appear to me in my prayer during Adoration. I would appear under Her mantle at a younger age, clothed in my cowboy boots, jeans, long sleeve fishing shirt, sunglasses, and a cowboy hat.

## **How did the community of students from other universities enhance your experience? What was the best thing about engaging with students from other universities?**

My experience was enhanced by the community of students from the other universities---Providence College, Duquesne University, Seton Hall university---along with my fellow Loyola students, and some student from Ireland. It was great to meet students from Catholic schools in different parts of the United States and Ireland. It seems that they had never met a native Texan with the amount of Texas pride that I have! We shared the simplest of bonds at first, by simply living in the same building, and being Catholic, but we soon found other ways to bond, despite our differences of geography and culture, by our shared experience of studies and travel. The best thing about engaging with the students from the other universities was the chance to engage and become friends with those from the North (whose states are still smaller than Texas) and the Republic of Ireland (the size of the Diocese of Fort Worth, my home diocese). It would be in the random interactions and plans that I and the rest of those with the Irish contingent, and the Northern detachment, that I would better be able to understand and get along with them, after intelligent exchanges, and bonds of friendship were established.

**-Philip Lopez, '24**



# Rite of Initiation Mass



Hello, my name is Trinity Abdelsayed. I am joining the Catholic Church this Easter. I decided to join the Church because I wanted not only to deepen my connection with God, but also to have a community. A very specific moment I had during this journey was during the Mass of the Holy Spirit, I got this sensation of warmth and home and I knew that God was there with me. Throughout all of this process I have been having many different emotions, but the main two that always seem to be at the center of it all is excitement and nervousness. During Mass I really enjoy watching the priest consecrate the host. Throughout this process I have really dived deeper and prayed more, I have found myself going into the chapel and just sitting, or reading, or playing the piano with God and just simply being in the moment and with Him. Community is a really big thing for me, since I didn't really grow up with one, and that is a really big appeal of the Church itself to me. I really felt a good sense of community during my Rite of Election when all of us catechumens were all standing together on the alter and all of our sponsors had their hands on our shoulders. I have a lot of friends in the Church and they have all really pushed me to go into the Church and to take this next step in my life, and I could not be more grateful. I am grateful for my family as well for being supportive of my decisions and I am grateful to Catholic Studies for also being supportive. I want to give a shoutout to my sponsor, Javier Castillo. I would also like to give a shoutout to Anneliese Broussard, Marcus Blea, Nicole Bittner, Kateri Shimansky, and Father Mark Mossa!



# Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

*In a weekly tradition that unites the Loyola Catholic Studies community, students come together every Wednesday for a transformative experience – Eucharistic Adoration. This sacred gathering serves as an expression of shared faith, fostering a sense of unity and spiritual connection among the students.*



**This dedicated time of adoration provides a sacred pause in the midst of academic pursuits, allowing students to reflect, pray, and find solace in the presence of the Eucharist. The experience not only deepens their personal connection with the Catholic faith but also strengthens the bonds within the Catholic Studies community. Wednesday becomes a day marked by a collective pursuit of spiritual nourishment and mutual support, exemplifying the essence of community that defines Loyola's Catholic Studies program.**



# Kicking Off: Catholic Studies Nights

## ***Being Human: A Catholic Vision of the Human Person***

What does our Catholic faith tell us about what it means to be human and to live a good human life? Speakers respond to this question in a way that draws from their own experience and/or expertise—whether this is philosophical, Scriptural, scientific. Our goal is both to inform students about the Catholic faith and inspire them to live it out more fully.



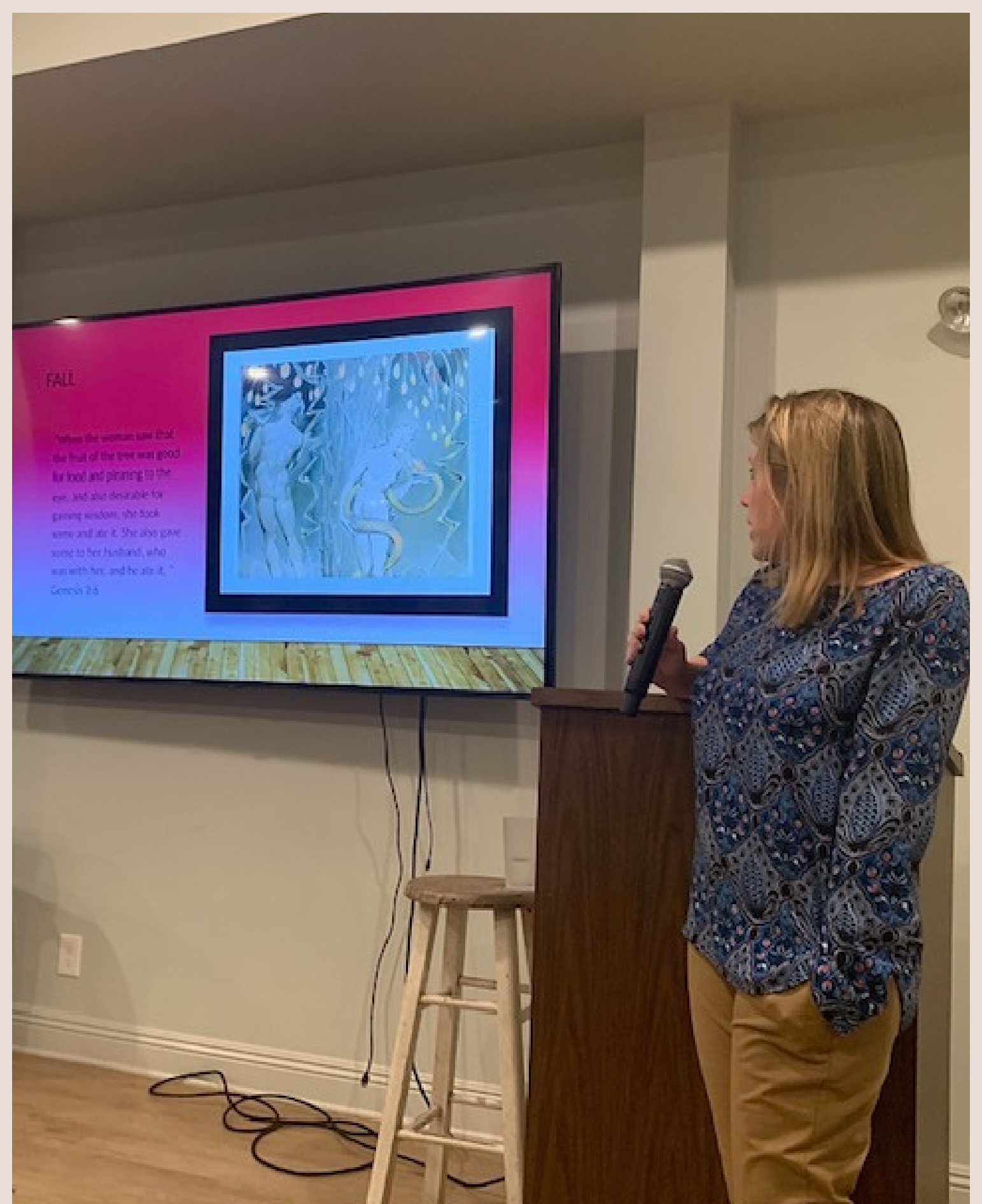
### **Dr. Elisabeth Kincaid** ***Work & the Human Person***

Dr. Kincaid opened the discussion with the problem, stating, “social scientists have long argued that we often experience conflict within ourselves. The most common form of such conflict occurs between the “want self” and the “should self.” The want self describes the side of you that’s emotional, affective, impulsive, and hot-headed. In contrast, your should self is rational, cognitive, thoughtful, and cool-headed. The should self encompasses our ethical intentions and the belief that we should behave according to our ethical values and principles. By contrast, the want self reflects our actual behavior, which is typically characterized by self-interest and a relative disregard for ethical considerations.” She answered this problem concluding with the verse from Revelation 21:1 “Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”

### **Dr. Everett Fulmer**

#### ***What makes us human, philosophy to theology***

On January 30, Dr. Everett Fulmer kicked off our Spring speaker series with a talk exploring the question, "What does it mean to be human?" That is, what makes human beings unique? Why did God create us? What can satisfy our peculiarly human desires? Working our way from inanimate objects, to plants, to animals, to humans, we concluded—in the words of St. Augustine—"You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Dr. Fulmer then closed us out with some reflections on the question of how to relate earthly goods to God as our ultimate good.





# Give to Catholic Studies

## ***Would you like to support the Canizaro Center?***

We are grateful for your prayerful and financial support of our endeavor to form students in the mind of Christ and the Heart of Jesus!

**Give to Catholic Studies here**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on Center events & student life!



@loyno\_cs



/LoynoCatholicStudies

*Thank you for being part of our Catholic Studies family. Be assured of our prayers for you!*

*Love,  
Your Canizaro Center Team!*



**Fr. Mark Mossa, SJ**  
**Interim Director**  
msmossa@loyno.edu



**Morgan Dufour**  
**Center Coordinator**  
mldufour@loyno.edu



**Joshua Hinchie, SJ**  
**Programs Developer**  
jdhinchi@loyno.edu