



18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities

# VERITAS

In the Modern World

JUNE 8-11, 2026

Molloy University  
Rockville Centre, New York



My intention for this Colloquium is to

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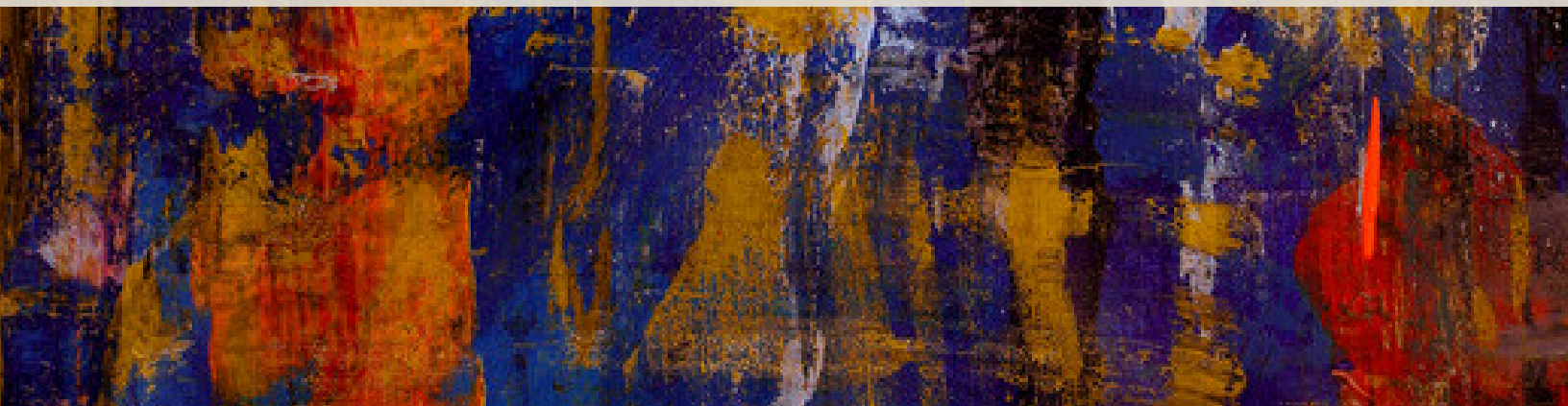
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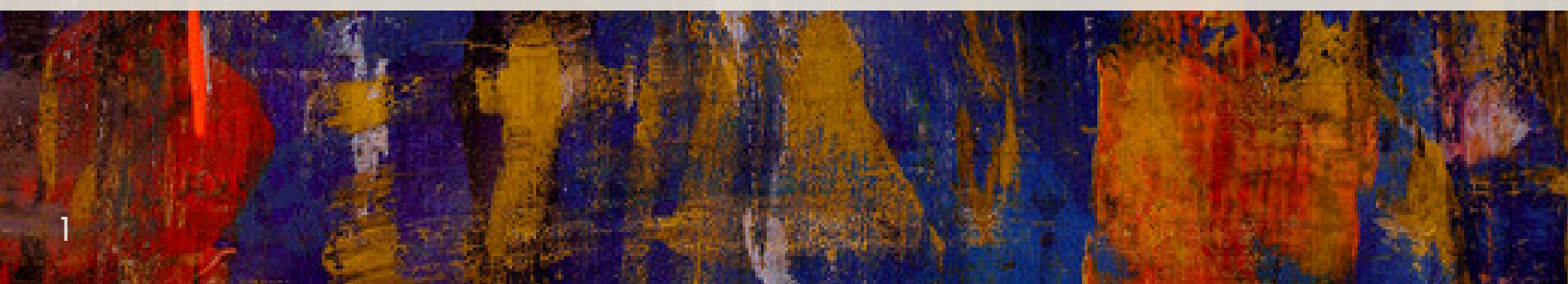
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# **Information for Your Visit to Molloy**



# HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR VISIT

## Phone Numbers

Public Safety: **516.323.3500**

Emergency Response: **911**

Colloquium RA on Duty: **516.434.1514**

Colloquium Chair: **516.323.4060**

## Technology Access

Contact Technology Support Services (**Kellenberg Hall, 022**) for technology questions such as network logins, printing, etc.

Contact information:

**516.323.4800**

**helpdesk@molloy.edu**

Please connect to the MolloyWIFI to access the Wi-Fi.

Password: **MolloyLions2026**

## Chapel of the Sacred Heart

The Chapel is open daily for prayer and contemplation from **7 am – 7 pm**.

## Spirit Store

The Spirit Store is located in Public Square. Molloy University gear and merchandise are available for purchase. Colloquium attendees receive **15%** off this week.

Summer Hours:

**Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

## On-Campus Housing Guests

- Complimentary snacks and beverages will be available in the lounges in Fitzgerald Hall.
- For any after-hours needs or concerns, call the Colloquium RA on Duty.
- Please check out and return the room key to Public Safety by 12 pm.
- LIRR shuttles will pick up outside of Kellenberg Hall.

## Things to Do in the Area

Long Island offers a distinctive blend of coastal beauty, rich history, cultural diversity, and close proximity to the energy of New York City. From scenic beaches and waterfront communities to exceptional dining, arts, and entertainment, the region offers visitors both relaxation and discovery.

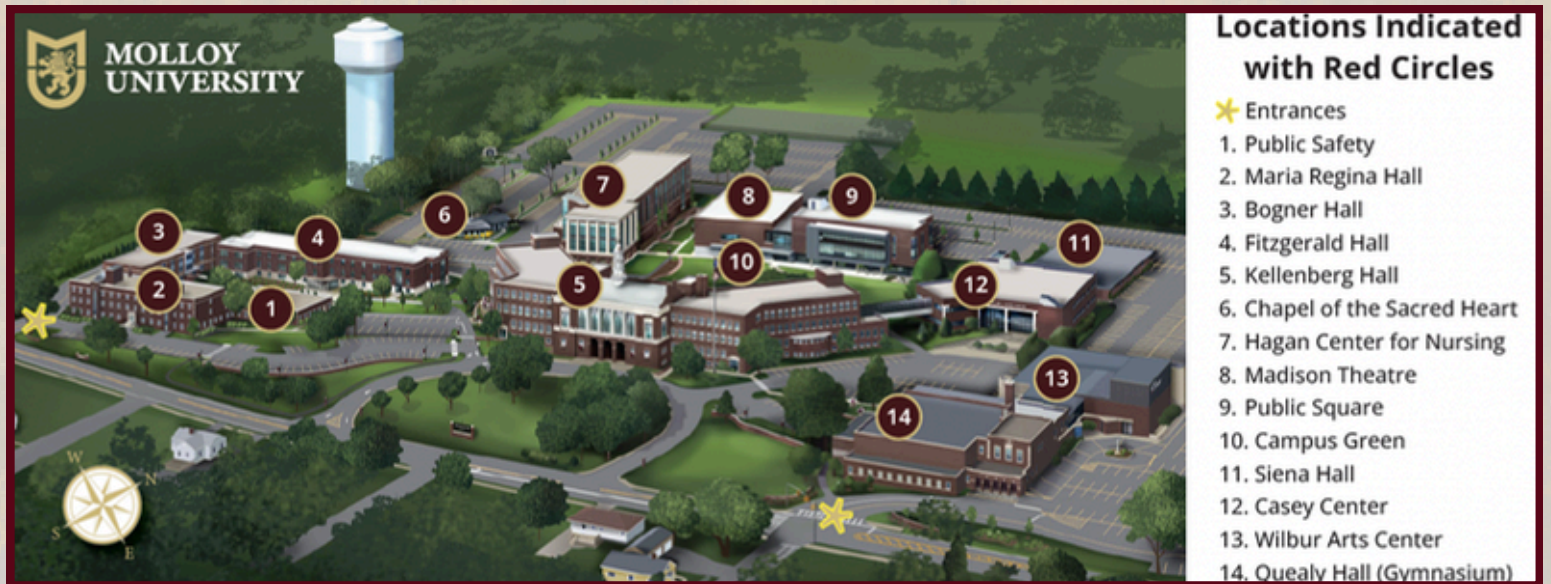
## Food and Beverages

A restaurant list is provided in your welcome packet. The Starbucks in Public Square will be open from **Monday to Thursday, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**.

## Tobacco Free Campus

Smoking, including the use of electronic delivery devices, is prohibited in all campus facilities and buildings, which include Residence Halls and resident rooms.

# Map of Molloy





# **Welcome Letters**



## PRESIDENT AND DHEC CHAIR'S WELCOME

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Molloy University, it is my great privilege to welcome you to the 18th Biennial Dominican Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities hosted here in Rockville Centre, New York, June 8–11, 2026. We are honored to gather with colleagues and friends from across Dominican higher education for this year's Colloquium, *Veritas in the Modern World*.

At Molloy, our mission is deeply rooted in the Catholic and Dominican tradition. The pursuit of truth, *Veritas*, is not simply an ideal we admire; it is a way of learning, teaching, serving, and living together in community. In a world marked by rapid change, uncertainty, and new challenges, the Dominican commitment to study, reflection, dialogue, and compassionate action remains as vital as ever.

Throughout these days, I invite you to join us in prayer, inquiry, conversation, and fellowship as we explore how Dominican colleges and universities continue to form students for lives of meaning, leadership, and service. Our shared tradition calls us to seek truth with humility, to engage the modern world with courage, and to bring light wherever it is needed.

We are delighted to welcome you to Molloy University and hope you feel at home on our campus. May this Colloquium renew our common purpose and strengthen the bonds among our Dominican institutions.

With warm regards,

**James Lentini, DMA**

President, Molloy University

Chair, Dominican Higher Education Council



## PRIORRESS'S WELCOME

With great joy, I welcome you to Long Island—an interesting place where land meets the ocean and urban life, and the suburbs almost touch each other. Most especially, on behalf of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, welcome to Molloy University, founded by our sisters 70 years ago.

As a proud alumna of Molloy, I carry both gratitude and hope into these complicated times, when the Dominican call to *VERITAS*—TRUTH—is neither abstract nor distant; rather, it is a living reality that beckons each of us to pursue its purpose and meaning in times such as these. This search invites us to intellectual ventures with a listening heart, attuned to the signs of our times. In the spirit of St. Dominic, we are invited to seek truth together—in study, in dialogue, in community—steeped in the joy of our founding Saint.

May these Colloquium days deepen our wisdom as well as our knowledge. Together, may we be renewed by the call to preach and teach TRUTH—not only with words, but with our lives.

In shared mission,

**Peggy McVetty, OP**

Prioress, Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Dominican Family,

On behalf of the DHEC Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities hosted by Molloy University entitled, *Veritas in the Modern World*.



A special shoutout to Molloy for jumping in just last Fall as our host institution. Under the leadership of Dr. DJ Mitchell, along with a dedicated group of Molloy faculty and staff, you will have an engaging, interactive opportunity over the next three days to learn from one another and explore many outstanding ways to immerse yourself in our Dominican Charism. We are confident that the plenaries, workshops, and times of communal gathering will be invaluable to share across our campuses.

Enjoy this time together, meeting old friends and making new ones. Our shared Dominican heritage calls us to live our mission through relationships.

My best to all of you,

**Catherine Tully Muscente**

Executive Director, Dominican Higher Education Council

## COLLOQUIUM CHAIR'S WELCOME

Dear Dominican Colleagues,

Welcome to Rockville Centre and to the 18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities. It is a real joy to have you here. After months of planning and preparation, I can't tell you how good it feels to finally gather in person.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to our Colloquium Program and Logistics Committees for their dedication and steady work behind the scenes. Their efforts, along with the generosity of our volunteers, made this Colloquium possible.

My hope is simple: that your time here is meaningful, engaging, and grounded in the spirit that brings us together as Dominican educators. If you need anything during your time with us, please reach out to me directly at [dmitchell1@molloy.edu](mailto:dmitchell1@molloy.edu). I am here to make your experience a good one. And if you see me during the Colloquium, please say hello—I'd welcome the chance to connect and put faces with the names I've come to know!

Welcome, and thank you for joining us.

In Truth,

**Donald "DJ" Mitchell, Jr., PhD**

Chair, 18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities  
Vice President for Mission Integration, Molloy University





# Itinerary



# MONDAY, JUNE 8TH

Time	Location	Details
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Kellenberg Hall Drop Off	<b>LIRR Rockville Centre Train Station Shuttle Service</b>
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Colloquium Check-in</b>
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>On-Campus Lodging Check-In</b>
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	JET Library, Kellenberg	<b>Opening Reception</b>

# TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Anselma Room, Kellenberg	<b>Breakfast</b>
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Colloquium Check-in</b>
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>On-Campus Lodging Check-In</b>
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Larini Room, Public Square	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Larini Room, Public Square	<b>Keynote Session</b>
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Various Locations	<b>Concurrent Session I</b>
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Anselma Room, Kellenberg	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Optional Campus Tour</b>
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Various Locations	<b>Concurrent Session II</b>
3:15 PM - 4:45 PM	Larini Room, Public Square	<b>Plenary Session I</b>
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Front of Kellenberg Hall	<b>Shuttles depart for Dinner Outing</b>

# WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

Time	Location	Details
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Anselma Room, Kellenberg	<b>Breakfast</b>
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Colloquium Check-in</b>
8:30 AM - 9:00AM	Larini Room, Public Square	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Larini Room, Public Square	<b>Plenary Session II</b>
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Various Locations	<b>Concurrent Session III</b>
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Anselma Room, Kellenberg	<b>Lunch</b>
12:15 PM - 1:45 PM	Reception Room, Kellenberg	<b>Presidents' Lunch (Invite Only)</b>
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Various Locations	<b>Concurrent Session IV</b>
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Free Time or Optional Campus Tour</b>
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Chapel of the Sacred Heart	<b>Mass</b>
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Hays Theatre, Wilbur Arts Center	<b>Closing Dinner and CAP21 Student Performance</b>

# THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Public Square Lobby	<b>Grab and Go Breakfast</b>
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Larnini Room, Public Square	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Front of Kellenberg Hall	<b>Shuttles to LIRR Rockville Centre Train Station</b>

# FEATURED SESSIONS

## LARINI ROOM, PUBLIC SQUARE

### **Opening Keynote | June 9th, 9:15 – 10:30 AM** **Veritas in the Modern World**

**Sr. Colleen Mary Mallon, OP, PhD**  
*Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose*

### **Plenary I | June 9th, 3:15 – 4:45 PM** **Veritas at the Border: Immigration, Truth, and the Dominican Commitment to Justice**

**Jessica Orozco Guttiein, Esq**  
*Senior Vice President for Policy and Communications,  
Hispanic Federation*

**Chandler Patton Miranda, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of Education, Molloy University*

**Sr. Mary Nolan, OP**  
*Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville*

Moderator: **Donald “DJ” Mitchell, Jr., PhD**, Vice President  
for Mission Integration, Molloy University

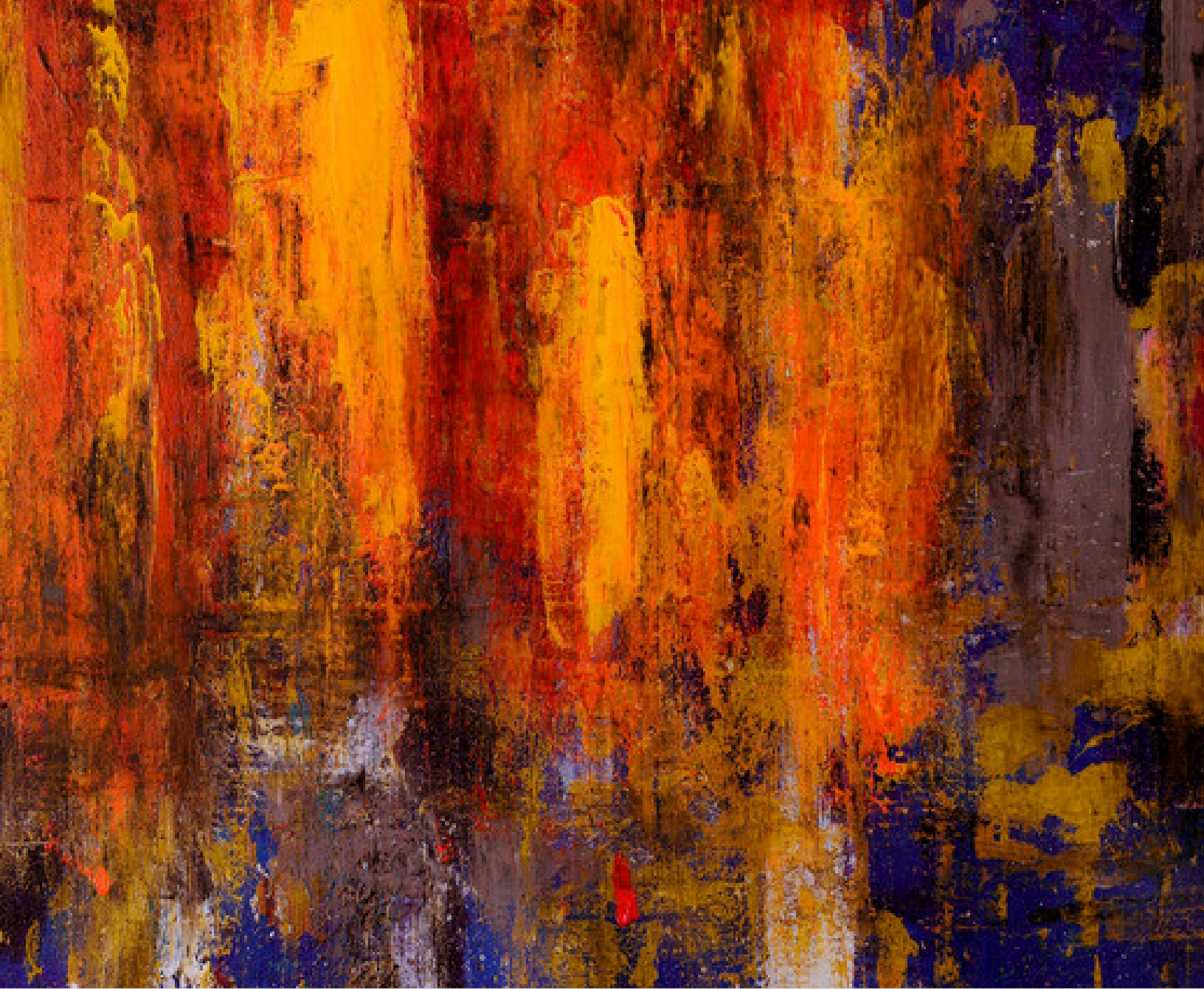
### **Plenary II | June 10th, 9:15 – 10:30 AM** **Living Veritas: Reflections on A Vision in Service of Truth**

**Sr. Jennifer Schaaf, OP, DMin**  
*Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Dominican  
University New York*

**Sr. Judith Schaefer, OP, PhD**  
*Sinsinawa Dominicans*

**Charles Zola, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Catholic  
and Dominican Institute, and Assistant Vice President for  
Mission, Mount Saint Mary College*

Moderator: **Catherine Tully Muscente**, Executive Director,  
Dominican Higher Education Council



# Keynote Presenter Bio





**Sr. Colleen Mary Mallon, OP, PhD**, currently serves as director of adult mission formation at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in Pasadena, California. She is a systematic theologian and has served at St. John's University, Queens, New York; Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri; and St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. A native Californian, she is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. Before pursuing her doctorate at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, Sr. Colleen taught science and religion in several high schools where her Sisters minister in northern and southern California.

Sr. Colleen's theological project is rooted in her passion for the Church (ecclesiology) and invites the integration of theology, spiritual formation, and ministry leadership at the grassroots level of institutional ministries, helping to support lay leaders in the integration and animation of their institution's charism. As the inaugural Sister Maureen McGuire Chair and past director of the Ashley O'Rourke Center for Health Care Mission at Aquinas Institute of Theology, she developed and delivered both theological education and spiritual formation programs for several Catholic health care systems in the United States. For several years now, she has also served on the core team of the Dominican Colleges and Universities Fanjeaux pilgrimage experience, which offers faculty and staff of Dominican institutions of higher education the opportunity to actively integrate their personal sense of mission and spirituality with the Dominican charism.

Her book, *Inclusivity and Institutional Change: A Theologian's Journey* (2024, Eerdmans), chronicles her continuing ministry of accompanying a small Catholic high school on a journey from complicity in structures of exclusion toward reconciliation and renewed mission alignment, centered in the Dominican charism of Veritas. As part of the Lilly-funded, twelve-volume series, *Theological Education Between the Times*, *Inclusivity and Institutional Change* maps a pastoral theological engagement with the real pain and unacknowledged harm wrought by institutional racism and bias in one small Catholic school. Bringing academic theology into conversations and confrontations that seek to unmask how privilege functions to erase and deny the human dignity of those othered by power and entitlement, Sr. Colleen continues to work with her religious community and their sponsored ministries to claim the grace of "embodying Veritas": learning to live in right relationship within, among, and beyond.

Sr. Colleen is also part of a small group of Dominican theologians from around the world (Canada, France, Mexico, Germany, India, Istanbul, and the United States) who meet regularly to explore the significance of our faith symbol, the Nicene Creed, for a world torn apart by suffering. Bringing together various areas and methods of academic theological engagement, this group of preacher-theologians—sisters and brothers—seeks to offer a humble, potent preaching of the Paschal Mystery capable of accompanying the brokenhearted.



# Plenary Session Presenter Bios



**Jessica Orozco Guttlein, Esq.**, is senior vice president for policy and communications at Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization. She has been with HF since 2011, previously serving as chief of staff, assistant vice president for policy, and director of immigration and civic engagement, where she advanced advocacy, policy strategy, and community engagement initiatives. Prior to joining HF, Ms. Orozco Guttlein worked as an associate attorney in a small business immigration practice and interned with the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and the New York City Human Resources Administration Research and Policy Development Division. She has also volunteered legal services with the Safe Passage Project at New York Law School. She frequently appears in the media as an immigration and community engagement expert. She holds a BA in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a JD from New York Law School, and is a member of the State Bar of California.



**Chandler Patton Miranda, PhD**, is assistant professor of educational leadership at Molloy University and an anthropologist of education whose research examines the schooling experiences of recently arrived immigrant youth in the United States. A former high school teacher in Texas and Colombia, she studies how educators create inclusive learning environments in the face of exclusionary policies and political hostility. She is the author of *Sanctuary School: Innovating to Empower Immigrant Youth* (Harvard Education Press, 2025). Her scholarship has appeared in *Harvard Educational Review*, *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, and *Equity & Excellence in Education*, and explores how schools cultivate belonging, dignity, and opportunity for immigrant students.



**Sr. Mary Nolan, OP**, was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and is a Sister of St. Dominic of Amityville. She earned a Bachelor of Science in education from St. John's University and a Master of Science from Fordham University. She has ministered in education at all levels. Her experience in the Opening Word Program has opened her heart to the plight of the immigrant population on Long Island. She is a longtime member of the Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation Committee in her congregation.



**Sr. Jennifer Schaaf, OP, DMin**, is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt and serves as vice president for mission and ministry at Dominican University New York. Previously, she served as an assistant chaplain at Saint Thomas More, the Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, and as a campus minister at Ohio Dominican University. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Seattle University, with a focus on charism formation in Dominican institutions of higher education; an MA in pastoral ministry; a BME from the University of Portland; and a certificate in spiritual direction from Aquinas Institute of Theology.



**Sr. Judith Katherine Schaefer, OP, PhD**, was born in Denver, Colorado, and entered the Sinsinawa Dominicans in 1970. Her primary ministry experiences have been in education and leadership as a director of religious education in Montana, Illinois, and Iowa; a grade and high school teacher; a university professor of theology; and president of Catholic high schools. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education, a Master of Pastoral Ministries, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Philosophy in theology and culture. She is currently serving in congregation leadership for the Sinsinawa Dominicans and as corporate chair for Dominican University and Edgewood University.



**Charles Zola, PhD**, earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Scranton and his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy, with distinction, from the Institute of Philosophy of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He has taught at the University of Scranton and Penn State University (Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre campuses) and is the former executive director of the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania. He is currently the assistant vice president for mission, director of the Catholic and Dominican Institute, and associate professor of philosophy at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York. He has published articles concerning the ethical obligations children have to their elderly parents and has made numerous presentations on ethics and elder care for health care professionals. His areas of interest are the Catholic intellectual tradition, applied ethics, and elder care ethics.



# **Concurrent Sessions at-a-Glance**



# CONCURRENT SESSION I

Session	Location	Type
<b>Veritas Across Contexts: AI, the Written Word, and Human Well-Being</b>	Hagan Center 021	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas in Action: Formation, Justice, and Witness</b>	Hagan Center 020	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas in the Age of AI</b>	Hagan Center 239	Lecture Session
<b>Seeking Veritas in the Age of AI: A Dominican Approach to Truth, Discernment, and Learning</b>	Hagan Center 339	Workshop

# CONCURRENT SESSION II

<b>Seeking Veritas through Community</b>	Hagan Center 021	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas and Justice: Solidarity, Mission and Outreach</b>	Hagan Center 004	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas at Work: Culture, Ethics, and Stewardship in Practice</b>	Hagan Center 020	Lecture Session
<b>Leadership as Interactive Practice</b>	Hagan Center 006	Panel Presentation
<b>Veritas in Pursuit of Justice: Building Community Through Engaging the World</b>	Public Square, Larini Room	Panel Presentation
<b>In Pursuit of Truth: Sharing and Developing Your "Why..." with Students and Communities</b>	Hagan Center 239	Workshop
<b>Practicing Veritas Through AI Transparency: A Dominican Model for Truth Centered Teaching</b>	Hagan Center 339	Workshop

# CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

Session	Location	Type
<b>Veritas and Formation: Educating for Truth in a Misinformed World</b>	Hagan Center 021	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas in the Humanities: Art and History</b>	Hagan Center 020	Lecture Session
<b>Veritas in Action: Nursing's Commitment to Justice and Care for the Underserved and Unhoused</b>	Hagan Center 004	Panel Presentation
<b>Tides of Resilience: Restorative Circles &amp; Veritas In Our Shared Human Story</b>	Hagan Center 239	Workshop
<b>Unmasking the Self: Exploring Integrity Through Art and Veritas</b>	Hagan Center 339	Workshop

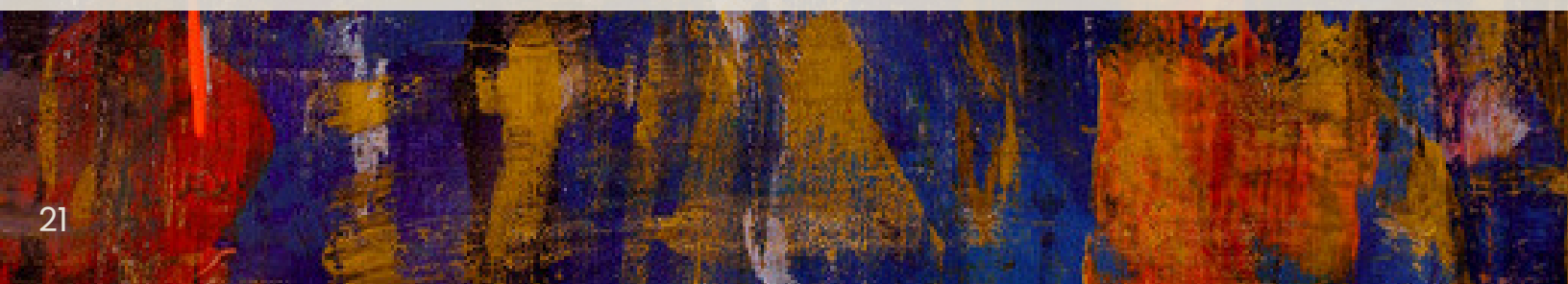
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# CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV

<b>Veritas Realized: Justice, Voice, and Care for the Human Person</b>	Hagan Center 020	Lecture Session
<b>The Immigration Crisis in Children's Literature in the Spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas</b>	Hagan Center 021	Panel Presentation
<b>Veritas, the Lived Experience, and Social Work Education in a Polarized World</b>	Hagan Center 004	Panel Presentation
<b>Veritas in Dialogue: Equipping Students to Seek Truth Across Difference</b>	Hagan Center 239	Workshop
<b>Living Veritas Through Collaboration: Practical Steps for Mission Integration in a Diverse Campus Community</b>	Hagan Center 339	Workshop



# Concurrent Session I





**DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**  
**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION I**  
**Session I: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

**Veritas Across Contexts: AI, the Written Word, and Human Well-Being**  
*Hagan Center 021 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations*

**Veritas in the Age of AI**

**Dr. Charles Zola, Mount Saint Mary College**

As the use and influence of AI within and outside the classroom increases, there is a crescendo of concerns raised about its effects on pedagogy and its potential to severely dull critical thinking abilities, diminish originality, and stifle creativity. Of particular concern for those involved in Dominican higher education is the threat that the meaning of truth can be distorted and reduced to something merely valued for its instrumentality in career preparation, thereby severing its fundamental role as a means for authentic human development and communion with God. This paper explores the meaning and importance of veritas in the Dominican intellectual tradition and seeks to discover a reconciliation between the Dominican charism of *Veritas* and AI.

**The Word and the Truth: Dostoevsky, Jackson, and Writing the Truth in the 21st Century**

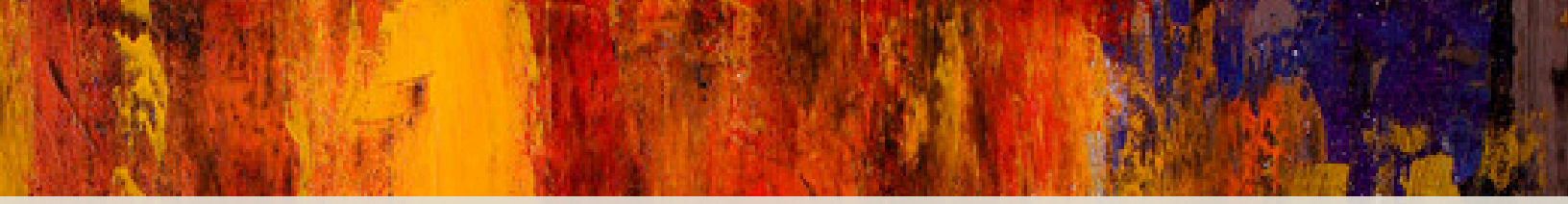
**Dr. Jacqueline Nenchin, Molloy University**

Reading fiction and nonfiction can guide people in the search for truth, help develop understanding and trust, and transform social life. College freshmen arrive on campus with expectations about the next phase of their lives. Most do not suspect that the phase will involve so much reading and writing or that they will have to think about unfamiliar issues and events. In this presentation, participants will explore the role of writing the truth in society, as do my freshmen, by examining fiction and nonfiction. They will study an essay on Dostoevsky's mock execution and Shirley Jackson's story "The Lottery." In a discussion on the authors, they will identify the truth in the texts, write responses to questions, share them, and review student responses. Finally, they will reflect on truth as represented by Dostoevsky's and Jackson's writing and the takeaway for all students and readers.

**Embodied Veritas: Discovering Truth, Renewal, and Resilience for Caregivers through Yoga**

**Margaret Shakibai, PhD CCC-SLP RYT-500, Molloy University**

Informal caregiving is a primary source of long-term care in the United States, yet caregivers often experience heightened stress and negative health outcomes. Providing effective support and resources is essential for both caregivers and their loved ones. This project examines the benefits and feasibility of incorporating yoga practices for informal caregivers compared to non-caregiving adults. It evaluates differences in perceived stress, anxiety, emotional well-being, and quality of life before and after yoga interventions. The findings aim to strengthen evidence for supportive practices that enhance caregivers' well-being, while encouraging communities to connect caregivers with accessible, practical resources that improve overall quality of life for caregivers and those they support.



**DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**  
**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION I**  
**Session I: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

***Veritas in Action: Formation, Justice, and Witness***

***Hagan Center 020 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations***

***Veritas in Practice: Reflection-Centered Success Coaching Model for Equity, Belonging, and Holistic Student Success***

**Dr. Elisa M. Giordano, Barry University**

This presentation explores how Barry University's Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) advances *Veritas* through an individualized success-coaching model that integrates reflection and holistic support. CASA's framework uses structured, relationship-centered dialogue to build self-awareness, independence, and clarity around academic and career goals. Students translate reflection into intentional action aligned with purpose and vocation. Learning in community is central, as coaches guide students in navigating complexity and resources and in building skills for long-term success. This model has contributed to improved retention and persistence. The session will highlight outcomes and lessons learned, and invite reflection on applying a Dominican coaching framework in practice.

***Climbing Mountains and Dodging Demons: The Dangerous Faith of Pier Giorgio Frassati and Bartolo Longo***

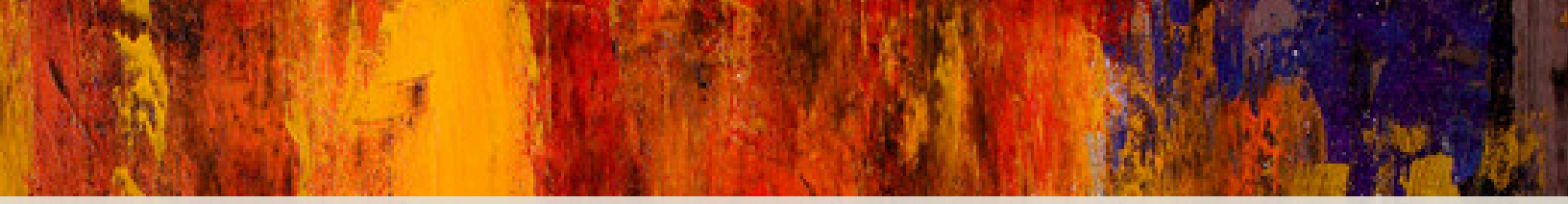
**Dr. Robert Miller, Mount Saint Mary College**

This presentation focuses on two newly canonized Dominican tertiaries, Bartolo Longo and Pier Giorgio Frassati, whose lives demonstrate that holiness is accessible to ordinary young people. The paper argues that sanctity is always modern, emerging through everyday life transformed by grace and shaped by revealed truth. Both figures exemplify how ordinary individuals can achieve profound holiness through simple, faithful living. Frassati's witness highlights holiness in daily experiences such as friendships, university life, and acts of charity. Longo's dramatic conversion from Satanism and dedication to service illustrate how intellectual formation can inspire deep commitment to faith and social action, making both saints especially relatable to today's college students.

***Accessibility Is Belonging: A Truth We Can't Ignore***

**Jessica Tornow, Aquinas College**

A strong sense of belonging is a key driver of student success, retention, and well-being. When students feel seen, supported, and like they matter, everything else follows. This is especially true for students with disabilities, who are significantly more likely to stay when they feel they belong. Belonging does not just happen. It is something we build. This means shifting from reactive accommodations to a proactive, accessibility-first approach that removes barriers before they show up. At small colleges, this work matters even more. Close connections, clear support systems, and collaboration across campus make it easier for students to navigate and feel part of the community. This presentation shares how designing for accessibility helps create a campus where all students feel they belong and choose to stay.



**DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**  
**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION I**  
**Session I: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

**Veritas in the Age of AI**  
*Hagan Center 239 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations*

**Navigating AI with Integrity: Introducing the Human-Centered AI Competence Roadmap**  
**Dr. Stefani Boutelier, Aquinas College; Dr. Madeline Craig, Molloy University**

As generative AI becomes increasingly embedded in educational and professional environments, educators require a clear framework for making ethical, intentional, and human-centered decisions about its use. This session introduces an iterative decision-making roadmap created to help adult learners navigate when, why, and how to integrate generative AI in ways that support learning, transparency, and human integrity. Brief reflective activities will invite participants to apply the roadmap to their own experiences, examining their motivations, assumptions, and aspirations for AI use. Participants will leave with a practical understanding of the Human-Centered AI Roadmap and a strengthened ability to make ethical, intentional decisions about generative AI.

**Promoting Authentic Intelligence in an Age of Artificial Intelligence**  
**Dr. David Garaventa, Albertus Magnus College**

This presentation focuses on research conducted with faculty regarding their perceptions and responses to the increasing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom. Centered around Mezirow's "Transformative Learning Theory" (1978, 1991), the research explored whether AI was serving as a disorienting dilemma for faculty and how they were responding. Research results indicated that most faculty sought to engage in purposeful conversations and to engage with others for guidance, idea-sharing, and strategies to navigate pedagogical changes brought by AI. The research gave rise to the working "Model of Meaningful Dialogue" to help students develop authentic intelligence in the classroom setting while helping faculty navigate impactful and productive conversations with students, colleagues, and administration.

**"Doce Me Veritatem": Conversations about AI**  
**Marie-Therese C. Sulit, Mount Saint Mary College**

The encroachment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to compel colleges and universities across the United States to re-envision their policies on academic honesty even as professors are likewise challenged to take a position on whether or not to permit the use of AI, how much or how little to allow, and how this allowance will affect their pedagogy—for better or worse. As we continue these discussions at Mount Saint Mary College, our collective goal is for our students to see themselves in control of AI—and not become mere technocrats. This presentation explores the following questions: How would framing these practical and pedagogical decisions with Veritas re-center the human experience in an increasingly AI-driven world? How can we, as an institution, cultivate an ethos of the Whole Person to instill in our students as all of us navigate this new world?



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION I**

**Session I: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

### **Seeking *Veritas* in the Age of AI: A Dominican Approach to Truth, Discernment, and Learning**

**Hagan Center 339 | *Workshop***

**Joanna Alcruz, PhD, Molloy University**

Generative artificial intelligence is increasingly embedded in students' academic and personal lives, offering both new opportunities and challenges related to authenticity, authorship, and truth. Grounded in the Dominican intellectual tradition—centered on contemplation, discernment, dialogue, and the pursuit of *Veritas*—this session explores how educators can guide student engagement with AI. Drawing on current scholarship and my work with AI-supported learning through the cognitive apprenticeship model, I examine how AI can both support and complicate students' meaning-making. Participants will be introduced to this framework to foster ethical and intentional AI use and will engage in activities that build ethical reasoning, reflective judgment, and truth-seeking.



# Concurrent Session II



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION II**

**Session II: 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

### **Seeking Veritas through Community**

*Hagan Center 021 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations*

#### **Keys to Connection: Bridging Differences with Active Listening**

**Kellyanne Brady, PhD, LMHC-D, Molloy University**

Active listening is one of the most powerful tools for strengthening human connection. This workshop explores how intentional, empathic listening can deepen understanding, reduce conflict, and foster more meaningful relationships across personal, professional, and community settings. Participants will examine the core components of active listening, including presence, reflective responses, nonverbal communication, and the ability to suspend judgment to fully understand another person's perspective. Through interactive demonstrations and guided practice, attendees will learn how active listening promotes psychological safety and trust, allowing individuals to feel genuinely heard and valued.

#### **Seeking Veritas Through Connections Across Campus, Disciplines, Faculty, and Students**

**Dr. AnnMarie DelliPizzi, Dominican University New York; Dr. Asye Edeer, Dominican University New York; Dr. Mary Roche Walsh, Dominican University New York**

What happens when faculty collaborate across disciplines and institutions to enhance teaching and relationships? Faculty from Dominican University New York present "Interfaith Connect," a project that promotes understanding of religion as a social determinant of health. It integrates academic and co-curricular learning, community partnerships, and engaged scholarship. Supported by a two-year Interfaith America grant, faculty in health sciences, religious studies, and the occupational and physical therapy programs revised courses to embed interfaith competencies. The initiative also features campus events, including a Day of Service, panels, podcasts, and a research symposium. Interfaith Connect strengthens collaboration across campus and with partners, offering a model for pursuing Veritas through dialogue and shared inquiry.

#### **Speaking Our Truth: Finding Our Place**

**Dr. Denise Dawkins Weir, Dominican University New York**

The workshop "Speaking Our Truth: Finding Our Place" explores belonging, intersectionality, and culturally responsive pedagogy through reflective dialogue and hands-on activities. Participants first examine "uncomfortable truths" and Veritas, grounding the session in lived experiences of bias. The "power of an image" segment then interrogates how institutional narratives and representation impact emotional well-being and access. Moving toward "the destination," attendees use data to envision equity and identify systemic disparities requiring adjustment. The experience concludes with a "Call to Action," where participants develop practical strategies for authentic inclusion. Attendees leave equipped to recognize exclusion and implement tools that foster environments where every voice is valued, every identity is honored, and every individual can find their place.

## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION II**

**Session II: 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

### **Veritas and Justice: Solidarity, Mission, and Outreach**

**Hagan Center 004** | *Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations*

#### **Mount Saint Mary College and Higher Education in Prison**

**Mike Daven, Mount Saint Mary College; Hilberto Ramos, Hudson Link**

Since 2020, the Mount has partnered with Hudson Link and offered a degree program to incarcerated individuals at Shawangunk Correctional Facility in Wallkill, New York. Our prison higher education program aligns closely with our mission. In this presentation, we will share details about the Hudson Link Prison Initiative and encourage colleagues to consider establishing a prison higher education program at their institution.

#### **From Coast to Coast: Expanding the HEARTsafe Campus Initiative to Strengthen Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness in Dominican Communities**

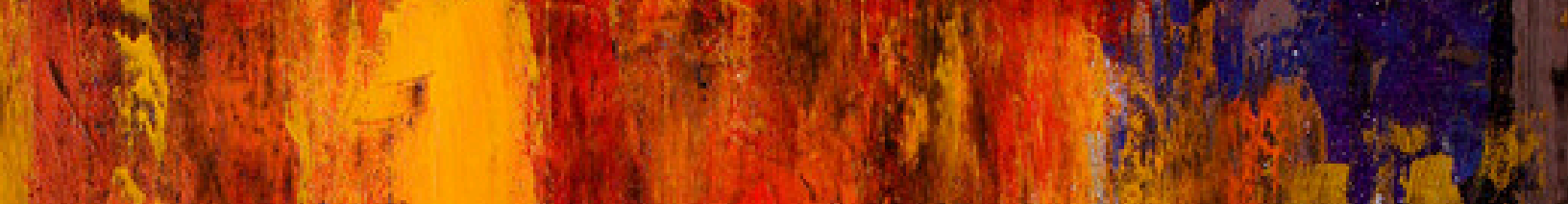
**Dr. Kendra Hoepper, Dominican University; Dr. Mary McCormack, Molloy University; Dr. Elizabeth Cotter, Molloy University; Dr. Carole Zarcone, Molloy University; Anthony DiDio, Molloy University**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest remains a major public health challenge, with survival largely dependent on immediate bystander action. To address this, the HEARTsafe Campus initiative launched in Fall 2021 at Molloy University, focusing on improving out-of-hospital cardiac arrest outcomes through CPR/AED training, advocacy, and partnerships with organizations such as the American Heart Association. Its success led to a Fall 2024 expansion to Dominican University of California, introducing the Penguin Project for Heart Safety. This collaboration expands training, outreach, and AED fundraising across both coasts. The program now prioritizes underserved communities near these campuses to reduce survival disparities, aiming to create heart-safe environments through preparedness and accessible technology.

#### **Do Justice, Love Mercy (Micah 6:8): Bridging Service and Advocacy**

**Katvon Makary, Barry University; Gabriel Bouani, Barry University**

Traditional service learning in higher education and nonprofit settings often unintentionally reproduce savior models that treat symptoms not systems through a top-down approach. This presentation highlights how campus-based programs can bridge service and advocacy through alternative frameworks grounded in mutual aid, justice, collective care, and Catholic Social Teaching. Using our Office of Ministry and Community Outreach at Barry University as an example, we examine how these principles show up in daily operations of our campus food pantry, free thrift store, and Days of Service. We will provide and discuss concrete strategies on community collaboration, political education, and empowerment that responds to both immediate material needs while addressing long-term systemic change.



**DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**  
**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION II**  
**Session II: 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

**Veritas at Work: Culture, Ethics, and Stewardship in Practice**  
*Hagan Center 020 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations*

**Veritas in Business Education: Beyond “Show Me the Money”**  
**Linda Hagan, PhD, Aquinas College**

Business should be guided by truth, justice, transparency, and the dignity of work, yet it is often driven by profit and power. Social media and news highlight students’ struggles to prepare for a future grounded in *Veritas*. At a liberal arts Dominican Catholic college, where business programs are highly enrolled, there is a responsibility to form ethical leaders. As Pope Leo XIV stated, “the world needs honest and courageous entrepreneurs and communicators who care for the common good.” This presentation explores teaching business ethics and social responsibility through practical strategies and interactive activities. These approaches help students examine how family, culture, religion, and social issues shape their ethical perspectives, build awareness of modern challenges, and practice ethical decision-making. The session shares student reflections on *veritas* in business.

**From Floundering to Flourishing: The Importance and Value of Honest Spreadsheets in Campus Ministry**

**Michael Ingram, Aquinas College**

This presentation explores how spreadsheets can be a powerful tool for communication, discernment, and assessment. Ministers navigate complex pastoral needs, shifting student engagement, limited resources, and increasing expectations for transparency and assessment. Honest spreadsheets can function not merely as administrative tools but as instruments of clarity revealing patterns of experience, communal priorities, and institutional truth. We will examine how accurate, reflective, and mission-aligned data supports a more responsive ministry, strengthens trust, and enhances collaboration. Real examples will highlight how transparent data can illuminate student needs, guide stewardship decisions, and support programming. By embracing spreadsheets, campus ministries can move from floundering in assumptions to flourishing in shared understanding and advance *Veritas* as a lived reality.

**Workplace Happiness and Its Alignment with Dominican Values**

**Dr. Maureen L. Mackenzie-Ruppel, Molloy University**

This research examines Workplace Happiness as a foundational driver of organizational success and explores its alignment with the core values of Dominican education. While Happiness may be an individual experience, this study frames it as a strategic imperative that helps employees serve their organizations, their communities, and their own interests. Community matters in collaborative work environments, strengthening relationships and fostering belonging. With IRB approval, 33 seasoned professionals completed a structured questionnaire. The results revealed the interconnected nature of happiness with key workplace elements. The nuanced interplay of workplace happiness, its pivotal role in driving organizational success, and the resistance to explicit integration were revealed. This paper provides recommendations for organizational stakeholders.

## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION II**

**Session II: 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

### **Leadership as Iterative Practice**

**Hagan Center 006 | Panel Presentation**

**Dr. Gina M. Florio, Molloy University; Dr. Matt Applegate, Molloy University; select faculty from the School of Arts & Sciences, Molloy University**

This panel focuses on leadership practices deployed in the School of Arts & Sciences to ensure the viability and completion of long-term projects involving multiple stakeholders. The presenters will offer three examples of long-term projects that required sustained engagement with the school's leadership: revision to the General Education curriculum, revision to the Promotion & Tenure process, and the school's Laudato Si' Community of Practice. The method is a form of iterative leadership, requiring those empowered to lead to develop an understanding of the problems to be solved, formulate strategies to address them, and being open to incorporating feedback at multiple stages during the project timeline. The goal is to demonstrate how iterative leadership practices involve trust, strengthening our communal bonds, and building a shared identity based on seeking the truth.

### **Veritas in Pursuit of Justice: Building Community Through Engaging the World**

**Larini Room, Public Square | Panel Presentation**

**Dr. Robert Bourgeois, Albertus Magnus College; Dr. Edward Dunar, Albertus Magnus College; Dr. Ross Edwards, Albertus Magnus College; Dr. Shiva Rezvan, Albertus Magnus College**

Inspired by the Dominican tradition of disputatio and Catholic Social Teaching, the biannual Justice Panel at Albertus Magnus College features faculty, students, and community guests who explore responses to systematic injustice from a multiplicity of perspectives. Joining us on our Panels have been people on the front lines of service and reform on issues such as immigration, gun violence, educational opportunity, and homelessness. In this presentation, panelists will describe how the Justice Panel began, how it provides an occasion to pursue veritas, how it has empowered students to seek justice in their own work, and how it helps us build connections with the community.

### **In the Pursuit of Truth: Sharing and Developing Your "Why..." with Students and Communities**

**Hagan Center 239 | Workshop**

**Dr. Lisa Peluso, Molloy University; Dr. Francine Wisnewski, Molloy University**

In an era of increasing division and information deluge, academic communities need intentional practices for pursuing truth together. This workshop moves beyond abstract ideals to actionable strategies that participants can implement immediately in their classrooms and within the broader community. Through storytelling, paired exercises, and small-group activities, participants will reflect on their "why" and explore how to transition from individual knowledge to collective wisdom.



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Tuesday, June 9: CONCURRENT SESSION II**

**Session II: 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

### **Practicing *Veritas* Through AI Transparency: A Dominican Model for Truth-Centered Teaching**

**Hagan Center 339 | Workshop**

**Dr. Sarah Lewis, Barry University**

As AI becomes a ubiquitous partner in education, Dominican institutions face a defining question: How do we model *Veritas* when work is co-created with machines? This presentation introduces Barry University's mission-driven framework for transparent AI use—a practice positioning truth-telling as a spiritual and pedagogical commitment rather than a mere disclosure requirement. The model documents the synergy between human contribution (ethics, discernment, and cultural responsiveness) and AI utility (structure and organization). This transparency statement embodies Dominican values by practicing truth in real time. We demonstrate how this approach strengthens trust, forms conscience, and honors human dignity. Participants will receive a template they can use to align AI use with the communal search for *Veritas* and the common good.



# Concurrent Session III



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION III**

**10:45AM – 12:00PM**

### ***Veritas and Formation: Educating for Truth in a Misinformed World***

**Hagan Center 021** | *Lecture Session – Two 20-minute presentations*

### ***Veritas and Student Agency for Learning in a Time of Misinformation***

**Joanna Alcruz, PhD, Molloy University**

In an era of competing narratives and shifting information, supporting students' pursuit of *Veritas* requires strengthening their agency as learners. Grounded in the Dominican intellectual tradition and scholarship on self-regulated learning, this presentation examines how agency supports truth-seeking. Drawing on approaches that emphasize metacognition, intrinsic motivation, self-assessment, and reflection, I explore how students can better evaluate information, recognize bias, and engage with complex issues. Framed through the contemplative-active model, the session highlights how reflection and action intersect in the pursuit of truth. Participants will be introduced to strategies such as agency mapping, self-regulation assessment, and reflective journaling to foster ownership of learning.

### ***Veritas and the Public Sphere: Forming Ethical Public Leaders in an Age of Misinformation***

**Dr. Stephen Sussman, Barry University; Dr. Carole Huberman, Barry University**

This presentation examines how the concept of *Veritas* functions as an analytical and pedagogical framework for truth-seeking in contemporary public life. Drawing on scholarship in public administration and research on misinformation, it argues that truth-seeking requires more than correcting factual errors. Instead, it involves cultivating habits of inquiry that enable students to evaluate evidence, question assumptions, and understand how narratives shape civic engagement. Using examples from teaching practice, the presentation explores how structured dialogue, case-based learning, and analysis of policy controversies support the development of civic judgment and ethical responsibility, highlighting the role of higher education in preparing students to engage public discourse and contribute to the common good.

### ***Veritas in the Humanities: Art and History***

**Hagan Center 020** | *Lecture Session – Two 20-minute presentations*

### ***The Spiritual Life of Artist Edward Boccia: Teaching and Artmaking as Veritas***

**Rosa Berland, Molloy University**

Artist and professor Edward E. Boccia (1921–2012) embodied Catholic devotion in hundreds of works, including large-scale panel paintings that explore piety and universal human struggles such as loss, grief, love, and the violence of war, cruelty, persecution, and automatization. As he stated, "Through painting I exercise the spirit," merging illusionism with profound spiritual and emotional depth. His work remains a touchstone for younger artists. A professor for over thirty years, Boccia upheld *veritas* through honest teaching, intellectual inquiry, and moral engagement. He approached pedagogy as a spiritual practice grounded in discipline, experimentation, and dialogue, modeling study as a form of prayer. This talk examines his life, teaching, and religious paintings as expressions of truth and human experience.

## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION III**

**Session III: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

### ***Veritas* in the Humanities: Art and History (continued)**

#### **Catholics and the American Revolution: A Reflection**

**Jason K. Duncan, Aquinas College**

As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of its founding this year, there have been a wide range of documentaries, books, academic symposia, public histories, all aimed at understanding the founding event of our country. In much of the literature and serious historical films and documentaries on the American Revolution, the place of Catholics in this complex event has been ignored or misunderstood. Before the Revolution, Catholicism was illegal in nearly all the British colonies in North America; in the immediate aftermath of the Revolutionary War, the states of the new republic removed those restrictions and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteed religious freedom for all, Catholics included. Why this sudden transformation, and what do these newly won liberties for Catholics and their Church tell us about what we call the American Revolution?

### ***Veritas* in Action: Nursing's Commitment to Justice and Care for the Underserved and Unhoused**

**Hagan Center 004 | Panel Presentation**

**Ethel Ulrich, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, Molloy University; Angela Maone, MA, CHES, Molloy University; Kerry Mastrangelo, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Molloy University; Kimberly Felix, RN, Molloy University; Maya Noel, RN, Molloy University**

Nursing is grounded in the pursuit of truth (*Veritas*) and the promotion of ethical practice that affirms human dignity. These values are especially critical when caring for underserved and unhoused populations, who often encounter systemic inequities and barriers to health. Through the Molloy Community Care Van initiative, graduate and doctoral-level nursing students and faculty extend care beyond traditional settings, meeting patients where they are and fostering trust through transparency, advocacy, and evidence-based practice. Care and health education are provided by students while modeling advance practice nursing's transformative role as both provider and change agent. In a time marked by polarization, injustice, and pervasive misinformation, the search for truth becomes a moral imperative. By acting justly and pursuing truth, inequities are addressed, and clients are empowered.

### **Tides of Resilience: Restorative Circles & *Veritas* in Our Shared Human Story**

**Hagan Center 239 | Workshop**

**Orianna Camargo, MBA, Barry University; Dr. Judisha Chetty Williams, Barry University**

Tides of Resilience: Restorative Circles & *Veritas* in Our Shared Human Story will invite participants into a reflective, interactive exploration of truth, belonging, and shared humanity within Dominican higher education. Grounded in immigrant narratives, Dominican spiritual tradition, and restorative justice, this workshop will explore how *Veritas* emerges through authentic storytelling, deep listening, and collective reflection. Participants will engage in restorative circles that center empathy, dignity, and presence, creating space to listen across differences, honor lived experiences, and build connection. Drawing on student development and experiential learning, we will explore how to integrate restorative practices into campus life to foster resilience, trust, and inclusion. Participants will leave with practical dialogue tools and insight into shared human stories.



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION III**

**Session III: 10:45AM – 12:00PM**

### **Unmasking the Self: Exploring Identity Through Art and *Veritas***

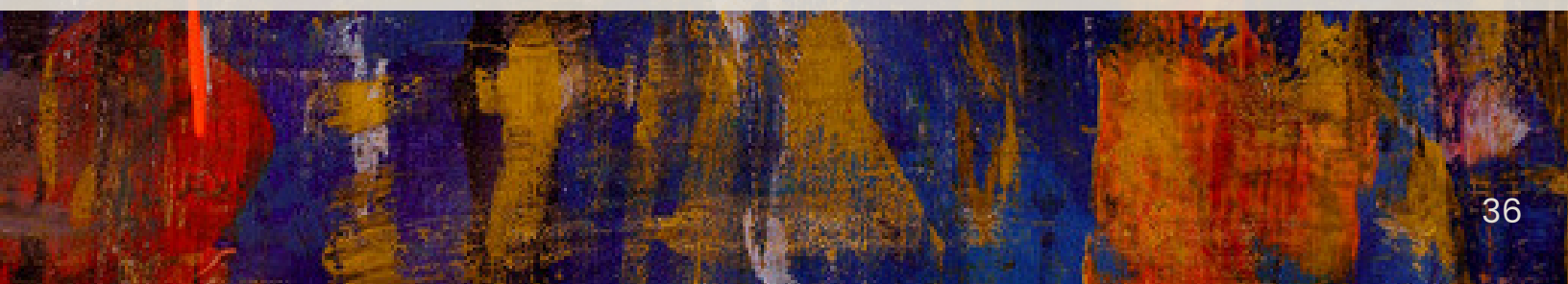
**Hagan Center 339 | Workshop**

**Dr. Audra Cerruto, Molloy University; Dr. Jenny La Monica, Molloy University; Dr. Erin Reilly, Molloy University; Dr. Jaime Vitrano, Molloy University; Leigh Weilandics, Molloy University**

Masking—adapting behaviors or traits to meet social expectations—is common, particularly among neurodivergent individuals. In this interactive workshop, staff and students from Molloy’s CONNECT program lead an exploration of masking through discussion and artmaking. Grounded in the Dominican value of *Veritas*, participants consider the relationship between internal identity and external presentation. After a brief overview of historical and contemporary uses of masks, participants will create their own, with representations of their inner selves on the inside and perceived external identities on the outside. Facilitators will share examples, and participants will reflect together, fostering dialogue, empathy, and connection. Emphasizing the Dominican value of community, the group process invites shared understanding and mutual support.



# Concurrent Session IV





## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION IV**

**Session IV: 2:15PM – 3:15PM**

***Veritas Realized: Justice, Voice, and Care for the Human Person***

***Hagan Center 020 | Lecture Session – Three 20-minute presentations***

**Sanctuary Schooling as *Veritas*: Truth, Belonging, and Justice for Immigrant Students**

**Dr. Chandler Patton Miranda, Molloy University**

In a time of uncertainty for immigrant families, the Dominican pursuit of *Veritas* calls educators to confront difficult truths with courage and hope. This presentation draws on ethnographic research in immigrant-serving public schools to introduce sanctuary schooling as a framework for understanding and responding to the lived realities of immigrant students. Sanctuary schooling centers four commitments: acknowledging failures of the state; valuing stability over urgency; seeing students as whole people beyond language proficiency; and recognizing them as contributors and leaders. Examining these commitments through *Veritas* frames truth-seeking as a practice of justice and invites educators to design spaces where dignity, safety, and belonging are central.

**Lived Experiences of Sensory-Friendly Religious Services**

**Dr. Mary Walsh Roche, Dominican University New York; Kathryn Shine, Dominican University New York; Casey Spencer, Dominican University New York**

The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life, and participation in Mass is a central expression of the Catholic faith—a living encounter with Christ in which all are welcomed as one. Sensory elements such as sound, light, and smell can enrich this experience for some and overwhelm others. Some face greater challenges in fully participating due to sensory processing or other disabilities. Through qualitative analysis of narratives, this study examines the experiences of those who attend or lead sensory-friendly, inclusive services, exploring how these adaptations support accessibility, participation, belonging, and authentic encounter.

**The Pursuit of *Veritas*: The Words and Wisdom of Maya Angelou**

**Patricia Rossi, Molloy University**

An analysis of selected poetry and prose by Maya Angelou as an embodiment of the Dominican pursuit of *Veritas*. Her courageous storytelling, moral clarity, and deep attention to the human experience confront injustice and racism while affirming dignity, resilience, and hope. She challenges the reader to engage truth with honesty and compassion. In a contemporary world marked by division and misinformation, Angelou’s words model a form of truth-telling that fosters connection, justice, and healing. Angelou offers a powerful framework for understanding *Veritas* as both a personal and communal practice, aligned with the Dominican mission of seeking truth in service of the common good.

## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION IV**

**Session IV: 2:15PM – 3:15PM**

### **The Immigration Crisis in Children's Literature in the Spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas**

**Hagan Center 021 | Panel Presentation**

**Sister Alice Byrnes, OP, Molloy University; Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse, OP, Molloy University, William Kiley, MS, Molloy University**

The panel will consist of three parts: the Legacy of Bartolomé de Las Casas, children's books on immigration, and the experience of an author who has written picture books about the immigration crisis. The Dominican, Las Casas, is a model for all who advocate for people suffering from political oppression. Children's books can convey important messages about life. A book talk showcasing examples of children's books on immigration can make a powerful impact on both children and adults. A children's author will explain his compelling need for a pulpit to express his concerns about the plight of immigrants. Questions and answers will offer an opportunity for the audience and presenters to share additional insights.

### **Veritas, the Lived Experience, and Social Work Education in a Polarized World**

**Hagan Center 004 | Panel Presentation**

**Kelly Sullivan Dennis, PhD, LCSW, Molloy University; Jamie Mera Bajana, Molloy University; Malani Blackman, Molloy University; Emily McKenna, Molloy University**

In a time of polarization and competing conceptions of truth, the Dominican tradition of *Veritas* offers a meaningful foundation for study, reflection, dialogue, and community engagement. Social work education aligns with this mission through its grounding in ethics, human rights, and the person-in-environment perspective. This panel brings together faculty and students to explore how *Veritas* is lived within social work education. Panelists will discuss how truth-seeking is fostered through curriculum, experiential learning, and community engagement, with attention to diversity and lived experience. Faculty will highlight teaching and mentoring practices that support ethical reasoning, reflection, and dialogue. The panel will consider how *Veritas* can be cultivated as a relational practice that strengthens community and prepares students to engage thoughtfully in a complex world.

### **Veritas in Dialogue: Equipping Students to Seek Truth Across Difference**

**Hagan Center 239 | Workshop**

**Dr. Michael Malinowski, Molloy University**

This session introduces a structured approach to teaching students to manage disagreement through bridge building. Grounded in the Dominican pursuit of *Veritas* as truth sought in relationship, the workshop draws on the Skills for Bridging the Gap curriculum used with undergraduate students at Molloy University. Participants move through core activities that clarify what bridgebuilding is and is not, examine how conversational goals shape behavior, and reflect on whether they are engaging in learning or persuasion. A central component focuses on helping participants articulate a personal ethic of bridgebuilding through reflection, paired dialogue, and a guided worksheet. Participants then consider how these practices support student engagement across lines of difference and how they can be adapted within their own institutional contexts.



## **DOMINICAN COLLOQUIUM 2026**

**Wednesday, June 10: CONCURRENT SESSION IV**

**Session IV: 2:15PM – 3:15PM**

### **Living *Veritas* Through Collaboration: Practical Steps for Mission Integration in a Diverse Campus Community**

**Hagan Center 339 | Workshop**

**Kisha Chandler, Molloy University; Thomas Flynn, Molloy University; Dr. Karl Koeppel, Molloy University; Dr. Michelle Martin, Molloy University**

The Dominican value of *Veritas* is a lived reality expressed through dialogue, community, and action. In today's pluralistic campus environment, authentic engagement with truth requires intentional collaboration. This presentation highlights how Mission and Ministry, Student Affairs, Student Involvement, and the Center for Multicultural and Intercultural Affairs collaborate on programs that embody Dominican values while addressing diversity, leadership, and inclusion. Initiatives such as Lead Like a Lion, Brewing Understanding, and partnerships with cultural and faith-based student organizations model effective mission integration in student life. Through shared examples and guided discussion, participants will explore ways to adapt these approaches on their campuses to resonate with diverse student communities and form leaders of integrity and purpose.

# NOTES



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*"I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for... something that energizes you... I can just encourage you to start looking and support you in the search."*

Ita Ford, MM



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## **MOLLOY UNIVERSITY**

*Molloy University, an independent, Catholic university rooted in the Dominican tradition of study, spirituality, service and community, is committed to academic excellence with respect for each person. Through transformative education, Molloy promotes a lifelong search for truth and the development of ethical leadership.*

### ***Molloy University Land Acknowledgment***

*We pause to acknowledge that Molloy University is located on lands once home to Indigenous Peoples, including the Lenape, the Montaukett Indian Nation, and Indigenous Peoples who resided in the Massapequa, Merrick, and Rockaway territories. We recognize the long and complex history that has brought us to these lands, and we seek to understand the ongoing impact of settler colonialism and its influence on the cultures and heritages of Indigenous Peoples. We remember and acknowledge our connections to Indigenous Peoples and appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on this land. We honor Indigenous Peoples of the past, today, and generations to come.*