Building Bridges Over Walls

The Veritas Series for Faith and Culture endeavors to foster learning and dialogue by gathering our community together, as we seek to live lives of faith and justice.

The word veritas comes from the Latin word meaning truth. It is taken directly from the College motto: “Christus est Via, Veritas et Vita” (Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life). The pursuit of truth is at the centre of our mission.

In his Apostolic Constitution of 1990, Saint John Paul wrote, "A Catholic University, as any university, is immersed in human society... Imbued among its research activities, therefore, will be a study of serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world's resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level, (32)"

This year’s series entitled, “Building Bridges Over Walls” challenges us to find new way of overcoming obstacles in living out the gospel, of bringing about healing in Christ’s Body and to foster the Church’s witness in the wider community.

Artists, activists, scientists and theologians will lead us in conversations that will both challenge and encourage us as we seek to live lives of faith and justice.

Dr. Susan Aglukark is one of Canada’s most unique artists and a leading voice in Canadian music. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic Canada. The emotional depth and honesty of her lyrics; her pure, clear voice and themes of hope, spirit and encouragement have captivated and inspired listeners from all walks of life.

Dr. Timothy P. O’Malley is the director of education for the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. He also holds an appointment as the academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy where he teaches courses in liturgical-sacramental theology in the Department of Theology. He has authored six books most recently Liturgical Formation in the R.C.I.A. (Liturgical Press, 2019) and Off the Hook: God, Love, Dating, and Marriage in a Hookup World (Ave Maria Press, 2018).

Archbishop Donald Bolen is a Member of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, and co-chair of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission. He previously served on international dialogues with Anglicans, Methodists and Evangelicals, as well as co-chairing the national dialogue with the Anglican Church of Canada and has written extensively on ecumenical dialogue and relations.

Dr. Murray Watson is a Catholic Biblical scholar and interfaith leader who has worked for 20 years in the field of interreligious dialogue and education. After studies in Rome, Jerusalem and Dublin, Murray’s work has included teaching here in London and in Israel, as well as work with the Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department and the International Council of Christians and Jews. Murray is currently based in Barrie, Ontario, where he works supporting the professional development of Catholic teachers. In 2004, Murray was one of the co-founders of the Centre for Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Learning here at King’s.

Dr. Catherine E. Clifford is Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology in the Faculty of Theology, Saint Paul University, and founding director of the Research Center on Vatican II and 21st Century Catholicism. She holds a PhD in Theology from the University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto, and a Licentiate in Theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Her teaching and research are focussed in the areas of ecclesiology, ecumenism, and the history of Vatican II.

Carmiel Frutkopf grew up in Jerusalem, and after years of volunteering for Kids4Peace, he joined the team as Program Director for Experience in 2017. A social entrepreneur, Carmiel created and led an initiative called “Pluralusalem”, working to make change in Jerusalem on a variety of social issues. Carmiel holds a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science. His parents came as settlers from America in the early 1970s.

Dr. Benjamin Muller holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from Queen’s University, Belfast (2005). He is the author of multiple peer-reviewed books, articles, and chapters, on issues related to borders, sovereignty, technology, and identity. Dr. Muller has served as an invited expert to NATO, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the European Science Foundation, and the Parliament of Canada. He has served on boards and as president of various academic and professional associations, has held visiting fellowships at a number of Universities in Canada, the US, and Turkey, and continues to serve as President of the King’s University College Faculty Association (2015-2019).
September 20, 2018
Nomad: The Soul of The People of Canada’s Arctic
Dr. Susan Aglukark
Through songs and stories, Susan will take you on the journey of the Canadian Inuit over the last 1000 years and shed some light on the psychological and cultural impact of that rapid change.

October 18–19, 2018
Liturgy and the Universality of the Church
Dr. Timothy P. O’Malley
Co-sponsored by the London District Catholic School Board
The Church must think about liturgical inclusion not simply as a series of tactics to increase liturgical participation. Instead, it must relate to the Church’s very mission to transform the entire world in Eucharistic love.

January 17, 2019
Conversations over the Fence: Creative Initiatives in Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relations
Archbishop Donald Bolen
Since the Second Vatican Council, we can say with confidence that dialogue is constitutive of the Church’s life in the world. Dialogue and relationship building takes many shapes, and some of those creative efforts, including receptive ecumenism, scriptural reasoning, dialogue with Indigenous spiritual traditions, and inter-faith conversations in the sphere of culture.

February 7, 2019
Encounter as Bridging and Crossing
Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI
Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
The Culture of Encounter is a multi-dimensional call. We are challenged to build bridges across all that divides humanity, but we are also encouraged to cross the bridges others have built. What are the competencies today's Christians need to embrace in order to build and cross bridges?

February 28, 2019
Rediscovering Our Lost Family: Highlights and Lowlights in Contemporary Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Dialogue
Dr. Murray Watson
Co-sponsored by Center for Jewish, Catholic, Muslim Learning
Although Catholicism has a very long history of interacting with both Judaism and Islam, much of that history has been negative, tense and confrontational. This talk will provide a glimpse into some of the many good news stories and some of the struggles that challenge us to come to know each other better, and to interact respectfully, and thoughtfully, as partners and, increasingly, as friends.

March 21, 2019
Not as Guests, but as Full Participants in Social and Ecclesial Life: Perspectives on Women in the Church Today
Dr. Catherine E. Clifford
Co-sponsored by Commission for Women in the Church Today
Pope Francis maintains there is a need today for a “more widespread and incisive female presence” in the various settings of the church where important decisions are made. Beginning from the presence of lay and religious women at the Second Vatican Council, this talk will consider the many ways that women are actively contributing to the life of the Catholic Church today in often unacknowledged ways. How might their gifts be more fully received into the structure of the church?

March 28–29, 2019
Conversations with Kids4Peace
Carmiel Frutkopf and Colleagues
Co-sponsored by Center for Jewish, Catholic, Muslim Learning
Kids4Peace brings together young people and adults to build peace in in the Middle East and in other parts of the world. They do so, using faith as a bridge and as a point of healing. They would like to meet with primary and secondary school students, university students and with men and women who are interested in being agents of peace in their own community.

April 4, 2019
Walls, Security, and the Sacred
Dr. Benjamin Muller
After spending nearly two decades examining borders from the perspective of critical security studies, Dr. Muller reflects on the relationship between security and the sacred in the contemporary vision of borders, which is an all too often ill-fated celebration of walls. What of the many barriers and fences referred to as “peace walls?” How might these developments have something to say about our contemporary ideas about security, safety, community, and the sacred?

Annual Christ the King Lecture
November 21, 2018
Who is My Brother, and Sister and Mother?
The church community is not immune from the polarizing influence of politically populist, nationalist, and nativist language. Rooted in the primacy of human dignity, this talk will explore the Gospel imperative for inclusion of those marginalized because of sexual identity, immigration policies, political unrest, marital status, and religious affiliation. Is Pope Francis opening new paths for Catholic Christians and others?

March 30, 2019
Art Show
Transforming Hearts: One artist's journey through poverty and into the richness of faith
September 26–October 9, 2018
Vitali Lounge, Wemple Building
Opening reception: September 26 at 7 p.m. With presentations by Sr. Sue Wilson, CSJ, Fr. Denis Grecco and Tracy Root (artist).

Joseph Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R.
was appointed as the Archbishop of Newark and created a Cardinal in 2016. Among other responsibilities, Cardinal Tobin serves as the Archbishop Secretary for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. He is a member of the Joint International Commission for International Dialogue between the Catholic and Orthodox and Co-Chair, North American Catholic-Orthodox Theological Consultation.