

the CHURCH in the 21ST CENTURY CENTER

AND
The Women's Resource Center at Boston College

PRESENT



**“Foremothers in Faith:
Historic Women For Our Time”**

FEBRUARY 6, 2007
HEIGHTS ROOM, BOSTON COLLEGE



CONTINUING THE TRADITION ... THE C21 SERIES ON WOMEN



PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BOSTON COLLEGE WOMEN:

Lisa Sowle Cahill,

Professor, J. Donald Monan, S.J. Chair, Theology Department

M. Shawn Copeland,

Associate Professor, Theology Department

Patricia DeLeeuw,

Vice Provost for Faculties, Office of the Provost and Dean of Faculties

Colleen Griffith,

Faculty Director of Spirituality Studies, IREPM; Adjunct Associate Professor, Theology Department

Ruth Langer,

Associate Professor, Theology Department; Associate Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning



5:30 PM – REGISTRATION

5:45 PM – PANEL DISCUSSION

6:45 PM – RECEPTION



Lisa Sowle Cahill,

Professor, J. Donald Monan, S.J. Chair, Theology Department.

Lisa Sowle Cahill grew up primarily in northern Virginia, was educated in California and Chicago, and has taught at Boston College since 1976. She has also been a visiting professor at Georgetown and Yale Universities. She and her husband Larry are the parents of five children. Her research interests include the history of Christian ethics; New Testament and ethics; Catholic social ethics; feminist theology and sex and gender ethics; bioethics; and ethics of war and peace.

M. Shawn Copeland,

Associate Professor, Theology Department.

From 1994 to 2003 Copeland was associate professor of systematic theology at Marquette University and from 1989 to 1994, she taught at Yale University Divinity School. She serves as adjunct associate professor of systematic theology at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans. She has lectured extensively in the United States as well as in Australia, Belgium, Canada, and Nigeria. Her research interests converge around issues of theological and philosophical anthropology and political theology as well as African and African-derived religious and cultural experience and African American intellectual history.

Patricia DeLeeuw,

Vice Provost for Faculties, Office of the Provost and Dean of Faculties.

Patricia DeLeeuw has served as associate academic vice president and now vice provost at Boston College since 1999. She earned a B.A. from the University of Detroit, and holds the Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. Pat joined the faculty of the Department of Theology at Boston College in 1979, and subsequently served as associate dean in the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. At Boston College and at the Weston School of Theology she has taught courses on the social and institutional history of Christianity, and she has written on the influence of Gregory the Great in the Middle Ages, early medieval pastoral care, and medieval religious and liturgical art.

Colleen Griffith,

Faculty Director of Spirituality Studies, IREPM; Adjunct Associate Professor, Theology Department.

Colleen M. Griffith, Faculty Director of Spirituality Studies at Boston College's Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry and Adjunct Associate Professor of Theology, holds her Doctorate in Theology from Harvard University's Divinity School. She works at the intersection of theology and spirituality and her publications, public lectures and addresses reflect this intersection. In addition to her full time teaching, Colleen directs and oversees the Post-Master's Certificate Program in the Practice of Spirituality. Her areas of interest include historical spirituality, contemporary spirituality, theological anthropology with a special focus on a theology and spirituality of the body, method in practical theology, method in spirituality, constructive theology, and feminist theology.

Ruth Langer,

Associate Professor, Theology Department; Associate Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

Ruth Langer is Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Boston College and Academic Director of its Center for Christian-Jewish Learning. She received her Ph.D. in Jewish Liturgy in 1994 and her rabbinic ordination in 1986 from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One cluster of her research interests and publications focuses on questions of the development of Jewish liturgy and ritual. As Academic Director of Boston College's [Center for Christian-Jewish Learning](#), Ruth Langer has also been teaching, writing, and speaking about Jewish-Christian relations. This center offers courses, lectures, and seminars on various aspects of Jewish-Christian relations. It also sponsors scholarly research and serves as a resource to many local, national, and international organizations.

Suggested Readings:

MARY MAGDALENE AND WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lisa Sowle Cahill

Brown, Raymond E. "Roles of Women in the Fourth Gospel," *Theological Studies* (December 1975). This special theme issue on women and theology was also published as Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., ed., Woman: New Dimensions. New York: Paulist Press, 1977.

Maisch, Ingrid. *Mary Magdalene: The Image of a Woman through the Centuries*, trans. Linda Maloney. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Thimmes, Pamela, O.S.F. "Memory and Re-Vision: Mary Magdalene Research since 1975," *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies*, vol. 6, 1998, 193-226.

Schussler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *But She Said; Feminist Practices of Biblical Interpretation*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Some biblical texts:

John 20

Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 15:42-16:8

Luke 23:55-24:12

Luke 7:46-8:4

John 11:2 and John 12

Matthew 12:46-50

Luke 1:26-46

RASHI'S DAUGHTERS

Ruth Langer

Anton, Maggie. *Rashi's Daughters: Book I, Yoheved and Book 2: Miriam*. New York: Plume, 2006, 2007. (Book 3: Rachel is not yet published)

Frymer-Kensky, Tikva. *Reading the Women of the Bible: A New Interpretation of their Stories*. New York: Schocken, 2004.

Umanksy, Ellen. *Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality: A Sourcebook*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

CATHERINE OF SIENA

Shawn Copeland

Fatula, Mary Ann. *Catherine of Siena's Way*, rev. ed. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990.

Noffke, Suzanne. *Catherine of Siena: Vision Through a Distant Eye*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1996.

Noffke, Suzanne, ed. *The Prayers of Catherine of Siena*. New York/Ramsey: Paulist Press, 1983.

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Patricia DeLeeuw

Baker, Denise N., ed. *Showings : Authoritative Text, Contexts, Criticism/ Julian of Norwich*. 1st ed. New York : W.W. Norton & Co., 2005.

Baker, Denise N. *Julian of Norwich's 'Showings: ' From Vision to Book*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.

Jantzen, Grace M. *Julian of Norwich: Mystic and Theologian*. 2nd ed. New York: Paulist Press, 2000.

Krantz, M. Diane F. *The life and Text of Julian of Norwich: The Poetics of Enclosure*. New York: P. Lang, 1997.

Nuth, Joan M. *Wisdom's Daughter: The Theology of Julian of Norwich*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.

EVELYN UNDERHILL

Colleen Griffith

Greene, Dana. *Evelyn Underhill: Artist of the Infinite Life*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1998.

Griffin, Emilie. *Evelyn Underhill: Essential Writings*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2003.

Underhill, Evelyn. *Concerning the Inner Life*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1995.

_____. *The Spiritual Life*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1999.

_____. *Practical Mysticism*. Surrey: Eagle Press, 1991.

For further reading:

Bynum, Caroline Walk. *Jesus as Mother: Studies in the Spirituality of the High Middle Ages*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.

Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*. New York: Picador, 1998.

Gately, Edwina, and Louis Glanzman. *Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today*. Maryknoll NY: Orbis, 2002.

Grossman, Abraham. *Pious and Rebellious: Jewish Women in Medieval Europe*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2004.

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Truly Our Sister: A Theology of Mary in the Communion of Saints*. New York: Continuum, 2003.

Malone, Mary T. *Women and Christianity*, vols. I-III. Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 2001, 2002, 2003.

Schussler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroad, 1983.

Schussler Fiorenza, Elisabeth, ed. *Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Biblical Commentary*, 2 vols. New York: Crossroad, 1995, 1997.

At the C21 event, FOREMOTHERS IN FAITH, attendees were asked to name the women who have inspired them with wisdom. Here are their responses:

Name of Woman:	Number of attendees who chose her:
St. Theresa of Lisieux	2
Dorothy Day	2
Mother Teresa	2
Mary	2
St. Julie Billiart (founder of SND)	1
Elizabeth Seton	1
Jane de Chantal	1
Sr. Wendy Beckett	1
Joan Chittister	1
Joyce Rupp	1
Rigoberta Menchu	1
Thea Bowman	1
Hildegard of Bingen	1
Mother/Sister	5