



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES INSIDERS

Winter 2022



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Image by Erwin Bosman



In the second reply, a twitter user asked if she might have committed a mortal sin. If she had, that would explain why God was not answering her. While sinfulness might prevent one from recognizing God's presence, it's hard for me to imagine this was a helpful response.

The legalistic approach to God in the second reply, which presents God as caring more about rules and jumping through hoops than actual human beings and their suffering, is not unique to the twitter user in reply #2. Good theology always requires critical thinking *and* empathy. Let's do some theology together and learn to be more like twitter reply #1. Next Fall's courses are listed on the back.

Dr. Crosby

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S CORNER

This is the newsletter for religious studies majors, minors, concentration-ers, TAK honors society members, and the people who teach and advise you all.

The other day I came across a twitter exchange that reminded me of the importance of good theology. A woman asked for advice on finding God when God seems absent. She noted that her prayers feel as if they are going into the void. She got many responses, but the first two stuck out to me.

In the first reply, a woman explained that when she felt similarly, she turned to peers in a gardening group who gave her life. Through those relationships she began to see God again. This woman understood that God isn't just *something* or even *someone* out there, but rather that God happens *here* when we love our neighbors and allow ourselves to be loved by our neighbors. I found her advice both beautiful and practical - if you want to find God, join a gardening group (or any group you like).

## BUILDING BRIDGES NORTH-SOUTH

### An Encounter Between Pope Francis and University Students



On Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis and students from North, Central, and South America discussed issues important to young Catholics including immigration, climate change, and priests that just don't seem to care (spoiler: Pope Francis says they're not real pastors, just members of the establishment!)

Did you miss the livestream?

Watch the recording in English, Spanish, or Portuguese at [www.luc.edu/popefrancis](http://www.luc.edu/popefrancis)

# Scholarship Symposium

Keynote: Maggi Van Dorn



Wednesday, April 20 @ 9am on Teams

(watch announcements for link)

Maggi Van Dorn was a religious studies major as an undergrad, just like many of you reading this. After going on to earn a Master in Divinity degree, she took a job curating podcasts for SiriusXM radio followed by a position at *America* (a Catholic magazine and media organization) as the audio producer for podcasts. Her podcasts range from the serious (how do we respond to the clerical sexual abuse scandal in *Deliver Us*) to the fun (the history of our favorite Christmas carols in *Hark!*). I hope she inspires you to think about how your research in religious studies can contribute to an impactful career.

You can find both podcasts here: <https://www.americamagazine.org/podcasts>

**Don't forget to check out your peers' poster and oral presentations!**

## Program Coordinator's P.S.

If you haven't visited me (Dr. Crosby) in a while, come check out my office in Sacred Heart Hall 312A. I now have pictures on the wall, chocolate, pirate tattoos, and drinks in the fridge, since *someone* (\*cough, Nathan Lee) said my office was "sad."

It's still got nothin' on Dr. Raab's spacious office...

# UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20: Scholarship Symposium with keynote Maggi Van Dorn @ 9am

April 29: Honors Convocation in PAC @ 2pm

Theta Alpha Kappa induction in DH 114/115/116 @ 4pm-ish

# FALL 2022 COURSES

## RST 102: Intro to Christian Theology

online – Dr. Crosby

in person – Dr. Raab T/TH 8:00-9:15am

## RST 103: Catholicism Today

Dr. Crosby M/W/F 10:00-10:50am

## RST 104: Intro to the Bible

Dr. Bell M/W/F 3:00-3:50pm

## RST 302: Intro to Hebrew Scriptures

Dr. Bell M/W/F 2:00-2:50pm

## RST 305: Theological Ethics

Dr. Crosby T/TH 9:30-10:45am

## RST 318: Values in Video

Dr. Raab M 6:30-9:15pm

