

ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



INTERNATIONAL
Rome Global Gateway



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF MERCY?

On March 10 the meeting Mercy: An Interreligious Panel for the Jubilee Year created an occasion for the encounter among people of different religious traditions, opening to dialogue and mutual understanding and trying to speak of the mystery of God's love. It was a special occasion that gathered the exceptional participation of J. Matthew Ashley (Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame), Mehdi Azaiez (Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the KU Leuven), Gustavo Gutierrez O.P. (Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame) and Rabbi Maurice Michaels from Bournemouth Reform Synagogue.

"Certainly since the promulgation in April of last year of the bull *Misericordiae Vultus*, announcing the beginning of a Jubilee Year of Mercy, the word 'mercy' has been on many people's lips. With the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's, we witnessed a dramatic act that served to underline Pope Francis's intention that mercy not remain merely a word for us, but that it should be enacted – in the recognition of our own need for mercy, in our experience of God's mercy for us, and in the way we may then live out that mercy in our relations with one another. What has, perhaps, received less attention is how from the beginning of this Jubilee Year it has been the intention of Pope Francis to see in the theme of divine mercy a means to enter into dialogue and companionship with members of other faiths, with people who share a long experience of God's faithful mercy in the lives and traditions of their own communities." From the introduction of Fr. Andrew N. Downing from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Chair of the panel.

Russia's failed Democratic Revolution

On March 10-12, 2016, a Symposium entitled *Russia's Failed Democratic Revolution, February-October, 1917: A Centennial Reappraisal* took place at the Rome Global Gateway, sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a defining event of the twentieth century, shaping much of what has followed. In nine short days, Europe's last old regime was overthrown, and a chain of events was set in motion that led to the disintegration of the Russian empire and the rise of the Soviet regime that would come to dominate the world stage.

The conference (and a volume to come) brought together some of the world's leading scholars of the Russian Revolution from the United States, UK, Germany, Israel, Scandinavia, and Russia whose contributions integrated the latest research, and challenged many of the conventional interpretations. The papers reflected the impact on the study of the Russian Revolution made by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of the new authoritarian regime of President Putin. The conference itself exemplified and promoted new opportunities for collaboration between Western and Russian historians on the eve of the centennial anniversary of Russia's failed democratic revolution.



GLYNN FAMILY PROGRAM AT THE RGG



For the second year in a row, eleven Glynn scholars traveled to Rome over spring break as part of the Glynn Global Gateway Initiative. Accompanied by Professors Robert Norton, Elizabeth Mazurek, and Tadeusz Masurak, students benefited from a mix of academic and cultural programming through a combination of lectures and guided walks around Rome. High points of the trip included visits to the Vatican, the Colosseum, the Forum, as well as Galleria Borghese and the Capitoline Museum.



BARRY MCCREA WINS "BEST BOOK" PRIZE FOR HIS LANGUAGES OF THE NIGHT



RGG Faculty Fellow Barry McCrea, the Donald R. Keough Family Professor of Irish Studies and Professor of English, Irish Language and Literature, and Romance Languages and Literatures, has been awarded the René Wellek Prize by the American Comparative Literature Association for the best book in the past year in comparative literature.

McCrea's *Languages of the Night: Minor Languages and the Literary Imagination in Twentieth-Century Ireland and Europe* (Yale University Press, 2015) explores how the decline of rural languages and dialects in twentieth-century Europe shaped ideas about language and literature and exerted a powerful influence on literary modernism.

The book was launched at the Rome Global Gateway on November 19, 2015 in the presence, among others, of the Irish Ambassador to Italy, Bobby McDonagh.

The Wellek is generally considered to be the most prestigious prize in the field of literary studies. Past winners of the award include Umberto Eco and Edward Said. McCrea is the first Notre Dame faculty member to win the award.

RGG Short-term Grant Awardee - Christopher Baron

Chris, can you describe your project?

I am an Associate Professor of Classics at Notre Dame (and Concurrent in History), specializing in the history of ancient Greece. My visit to the Rome Global Gateway is part of research for my second book, on Greek Historians under the Roman Empire. At the moment, I am focusing on Dionysius of Halicarnassus, a Greek intellectual who moved to Rome in 30 B.C., at the beginning of the reign of Augustus (the first Roman emperor). Dionysius spent more than twenty years researching and writing a history of early Rome, from before the founding of the city by Romulus down to the outbreak of their first war with Carthage.



My objective while in Rome is to investigate Dionysius' topographical representation of the city in order to identify patterns which will help answer the major question my book asks: how did Greek historical writing change when the Greeks became subjects of a foreign power? Augustus presented himself as the new hope for peace and prosperity in the Roman Empire, and he boasted of turning Rome from a city of brick into a city of marble. Dionysius witnessed much of this activity, and he was clearly convinced that Roman leadership was now the best hope for peace among the Greeks.

I am grateful for funding from the Rome Global Gateway, Notre Dame International, the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, and the College of Arts and Letters that allowed me to work on this exciting project - which I hope to complete in less time than Dionysius took to write his history!

Student Life

PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI



Emily David is our new Student Minister. She will seek to help students build and deepen their relationship with Christ and invite them into the sacramental life of the Church. Among her activities she also arranged a very interesting Pilgrimage to Assisi.

Serving as Campus Ministry's Student Minister in Rome has been a wonderful experience so far. I have worked with Deacon Kevin from the Pontifical North American College (NAC) to organize a weekly Sunday Mass at the RGG chapel, which takes us back to the familiar dorm Masses at ND. We have gathered for pizza and fellowship with seminarians from the NAC to learn more about the Year of Mercy and the Sacraments and to share how Rome is helping us grow spiritually.

On March 5th, 21 students and 2 deacons embarked on a pilgrimage to Assisi, sponsored by Campus Ministry. Not only did we get to visit and pray at beautiful churches - such as the Basilica of St. Francis, home to the tomb of St. Francis and famous frescoes, where we got to celebrate Mass as a small group - but we also enjoyed great conversations over pizza and pondered the experience of faith as we hiked the rolling hills.

For me personally, the pilgrimage reinforced my belief in an incarnational faith. As a Catholic, I believe in not just ideals but also physical realities: the Real Presence of the Eucharist, the Christian community, and the experience of the Divine through the saints, who show us that, even if not as remarkable as the life of St. Francis, it is possible to give ourselves to God where we are in the world.

VISIT TO CAPRAROLA AND BAGNAIA



A recent daytrip to the hill towns outside of Rome, Caprarola and Bagnaia brought the undergraduate architecture studio garden project to life. The group visited Villa Farnese in Caprarola and Villa Lante in Bagnaia both whose designs and

construction took place throughout the 16th century. The villas were intended to be an escape from the chaotic city life of Rome.

Alyson Cox and her Internship at the Pontifical Academy for Life

Alyson is one of our International Scholars who came to Rome for an exceptional internship. Can you tell us more?

During my time in Rome, I have been blessed with an incredible internship at the Pontifical Academy for Life, an office of the Vatican that offers pro-life, bioethical advice and support to the Pope. I was able to work for the Academy during their annual assembly, in which the majority of the appointed Academy Members gather in Rome for a short conference to share their work and attempt to tackle current bioethical issues as a group. It was truly unfair to have access to this conference as an undergraduate, surrounded by the strongest Catholic academics and leaders in the field I aspire to be a part of. I was able to grow as an academic and a researcher through observation of Members' presentations and group meetings, and even through personal conversations with the Academy Members themselves. Most importantly, I was (again unfairly) invited to attend their private papal audience and have a personal encounter with Pope Francis. This will certainly be the crowning jewel in my adventures abroad, for which I am immeasurably grateful.



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Field Trip to Campania Region for the Architecture Students

Architecture undergraduate and graduate students spent four days exploring the Italian region of Campania, specifically Naples, the ruins of Herculaneum, Pompeii, Paestum and the Regia di Caserta. Faculty discussed Naples' baroque architecture, the destruction caused by Mount Vesuvius' explosion in 79 AD, and the Greek classical temples found in Paestum.