

About our 2011-12 speakers

Anita Houck is Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago with a dissertation on laughter and the Divine in ancient Greek and modern Christian literature. Her primary research interests include the place of humor and laughter in Christian living, the single life, religion and literature, and spirituality. She has presented and published numerous essays on these topics.

Margaret Urban Walker holds the Donald J. Schuenke Chair in the Philosophy department at Marquette University. She has also taught at Fordham University and Arizona State University, and she has held visiting appointments at Washington University of St. Louis, the University of South Florida, and the Catholic University of Leuven, where she was the first woman to hold the Cardinal Mercier Chair in Philosophy. She was Marquette's Aquinas Lecturer in 2010, where her lectures were published in book format under the title *What is Reparative Justice?* Her other publications include *Moral Contexts*, *Moral Repair: Reconstructing Moral Relations After Wrongdoing*, and *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics*.

Richard Gaillardetz is the Joseph McCarthy Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. Before coming to Boston, he taught at the University of Toledo as the Thomas and Margaret Murray and James J. Bacik Professor of Catholic Studies and at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Theology in Houston. He was also recently elected as the Vice President for the Catholic Theological Society of America. From 2000-2005, Dr. Gaillardetz served as a Catholic delegate on the U.S. Catholic-Methodist Dialogue. He lectures internationally in service of the Church and the Academy, especially in the areas of ecclesiology, discipleship, and systematic theology. He is the author, among other titles, of *The Church in the Making*, *Ecclesiology for a Global Church*, and *Witnesses to the Faith*.

Peter Kreeft is Professor of Philosophy at Boston College and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Philosophy at The King's College in New York City. Before joining Boston College in 1965, he taught at Villanova University. Dr. Kreeft speaks nationally on a wide range of topics including Christian apologetics, moral relativism, heaven, and philosophy and literature. He is the author of over 60 books, including *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, *A Summa of the Summa*, *Love is Stronger Than Death*, *Philosophy of Tolkien: The Worldview Behind The Lord of the Rings*, *Socratic Logic*, and a series of dialogues involving Socrates and various thinkers in the history of philosophy. He has also recently completed a novel twenty years in the making, *An Ocean Full of Angels*.

Jean-Luc Marion is the Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichols Greeley Professor of Catholic Studies and Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Paris-Sorbonne. He is a scholar on the thought and method of Descartes, and in the past few decades he has engaged contemporary phenomenology, Greek and Latin patristics, the history of medieval and modern philosophy, aesthetics, and constructive theology. Professor Marion is considered one of the foremost leading philosophers of religion in France and the United States. He was awarded the 1992 Grand Prix du Philosophie de l'Académie Française and the 2008 Karl-Jaspers Preis. Among his many publications are *On Descartes' Metaphysical Prism*, *The Idol and Distance*, *God Without Being*, *Being Given: Toward a Phenomenology of Givenness*, and *The Visible and the Revealed*.

Amy Hollywood is the Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor of Christian Studies at Harvard Divinity School. Before coming to Harvard in 2005, she taught at Rhodes College, Dartmouth College, and the University of Chicago. She teaches classes on a variety of subjects, including medieval studies, postmodernism, women and religion, mysticism, and enthusiasm in modern philosophy, theology, and poetry. Her monograph *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart* received the Otto Grundler Prize for best book in medieval studies from the International Congress of Medieval Studies. Another title, *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2002. Dr. Hollywood is the editor of the *Gender, Theory, and Religions* series from Columbia University Press and co-editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism*.

William Desmond is Professor of Philosophy at the Higher Institute for Philosophy at the Catholic University of Leuven and the David R. Cook Visiting Chair in Philosophy at Villanova University. He has also taught at a number of universities both in the United States and abroad, including Loyola College in Maryland, the Catholic University of America, Boston University, Boston College, the University of Beijing, the National University of Ireland, and the American University of Cairo. Dr. Desmond is the former president of the Hegel Society of America and the Metaphysical Society of America. He has published various international articles and essays in the fields of philosophy of religion, ethics, metaphysics, aesthetics, German Idealism, and Hegel. His many authored and edited books include *Being and the Between*, *Ethics and the Between*, *God and the Between*, and *Is There a Sabbath for Thought? Between Religion and Philosophy*.