**Center for Spirituality hosts endowed lecture series on violence, spirituality, and solidarity**

February 6, 2017 (Notre Dame, Ind.) — Saint Mary’s College Center for Spirituality is proud to announce the speakers for the [annual Endowed Spring Lecture Series](https://www.saintmarys.edu/spiritual-life/center-for-spirituality/lectures-events) titled, “Called to Intervene: Violence, Spirituality, and Solidarity.” The lectures, given by distinguished scholars from across the country, are free and open to the public.

I BELIEVE YOU: SILENCE, SEXUAL JUSTICE, AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

**Elisabeth T. Vasko, PhD, associate professor of theology, Duquesne University**

**Thursday February 23, 7 p.m.**

Student Center, Vander Vennet Theatre

Professor Vasko’s primary research and teaching focus on the intersection of Christian theologies and violence. Her most recent book is *Beyond Apathy: A Theology for Bystanders.* She has written and spoken extensively on white privilege and racial justice, violence against women, and feminist theology.

TO REDEEM THE SOUL OF AMERICA: TOWARD A MORAL VISION FOR A NEW CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

**Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, STD, professor of theological and social ethics, Fordham University**

**Wednesday March 22, 7 p.m.**
Madeleva Hall, Carroll Auditorium

Father Massingale is a well-respected scholar on the topics of racial justice and Christian social ethics. His book, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, won a First Place Book Award from the Catholic Press Association. Massingale is a frequent contributor to major Catholic media outlets, including *US Catholic, America* and *National Catholic Reporter*.

WHO ARE MY PEOPLE?: CHRISTIANITY, VIOLENCE, AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**Emmanuel Katongole, PhD, associate professor of theology and peace studies
The Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame**

**Thursday March 30, 7 p.m.**

Student Center, Vander Vennet Theatre

Professor Katongole’s work focuses on the politics and violence in Africa, the theology of reconciliation, and Catholicism in the global South. Prior to his appointment at the University of Notre Dame, he taught at Duke Divinity School, where he co-founded the Center for Reconciliation. He is the author of several books, including *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa.*

“Our spring series focuses on the social dimensions of spirituality, the particular call to be in solidarity with those who suffer. Pope Francis has certainly invited us to promote a culture of encounter, one which welcomes into our hearts those who are vulnerable, ” said Arlene Montevecchio, director of the Center for Spirituality. “We hope these lectures will prompt and nurture conversations on how to best do this in a world with many problems.”

More information on the Center for Spirituality and lecture series can be [found here.](https://www.saintmarys.edu/spiritual-life/center-for-spirituality/lectures-events)

***About Saint Mary's College:****Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Ind., is a four-year, Catholic, residential, women’s liberal arts college offering five bachelor’s degrees and more than 30 major areas of study, such as business, nursing, art, chemistry, and social work. Saint Mary’s College also offers two graduate degrees: a Master of Science and a Doctorate. All programs that fall under these degrees are co-educational and include a Master of Science in Data Science, a Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. Founded in 1844 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary’s College seeks, according to its mission statement, to educate students, develop their talents, and prepare them to make a difference in the world. Saint Mary’s College ranks among the top 100 Best National Liberal Arts Colleges for 2016 published by U.S. News & World Report. Follow Saint Mary's College on Twitter*[*@saintmarys*](https://twitter.com/saintmarys)*and*[*@saintmarysnews*](https://twitter.com/saintmarysnews)*.*

***Contact for News Media:****Haleigh Ehmsen, Media Relations Associate, Saint Mary’s College,**hehmsen@saintmarys.edu**(574) 284-5343*

***Written by Claire Condon ’17, Media Relations Intern, Communication Studies Major minoring in English Writing and PR/Advertising.***