

The Monk The Priest The Nun

Monks, priest, and nuns dwell in literary texts and the visual arts quite comfortably, from Saint Anthony's life to Boccaccio's *Decameron*, from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to Diderot's *La religieuse*, from Giotto's frescoes to Salvador Dali's surrealist visions. What is their destiny in our desacralized age? Are they the new wanderers, do they live as foreigners in a world of people who do not recognize them any more? From Lewis to Manzoni, from Bernanos to Chesterton, from Fogazzaro to Parise, priests, monks and nuns still inhabit our literature, art, cinema, as a sort of uncanny presence.



**Center for Italian Studies
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The Monk, the Priest, the Nun



Jan van Eyck, and Workshop (1422-1441), *Virgin and Child with Saints and Donor* early 1440s, oil on panel—detail of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Reproduced by permission of The Frick Collection

The Monk · The Priest · The Nun



Friday, 22 March

Class of '55 Room, Van Pelt Library

President: Stefania Benini, University of Pennsylvania

08:30 Breakfast

09:00 Opening remarks – **Luigi Scotto**, Italian Consul General in Philadelphia, and **Fabio Finotti**, University of Pennsylvania

09:30 **Kevin Brownlee**, University of Pennsylvania

Counterfeiting Dante in Church: Boccaccio's *Decameron* 2.1

10:15 **Christine Poggi**, University of Pennsylvania

Maurizio Cattelan's *Infernal Comedy: All*

11:00 Parallel sessions 1-3

12:00 Lunch break

13:30 Parallel sessions 4-6

President: Ann Matter, University of Pennsylvania

14:30 Round Table: **The Jewish and Christian Traditions**, a conversation with

Philip Cunningham, Saint Joseph's University; **Alain Elkann**, University of Pennsylvania, and **Fabio Finotti**

16:00 **Janet Smarr**, University of California, San Diego
Clergy in the Decameron: another look

16:45 Coffee break

17:00 **Elissa Weaver**, University of Chicago
Looking Inside and Out: Nuns in Literature and Literary Nuns

17:45 **Ronald Martinez**, Brown University
Self-dating Tales, Fictional Saints and Real, and the Crusading Trope in the Decameron: Framing Frate Cipolla

20:00 Dinner by invitation or registration

Saturday, 23 March

Golkin Room, Houston Hall

President: Ann Moyer, University of Pennsylvania

09:00 Breakfast

09:30 **Pietro Frassica**, Princeton University
Communion and Salami in Tomizza's *Heavenly Supper*

10:15 **Giuseppe Mazzotta**, Yale University
The Hermits' "Amorosa visione"

11:00 Parallel sessions 7-9

12:00 Lunch break

13:30 Parallel sessions 10-12

14:30 **Rebecca West**, University of Chicago
The Priest's Dilemma: Silvio D'Arzo's *Casa d'Altri*

15:15 **Millicent Marcus**, Yale University
The Pope, the Cardinals, and the Shrink: Nanni Moretti's *Habemus Papam*

16:00 Coffee break

16:15 **Armando Maggi**, University of Chicago
Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis of Assisi in Lucrezia Marinella's baroque hagiographies

17:00 **A Tribute to Victoria Kirkham**, Professor Emerita, in recognition of her years of teaching at the University of Pennsylvania and her many contributions to the field of Italian Studies:

Keynote Address: Victoria Kirkham
Papal Portraits

Karen Lauria Saillant, International Opera Theater
Operatic Boccaccio

Mezzo-soprano: **Kathryn Krasovec**
Tenor: **Justin Gonzales**
Pianist: **Steve Weber**

Closing reception