The question that orients this presentation is, how might we conceptualize the heart of Catholic identity in a world so evidently fractured? Within the Catholic community there is often disagreement on what should bind the collective together. In the wider world, the competing forces of religious diversity and secularization sometimes cause us to question whether holding particular religious commitments is useful at all, especially when we see the ways religious identities can create divisions and perpetuate injustice.

Using her research from interfaith studies, feminist theology, critical theory and Catholic tradition, Dr. Hill Fletcher proposes the possibility of “cosmopolitan religious identities” and considers the broken-heart at the heart of Catholic identity.

About the Speaker: Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Professor of Theology, Fordham University


Dr. Hill Fletcher has served two terms as the co-chair of the Roman Catholic Studies group of the American Academy of Religion. Her current work is concerned about the relationship between religious diversity and racism, and the need for actively anti-racist theologies. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, Dr. Hill Fletcher serves as the Faculty Director of the Service-Learning program with Fordham’s Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice. She has learned much also from her work with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, a grassroots social-justice collaborative.

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