

Breakfast on the Seashore: Reconciling Stories of Accompaniment



The Schreiter Institute's 4th Annual Symposium
on a Praxis of Reconciliation

May 4-5, 2026
Catholic Theological Union

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Schreiter Institute's Fourth Annual Symposium on Reconciliation: "Breakfast on the Seashore: Reconciling Narratives of Accompaniment." It is an honor to have you with us.

The theme of accompaniment invites us to contemplate not only how we walk with others, but how Christ first walks with us—most profoundly through the gift of his very life. In the Gospel of John, after the Resurrection, we encounter the tender scene that inspires our theme: the risen Christ preparing breakfast on the seashore for his disciples (John 21:9-13). Here, reconciliation is not abstract — it is embodied in presence, nourishment, and restored relationship. The same Christ who poured out his blood on the cross now feeds, accompanies, and sends forth his followers in love.

This same Christ continues to meet us today in the wounded bodies and stories of our world: in migrants forced from their homes in search of safety and dignity; in communities torn apart by war and displacement; in victims of violence, abuse, and systemic injustice whose suffering too often goes unseen or unheard. To speak of accompaniment in our time is to take seriously these realities—not from a distance, but by drawing near, as Christ does.

Yet the Gospel scene on the seashore also speaks to another kind of wound, one carried not only in the world around us, but within the human heart. Peter stands before the risen Christ after having denied him three times. He is a disciple who knows failure, who carries the weight of his own actions, who may well struggle to forgive himself. And yet Jesus does not turn away. He draws Peter close. He asks, gently but persistently, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17). In this encounter, we see that accompaniment also means walking with those who are torn by guilt, burdened by their past, and unable to believe that they can begin again.

How many today live under this same weight, wounded by their own sins and mistakes, caught in cycles of shame, or convinced that they are beyond healing? To accompany them is to embody the patience of Christ, who does not shame Peter but restores him; who does not define Peter by his failure but calls him forward in love. It is to create spaces where mercy can be received, where forgiveness can take root, and where the possibility of new life can be rediscovered.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

To accompany, then, is to witness, with quiet fidelity, to the hope that reconciliation is still possible. In this way, accompaniment becomes a living expression of Christ's own mission: drawing near, healing wounds, lifting the burden of guilt, and restoring communion in a fractured world.

The mission of Catholic Theological Union, founded in 1968 in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, resonates deeply with these challenges. We are called to become a Spirit-infused, truth-inspired, preaching Church, and a listening Church that ministers alongside those who suffer. These commitments form the foundation for preparing leaders who witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, reconciliation, and peace.

This conference honors the legacy of Robert J. Schreiter, a priest of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and longtime CTU professor, whose profound contributions to reconciliation and accompaniment in contexts of conflict have shaped generations of leaders.

We are deeply grateful to host the Schreiter Institute, which continues this mission in partnership with the religious communities of the Precious Blood, promoting a practical theology of reconciliation through scholarship, formation, and restorative practice.

Blessings on this important work and on the conversations that will unfold in these days.



Fr. Enzo Del Brocco, CP
President, Catholic Theological Union

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome! It is my honor to convene the Fourth Annual Symposium on a Praxis of Reconciliation hosted by the Robert J. Schreiter Institute for Precious Blood Spirituality at Catholic Theological Union. Once again, I have the privilege of gathering a unique and distinguished group of scholars, artists, activists, and ministers who will guide us in envisioning interpersonal and social healing.

This year's theme of accompaniment is timely for our world, and it is rooted deeply in the spirituality of the family of religious orders dedicated to the Precious Blood. Through sharing stories and practices of accompaniment, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the hope of this symposium is to equip one another with the tools for recognizing harm and injustice and responding with simple yet concrete actions towards healing and repair.

This symposium will explore reconciling stories of accompaniment through the perspectives of ability/disability, artists and their creative vocations, spirituality and ministry, and two emerging theological voices in a younger generation. The goal is simple: to create a beloved community for a short time and be formed in the continuation of our own work that imitates Jesus' ministry of healing and empowerment. I am grateful to you all for sharing your time and talents in this important task.

The name 'Breakfast on the Seashore' comes from John's Gospel, which offers rich images of accompaniment and hospitality. As our namesake, Robert J. Schreiter, CPPS explains the story:

"Jesus knows how to create a hospitable environment. He cooks familiar food for the disciples, and then he serves it to them. He knows to ask for some of their fish, so that they can feel that they have contributed to the meal. For people who have lost all routine, he restores one of the routines that mean the most: sharing food together. A hospitable environment exudes trust and kindness. It also creates an atmosphere of safety. For [survivors] of violence, trust, kindness, and safety are the things most sorely lacking in their lives. An atmosphere of trust makes human communication possible again. Kindness reaffirms that violence is now past and provides a space for the vulnerability required by healing. Safety is the other side of trust. For those who have lived through threats and danger, the restoration of safety allows the bonds of trust to be rebuilt." (Ministry of Reconciliation: Spirituality and Strategies, page 88)

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

In the days to come, you will hear much about accompaniment: encountering our sisters and brothers in their woundedness and, if invited to join the journey, walking with them at a pace they set and on a path that is mapped out together. As you do, remember that it is deeply connected to the practice of hospitality. For it is in mutually recognizing the beauty of each other's God-gifted human dignity that we can meet Christ. And to be called into God's on-going work of healing, justice, and peace in this world

Robert J. Schreiter's work at Catholic Theological Union balanced the rigor of academic inquiry with the challenge of effective practical ministry and spanned across continents and cultures. This symposium carries on this legacy.



Dr. Kevin Considine
Director of the Schreiter Institute for Precious Blood Spirituality

SCHEDULE

MAY 4th:

5pm - Reception and Hors D'oeuvres

6PM - Opening Prayer and Welcome

6:10pm - Keynote and Q&A:

"Mountains Don't Meet: Accompaniment and Reconciliation as a Praxis of Encounter"

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J

7:15PM - Closing Prayer and Remarks

7:30PM - Presenter Dinner

SCHEDULE

MAY 5th:

Optional - 7:30am - Mass

- **Held across the street at the St. Vincent Strambi Passionist Community** (5417 S. Cornell Ave)

8:30am - Breakfast

9am - Prayer and Welcome Back

9:30am - **Session #1: Accompaniment with Ability/Disability**

- **Miguel Romero**, *"Stretched Out Hands: Accompaniment in the Light of the Wounded Christ"*
- **David Gayes**, *"Opening the Roof: Our Christian Call to Accompany Disabled People"*

10:45am - Break

11:15am - **Session #2: Emerging Perspectives on Accompaniment**

- **LaRyssa Herrington**, *"Translating Sacrament into a Sacramental Ethics: Reconciliation as an 'Ethic of Accountability' and Anointing as an Ethic of Healing and Accompaniment"*
- **Flora Tang**, *"Journeying through Scripture Stories of Accompaniment and Justice"*

12:30pm - Lunch

1:15pm - **Session #3: Accompaniment through the Arts**

- **Carina Yopez**, *"Hands That Remember: Fiber Arts and Community Healing"*
- **Jarrett King**, *"Artistic Meteorology: Drama as Accompaniment"*

2:30pm - Break

SCHEDULE

MAY 5th:

3pm - **Session #4: Spiritualities of Accompaniment in Ministry**

- **Sara Dwyer, ASC**, *"Living. Learning. Leading: Our Stories are Sacred"*
- **Christina Zaker**, *"Why are They Fishing Again?! - The Role of Mentors in Theological Education"*

4:30pm - Final Remarks and Closing Prayer

BIOGRAPHIES



Sr. Sara Dwyer, ASC, has been a member of the US Sisters, Adorers of the Blood of Christ, an International Congregation, for 55 years. Sr. Sara has served in various adult faith formation roles: in parishes, in Diocesan ministries, in undergraduate theology courses, in formation ministry, and in retreat ministry. She was a member of her congregational Leadership Team and served as their Justice, Peace, and Integrity

of Creation contact for 10 years. Sara served 8 years as the Director of the Washington Retreat House in Washington, DC. In January 2025, she accepted a ministry role within her community, where she will continue to offer retreats and other faith formation programs. Sara holds a master's degree in theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and in theological education from Boston College. Sara enjoys interacting with people, reading, and retreat ministry.



David Gayes is a theologian and disability rights activist. A proud Catholic Theological Union graduate, David obtained a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies and Ministry in 2024.

Through writing, public speaking, and activism, he strives to connect, expose, and challenge people of all faith traditions to respond consistently and intentionally to disability issues. David believes that disability rights are faith

issues and that faith communities have a moral imperative to respond. David's work has been featured in *America Media*, *GIA Publications*, and *Interfaith America*.

BIOGRAPHIES



LaRyssa D. Herrington is a doctoral candidate in Systematic Theology and Liturgical Studies at the University of Notre Dame from Tolono, Illinois. She holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and social work from Greenville University (formerly Greenville College) and is a graduate of Emory University's Candler School of Theology where she completed her Master of Divinity concentrating in Catholic Studies. Her areas of

research include the role of Mary in devotional and popular piety, womanist theology, liberation and political theologies, ritual studies, and sacramental theology. She is the author of several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and her popular writings can be found in *U.S. Catholic Magazine* and the *National Catholic Reporter*.



Jarrett King (he/him) is a playwright and educator based in Chicago, Illinois. His play *A War of the Worlds* — an afrofuturist reimagining of the War of the Worlds radio broadcast—was the inaugural production in Penfold Theatre Company's new play commission series and received 12 B. Iden Payne Award nominations, including Best Original Script. Other works include *The Possible, Box* ("Best Theatrical

Production" - *DMagazine's* Best of Dallas 2025), *Frog Splash* (Definition Theatre Amplify New Play Commission) and *St. Miles* (2025 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist, 2025 Blue Ink Award Finalist), which was developed as part of Goodman Theatre's New Stages Residency. He is the 2023 recipient of Undermain Theatre's Katherine Owens/Undermain Fund for New Work and is a two-time second rounder at the Austin Film Festival for his sitcom pilot *Fluff* and his web series *Zaltana*. As an actor, he has over two decades worth of credits performing in film, television, and professional theaters including Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Salvage Vanguard, Penfold Theatre, and the Mary Moody Northen Theatre. As an educator, he has worked as a Teaching Artist at Steppenwolf, Silk Road Rising, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Shakespeare Slam, and as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola University. He is the Director of Education at Court Theatre (2022 Regional Theatre Tony Award) and serves on the Board of Directors of the Beverly Arts Center.

BIOGRAPHIES



Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, a Nigerian Jesuit, is the dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. He is the author of *The Pope and the Pandemic: Lessons in Leadership in a Time of Crisis* (2021), *Religion and Faith in Africa: Confessions of an Animist* (2018), and *Theology Brewed in an African Pot* (2008); and editor of *African Synodal Theology: A Tall Tree is as Strong as Its Roots* (2025).



Miguel J. Romero is an associate professor in the Center for Health Care Ethics and the Department of Theology at Saint Louis University. His primary research areas are moral theology, Catholic social teaching, and the theology of Thomas Aquinas. Romero's published work focuses on Christian anthropology, theologies of disability, theological method, and liberation theology. His articles and essays have appeared in *The Thomist*, *Nova et Vetera*, *Journal of Moral Theology*, *Journal of Disability & Religion*, and *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. He served six years on the board of directors for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and has twice delivered public lectures on disability at the Vatican.



Flora x. Tang is a decolonial Christian theologian who researches post-traumatic theology and theological responses to environmental violence and racialized displacement. She received her Ph.D. in Peace Studies and Theology from the University of Notre Dame, and her Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. Her most recent project examines Christian eschatology, land justice, and possibilities for shared ecological futures between Asian diasporic and Indigenous populations in the United States. Flora's academic writings can be found in *Theological Studies*, *Political Theology Network*, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and beyond. A frequent contributor to public conversations on religion and queer sexualities, her public commentaries can be found in media outlets such as *National Catholic Reporter*, *New Ways Ministry*, and *America Media*. Flora has previously worked as a hospital chaplain, a campus ministry fellow, and a service-learning program coordinator for college students.

BIOGRAPHIES



Carina Yopez is a fiber and material-based artist whose work centers on cultural memory, community, and the transformative potential of craft. She earned her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and works at the intersection of arts education and socially engaged practice as a Program Specialist at Firebird Community Arts and an Adjunct Professor at SAIC. Yopez has exhibited at the Art

Institute of Chicago, the Dom Museum Wien in Vienna, Austria (acquisition), and the National Museum of Mexican Art, where she also curated *Puntadas del Alma: Told through Quilts*.



Christina Zaker has been the Director of Field Education at CTU since 2014. She is a practical theologian with a focus on cultivating reflective practitioners. Her past work in campus ministry, as the Executive Director of Amate House for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and in parish ministry lend to her ability to journey with students in their field education experiences. Her book, *Surprised by God: Teaching Reflection through the*

Parables, develops parable as a lens for theological reflection with a focus on reflective practice that intersects with justice. Christina teaches in the Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry Department. Family spirituality is the cornerstone of her research in spirituality, primarily exploring how the spirituality of a family unit adjusts through life. In addition to her book, she has written numerous articles and book chapters and is a frequent speaker and retreat director. Christina is Chair of the Association for Theological Field Educators and a member of the National Association of Lay Ministers. She is married to Christopher Zaker and their expanding family includes four children, two son in laws and one grandson.

ABSTRACTS

Sr. Sara Dwyer, ASC

Living. Learning. Leading: Our Stories are Sacred

Our challenges to be honest, vulnerable, and faithful as we search for God, and share our stories, happen often in our unknowing moments, even in our doubts, fears, frustrations, and disappointments. Finding and trusting “Markings”* on our journey of faith will help us to encounter deeper truths as we experience spiritual freedom. (*The title, *Markings*, from Dag Hammarskjöld’s diary.)

David Gayes

Opening the Roof: Our Christian Call to Accompany Disabled People

When it comes to accompanying disabled people, one often thinks of miracle cures, quick bodily fixes, and charitable donations. But is that what disabled people seek? And what do our Gospels teach? We’ll take a deeper look at Mark’s narrative of the paralytic and explore what authentic accompaniment might mean. Drawing upon the words and actions of Jesus, we’ll discuss an accompaniment that begins with listening, respect, and the centering of disabled people.

ABSTRACTS

LaRyssa Harrington

Translating Sacrament into a Sacramental Ethics: Reconciliation as an 'Ethic of Accountability' and Anointing as an Ethic of Healing and Accompaniment

According to Sacramental theologian Bruce T. Morrill, the anthropology of the sacrament is one where the soul and body are connected, incorporating within its body the social elements of being human. To this end, this paper seeks to theologically retrieve the logic of two specific sacraments of the Church, reading them as performative acts that can help us conceive of Christian ethics as integrative and holistic. This includes the performance of sacramental penance, which translates into an ethic of accountability, and the performance of sacramental anointing which necessitates an ethic of healing and accompaniment.

Jarrett King

Artistic Meteorology: Drama as Accompaniment

Writers are considered the "chroniclers of the times." What does that duty look like in practice, and how does theatre specifically provide accompaniment to a public in need of deep listening and fulfillment? This presentation will break down the uniqueness of drama as an empathetic artform and the multiple layers present in being the "accompanist" through the metaphor of weather. In what ways are playwrights meteorologists? How is our suffering a season? Is catharsis on the horizon?

ABSTRACTS

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ

Mountains Don't Meet: Accompaniment and Reconciliation as a Praxis of Encounter

The resurgence, exuberance, and excesses of nationalism, polarization, and conflict signal and solidify a crisis of exclusion and antagonism for humanity. This presentation explores the Christian antidote of encounter that prioritizes relationality, solidarity, attention, care, and reverence as vital paths toward reclaiming the values of accompaniment and reconciliation.

Miguel J. Romero

Stretched Out Hands: Accompaniment in the Light of the Wounded Christ

In John 21, Jesus tells Peter: “You will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” Persons with profound disabilities live this daily. Drawing on Aquinas and the International Theological Commission’s recent document *Quo Vadis Humanitas* (March, 2026), this presentation argues that vulnerability and dependence are not defects in human nature but constitutive features through which we are opened to God and neighbor. The risen Christ — bearing wounds he chose to keep, cooking breakfast at the fire of Peter’s denial — reveals that accompaniment flows not from strength to weakness but from shared poverty recognized and embraced.

ABSTRACTS

Flora X. Tang

Journeying through Scripture Stories of Accompaniment and Justice

In pastoral care & pastoral accompaniment, there is often a tension between the slowness of accompaniment and the urgency of justice, between the pastoral and the prophetic. If accompaniment is the act of walking with the poor and marginalized without superimposing our solution from above, then how does the slow work of accompaniment fit in with the urgent task of prophetic justice and societal transformation, especially in this world of injustice and violence? If the primary modes of pastoral care involve deep listening, mirroring, and accompanying the other to find their own voice and their own image of God, then how might we—as ministers, theologians, activists, and beyond — do the works of pastoral care for the wounded while insisting upon the moral clarity and moral urgency of a theology of healing?

Scripture stories offer us a site of thinking through and reimagining these tensions. Focusing on the stories from the life and ministry of Jesus, this 35-40 minute presentation incorporates both shorter lecture-style presentation on scripture stories and their implications for accompaniment and interactive activities for all participants to share in this task of reflection. I will focus on passages such as John 21 (the namesake of this symposium) and Matthew 8:23-27 (Jesus calming the storm) —where the ministry of Jesus Christ serves as a model for our ministries of accompaniment, trauma-healing, reconciliation, advocacy, and justice. Participants will also get the chance to reflect, in small groups and using creative mediums, on other scriptural stories of accompaniment via experiences of pastoral ministry/ pastoral care in their own lives. I will also bring in case studies from pastoral care scenarios and real world situations to highlight the complexity and need for accompaniment and justice in today's church and world.

ABSTRACTS

Carina Yepez

Hands That Remember: Fiber Arts and Community Healing

This panel features artist and educator Carina Yepez, whose practice centers fiber arts and quilting as tools for community healing, storytelling, and cultural preservation. Drawing from her work at Firebird Community Arts, Carina creates trauma-informed spaces where women and migrant communities use textile traditions to carry migration stories across generations. Her work examines how making with our hands becomes a pathway to processing grief, reclaiming identity, and honoring ancestral legacies.

Christina Zaker

"Why are They Fishing Again?! - The Role of Mentors in Theological Education"

Students in theological education and particularly in field education need mentors to support them in their transformational learning. It is hard to break old habits, routines or mindsets that once held meaning. Mentors help students see their blindspots, engage in critical reflection and recognize the movement of Grace in their evolving ministerial identity. The stops and starts in the learning process as well as the ongoing process of discernment in formation offer moments of challenge and vulnerability. When wise mentors accompany students, meeting them where they are, students are more likely to approach the journey with a stance of curiosity and faith that compels them forward in mission.

ABOUT *the* SCHREITER INSTITUTE

Three religious communities – the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and the Sisters of the Precious Blood Dayton, Ohio – each draw inspiration from devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The paradox of the blood of Christ, shed to give life to others, is the spiritual foundation for the work of justice and reconciliation. *Whose innocent blood is being shed? Where is blood pointing to new life in need of protection? Whose sacrifices underscore our social norms and successes? How can we give of ourselves for the sake of others?*

In partnership with the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute, the Schreiter Institute supports research on the integration of a healing Catholicism within local cultures and, particularly, on the urgent mission of reconciliation in our modern world - a direct expression of Precious Blood Spirituality. The Schreiter Institute offers courses, workshops, an academic certificate, and supports academic research that advances this distinct tradition in the church.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION

CTU is a graduate school of theology and ministry in the beautiful Hyde Park neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago. We are cooperatively managed by 20+ men's religious orders and supported by dozens more women and men's communities. At CTU, we educate both men and women, religious and lay, in-person and online, from all around the world.

A CTU education provides necessary context to today's most pressing issues. Since our founding, we've been a hub for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, reconciliation and peacemaking praxes, the empowerment of young people, and the healing of division in our church and world. The Bernardin Center, the Schreiter Institute, and the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life are just three of these important resources that enrich the experiences of our students and our community at large.

ABOUT *the* CERTIFICATE

The Schreiter Institute offers a certificate in Reconciliation and Restorative Justice, designed for those who want a theological and spiritual lens for diagnosing social wounds and learning how to participate in social healing. It can be helpful for social workers and mental health professionals as well as those involved in ministries in prisons, hospitals, youth development, peace, justice, and advocacy.



The PRECIOUS BLOOD SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE

The Precious Blood Spirituality Institute was established in 2021 through a partnership of religious institutes devoted to the Precious Blood of Jesus: The Adorers of the Blood of Christ, The Sisters of the Precious Blood, and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The PBSI offers courses and workshops and supports academic work pertaining to Precious Blood spirituality through the Schreiter Institute.

The PBSI seeks to facilitate and encourage collaborative efforts to promote Precious Blood spirituality and the charisms of the Precious Blood Communities in the Roman Catholic Church and the world. It serves as a resource to both the leadership teams of the Precious Blood congregations, - offering assistance as they foster the embodiment of the charism in the lives and ministry of their members - and to all those who serve in ministry in the congregations of the Precious Blood communities as they seek to embody the charism in their ministry.



Thank you for
attending!



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