Devotion, Artistry, and the Cult of St. Joseph
A Symposium
March 20–21, 2020
Xavier University of Louisiana
Administration Building Auditorium
1 Drexel Drive
New Orleans

Interest in and devotion to St. Joseph the Carpenter—the Virgin Mary’s husband and Jesus’s foster-father—has been present among Christians since the earliest centuries of the Common Era. Three academic institutions—Xavier University of Louisiana, Cabrini University, and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College (City University of New York)—have collaborated to organize the symposium “Devotion, Artistry, and the Cult of St. Joseph.” This unique event examines the patron saint of workers, sickness, and even a happy death from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Special emphasis will be given to how devotees of St. Joseph—in particular Italian Americans and African Americans—have artistically expressed their intimate connection to this wonder worker. Participants include scholars and New Orleans community members who will discuss the rich devotion and creativity for this holy figure.

Free and open to the public.

Cosponsored by the Institute for Black Catholic Studies and the Division of the Fine Arts and Humanities at Xavier University.

For information contact Nicole Blunt (504) 520-7664, nblunt@xulma.edu/

Program subject to change.

**Friday, March 20th**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10</td>
<td>Welcoming remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-10:30</td>
<td>“Baking is a Form of Worship”: Saint Joseph’s Day Bread and the Sacred Alchemy of the Oven</td>
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<td>Sara Jane Bell (Vance-Granville Community College)</td>
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<td>10:30-11</td>
<td>Sicilian St. Joseph’s Tables and Political Advocacy in Southern California</td>
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<td>Luisa Del Giudice (Independent Scholar)</td>
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<td>11-11:30</td>
<td>Migration, Caritas and Pan Italian American St. Joseph Celebrations in Rural Western New York</td>
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<td>Karen Park Canning (GLOW Traditions) and Christine Zinni (College of Brockport SUNY)</td>
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<td>11:30-11:45</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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11:45-12:15  “This is How We Do It:” Living Diaspora in Sicily and Texas
Circe Sturm (The University of Texas at Austin)

12:15-12:45  The Transnational Tavola: Performance and Consumerism of Recent
Sicilian Immigrants’ St. Joseph Altars in New York City
Joseph Sciorra (Queens College)

12:45-2:30  LUNCH

2:30-3  From Masked Balls to Altars: St. Joseph’s Day Celebrations in New
Orleans
Laura Guccione (Independent Scholar)

3-3:30  A Different Man of (Different) Labor: St. Joseph and Vernacular
Hagiology in New Orleans
Stephen C. Wehmeyer (Champlain College)

3:30-4  Pangadto Kang Jose: The Iconography and Cult of Saint Joseph in the
Philippines
Honey Libertine Achanzar-Labor (University of the Philippines Manila)

4-4:15  BREAK

4:15-4:45  A Stepfathers Legacy and Legend: St. Joseph, the Stepfather Role Model
for the Modern World?
Michele Meservie Montecalvo (St. Francis College)

4:45-5:15  Paternas Vices and Saint Joseph in Eucharistic Prayers after Vatican II
Trevor B. Williams (Villanova University)

5:15-5:45  “How To Bury the St. Joseph Statue”: Vernacular Devotions, Commercial
Expedience, and the Tradition of the Patron Saint of Real Estate Post-
Vatican II
Leonard Norman Primiano (Cabrini University)

Saturday, March 21

9:30-10  Welcoming remarks

Community Voices, Local Knowledge
10-10:45  Sandra Scalise Juneau with Kay Turner (New York University)

10:45-12:30  Donald Harrison, Cherice Harrison-Nelson, Big Chief Tyrone
Casby, and Arthel Neville with Nick Spitzer (Tulane University)

End of symposium