

Call for Articles for an Edited Book
Devotion, Artistry, and the Cult of St. Joseph
Co-edited by Leonard Norman Primiano and Joseph Sciorra

Interest in and devotion to the husband of the Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus—Joseph the Carpenter—has been present among Christians since the earliest centuries of the Common Era. Joseph has been deemed the patron saint of workers, sickness, and even a happy death. In places like Sicily as well as among Italian Americans devotion to St. Joseph is marked by elaborate altars (*tavole*) assembled on his feast day of March 19th with cornucopian displays of gastronomical delights.

We are seeking scholarly articles from a variety of disciplinary perspectives for an edited, peer-reviewed anthology on the global veneration of St. Joseph. The proposed book seeks to explore the historical and contemporary devotion, as well as intimate and institutional interactions with this wonder worker. Special emphasis will be placed on how devotees of St. Joseph have artistically and creatively expressed their familiar connection to a beloved, but still excitingly mysterious, holy figure. Our plan is to submit the manuscript in the new year to a university publisher.

We are looking for scholarly articles of original, unpublished research that encompass different disciplinary fields (e.g., biblical studies, religious studies, art history, cinema studies, literary criticism, anthropology, folklore and folklife) and that address a wide range of possible topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- The development of the cult of St. Joseph
- Written (e.g., biographies) and oral narratives about St. Joseph
- Devotional and votive practices
- Visual depictions (e.g., paintings, cinema, pop culture)
- St. Joseph iconography concerning age, masculinity, skilled labor
- Aspects of gender and ethnicity in St. Joseph devotion
- Music and sonoral (e.g., prayers) practices
- St. Joseph altars as examples of sacred art
- Devotion to St. Joseph among the African diaspora
- St. Joseph in non-European contexts
- Culinary traditions associated with St. Joseph
- Pilgrimage sites and St. Joseph-dedicated churches, schools, and other institutions

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

An abstract up to 500 words and a brief *curriculum vitae* are due by July 1, 2020. If accepted, authors should plan to send completed articles (approximately 6,000 words) by January 1, 2021.

Abstracts, final papers, and other inquiries should be emailed to Leonard Norman Primiano (primiano@cabrini.edu), and Joseph Sciorra (joseph.sciorra@qc.cuny.edu).

Leonard Norman Primiano
Professor
Department of Religious Studies
Cabrini University
primiano@cabrini.edu

Leonard Norman Primiano, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, Cabrini University, Radnor, PA. He is currently series editor for the upcoming six volume *Cultural History of Religion in the West* (Bloomsbury). A Fellow of the American Folklore Society, he is the co-convener of that Society's Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section. He is also co-chair of the Folklore and Religion Seminar of the American Academy of Religion. Primiano earned a dual doctorate in religious studies and folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Theological Studies from the Harvard Divinity School. He is currently engaged in an aural ethnography of Father Divine's Peace Mission Movement for the American Religious Sounds Project.

Joseph Sciorra
Director of Academic and Cultural Programs
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College, City University of New York
joseph.sciorra@qc.cuny.edu

Joseph Sciorra, PhD, is a folklorist who has published on religious practices, material culture, and vernacular music. He is the author of *Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City* (2015) and *Memorial Wall Art* (1994; 2002), editor of *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian-American Lives* (2011), and co-editor of *Graces Received: Painted and Metal Ex-votos from Italy* (2012) and *New Italian Migrations to the United States, Volumes 1 and 2* (2017). He curated the exhibitions "Evviva La Madonna Nera!: Italian-American Devotion to the Black Madonna" (2002) and "Sacred Emblems, Community Signs: Historic Flags and Religious Banners from Italian Williamsburg, Brooklyn" (2003).

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