

Rev. Raymond G. Helmick, S.J., an eminently respected theologian, was equally adept at mediating conflict in world trouble zones and at transmitting that rare craft to new generations of college students. He served as an unofficial, yet highly trusted, emissary between Catholic and Protestant paramilitary groups in Ulster, and played a similarly influential role as a founder of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East. In recognition of his conflict resolution efforts, Fr. Ray was invited to the White House for the September, 1993, signing of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. During the 1999 Kosovo Crisis, Fr. Ray traveled with Rev. Jesse Jackson and other religious leaders to negotiate the release of three U.S. soldiers captured by the Serbs. Thereafter, he continued to consult with Israeli and Palestinian diplomats and other peace-seekers, right up to his last days.

Fr. Ray trained initially at Weston (1954-1957), then spent his regency teaching history and religion at St. George's College in Kingston, Jamaica (1957-1960); it was here that he first experienced the need for inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, so as to lay the necessary groundwork for peace with justice. Fr. Ray next studied theology at Sankt Georgen in Frankfurt, Germany, and was ordained a priest in Frankfurt Cathedral in 1963. He pursued graduate studies in ecumenical theology at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, and, in 1973, moved to London to join the Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities as Associate Director, focusing on conflict resolution (though he preferred the Mennonite term, "conflict transformation"). There, the search for solutions to seemingly intractable problems would become the center of his work for the next four decades—in Ireland, Lebanon, Kurdish Iraq, Israel, Palestine and the Balkans. From 1982 to 1985, he was based in Washington, D.C. where he consulted on the formation of the United States Institute of Peace. Fr. Ray finally came to Boston College, where, for 17 years, he pursued conflict transformation in the field (constantly advising Rome and informing Washington) while simultaneously teaching and team-teaching the topic in BC's Theology Department, at Boston University, and at St. John's Seminary. Author of several texts, Fr. Helmick turned in his last book to a new topic, *The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Church* – and the accolades for his historical insights and recommendations for reform reached as high as Pope Francis, who found the book to be an inspiration in his own efforts.

Professor David Little, a research fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center, is a leading authority on the history of religious freedom, ethics and human rights, as well as religion and conflict resolution. Little retired in 2009 as T.J. Dermot Dunphy Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict at Harvard Divinity School and as an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Until summer 1999, he was a senior scholar in religion, ethics, and human rights at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). From 1996 to 1998, he was a member of the Advisory Committee to the State Department on Religious Freedom Abroad. Little's publications include several volumes in the USIP series on religion, nationalism, and intolerance, as well *Religion and Nationalism in Iraq: A Comparative Perspective* (2007, with Donald K. Swearer), and *Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution* (2007). They also include an anthology in his honor edited by Twiss, Simion, and Petersen, *Religion and Public Policy: Human Rights, Conflict, and Ethics* (Cambridge, 2015), and *Essays on Religion and Human Rights: Ground To Stand On* (Cambridge, 2015). Little was also a part of the Christianity and Freedom Project headed by the Berkley Center's Religious Freedom Project. It is an honor to have Professor Little deliver this Inaugural Address on the topic of Religion and Conflict Transformation.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. will deliver the Second Fr. Raymond Helmick, S.J. Memorial Lecture on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 6:00 PM at Boston College. Registration information and venue location are being finalized. Rev. Jackson was one of Fr. Helmick's foremost negotiating partners in extra-demanding sessions abroad (e.g., in getting our three soldier P.O.s back from Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, May 1999). "...I learned so much from him. Much of my worldview, my belief and hope in reconciliation beyond gender and race and religion come from Fr. Helmick..." *excerpt from Rev. Jackson's letter that was read at Fr. Ray's Funeral.*

BOSTON COLLEGE

Fr. Raymond G. Helmick, S.J. Inaugural Memorial Lecture



Religion and Conflict Transformation

by
Professor David Little, Research Fellow at the Berkley Center for
Religion, Peace, and International Affairs, Georgetown University
on
Sunday, December 11, 2016



Praesupponendum
The Presupposition



To *The Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola

To assure better cooperation between the one who is giving the Exercises and the one who receives them, and more beneficial results to both, it is necessary to suppose that every good Christian is more ready to save the proposition of another than to condemn it as false. If he is unable to save the proposition, the one who made it should be asked how he understands it, and if he understands it badly, it should be discussed with him with love. If this does not suffice, all appropriate means should be used so that, understanding his proposition rightly, he may save it.

The Fr. Raymond Helmick, S.J. Memorial Committee

Raymond M. Barry, nephew and co-founder of this Memorial Committee. For the past seven months, Raymond collected, sorted, organized and boxed Fr. Ray's vast collection of working papers, documents, and photographs. The resulting 25 boxes are now in the hands of archivists of BC's Burns Library. Once this collection has been archived, students and faculty will have access to Fr. Ray's 40+ years of work in conflict transformation for academic research.

Marie J. (Helmick) Barry, MS Biology, BC '53, sister and co-founder of this Memorial Committee. For the past several months, Marie assisted Raymond in preparing Fr. Ray's collection of papers for donation to the Burns Library. In addition, Marie prepared detailed accountings of the major components of Fr. Ray's work and an accompanying detailed timeline key of key events which were both provided to the Burns Library Archivists.

Stephen D. Barry, BA English, BC '56, MBA BC '70, brother-in-law. Assisted Marie with the preparation of the detailed accountings of the major components of Fr. Ray's work.

Jennifer Helmick, cousin. Jennifer will be writing a biography on Fr. Ray detailing his research, teachings, and accomplishments in conflict transformation.

Jerome Dwight Maryon, Esq. was trained in political science and law. Jerome began team-teaching with Fr. Ray following collaboration at BC and Harvard in areas of Middle East security, Rule of Law, and respect for Faith. They worked together for over a decade at BC and through the Interreligious Center for Public Life (ICPL) in conflict transformation (esp. with local Muslim, Jewish and Christian partners), and in conferences in Washington, D.C. Fr. Ray's last book, *The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Church* (2014), was edited by Jerome. Following the passing of Fr. Ray, Pope Francis asked Jerome to co-author a book for our rapidly changing era, *Politics as a Vocation in Postmodernity*.

John Michalczyk, PhD, a Boston College Professor (Arts Department, Director of Film Studies), began working with Fr. Ray in 1997 and together, as friends and colleagues, shared a commitment to social justice, both in the classroom and in documentary film work. Together with his spouse, Susan, they continue to build upon Fr. Ray's vision for peaceful resolutions to complicated issues of human rights.

Susan Michalczyk, PhD, a Boston College Professor, (A&S Honors Program), began working with Fr. Ray in 1997 and together, as friends and colleagues, shared a commitment to social justice, both in the classroom and in documentary film work. Together with her spouse, John, they continue to build upon Fr. Ray's vision for peaceful resolutions to complicated issues of human rights.

Rev. Rodney L. Petersen, PhD, is Executive Director of both the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) and the Lord's Day Alliance of the US. While Executive Director of the Boston Theological Institute, Rodney co-authored and co-edited several books with Fr. Ray. For nearly 25 years they ran ecumenical seminars around the world for BTI students. Rodney also delivered a very poignant eulogy at Fr. Ray's funeral mass in accordance with one of Fr. Ray's last wishes.

Welcome to the Inaugural Fr. Raymond Helmick, S.J. Memorial Lecture. This address is the first in a series of planned lectures on the topic of Human Rights and Religion & Conflict Transformation in memory of Fr. Ray. It is the intention of the Memorial Committee that these lectures will both serve as a continuance of Fr. Ray's classroom where he mentored so many future peacemakers, and to help further the field of Human Rights and Religion & Conflict Transformation. Two pioneers of this field are Fr. Ray and Professor David Little.

Accordingly, we begin on the weekend marking the 68th anniversary of the passage by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Paris, 10 December 1948); for the UDHR forms one of the four corners of Fr. Ray's work. Along with the Abrahamic "trialogue" among the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim children of Abraham/ Ibrahim, the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the UDHR proved to be a lifelong guide to Fr. Ray's quest for peace with justice.

Program

Welcome – *Professors John and Susan Michalczyk*

Opening Prayer – *Rabbi Sandy Seltzer*

Opening Remarks – *Raymond M. Barry*

The Helmick Special Collection – *Christian DuPont, Librarian, Burns Library*

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker – *Rev. Rodney L. Petersen, PhD*

Keynote Address – *Professor David Little*

Question and Answer – *Moderated by Jerome D. Maryon, Esq.*

Closing Prayer – *Fr. Walter Conlan, S.J.*

Reception

Acknowledgements

The Memorial Committee would like to thank Boston College as well as several centers of the College, including the Center for Human Rights & International Justice, the Faith, Peace and Justice Program, the Film Studies Program, the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, and the BC Jesuit Community.

In addition, we would like to thank the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, the Rotary Club of Scituate, St. Theresa's Parish in West Roxbury, and the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.