



# THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES @ VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

## 2017 SENIOR ESSAYS

- Eric Aldieri **“Where Time and Eternity Spatter Each Other with Foam”**: Signs of the Sacred and the Beautiful Impossibility of Home  
How can music and narrative cultivate an *apprenticeship* to signs of the divine which lie within otherwise profane, material objects?
- Gabriella Berman **The Family in Crisis: John Locke, the Contraceptive Mentality, and a Christological Response**  
How does our understanding of marriage reflect our understanding of the human person?
- Luke Bozich **Transposition through Travel: Understanding Middle Earth through the Experience of Architecture and the Other**  
How do the observations on travel to foreign lands and architectural forms and spaces help to heighten one's understanding of the world?
- Trevor Davis **On Virtuous Memory: Properly Aligning Present with Past**  
How can we realize a life guided by virtuous memory in a culturally broken age?
- Stephanie Edwards **Is Contemplation Enough?**  
If the *telos* of human life is to exist in a multi-faceted *Eudaimonia*, what different goods or values constitute this and how are they ordered?
- Paul Elhallal **“Righteousness and bliss shall kiss one another”**: The Reconciliation of Justice and Mercy through the Paschal Mystery  
How is the apparent contradiction between justice and mercy reconciled within the sacramental life of the Church?
- Luke Hensley **“A Priceless Treasure”**: Death, Justice, and the Revitalization of Ethics in *The Brothers Karamazov*  
How can a person be both guiltless and guilty at the same time? What determines “guilt”?
- Nicole Kim **Proper *Eudaimonia*: The Struggle between Art, Beauty, and Humanity**  
If beauty exists in the world through art, how is it possible to see well in such a world where art is used as a mechanism of oppression in society?
- Lauren Kloss **Literary Synesthesia and the Creation of Wonder**  
With reference to the phenomenon of synesthesia, how does literature helps us break conventional notions and create wonder/radical amazement?
- Madeleine Messinger **Till We Have Love: An Exploration of Love and Deification in C.S. Lewis’s *Till We Have Faces***  
Can both beauty and dread be ascribed to the divine? Furthermore, how can this help us understand the relationship of the human and the divine?
- Isabel Nelson **Manners and Morals in *Mansfield Park*: Religion and Transcendence in Jane Austen**  
What is the role of religion according to the characters of *Mansfield Park*, and is their account satisfying? What should be the relationship between religion and literature?
- Regina Paparo **Altruism vs. Love: The Case for a Christian Understanding of Service**  
What is the relationship between selflessness and altruism?
- Bella Perrino **Conscious Capitalism: Locating Ourselves within a Material World**  
Can we reconcile community as “the vital activity of communizing” with modern capitalism?
- Connor Ritchie **Developing a Porosity for *Caritas*: An Exploration into Theology, Literature, and Philosophy to Witness Its Supreme Value**  
Giving due to tradition, literature, and philosophy, what is *caritas*, how does one personify it, and what is its metaphysical value?
- Katie Stepanek **“The Inconsolable Secret”**: Uncovering Joy as Hidden in C.S. Lewis’ *Till We Have Faces*  
Should we expect Joy to be the primary interpretive key for C.S. Lewis’s writing, especially for his self-proclaimed masterpiece *Till We Have Faces*?
- Tony Triggiano **Tasting Italy: Pursuing the Good of Italian Cuisine**  
Looking at the case of Italy and Italian culture, under what cultural and societal conditions does cuisine ennoble man’s state, bringing him to this level of spiritual appetite and satiety?
- Emily Wilson **“The Spirit of Celebration”**: Reclaiming Leisure and Liturgy amid Postmodern Busyness  
How can the human person reclaim space for leisure and celebration?
- Matthew Zarenkiewicz **What Is to Be Done?: Religion and Politics in the U.S.**  
How should religious speech be used in political conversations in the United States?